2025 ASCENSION PARISH MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

2025 ASCENSION PARISH MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

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Ascension Parish

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Unincorporated Ascension Parish
City of Donaldsonville
City of Gonzales
Town of Sorrento

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1. Introduction

Hazard Mitigation is defined as sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from hazards and their effects. Hazard Mitigation Planning is the process through which natural hazards that threaten communities are identified, likely impacts of those hazards are determined, mitigation goals are set, and appropriate strategies that would lessen the impacts are determined, prioritized, and implemented.

In that regard, this plan (a) documents the Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (HMPU) process; (b) identifies natural hazards and risks within the parish; and (c) identifies the parish's hazard mitigation strategy to make Ascension Parish and its jurisdictions less vulnerable and more disaster resilient. It also includes mitigation project scoping to further identify scopes of work, funding sources, and implementation timing requirements of proposed selected mitigation projects. Information in the plan will be used to help guide and coordinate mitigation and local policy decisions affecting future land use.

The Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan is a multi-jurisdictional plan that includes the following jurisdictions which participated in the planning process:

- Unincorporated Ascension Parish
- City of Donaldsonville
- City of Gonzales
- Town of Sorrento

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), now under the Department of Homeland Security, has made reducing losses from natural disasters one of its primary goals. The Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and subsequent implementation of recommended projects, measures, and policies is the primary means to achieving these goals. Mitigation planning and project implementation has become even more significant in a post-Katrina/Rita, Gustav/Ike, and Laura/Delta/Ida environment in south Louisiana.

This Hazard Mitigation Plan is a comprehensive plan for disaster resiliency in Ascension Parish. The parish is subject to natural hazards that threaten life and health and have caused extensive property damage. To better understand these hazards and their impacts on people and property, and to identify ways to reduce those impacts, the parish's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness undertook this Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. "Hazard mitigation" does not mean that all hazards are stopped or prevented. It does not suggest complete elimination of the damage or disruption caused by such incidents. Natural forces are powerful and most natural hazards are well beyond our ability to control. Mitigation does not mean quick fixes. It is a long-term approach to reduce hazard vulnerability. As defined by FEMA, "hazard mitigation" means any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event.

Every community faces different hazards, and every community has different resources and interests to bring to bear on its problems. Because there are many ways to deal with natural hazards and many agencies that can help, there is no one solution for managing or mitigating their effects. Planning is one of the best ways to correct these shortcomings and produce a program of activities that will best mitigate the impact of local hazards and meet other local needs. A well-prepared plan will ensure that all possible activities are reviewed and implemented so that the problem is addressed by the most appropriate and efficient solutions. It can also ensure that activities are coordinated with each other and with other goals and programs, preventing conflicts and reducing the costs of implementing each individual activity.

Under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (42 USC 5165), a mitigation plan is a requirement for Federal mitigation funds. Therefore, a mitigation plan will both guide the best use of mitigation funding and meet the prerequisite for obtaining such funds from FEMA. FEMA also recognizes plans through its Community Rating System (CRS), a program that reduces flood insurance premiums in participating communities. This program is further described in *Section 3: Capability Assessment*

This plan identifies activities that can be undertaken by both the public and the private sectors to reduce safety hazards, health hazards, and property damage caused by natural hazards. It fulfills the Federal mitigation planning requirements, qualifies for CRS credit, and provides Ascension Parish and its communities with a blueprint for reducing the impacts of these natural hazards on people and property.

Geography, Population and Economy

Geography

Ascension Parish covers 303 square miles per the U.S. Geological Survey, and is located in southeast Louisiana as indicated on the map below in Figure 1-1. It is bound on the north by Bayou Manchac and East Baton Rouge Parish; on the northeast by the Amite River, Bayou Pierre, Petite Amite River, Blind River, and Livingston Parish; on the east by St. John the Baptist Parish; on the south by St. James and Assumption Parishes; and on the west by Iberville Parish. While the parish seat is in Donaldsonville, most parish government offices are located in the Gonzales area.

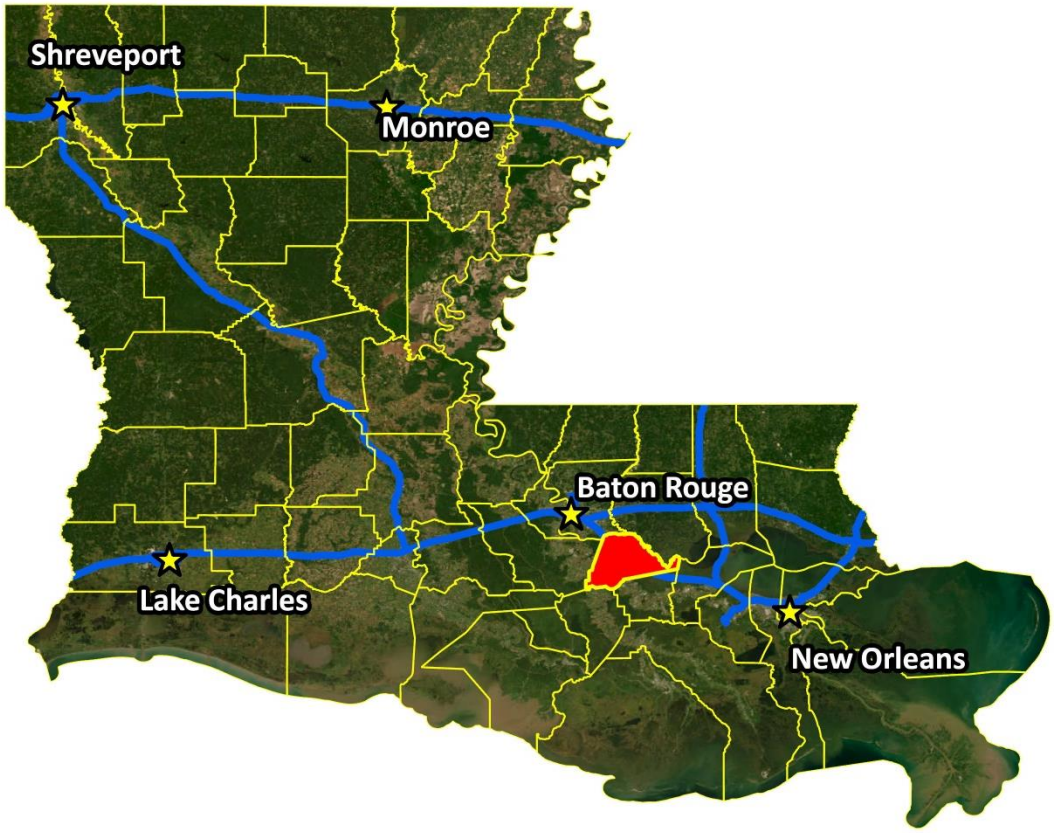

Figure 1-1: Location of Ascension Parish in the State of Louisiana

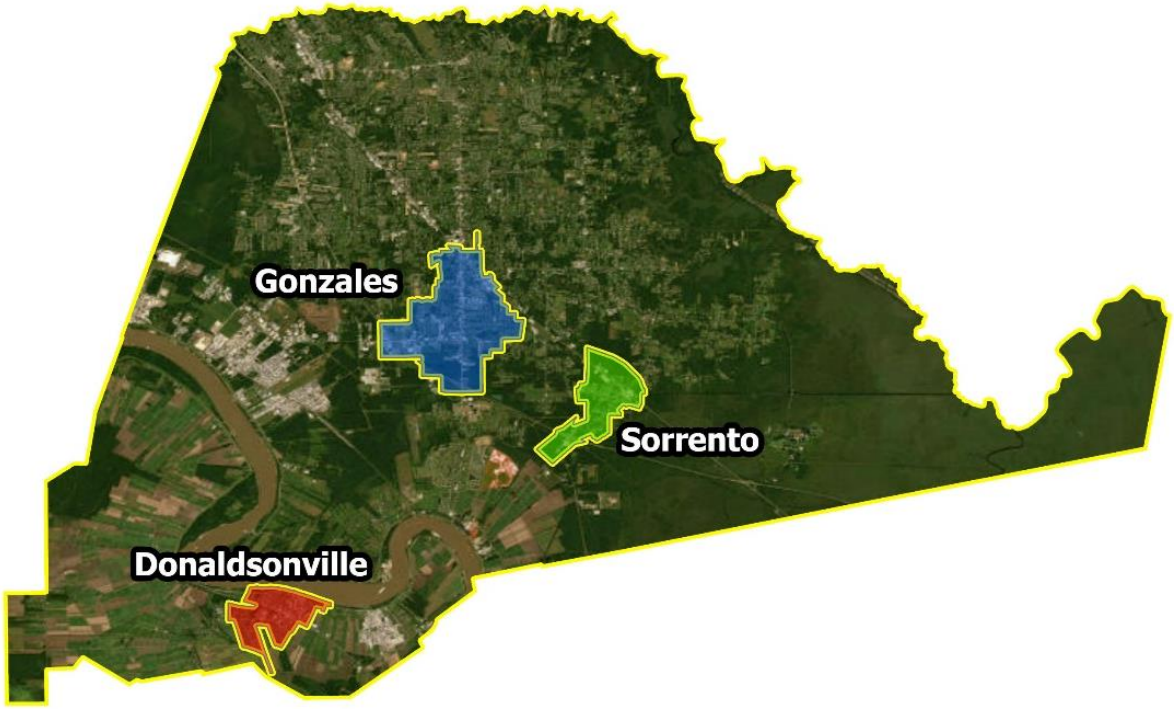

Figure 1-2: Incorporated Jurisdictions within Ascension Parish

Ascension is divided into two regions by the Mississippi River with 80% of the land east of the river and the balance on the west bank. Ascension Parish has a large portion of its land located above coastal storm surge inundation elevations, yet its topography is relatively flat. In the southern portion of the parish, land is anywhere from 15 to 20 feet above sea level along riverbanks, sloping gradually down to five feet and lower away from the river and toward backwater swamp areas. This sloping resulted from natural levees created by overbank flooding. Going north, the elevation begins to rise again, reaching 20-25 feet in the northern portion of the parish. The only extensive lowland areas are in the east-southeast sector, which is subject to storm surge from Lake Maurepas via Lake Pontchartrain and northwest portions of the parish which flood as a function of the Amite River and Bayou Manchac.

Land east of the Mississippi River drains to the Amite and Lake Maurepas watersheds as a function of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. More than 1,200 square miles of surface area north of Ascension Parish drains into the Amite River eventually flowing through the region. The remainder of the parish, i.e. west of the Mississippi River, is drained by former Mississippi River distributaries located in west and east central Louisiana coastal watersheds, specifically in the Terrebonne and Barataria watersheds, southward to the Gulf of Mexico. Sheet flow drainage in the parish west of the Mississippi River is to canals and low lying swampy areas to the west and south. Ascension Parish is located contiguous to, but outside of, the designated coastal zone of Louisiana.

Ascension Parish weather is typically warm and humid. Variations in daily temperature are determined by distance from the Gulf of Mexico and, to a much lesser degree, by differences in elevation. According to the NCEI Data Tools service, the average annual temperature for the state as a whole is 68ºF. January is typically the coldest month in Louisiana, averaging approximately 54ºF, while July is typically the warmest at an average of 83ºF. Winter months are usually mild with cold spells of short duration. For Ascension Parish in particular, the summer months are usually quite warm, with an average daily maximum temperature in July and August of 91°F. Winters are typically mild. Snowfall averages less than one inch per year. Average annual rainfall for the area is 62 inches. Ascension Parish is susceptible to the normal weather dangers, such as thunderstorms and flooding, but due to its location within the state and its proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, the parish is highly susceptible to tropical cyclones. Hurricane season lasts from June 1st to November 30th, with most hurricanes forming in August, September, and October.

Ascension Parish is located in Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) Region 2 (*Figure 1-3*).

As noted previously, Ascension Parish is located in the south-eastern region of Louisiana.

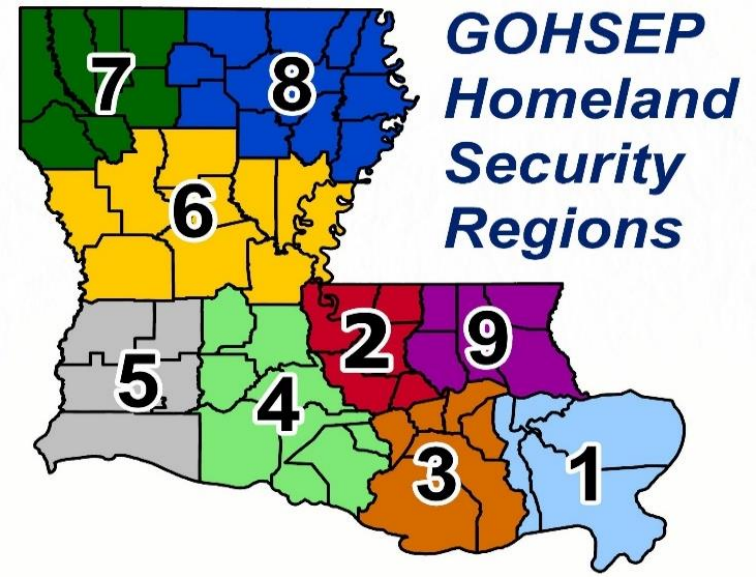

Figure 1-3: Louisiana Homeland Security Regions

Population

The population of Ascension Parish is estimated at 131,632 (2023 estimate) with a population percent change of 18.55% from April 1, 2010 – July 1, 2023.

Table 1-1: Ascension Parish Population
(Source: US Census)

Variables	2010 Census	2020 Census	2023 Estimate	Percent Change 2010 - 2023
Total Population	107,215	126,499	131,632	22.77%
Population Density (Pop/Sq. Mi.)	369.7	436.3	453.9	22.77%
Total Households	40,784	46,040	48,462	18.83%
Persons Per Household	2.62	2.74	2.71	3.44%

Economy

Ascension Parish, Louisiana has one of the Gulf South's most vibrant economies. Since 2005, Ascension Parish has recorded over $6.2 billion in capital investment by new and expanding enterprises accompanied by the creation of over 2,500 direct new jobs. Ascension Parish consistently ranks in the top ten counties/parishes in the US for annual per capita business investment. The combination of excellent job opportunities and a high-quality public-school system has made Ascension one of the fastest growing counties/parishes in the US. (*Ascension Economic Development Corporation*)

Ascension Parish is strategically located in the middle of the Gulf South's "energy alley" on Interstate 10 on the Mississippi River. While part of the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area, Ascension Parish is also located within easy commuting distance of the New Orleans metro area with convenient access to the international airport there. Ascension is in proximity to three (3) deep-water river ports (Baton Rouge, South Louisiana and New Orleans) and has three (3) Class A freight railways (Canadian National, Kansas City Southern and Union Pacific). Since 2005, Ascension's Civilian Labor Force has increased at the average rate of 2.75% per year. This growth rate is more than

five times the national average and four times that of the State of Louisiana as a whole. While the Parish's employment base has continued to diversify, Ascension "exports" approximately one-third of its resident labor force to surrounding areas daily. These "out-commuters" are a prime source of recruitable workers for Ascension-based new and expanding enterprises. (*Ascension Economic Development Corporation*)

In addition to excellent public schools, Ascension Parish is within easy commuting distance of ten (10) institutions of higher learning, including the main campus of Louisiana State University and Southern University in Baton Rouge. Ascension is home to River Parishes Community College, which is ranked among the fastest growing community and technical colleges in the nation and has a new state-of-the-art campus here. (*Ascension Economic Development Corporation*)

Industry data for business patterns in Ascension Parish can be found in the table below:

Table 1-2: Ascension Parish Business Patterns
(Source: US Census, CBP)

Business Description	Number of Establishments	Number of Employees	Annual Payroll ($1,000)
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	3	68	4,019
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	10	304	17,759
Utilities	9	107	9,313
Construction	247	9,334	567,782
Manufacturing	97	5,852	657,503
Wholesale trade	154	2,550	165,412
Retail trade	398	6,297	177,674
Transportation and warehousing	75	1,663	105,567
Information	16	117	4,603
Finance and insurance	145	895	45,386
Real estate and rental and leasing	155	947	49,176
Professional, scientific, and technical services	230	1,869	133,151
Management of companies and enterprises	15	405	30,162
Administrative and support and waste management	134	1,858	99,304
Educational services	25	462	9,480
Health care and social assistance	230	3,147	108,763
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	29	262	5,149
Accommodation and food services	246	4,272	61,950
Other services (except public administration)	214	2,527	125,531
Industries not classified	6	3	83

Hazard Mitigation

To fully understand hazard mitigation efforts in Ascension Parish and throughout Louisiana, it is first crucial to understand how hazard mitigation relates to the broader concept of emergency management. In the early 1980s, the newly created Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was charged with developing a structure for how the federal, state, and local governments would respond to disasters. FEMA developed the *four phases of emergency management*, an approach which can be applied to all disasters. The four phases are as follows:

- **Hazard Mitigation**—described by FEMA and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) as "any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event." The goal of mitigation is to save lives and reduce property damage. Besides significantly aiding in the obviously desirous goal of saving human lives, mitigation can reduce the enormous cost of disasters to property owners and all levels of government. In addition, mitigation can protect critical community facilities and minimize community disruption, helping communities return to usual daily living in the aftermath of disaster. Examples of mitigation involve a range of activities and actions including the following: land-use planning, adoption and enforcement of building codes, and construction projects (e.g., flood proofing homes through elevation, or acquisition or relocation away from floodplains).
- **Emergency Preparedness**—includes plans and preparations made to save lives and property and to facilitate response operations in advance of a disaster event.
- **Disaster Response**—includes actions taken to provide emergency assistance, save lives, minimize property damage, and speed recovery immediately following a disaster.
- **Disaster Recovery**—includes actions taken to return to a normal or improved operating condition following a disaster.

Figure 1-4 illustrates the basic relationship between these phases of emergency management. While hazard mitigation may occur both before and after a disaster event, it is significantly more effective when implemented before an event occurs. This is one of the key elements of this plan and its overall strategy*:* reduce risk before disaster strikes in order to minimize the need for post-disaster response and recovery.

As *Figure 1-4* demonstrates, mitigation relies on updating in the wake of disaster. This can give the appearance that mitigation is only reactive rather than proactive. In reality, post-disaster revision is a vital component of improving mitigation. Each hazardous event affords an opportunity to reduce the consequences of future occurrences.

Unfortunately, this cycle can be painful for a community. For instance, the risks of disasters that could create catastrophic incidents in Louisiana were thought to be relatively well-understood prior to 2005. However, the impact of the 2005 hurricane season on the Gulf Coast region of the United States prompted a new level of planning and engagement related to disaster response, recovery, and hazard mitigation. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit three weeks apart and together caused astonishing damage to human life and to property. The two storms highlighted a hurricane season that spawned 28 storms—unparalleled in American history. The 2005 hurricane season confirmed Louisiana's extreme exposure to natural disasters and both the positive effects and the concerns resulting from engineered flood-protection solutions. More recently, the historically impactful

Figure 1-4: The Four Phases of Emergency Management and their Relation to Future Hazard Mitigation
(Source: Louisiana State Hazard Mitigation Plan 2014)

2020 hurricane season reinforced the need for proper planning and mitigation strategies.

The catastrophic tropical events of 2005 and 2020, coupled with the unprecedented flooding events of 2016 have had profound impacts on emergency management and hazard mitigation throughout Louisiana. As detailed later in this document, significant funding has been made available to the State of Louisiana and its parishes for the purpose of hazard mitigation planning. The storms also raised awareness of the importance of hazard mitigation among decision-makers and the general population, which has been particularly important since natural hazards will likely be increasing in frequency, magnitude, and impact in the coming years due to climate change.

General Strategy

During the last update to the Louisiana State Hazard Mitigation Plan, the State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT) began a long-term effort to better integrate key components of all plans with hazard mitigation implications in Louisiana to ensure that the programs, policies, recommendations, and implementation strategies are internally consistent. As each of these documents has been adopted by various agencies within the state, the SHMT has worked to incorporate this information into the decision process.

Part of the ongoing integration process is that the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) encourages the parishes and the local communities with independent hazard mitigation plans to utilize the same plan format and methodologies as the State Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to create continuity of information from local to state mitigation plans and programs.

The 2025 Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) maintains much of the information from the 2020 plan version and incorporates the order and methodologies of the 2024 Louisiana State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The sections in the 2020 Ascension Parish HMP were as follows:

- Section One Introduction
- Section Two Hazard Identification and Parish-Wide Risk Assessment
- Section Three Capability Assessment
- Section Four Mitigation Strategy
- Appendix A Planning Process
- Appendix B Plan Maintenance
- Appendix C Essential Facilities
- Appendix D Plan Adoption
- Appendix E State Required Worksheets

This plan update also coheres with the Plain Writing Act of 2010, which requires federal agencies to use clear communication that is accessible, consistent, understandable, and useful to the public. While the State of Louisiana and its political subdivisions are not required to meet such standards, the Act aligns with best practices in hazard mitigation. Since successful hazard mitigation relies on full implementation and cooperation at all levels of government and community, a successful hazard mitigation plan must also be easily used at all of these levels. Nevertheless, the Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee recognized the benefits from the successful analysis and mitigation planning executed in previous plan updates, as well as improvements to be made in the 2025 update. This plan update remains coherent with those documents, retaining language and content when needed, deleting it when appropriate, and augmenting it when constructive.

2025 Plan Update

This 2025 plan update proceeds with the previous goals of the Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan. The current goals are as follows:

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

This plan update makes a number of textual changes throughout, but the most obvious changes are data related and structural edits. First, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information's (NCEI) Storm Events Database was used in the analysis, which provides historical hazard data from 1950 to 2024. The planning committee was also instrumental in providing detailed data where appropriate to more accurately reflect hazard impacts on the parish and jurisdictions. Furthermore, all of the sections were updated to reflect the most current information and the most current vision of the plan update. The most significant changes are the newly developed hazard profiles and risk assessments, as well as the removal of much repetition between sections from the previous plan updates.

The 2025 plan update is organized in the same format as the 2020 update, with one minor change to this 2025 update as outlined below. The decision to change the title of Appendix C from Essential Facilities to Critical Facilities was made to better align with FEMA-preferred terminology.

- Section One Introduction
- Section Two Hazard Identification and Parish-Wide Risk Assessment
- Section Three Capability Assessment
- Section Four Mitigation Strategies
- Appendix A Planning Process
- Appendix B Plan Maintenance
- Appendix C Critical Facilities
- Appendix D Plan Adoption
- Appendix E State Required Worksheets

Table 1-3: 2025 Plan Update Crosswalk

Plan Update Crosswalk	
2020 Update	**2025 Update**
Section 1: Introduction	Section 1: Introduction
Section 2: Hazard Identification and Parish-Wide Risk Assessment	Section 2: Hazard Identification and Parish-Wide Risk Assessment
Section 3: Capability Assessment	Section 3: Capability Assessment
Section 4: Mitigation Strategy	Section 4: Mitigation Strategy
Appendix A: Planning Process	Appendix A: Planning Process
Appendix B: Plan Maintenance	Appendix B: Plan Maintenance
Appendix C: Essential Facilities	Appendix C: Critical Facilities
Appendix D: Plan Adoptions	Appendix D: Plan Adoptions
Appendix E: State Required Worksheets	Appendix E: State Required Worksheets

Despite numerous changes in this plan update, the plan remains consistent in its emphasis on the types of hazards that pose the most risk to loss of life, injury, and property in Ascension Parish and its communities. The extent of this risk is dictated primarily by its geographic location. Most significantly, Ascension Parish remains at high risk of water inundation from various sources, including flooding and tropical cyclone activity. The entire parish is also at high risk of damage related to high winds and wind-borne debris. The 2016 flooding events, along with the 2020 hurricane season were both felt heavily in all parts of Ascension Parish. Other hazards threaten the parish and/or its communities, although not to such great degrees and not in such widespread ways. In all cases, the relative social vulnerability of areas threatened and affected plays a significant role in how governmental agencies and their partners (local, parish, state and federal) prepare for and respond to disasters.

Mitigation efforts related to particular hazards are highly individualized by jurisdiction. Flexibility in response and planning is essential. The most important step forward to improve hazard management capability is to improve coordination and information sharing between the various levels of government regarding hazards.

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2. Hazard Identification and Parish-Wide Risk Assessment

Overview

The risk assessment identifies and assesses a large variety of threats and hazards that impact the parish to identify a strategy for mitigation. Having identified the categories of hazards, emergencies, disasters, and catastrophes, this section describes the risks associated with each identified hazard of concern. Each section (1) defines the hazard, (2) explains how each hazard is measured, (3) provides the hazard's geographic extent, (4) analyzes the previous occurrences, (5) evaluates each hazard's future likelihood of occurrence, and (6) identifies the worst-case scenario for each hazard.

The following steps were used to define the risk of each hazard:

- Profile and describe each hazard
  - Geographic areas most affected by the hazard
  - Previous occurrences and detailed description of events occurring in the last five years
  - Occurrence probability/frequency estimates
  - Worst-case scenarios
- Determine exposure to each hazard
  - Exposure was determined by overlaying hazard maps with an inventory of structures, facilities, and systems to determine which of them would be exposed to each hazard
  - Vulnerability analysis for people and infrastructure

The primary source for historical data used throughout the risk assessment is the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) Storm Events Database, which provides natural hazard event data from 1950 to the present. In staying consistent with climatological studies, the NCEI Storm Events Database was evaluated for the past 29 years (1996 – 2024) to determine the future probability and frequency of a hazard occurring when data was available.

Data Limitations

Throughout the planning process, every effort was made to use the best available data. Much of the historic natural-hazard occurrence information was obtained through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) NCEI. The NCEI Storm Events Database contains data from January 1950 to the present (i.e., within the past few months); however, there are some issues with events recorded prior to 1996. From the years 1950 to 1954, the NCEI Storm Events Database only contain information on tornado events, until thunderstorm wind and hail events were added to the database for the time period between 1955 and 1992. All event types identified in the National Weather Service (NWS) Directive 10-1605 (48 in total) are recorded from 1996 to the present. For these hazards, only 29 years (1996 – 2024) worth of data was evaluated to determine the future probability and frequency of a hazard occurring. Additionally, property damage and crop damage estimates from the NCEI Storm Events Database are a "best guess" based on all available data at the time of the event publication.

The NCEI Storm Events Database does not record all events, only occurrences that have sufficient intensity to cause loss of life, injuries, significant property damage, and/or disruption to commerce. Even then, there are events that may not be covered due to changes in data collection and processing procedures over time. Also, events such as tornadoes or hailstorms rely heavily on eye-witness accounts which creates a reporting bias in urban areas. The inception of Doppler radar in 1980 significantly decreased this bias, especially for tornado events, but records prior to 1980 are not as detailed or complete as post 1980-records.

The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) National Severe Weather Database browser examines convective/thunderstorm-related winds only and does not include wind data from hurricane or non-thunderstorm wind damage. This data contains measured and estimated wind gusts including wind damage without estimated wind speeds. For many observations, this results in several thunderstorm wind events with no estimated or actual wind speed estimates.

The vulnerability estimates provided herein use the best data currently available, and the methodologies applied result in an approximation of risk. These estimates may be used to understand the relative risk from hazards and potential losses. However, uncertainties are inherent in any loss estimation methodology, arising in part from incomplete scientific knowledge concerning hazards and their effects on the built environment, as well as approximations and simplifications that are necessary for a comprehensive analysis.

Identifying Hazards

Several emergency management and hazard mitigation documents at the state and local levels were reviewed to identify a comprehensive list of hazards that may impact the parish. These documents addressed a wide range of hazards including natural, technological, and human-caused. The two main documents referenced in finalizing the parish's comprehensive hazard list were the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan for the parish and the state of Louisiana's 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Typically, unless otherwise noted in the plan, all hazards previously identified in the parish's 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan and all hazards in the state of Louisiana's 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan identified as medium or high risk by the state are profiled in the risk assessment. The table below provides a comprehensive list of the hazards selected based on the above criteria.

Table 2-1: Ascension Parish's Hazard Profile Summary.

Hazard	Profiled in Last Plan	Considered Medium or High Risk in the State's HM Plan	Profiled in the 2025 Update
Drought			X
Excessive Heat			X
Flooding	X	X	X
Levee Failure	X		X
Sinkholes	X		X
Subsidence	X		X
Thunderstorm Hail	X	X	X
Thunderstorm Lightning	X	X	X
Thunderstorm Winds	X	X	X
Tornadoes	X	X	X
Tropical Cyclones	X	X	X
Wildfires			X
Winter Weather	X		X

Historical Context and Previous Occurrences

The following table and figures display past Federal Declaration occurrences and provides background on the type of natural disasters that have affected the parish in the past.

Table 2-2: Major Federal Disaster Declarations in Ascension Parish Excluding Emergency Declarations. (Source: FEMA Disaster Declarations Summary: Open Government Dataset)

Disaster Number	Year	Declaration
208	1965	HURRICANE BETSY
315	1972	HURRICANE EDITH
374	1973	SEVERE STORMS & FLOODING
534	1977	SEVERE STORMS & FLOODING
584	1979	SEVERE STORMS & FLOODING
679	1983	SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING
752	1986	HURRICANE JUAN
956	1992	HURRICANE ANDREW
978	1993	SEVERE STORMS & FLOODING
1049	1995	SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING
1246	1998	HURRICANE GEORGES/TS FRANCES
1380	2001	TROPICAL STORM ALLISON
1437	2003	HURRICANE LILI
1548	2004	HURRICANE IVAN
1603	2005	HURRICANE KATRINA
1607	2005	HURRICANE RITA
1786	2008	HURRICANE GUSTAV
4015	2011	FLOODING
4080	2012	HURRICANE ISAAC
4263	2016	SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING
4277	2016	SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING
4458	2019	HURRICANE BARRY
4484	2020	COVID-19 PANDEMIC
4559	2020	HURRICANE LAURA
4577	2021	HURRICANE ZETA
4590	2021	SEVERE ICE STORM
4606	2021	FLOODING
4611	2021	HURRICANE IDA
4817	2024	HURRICANE FRANCINE

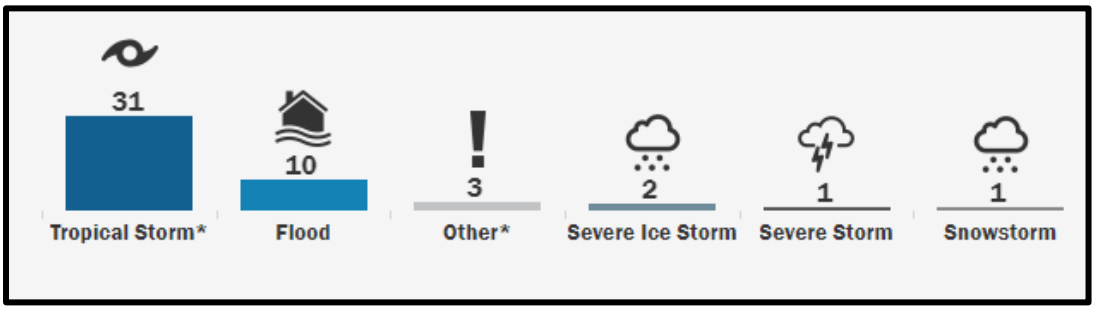


Figure 2-1: Total Presidential Disaster Declarations for the Parish by Disaster Type Since 1950. (Source: FEMA Disaster Declarations Summary: Open Government Dataset)

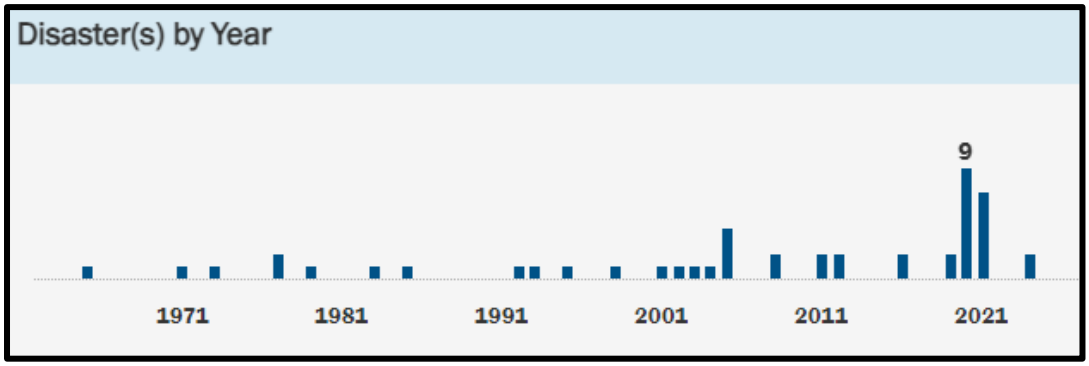


Figure 2-2: Total Presidential Disaster Declarations Yearly Totals for the Parish from 1950 to 2023. (Source: FEMA Disaster Declarations Summary: Open Government Dataset)

Probability of Future Threats and Hazards

The probability of each hazard occurring in the parish is estimated in the table based on data analyzed in the following risk assessment. For further explanation of these calculations, please refer to the Probability section of each corresponding hazard profile in the risk assessment.

Table 2-3: Annual Probability of Future Hazard Reoccurrence in Ascension Parish.

Hazard	Annual Probability			
	Unincorporated Ascension Parish	Donaldsonville	Gonzales	Sorrento
Drought	32%	32%	32%	32%
Excessive Heat	79%	79%	79%	79%
Flooding	72%	17%	34%	17%
Levee Failure	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Sinkholes	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Subsidence	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Thunderstorm Hail	100%	100%	100%	100%
Thunderstorm Lightning	14%	14%	14%	14%
Thunderstorm Winds	100%	100%	100%	100%
Tornadoes	45%	45%	45%	45%
Tropical Cyclones	61%	61%	61%	61%
Wildfires	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Winter Weather	3%	3%	3%	3%

Assessing Vulnerability Overview

The purpose of assessing vulnerability is to quantify and/or qualify exposure and determine how various threats and hazards impact life, property, the environment, and critical operations of the parish. Vulnerability can be defined as the manifestation of the inherent states of the system (e.g., physical, technical, organizational, cultural) that can be exploited to adversely affect (cause harm or damage to) that system. For example, identifying areas within the parish that suffer disproportional damage compared to other areas, or overall exposure of the entire parish to flooding. Identifying and understanding vulnerability to each threat and hazard provides a strong foundation for developing and pursuing mitigation actions.

The vulnerability analysis builds upon the information provided in the risk assessment by assessing the potential impact and amount of damage that each hazard has on the parish. To complete the analysis, the best available data were collected from a variety of sources, including local, state, and federal agencies and multiple analyses were performed qualitatively and quantitatively. The estimates provided in the vulnerability analysis should be used to understand the relative risk from each hazard and the potential losses that may be incurred; however, uncertainties are inherent in any loss estimation methodology, arising in part from incomplete scientific knowledge concerning specific hazards and their effects on the built environment, as well as incomplete datasets and from approximations and simplifications that are necessary to provide a meaningful and complete analysis. Further, most datasets used in this assessment contain relatively short periods of records, which increases the uncertainty of any statistically based analysis.

Vulnerability Analysis Methodology

To direct the vulnerability analysis effort for the parish, two distinct methodologies were applied. The first includes a quantitative analysis that relies upon the best available data and technology, while the second methodology includes a qualitative analysis that relies more on local knowledge and rational decision-making. Upon completion, the methodologies are combined to create a vulnerability analysis that allows for some degree of quality control and assurance. The quantitative assessment focuses on potential hazard loss estimates, while the qualitative assessment is comprised of a scoring system built around values assigned by the Planning Team as to the likelihood of occurrence, spatial extent, and potential impact of each hazard.

Quantitative Methodology

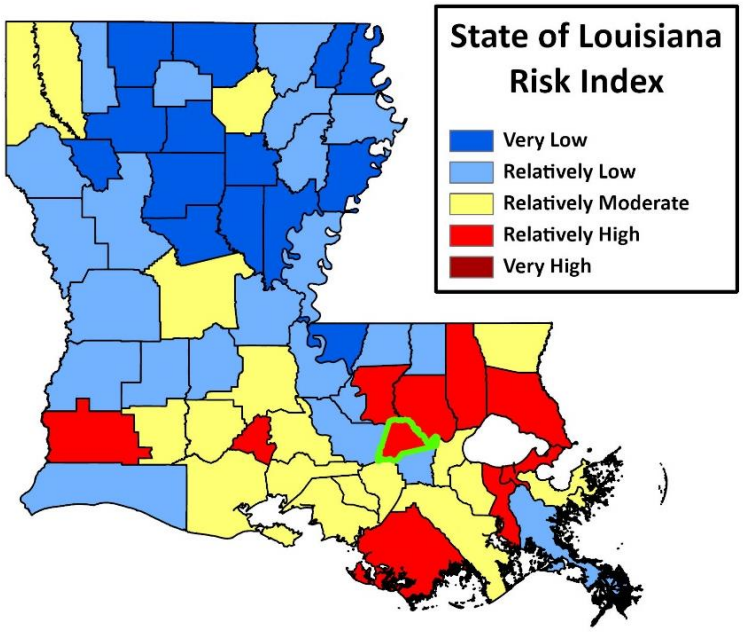
The quantitative methodology consists of utilizing Hazus, a geographic information system (GIS)-based loss estimation software available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as well as a detailed GIS-based approach independent of the Hazus software. These two GIS-based studies together help form a quantitative vulnerability analysis. GIS technology allows for the identification and analysis of potentially at-risk community assets such as people and infrastructure. This analysis was completed for hazards that can be spatially defined in a meaningful manner (i.e., hazards with an official and scientifically determined geographic extent) and for which GIS data were readily available.

Additionally, the National Risk Index developed by FEMA was utilized to determine the composite risk to 18 natural hazards to include avalanche, coastal flooding, cold wave, drought, earthquake, hail, heat wave, hurricane, ice storm, landslide, lightning, riverine flooding, strong wind, tornado, tsunami, volcanic activity, wildfire, and winter weather. Historic loss ratio, expected annual loss, and overall risk factor for any of the above hazards which are profiled in this plan are provided in the vulnerability analysis to provide further context on the risk associated to the hazard. Expected annual loss and the risk factor are calculated using the following formulas:

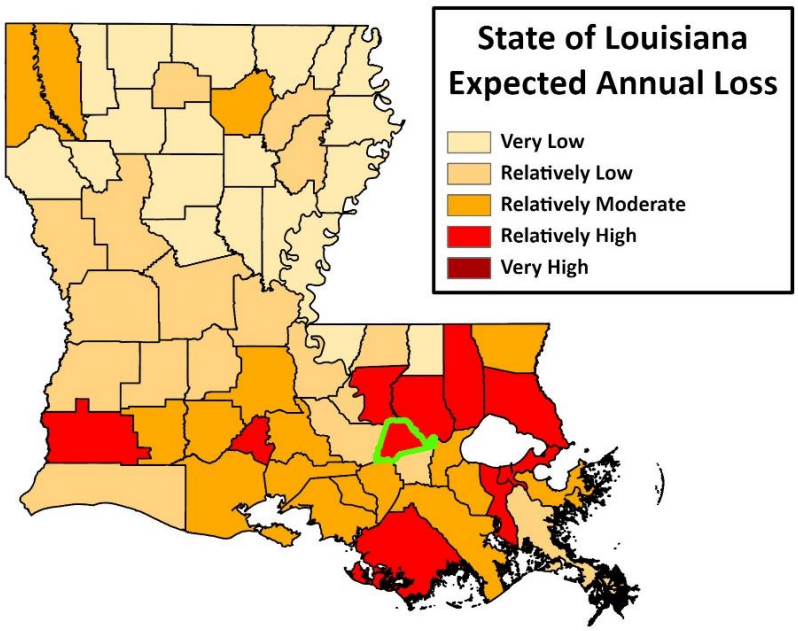
Expected Annual Loss = Exposure * Annualized Frequency * Historic Loss Ratio

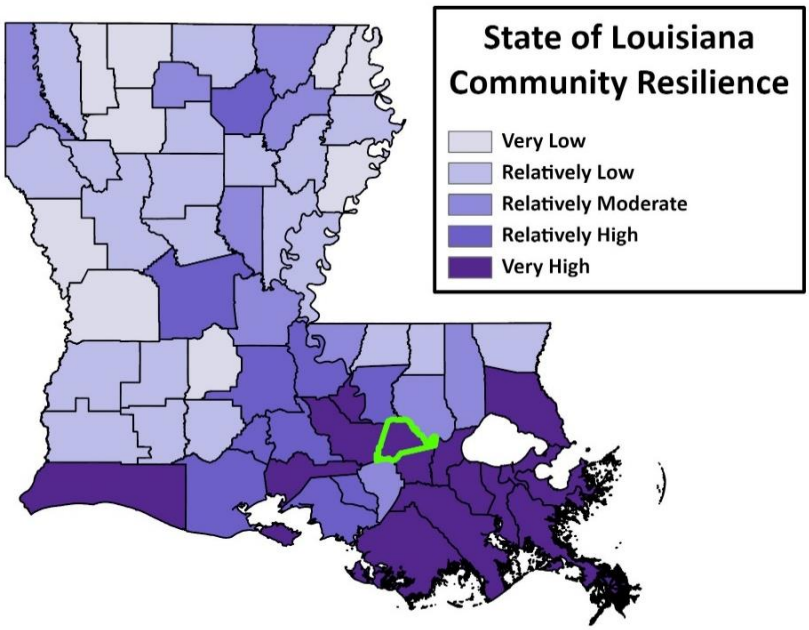
Risk Index = Expected Annual Loss * Social Vulnerability / Community Resilience

Ascension Parish has a Community Risk Index Rating of "Relatively High," when compared to the rest of the US. The parish has a community risk index score of **96.28/100.00**. When compared to the state of Louisiana, the parish has a risk index score of **87.50/100.00.** The natural hazards that contributed to a higher overall risk index score include Tropical Cyclones, Flooding, Tornadoes, and Thunderstorms.

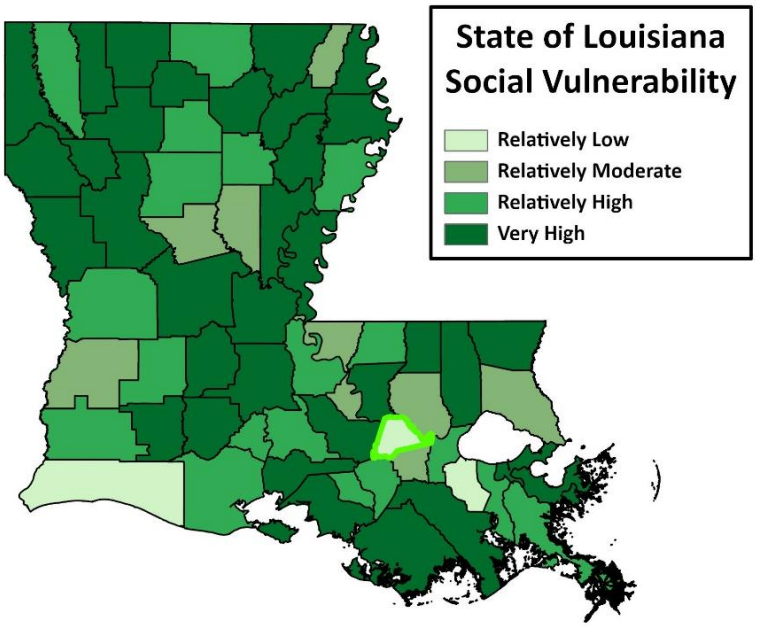


Ascension Parish has an Expected Annual Loss rating, in relation to natural hazards, of "Relatively High" when compared to the rest of the US. The parish has an Expected Annual Loss rating of **96.69/100.00.** When compared to the state of Louisiana, the parish has a risk index score of **89.10/100.00.** Again, the natural hazards that account for the most expected annual loss are Tropical Cyclones, Flooding, Tornadoes, and Thunderstorms. Winter Weather events are also a strong contributor to expected annual loss even though the historic loss ratio is considered relatively low.





Ascension Parish has a Community Resilience rating of "Very High" when compared to the rest of the US. A "Very High" Community Resilience Rating indicates that Ascension Parish has an advanced ability to prepare for anticipated natural hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from "disruptions" when compared to the rest of the US. These Community Resilience values are measured via the *University of South Carolina's Hazard and Vulnerability Research Institute Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities (HVRI BRIC).* Some indicators include human well-being, economic/financial assets, infrastructure, governance, community capacity, natural resources, and overall environmental conditions. Based on all the above factors and characteristics, Ascension Parish has a Community Resilience rating of **88.45/100.00** when compared to the entire US. When compared to the state of Louisiana, Ascension Parish has a Community Resilience rating of **82.80/100.00,** which is one of the best scores in the state of Louisiana.



Ascension Parish has a Social Vulnerability Rating of "Relatively Low" when compared to the rest of the US. When communities have a Relatively Moderate or High Social Vulnerability rating, the area may be susceptible to adverse impacts brought about by natural hazards. Factors regarding social vulnerability include poverty, lack of transportation, persons per household, etc. For a more in depth look into social vulnerability statistics on Ascension Parish, refer to the *Socially Vulnerable Populations* section on the following pages. The parish has a Social Vulnerability rating of **32.53/100.00** when compared to the US. When compared to the state of Louisiana, the parish has a Social Vulnerability rating of **4.7/100.00.** These scores are the third best in the state of Louisiana, ranking behind only Cameron and St. Charles Parishes.

Qualitative Methodology

The qualitative assessment relies less on technology, but more on historical and anecdotal data regarding expected hazard impacts. The qualitative assessment completed for the parish is based on the Priority Risk Index (PRI). The purpose of the PRI is to prioritize all potential hazards, and then group them into three categories of high, moderate, or low risk to identify and prioritize mitigation opportunities.

The PRI is a good practice to use when prioritizing hazards because it provides a standardized numerical value for hazards to be compared. Adapted PRI scores were calculated using five categories:

- Probability
- Impact
- Spatial Extent
- Warning Time
- Duration

Each degree of risk is assigned a value (1-4) and a weighting factor. To calculate the Risk Factor for a given hazard, the assigned risk value for each category is multiplied by the weighted factor, and the sum of all five categories is totaled together for a final score. The highest possible Risk Factor is a 4.0.

Risk Factor = [(Probability * 0.25) + (Impact * 0.25) + (Spatial Extent * 0.20) + (Warning Time *0.15) + (Duration * 0.15)]

Priority Risk Index and Hazard Risk

Hazard risk is determined by calculating the Risk Factor for each hazard impacting the parish. A summary of the PRI is found in the following table. The conclusions drawn from the qualitative and quantitative assessments are fitted into three categories based on High, Moderate, or Low designations. Hazards identified as high risk have a risk factor of 2.5 or greater. Risk factors ranging from 2.0 to 2.4 are deemed moderate risk hazards while hazards with risk factors less than 2.0 are considered low risk.

Table 2-4: Summary of the Priority Risk Index.

PRI Category	Degree of Risk			Assigned Weighting Factor
	Level	Criteria	Index Value	
Probability	Unlikely	Less than 1% annual probability	1	25%
	Possible	Between 1 and 10% annual probability	2	
	Likely	Between 10 and 100% probability	3	
	Highly Likely	100% annual probability	4	
Impact	Minor	Very few injuries, if any. Only minor property damage and minimal disruption on quality of life. Temporary shutdown of critical facilities.	1	25%
	Limited	Minor injuries only. More than 10% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of critical facilities for more than one day.	2	
	Critical	Multiple deaths/injuries possible. More than 25% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of critical facilities for more than a week.	3	
	Catastrophic	High number of deaths/injuries possible. More than 50% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of critical facilities for 30 days or more.	4	
Spatial Extent	Negligible	Less than 1% of area affected	1	20%
	Small	Between 1 and 10% of area affected	2	
	Moderate	Between 10 and 50% of area affected	3	
	Large	Between 50 and 100% of area affected	4	
Warning Time	More than 24 hours	Self-explanatory	1	15%
	12 to 24 hours	Self-explanatory	2	
	6 to 12 hours	Self-explanatory	3	
	Less than 6 hours	Self-explanatory	4	
Duration	Less than 6 hours	Self-explanatory	1	15%
	Less than 24 hours	Self-explanatory	2	
	Less than one week	Self-explanatory	3	
	More than one week	Self-explanatory	4	

Table 2-5: Associated Risk Factor with PRI Value Range.

Risk Factor	PRI Range
High Risk	2.5 to 4.0
Moderate Risk	2.0 to 2.4
Low Risk	0 to 1.9

Vulnerability Analysis (NRI & PRI)

The first table is the overall risk associated with each threat and hazard with 2.5 or above deemed high risk, 2.0 to 2.4 deemed medium risk, and less than 2.0 deemed low risk. The final table summarizes the composite risk of 18 natural hazards outlined previously on the parish by expected annual loss, social vulnerability, community resilience, and overall risk rating.

Table 2-6: PRI Vulnerability Analysis for Ascension Parish.

Hazard	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	Overall Risk
Drought	3	2	4	2	3	2.8
Excessive Heat	3	2	4	1	2	2.5
Flooding	3	4	3	4	3	3.4
Levee Failure	1	3	4	1	3	2.4
Sinkholes	1	2	2	1	4	1.9
Subsidence	1	2	2	4	2	2.05
Thunderstorm Hail	4	2	3	3	1	2.7
Thunderstorm Lightning	3	2	2	3	1	2.25
Thunderstorm Winds	4	2	3	3	1	2.7
Tornadoes	3	3	2	4	3	2.95
Tropical Cyclones	3	4	4	1	4	3.3
Wildfires	1	3	4	1	2	2.25
Winter Weather	2	4	4	1	2	2.75

Table 2-7: National Risk Index (NRI) Summarization of Risk to Eighteen Natural Hazards for Ascension Parish (Source: National Risk Index)

Expected Annual Loss	Social Vulnerability	Community Resilience	Overall Risk Rating
Relatively High	Relatively Low	Very High	Relatively High

Socially Vulnerable Populations

The following tables illustrate at risk populations in Ascension Parish; and their jurisdictions, compared to the United States as a whole. The data displayed below was taken directly from Headwater Economics, via a social vulnerability tool titled *Neighborhoods at Risk.* This tool was created to help communities identify specific areas that may be adversely impacted by ongoing climate change and other natural hazard events.

Based on the parish and their incorporated jurisdictions, reliability of the information presented becomes a factor. To combat misinformation and skewed values when dealing with socially vulnerable populations, the U.S. Census Bureau along with Headwater Economics, has denoted values by color and given them a reliability denotation. Any values in **black** are denoted as "high reliability". This means that error in data based off of the sampling size for that specific population is relatively small and should not be cause for concern. Any values in **orange** are denoted as "medium reliability". This means that values could be skewed based off of the sampling size being inaccurately examined. Populations and values in orange should be interpreted with caution. Any values in **red** are denoted as "low reliability". This means that population values and data taken from the census are very unreliable as the sample

size included for this data incorporation were very small or insufficient. An emphasis has been placed on values in red in that anyone using them for studies, local plans and regulatory measures, or projects, should consult the respective community for a more comprehensive evaluation of said population(s). *Neighborhoods at Risk* also cites a data limitation to any community with less than 1,000 people residing in it. (US Census Bureau 2022, Headwater Economics)

Additionally, there are some limitations to the data that is provided below. Families in poverty are based upon the amount families within the identifiable area. Rental units, mobile homes, and households with no car are based upon the amount of housing units within the identifiable area. People who do not speak English well is based upon the population of the identifiable area who are five years of age or older. People without a high school degree are based upon the population of the identifiable area who are 25 years of age or older. All other indicators used to identify neighborhoods at risk are based upon the identifiable area's total population. For reference to populations with specific limitations, the table below illustrates the population sample size used to evaluate their respective areas, not the total number of people a specific indicator applies to.

Table 2-8: Limiting Factors in Neighborhoods at Risk Study
(Source: Headwater Economics, Neighborhoods at Risk Tool)

Limiting Factors in Neighborhoods at Risk – Population Sample Size (2022)						
Indicators 2022*	**Ascension Parish**	**Unincorporated Ascension Parish**	**City of Donaldsonville**	**City of Gonzales**	**Town of Sorrento**	**United States**
Families in poverty	34,448	29,371	1,471	3,107	499	81,432,908
Rental units, mobile homes, households with no car	46,040	37,517	2,505	5,327	691	125,736,353
People who do not speak English well	118,388	99,173	5,727	11,639	1,849	312,092,668
People without a high school degree	83,300	69,379	3,924	8,658	1,339	226,600,992
Total Population	**126,973**	**105,899**	**6,799**	**12,356**	**1,919**	**331,097,593**

**The American Community Survey Office (ACS) estimates values over a 5-year period. 2022 indicators represent average statistics from 2018-2022.*

Table 2-9: Socially Vulnerable Populations in Ascension Parish
(Source: Headwater Economics, Neighborhoods at Risk Tool)

Neighborhoods at Risk – Ascension Parish			
Indicators 2022*	**Population within Ascension Parish**	**Percentage of Population within Ascension Parish**	**Percentage of Population within U.S.**
People under 5 years	8,585	6.8%	5.7%
People over 65 years	15,759	12.4%	16.5%
People of color (including Hispanic)	42,741	33.7%	41.1%
People who do not speak English well	1,857	1.6%	4.1%
People without a high school degree	9,329	11.2%	10.9%
Families in poverty	2,286	6.6%	8.8%
Housing units that are rentals	7,703	16.7%	35.2%
Housing units that are mobile homes	6,459	14.0%	5.2%
Households with no cars	1,718	3.7%	8.3%
People with disabilities	15,453	12.3%	12.9%
People without health insurance	8,039	6.4%	8.7%
Total Population of Ascension Parish: *126,973*			

Table 2-10: Socially Vulnerable Populations in Donaldsonville
(Source: Headwater Economics, Neighborhoods at Risk Tool)

Neighborhoods at Risk – City of Donaldsonville			
Indicators 2022*	**Population within Donaldsonville**	**Percentage of Population within Donaldsonville**	**Percentage of Population within U.S.**
People under 5 years	1,072	15.8%	5.7%
People over 65 years	1,254	18.4%	16.5%
People of color (including Hispanic)	5,860	86.2%	41.1%
People who do not speak English well	**17**	**0.3%**	4.1%
People without a high school degree	489	12.5%	10.9%
Families in poverty	645	43.8%	8.8%
Housing units that are rentals	1,197	47.8%	35.2%
Housing units that are mobile homes	335	13.4%	5.2%
Households with no cars	500	20.0%	8.3%
People with disabilities	986	14.4%	12.9%
People without health insurance	426	6.3%	8.7%
Total Population of Donaldsonville: *6,799*			

Table 2-11: Socially Vulnerable Populations in Gonzales
(Source: Headwater Economics, Neighborhoods at Risk Tool)

Neighborhoods at Risk – City of Gonzales			
Indicators 2022*	**Population within Gonzales**	**Percentage of Population within Gonzales**	**Percentage of Population within U.S.**
People under 5 years	717	5.8%	5.7%
People over 65 years	2,040	16.5%	16.5%
People of color (including Hispanic)	6,777	54.8%	41.1%
People who do not speak English well	**237**	**2.0%**	4.1%
People without a high school degree	1,192	13.8%	10.9%
Families in poverty	**238**	**7.7%**	8.8%
Housing units that are rentals	1,504	28.2%	35.2%
Housing units that are mobile homes	**232**	**4.4%**	5.2%
Households with no cars	308	5.8%	8.3%
People with disabilities	1,931	15.9%	12.9%
People without health insurance	1,098	9.0%	8.7%
Total Population of Gonzales: *12,356*			

Table 2-12: Socially Vulnerable Populations in Sorrento
(Source: Headwater Economics, Neighborhoods at Risk Tool)

Neighborhoods at Risk – Town of Sorrento			
Indicators 2022*	**Population within Sorrento**	**Percentage of Population within Sorrento**	**Percentage of Population within U.S.**
People under 5 years	**70**	**3.6%**	5.7%
People over 65 years	302	15.7%	16.5%
People of color (including Hispanic)	471	24.5%	41.1%
People who do not speak English well	**27**	**1.5%**	4.1%
People without a high school degree	**68**	**5.1%**	10.9%
Families in poverty	**22**	**4.4%**	8.8%
Housing units that are rentals	116	16.8%	35.2%
Housing units that are mobile homes	103	14.9%	5.2%
Households with no cars	**27**	**3.9%**	8.3%
People with disabilities	440	22.9%	12.9%
People without health insurance	**177**	**9.2%**	8.7%
Total Population of Sorrento: *1,919*			

Population and Development Trends

The future population and number of buildings can be estimated using U.S. Census Bureau housing and population data. The following tables show population and housing unit estimates from 2010 to 2023:

Table 2-13: Population Growth Rate for Ascension Parish.

Total Population	Ascension Parish	Unincorporated Ascension Parish	Donaldsonville	Gonzales	Sorrento
1-Apr-10	107,215	88,597	7,436	9,781	1,401
1-Apr-20	126,500	106,060	6,695	12,231	1,514
1-Apr-23	131,632	109,463	6,860	13,737	1,572
Population Growth between 2010 – 2020	18.0%	19.7%	-10.0%	25.0%	8.1%
Average Annual Growth Rate between 2010 – 2020	1.8%	2.0%	-1.0%	2.5%	0.8%
Population Growth between 2020 – 2023	4.1%	3.2%	2.5%	12.3%	3.8%
Average Annual Growth Rate between 2020 – 2023	1.35%	1.07%	0.82%	4.1%	1.28%

Table 2-14: Housing Growth Rate for Ascension Parish.

Total Population	Ascension Parish	Unincorporated Ascension Parish	Donaldsonville	Gonzales	Sorrento
1-Apr-10	48,685	41,062	3,011	4,034	578
1-Apr-20	49,690	40,494	3,047	5,504	645
1-Apr-23	54,811	45,391	3,054	5,711	655
Housing Growth between 2010 – 2020	2.1%	-1.4%	1.2%	36.4%	11.6%
Average Annual Growth Rate between 2010 – 2020	0.2%	-0.1%	0.1%	3.6%	1.2%
Housing Growth between 2020 – 2023	10.3%	12.1%	0.2%	3.8%	1.6%
Average Annual Growth Rate between 2020 – 2023	3.4%	4.0%	0.1%	1.3%	0.5%

Since the previous plan update in 2020, the population and housing development within Ascension Parish has increased. Ascension Parish will continue to be vigilant in offsetting any new development around the parish with appropriate mitigative actions. Initiatives such as active floodplain management have regulated the development of flood prone areas to continue supporting and encouraging safer communities within Ascension Parish. The development that has occurred since 2020 has not in any knowing way altered the parish's vulnerability to natural hazards. Ascension Parish will continue to monitor the rise of development and ensure that any new planning project is within the limitations of this hazard mitigation plan and for the best interest of the public, especially socially vulnerable populations.

Inventory of Assets for the Entire Parish

As part of the Risk Assessment, the planning team identified essential facilities throughout the parish. Within the entire planning area, there is an estimated value of $5,082,874,000 in structures throughout the parish. The table below provides the total estimated value for each type of structure by occupancy.

Table 2-15: Estimated Total of Potential Losses throughout Ascension Parish.

Occupancy	Parish Total	Unincorporated Ascension Parish	Donaldsonville	Gonzales	Sorrento
Agricultural	$7,677,000	$6,400,000	$0	$1,170,000	$107,000
Commercial	$485,150,000	$342,228,000	$35,520,000	$101,009,000	$6,393,000
Government	$18,006,000	$12,940,000	$1,480,000	$2,314,000	$1,272,000
Industrial	$170,515,000	$156,206,000	$1,785,000	$11,139,000	$1,385,000
Religion	$55,636,000	$39,958,000	$7,994,000	$6,999,000	$685,000
Residential	$4,318,900,000	$3,831,647,000	$174,069,000	$274,116,000	$39,068,000
Education	$26,990,000	$14,531,000	$8,580,000	$3,879,000	$0
Total	**$5,082,874,000**	**$4,403,910,000**	**$229,428,000**	**$400,626,000**	**$48,910,000**

Critical Facilities of the Parish

The following figures show the locations and names of the critical facilities within the parish. For specific locations of these facilities and those that may be obscured, please see *Building Inventory* in Appendix E.

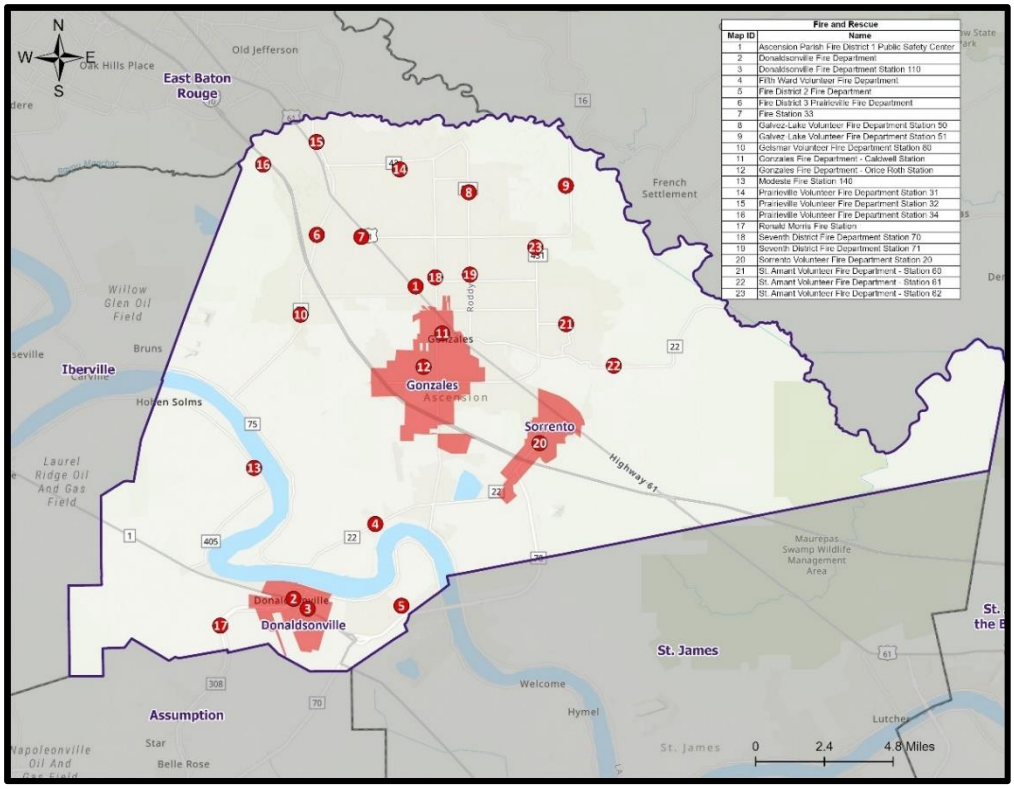


Figure 2-3: Fire and Rescue Facilities in Ascension Parish.

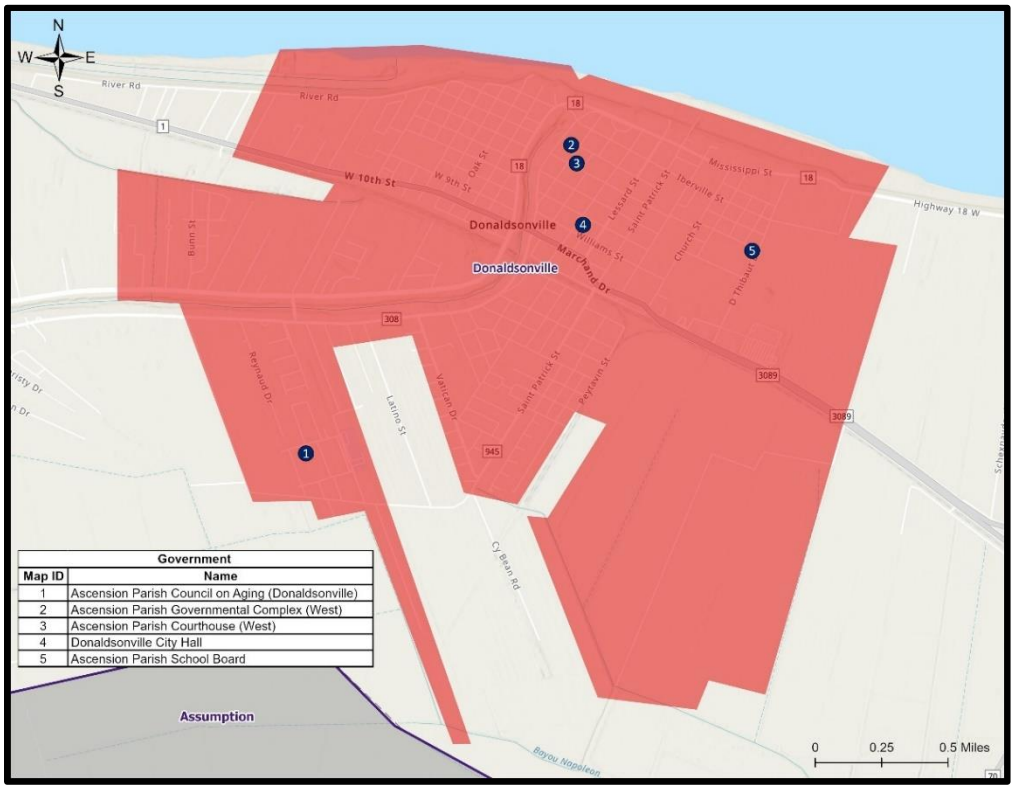


Figure 2-4: Government Facilities in Donaldsonville.

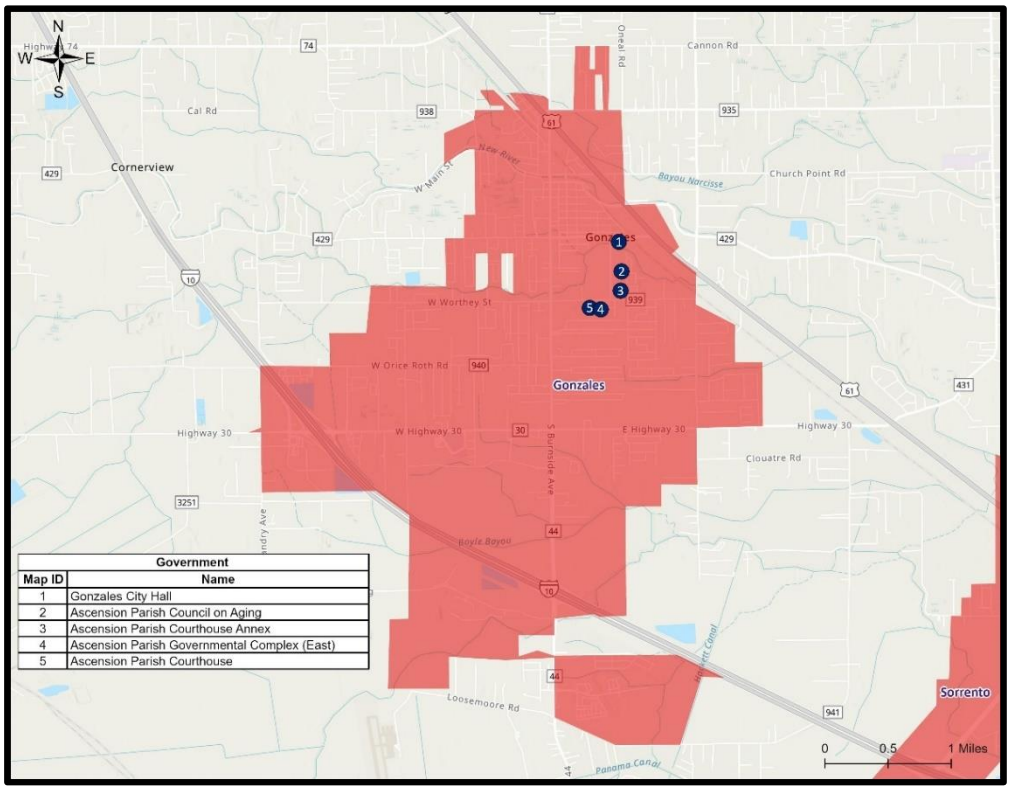


Figure 2-5: Government Facilities in Gonzales.

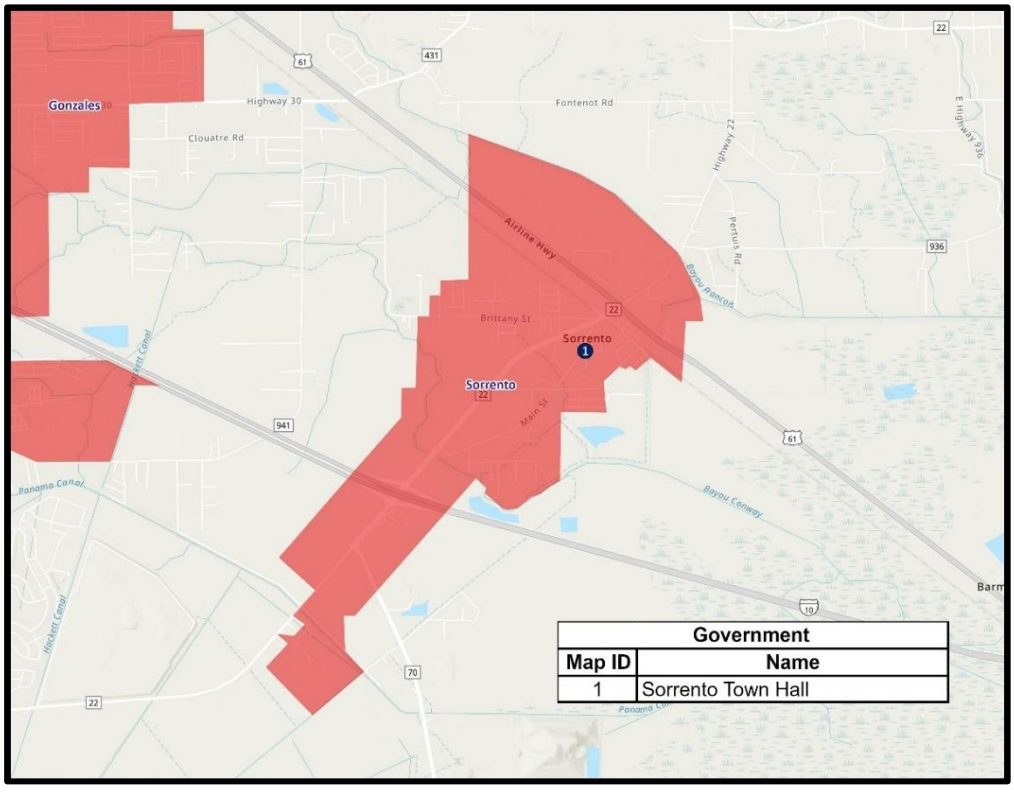


Figure 2-6: Government Facilities in Sorrento

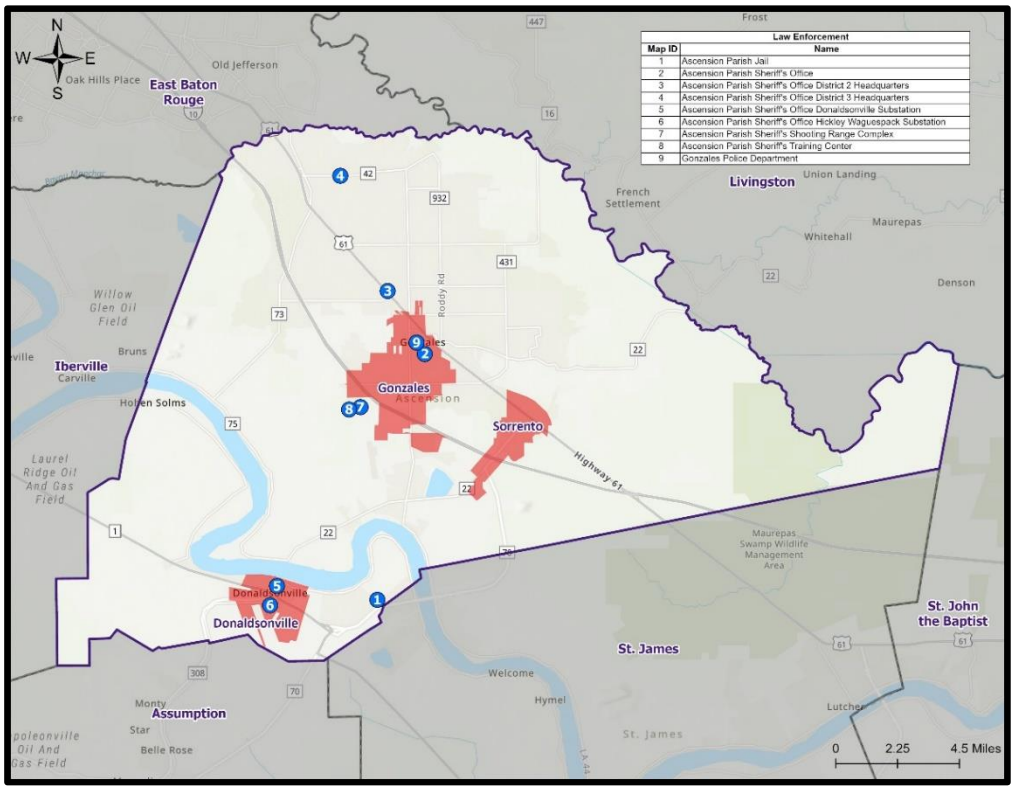


Figure 2-7: Law Enforcement Facilities in Ascension Parish.

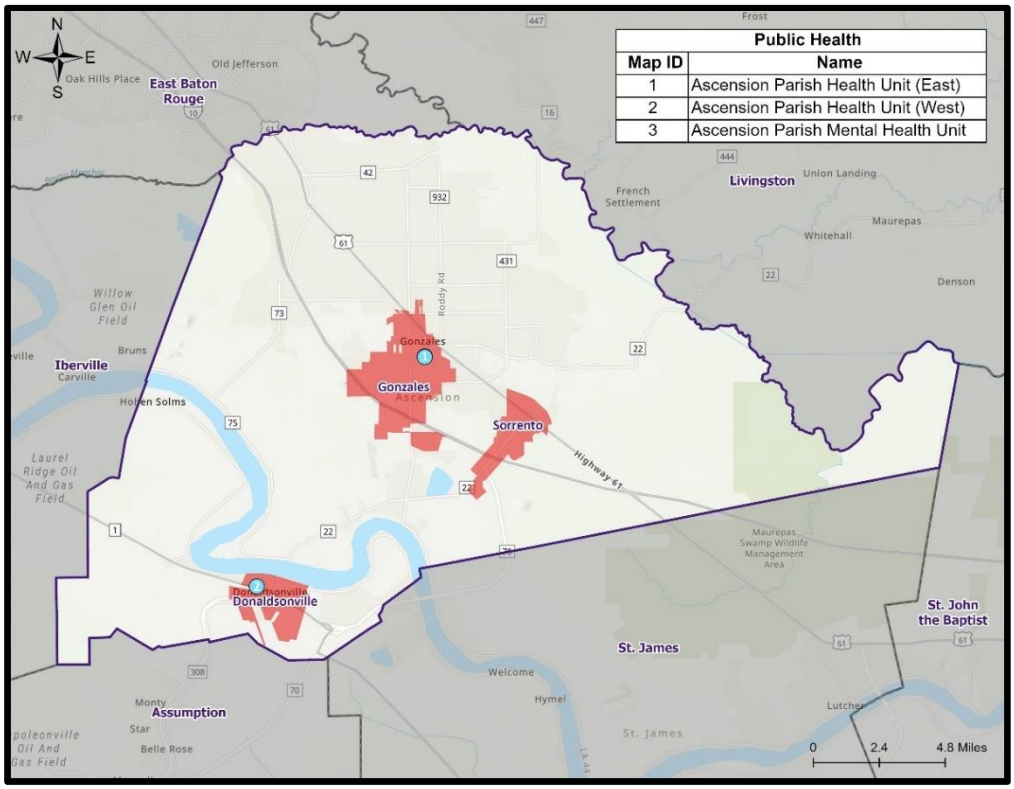


Figure 2-8: Public Health Facilities in Ascension Parish.
(Note: Map ID numbers 1 & 3 are located in very close proximity to each other. Therefore, Map ID number 3 is spatially restricted from viewing. For specific location information, please reference Appendix E: Building Inventory)

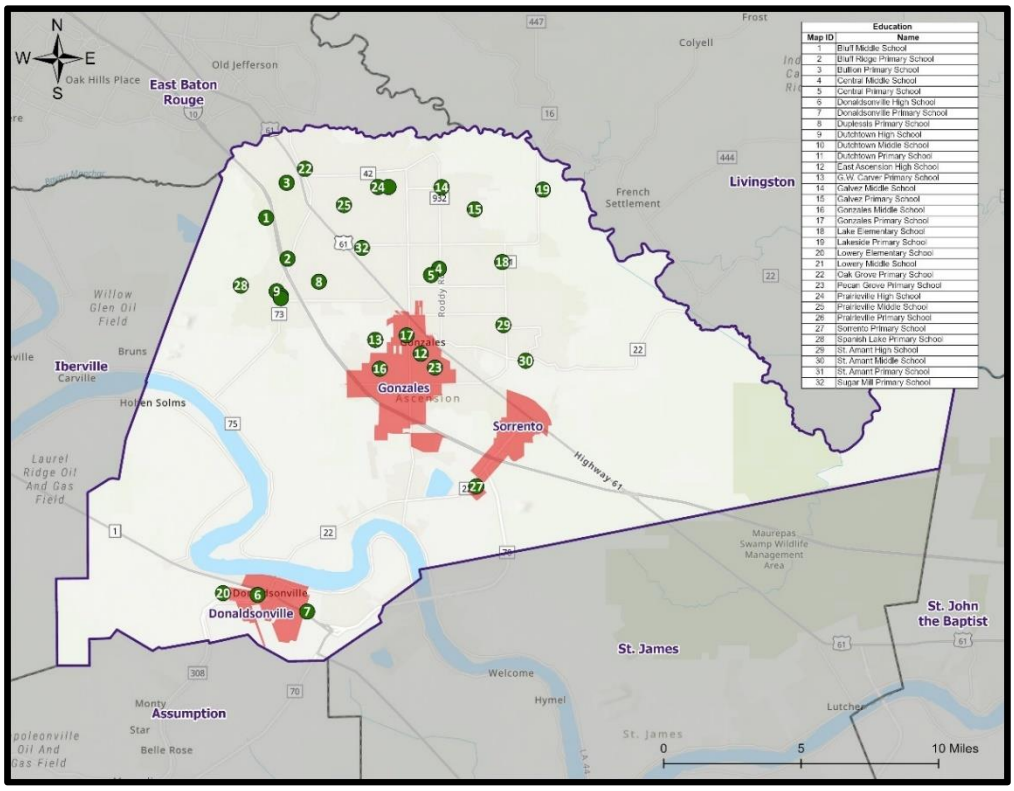


Figure 2-9: Educational Facilities in Ascension Parish.
(Note: Several educational facilities are located in very close proximity to each other. Therefore, they are spatially restricted from viewing. For specific location information, please reference Appendix E: Building Inventory)

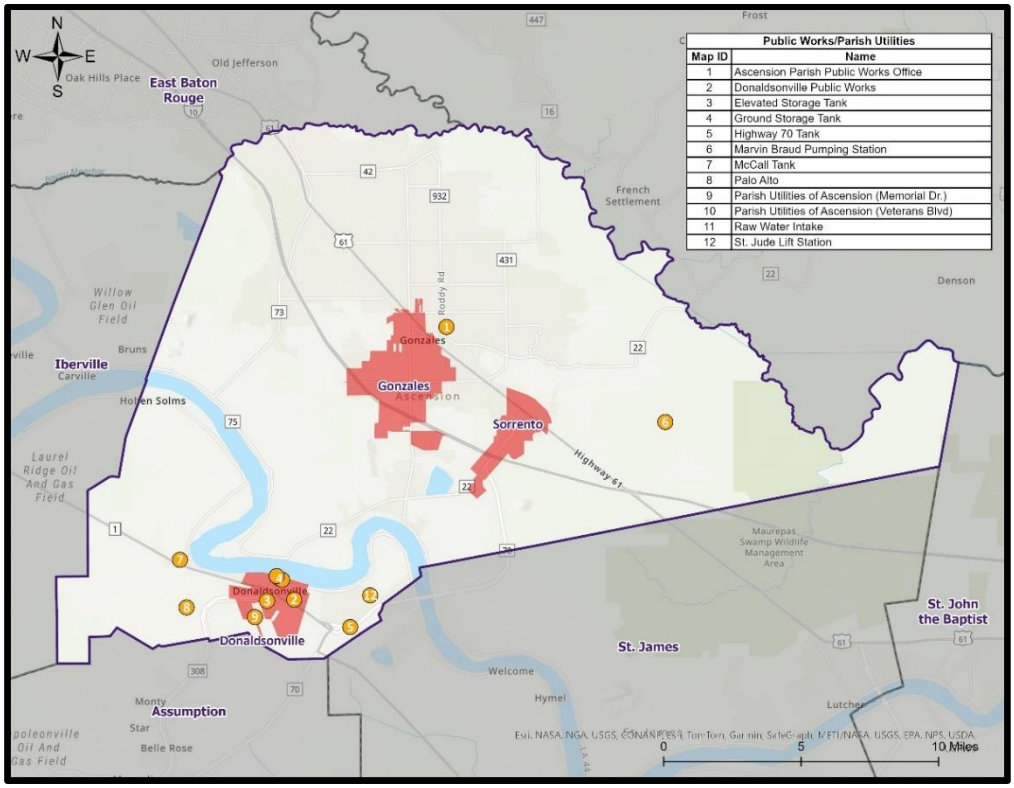


Figure 2-10: Public Works/Parish Utility Facilities in Ascension Parish.
(Note: Several public works/utilities facilities are located in very close proximity to each other. Therefore, they are spatially restricted from viewing. For specific location information, please reference Appendix E: Building Inventory)

Land Use

The Parish Land Use table is provided below. Residential, commercial, and industrial areas account for only 21% of the parish's land use. Wetland areas are the largest category accounting for 79,963 acres (41%) of parish land. At 57,433 acres, agricultural lands account for 30% of parish lands, while 7,547 acres of forest areas and 7,356 acres of water areas account for 4% of parish lands respectively.

Table 2-16: Parish Land Use.
(Source: USGS Land Use Map)

Land Use	Acres	Percentage
Agricultural Land, Cropland, and Pasture	57,433	30%
Wetlands	79,963	41%
Forest Land (Not including forested wetlands)	7,547	4%
Urban/Development	41,621	21%
Water	7,356	4%
Total	193,920	100%

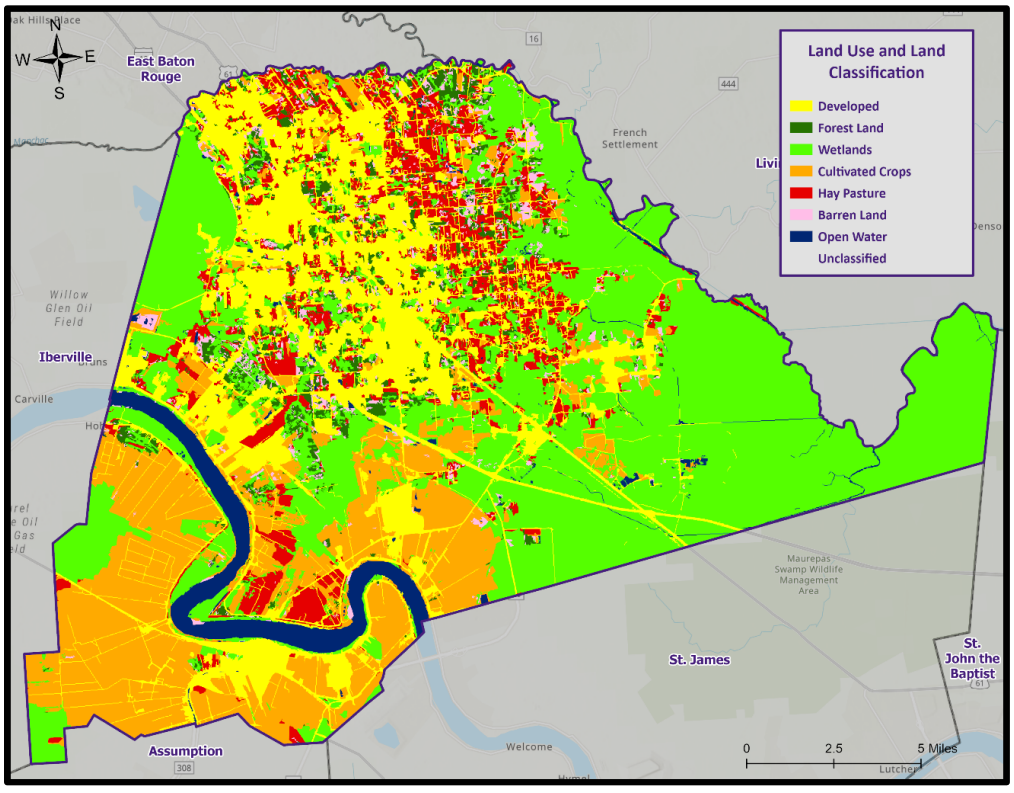


Figure 2-11: Parish Land Use Map.
(Source: USGS Land Use Map)

Hazard Profile, Risk Assessment, and Vulnerability Analysis

Drought

Profile

A drought is a deficiency in water availability over an extended period of time, caused by precipitation totals and soil water storages that do not satisfy the environmental demand for water, either by evaporation or transpiration through plant leaves. It is important to note that the lack of precipitation alone does not constitute drought; the season during which the precipitation is lacking has a major impact on whether drought occurs. For example, a week of no precipitation in July, when the solar energy to evaporate water and vegetation's need for water to carry on photosynthesis are both high, may trigger a drought, while a week of no precipitation in January may not initiate a drought.

Drought is a unique and insidious hazard. Unlike other natural hazards, no specific threshold of "dryness" exists for declaring a drought. In addition, the definition of drought depends on stakeholder needs. For instance, the onset (and demise) of agricultural drought is quick, as crops need water every few days; once they get rainfall, they improve. But hydrologic drought sets in (and is alleviated) only over longer time periods. A few dry days will not drain a reservoir, but a few rain showers cannot replenish it either. Moreover, different geographical regions define drought differently based on the deviation from local, normal precipitation. Drought can occur anywhere, triggered by changes in the local-to-regional-scale atmospheric circulation over an area, or by broader-scale circulation variations such as the expansion of semi-permanent oceanic high-pressure systems or the stalling of an upper-level atmospheric ridge in place over a region. The severity of a drought depends upon the degree and duration of moisture deficiency, as well as the size of the affected area. Periods of drought also tend to be associated with other hazards, such as wildfires and/or heat waves. Lastly, drought is a slow onset occurrence, causing less direct—but tremendous indirect—damage. Depletion of aquifers, crop loss, and livestock and wildlife mortality rates are examples of direct impacts. According to the National Groundwater Association (NGWA), the groundwater found in aquifers is the source of about 38% of all county and city water supplied to households. A 2016 Congressional Research Service report further notes that groundwater comprises 97% of the water for all rural populations that are not already supplied by cities and counties. Due to the dependence on aquafers for potable water, droughts can potentially have direct, disastrous effects on human populations. The indirect consequences of drought, such as unemployment, reduced tax revenues, increased food prices, reduced outdoor recreation opportunities, higher energy costs as water levels in reservoirs decrease and consumption increases, and water rationing, are not often fully known. This complex web of impacts causes drought to affect people and economies well beyond the area physically experiencing the drought.

This hazard is often measured using the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI, also known operationally as the Palmer Drought Index). The PDSI, first developed by Wayne Palmer in a 1965 paper for the U.S. Weather Bureau, measures drought through recent precipitation and temperature data with regard to a basic supply-and-demand model of soil moisture. It is most effective in long-term calculations. Three other indices used to measure drought are the Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (PHDI), the Crop Moisture Index (CMI), which is derived from the PDSI, and the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI), created by John Keetch and George Byram in 1968 for the U.S. Forest Service. The KBDI is used mainly for predicting the likelihood of wildfire outbreaks. As a compromise, PDSI is used most often for droughts since it is a medium-response drought indicator. The objective of the PDSI is to provide measurements of moisture conditions that are standardized so that comparisons using the index can be made between locations and between months. The tables on the next page display the range and Palmer classifications of the PDSI index, and the United States Drought Monitor Intensity scale.

Table 2-17: Palmer Drought Severity Index Classification and Range.

Range	Palmer Classification
4.0 or more	Extremely Wet
3.0 to 3.99	Very Wet
2.0 to 2.99	Moderately Wet
1.0 to 1.99	Slightly Wet
0.5 to 0.99	Incipient Wet Spell
0.49 to -0.49	Near Normal
-0.5 to -0.99	Incipient Dry Spell
-1.0 to -1.99	Mild Drought
-2.0 to -2.99	Moderate Drought
-3.0 to -3.99	Severe Drought
-4.0 or less	Extreme Drought

Table 2-18: U.S. Drought Monitor Drought Intensity Scale.
(Source: National Drought Mitigation Center)

Range/Category	Description	PDSI Equivalent
D0	Abnormally Dry	-1.0 to -1.99
D1	Moderate Drought	-2.0 to -2.99
D2	Severe Drought	-3.0 to -3.99
D3	Extreme Drought	-4.0 to -4.99
D4	Exceptional Drought	-5.0 or less

The following figure displays the drought conditions in the state of Louisiana. Data compiled by the National Drought Mitigation Center indicates normal conditions exist in the parish at the time this plan went to publication.

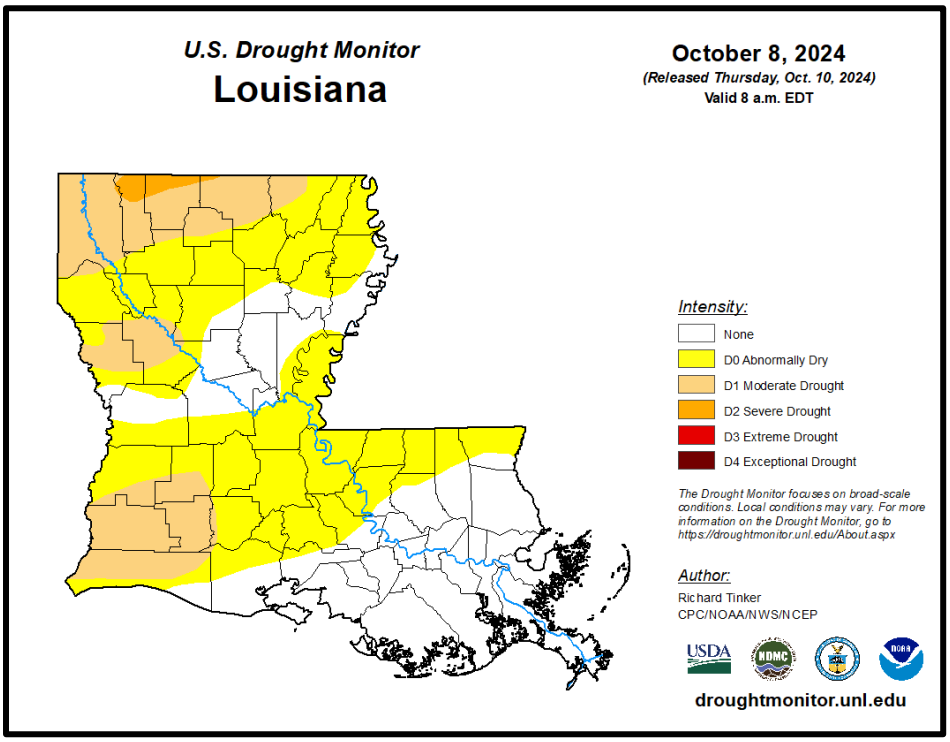


Figure 2-12: United States Drought Monitor for the State of Louisiana and its Parishes.
(Source: The National Drought Mitigation Center)

Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

Drought typically impacts a region and not one specific parish or jurisdiction. While the entire planning area can experience drought, the major impact of a drought occurrence in the parish is on the agricultural community. The worst-case drought scenario for the parish and the jurisdictions of the parish would be an exceptional drought (D4).

Previous Occurrences

The parish experienced four drought occurrences between the years 1996 and 2023. Since the last update in 2020, there have been two drought occurrences within the boundaries of the parish.

Table 2-19: Historical Drought Occurrences in Ascension Parish since the Last Update.

Date	Impacts	Crop Damage	Magnitude
November 2022	The eastern and western portion of the parish was in D2 drought through most of the month after a prolonged period of minimal rainfall.	$0	D2
August – December 2023	An abnormally dry summer and fall lead to continuing D2 to D4 drought conditions across western and eastern portions of ascension parish	$0	D4

Probability

The annual return rate (frequency) for periods of drought in the parish is 0.14 (14% annual probability) or approximately 1 drought occurrence every 7 years.

Climate Change Impacts

Climate change is expected to increase the number and intensity of droughts in the state of Louisiana. Drought can be caused by both a reduction in precipitation, as well as by heat that results in increased evaporation. Changes in temperature and types of precipitation in the state of Louisiana will affect drought characteristics. An increase in rain and a decrease in winter weather events with increased temperatures will cause peak streamflow to occur earlier in the year. This change in the hydrologic cycle will have significant impacts on natural systems in Louisiana including the intensity, duration, and frequency of droughts.

Future Hazard Impacts

Future development can exacerbate drought conditions by increasing demand for water resources through urbanization, industrialization, and agricultural expansion potentially leading to water scarcity and increased competition for limited freshwater supplies. Similarly, population growth can intensity droughts by increasing demand for water resources for domestic, agricultural, and industrial purposes.

Vulnerability Analysis

The NRI includes data on the expected annual losses to individual natural hazards, historical losses, and overall risk at the county and Census tract level. The following table provides an overview of each category at the county level for drought.

Table 2-20: National Risk Index (NRI) Summarization of Drought Occurrences for Ascension Parish (Source: National Risk Index)

Expected Annual Losses	Overall Risk Rating
Relatively Low	Relatively Low

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

The main impact of a drought occurrence is on the agricultural community. The table below presents an analysis of agricultural exposure that is susceptible to drought by major crop type for the parish.

Table 2-21: Agricultural Exposure by Crop Type for Droughts in Ascension Parish (Source: LSU Ag Center 2022 Parish Totals)

Agricultural Exposure by Type for Drought			
Hay	**Fruits**	**Sugarcane**	**Vegetables**
$2,534,112	$1,213,255	$22,411,905	$5,219,783

Vulnerable Population

As mentioned previously, the main impact of drought is on the agricultural community. There is no direct impact on the populace of the parish. There have been no reported deaths or injuries as a result of drought within the parish and the jurisdictions of the parish.

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-22: Drought Vulnerability Score for Ascension Parish.

Drought Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	**Impact**	**Spatial Extent**	**Warning Time**	**Duration**	**Risk Factor**
Risk Level	3	2	4	2	3	2.8

Excessive Heat

Profile

There is no operational definition for defining heat or a heat wave. Heat waves are the consequence of the same weather pattern as drought, and therefore both hazards often occur concurrently. A heat wave is an extended period of oppressive and above normal temperatures over a given period of time. The World Meteorological Organization recommends the declaration of a heat wave when the daily maximum temperature exceeds the average maximum temperature by 9 °F and lasts for a period of at least five days.

However, temperature alone is insufficient to describe the stress placed on humans (as well as flora and fauna) in hot weather. It is crucial to consider the effect of relative humidity since it is essential to the body's ability to perspire and cool. Once air temperature reaches 95 °F, perspiration becomes a very significant biophysical mechanism to ensure heat loss. Perspiration is ineffective as a cooling mechanism if the water cannot evaporate (i.e., sweating in high relative humidity is reduced as compared to during dry conditions). To communicate this relationship between temperature and humidity, the National Weather Service (NWS) developed the Heat Index (HI), which provides a warning system based on a combination of air temperature and relative humidity. The HI is presented in the following tables. The NWS devised the index for shady, light wind conditions, and thus advises that the HI value can be increased by as much as 15 °F if a person is in direct sunlight with strong, hot winds present.

Most heat disorders (e.g., sunburn, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke) occur because the victim has been overexposed to heat or has over-exercised in relation to their age and physical condition. Other circumstances that can induce heat-related illnesses include stagnant atmospheric conditions and poor air quality. Seniors and children are most at risk from adverse heat effects. Excessive heat can also damage roads, bridges, pipelines, utilities, and railroads. High temperatures can be partially responsible for deflection of rails and related railroad accidents.

According to NOAA, Excessive heat is the leading weather-related cause of death in the United States. And while heat-related deaths in Louisiana are not common, due in part to the consistency and predictability of high seasonal temperatures, they do occur and are still very intense and dangerous. Such deaths happen in a variety of circumstances, often in ways that are not easily categorized due to their unexpectedness. For instance, although exposure to heat is higher at the beach than usual, NOAA does not track heat-related deaths there because such deaths happen infrequently.

Table 2-23: Summary of Heat Index Risk Levels with Protective Measures
(Source: National Weather Service)

Heat Index	Risk Level	Protective Measures
Less than 91°F	Lower (Caution)	Basic heat safety and planning.
91°F to 103°F	Moderate	Implement precautions and heighten awareness.
103°F to 115°F	High	Additional precautions to protect workers
Greater than 115°F	Very High to Extreme	Triggers even more aggressive protective measures.

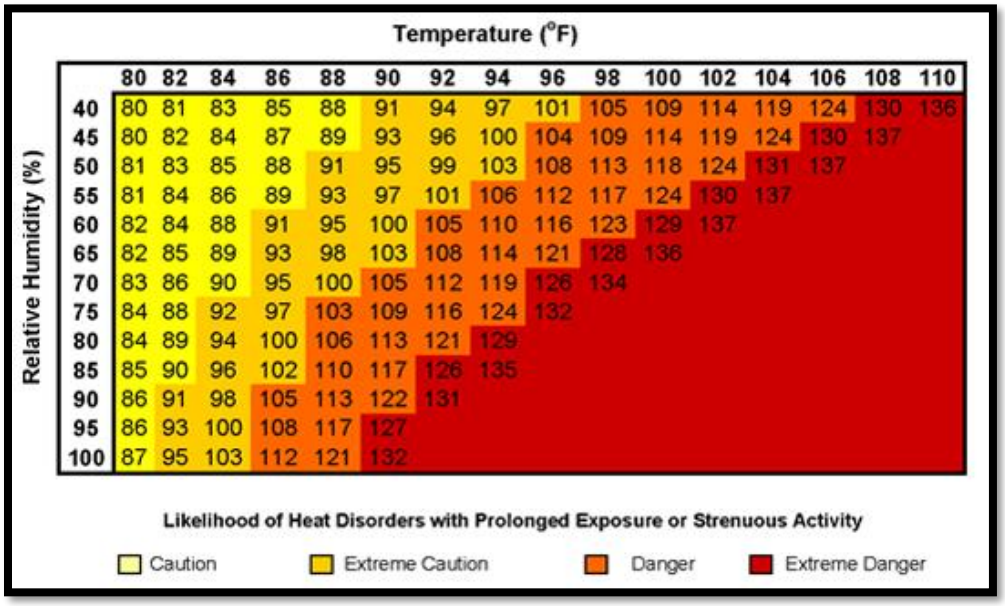


Figure 2-13: Heat Index Advisor based on Air Temperature (°F) and Relative Humidity. (Source: National Weather Service)

Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

Excessive heat typically impacts a region and not one specific parish or jurisdiction. Because excessive heat is a climatologically based hazard, it has the same probability of occurring in the parish as all of the adjacent parishes. The entire planning area of the parish is equally at risk for excessive heat. Based on historical data, the worst-case scenario for the parish involving excessive heat would be a high-risk level on the HI scale with temperatures ranging from 110°F to 118°F.

Previous Occurrences

The parish experienced 24 excessive heat occurrences between the years 1996 and 2023. Since the last update, there have been 24 excessive heat occurrences within the boundaries of the parish.

Table 2-24: Historical Excessive Heat Occurrences in the Parish since the Last Update. (Source: NCEI Storm Events Database)

Date	Crop Damage	Magnitude (°F)
7/13/2023	$0	113-115
7/16/2023	$0	113 – 118
7/22/2023	$0	113-118
7/30/2023	0$	113-115
7/31/2023	$0	113 – 115
8/1/2023	$0	113 – 115
8/2/2023	$0	113 – 115
8/4/2023	$0	113 – 115
8/5/2023	$0	113 – 115
8/6/2023	$0	113 – 115
8/7/2023	$0	113 - 115
8/8/2023	$0	113 – 115
8/9/2023	$0	113 – 115
8/10/2023	$0	113 – 115
8/11/2023	$0	113 – 115

Date	Crop Damage	Magnitude (°F)
8/12/2023	$0	113 – 115
8/13/2023	$0	113 – 115
8/14/2023	$0	113 - 115
8/15/2023	$0	113-115
8/19/2023	$0	113-115
8/23/2023	$0	113-115
8/24/2023	$0	113-115
8/26/2023	$0	113-115
8/27/2023	$0	113-115

Probability

The annual return rate (frequency) for excessive heat occurrences in the parish is 0.85 (85% annual probability) or approximately 1 excessive heat event every 1 to 2 years.

Climate Change Impacts

Climate change has caused a rise in excessive heat events within Ascension Parish and its jurisdictions, especially in urban areas that experience higher temperatures due to the urban heat island effect. According to 2020 NOLA.com article, cities in Louisiana are experiencing, at a minimum, two more weeks of excessive heat (days over 95° F) than compared to 50 years ago. With the rise in excessive heat events, there will be several environmental and economic implications within the state of Louisiana including the disruption of the natural system such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, manufacturing, transportation, and utilities.

Climate change is driving a relentless escalation in excessive heat events, reshaping the very fabric of our environment. Rising greenhouse gas emissions are enhancing the greenhouse effect, trapping heat within the atmosphere. Consequently, excessive heat occurrences have become more frequent, intense, and prolonged. Heatwaves, once sporadic, have transformed into enduring episodes, subjecting regions to temperatures that push the boundaries of historical records. Urban areas, already prone to heat island effects due to concrete and asphalt, are rendered even more stifling. These elevated temperatures pose an array of challenges to ecosystems, agriculture, infrastructure, and human health. Vulnerable populations bear the brunt, as their reduced capacity to adapt heightens the risks of heat-related illnesses, mortality, and displacement. In addition, elevated heat negatively impacts economies, straining energy demand, reducing worker productivity, and exacerbating health care costs.

Future Hazard Impacts

Population growth and future development can amplify excessive heat events by creating urban heat islands—areas where temperatures are higher than in surrounding rural areas due to human activities and infrastructure like buildings, roads, and reduced green spaces. As populations grow, urbanization increases, leading to more heat-absorbing surfaces and less evaporative cooling, which exacerbates heat retention. Energy demand also rises with development, increasing heat emissions from power generation and transportation, further contributing to local and regional heat intensification.

Vulnerability Analysis

The NRI includes data on the expected annual losses to individual natural hazards, historical losses, and overall risk at the county and Census tract level. The following table provides an overview of each category at the county level for excessive heat.

Table 2-25: National Risk Index (NRI) Summarization of Excessive Heat Occurrences for Ascension Parish (Source: National Risk Index)

Expected Annual Losses	Overall Risk Rating
Relatively Moderate	Relatively Moderate

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

Since 1996, there have been 24 significant excessive heat events that have resulted in property damage according to NCEI Storm Events Database. The total property damage associated with those events have totaled approximately $5,000. To estimate the potential losses of an excessive heat event on an annual basis, the total damages recorded for these events was divided by the total number of years of available data in the NCEI Storm Events Database (1996 - 2023). This provides an annual estimated potential loss of $178 and $227 per event. The following table provides an estimate of potential property losses for the parish:

Table 2-26: Estimated Annual Losses in Ascension Parish and its Jurisdictions Resulting from Excessive Heat.

Estimated Annual Potential Losses Due to Excessive Heat			
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	**Donaldsonville**	**Gonzales**	**Sorrento**
$150	$9	$17	$2

Vulnerable Population

There have been no reported fatalities or injuries due to excessive heat in Ascension Parish. However, excessive heat poses a dire threat to vulnerable populations, magnifying existing disparities and triggering a cascade of health, social, and economic challenges. The elderly, children, low-income individuals, and those with underlying health conditions are particularly susceptible. Their compromised physiological resilience makes them more prone to heat-related illnesses, including life-threatening conditions like heat stroke. Mortality rates surge, disproportionately affecting the elderly, as soaring temperatures strain their already fragile health. Economic strain intensifies for low-income communities, unable to afford proper cooling measures, leading to discomfort and potential productivity losses. Inadequate housing exacerbates the issue, as substandard dwellings lack insulation and ventilation, turning homes into heat traps. Moreover, social isolation heightens vulnerability, as limited social connections hinder access to aid and cooler environments. The lack of resources, clean water, and medical care amplifies risks. Environmental injustices come to the fore, as marginalized neighborhoods, trapped in urban heat islands, experience even higher temperatures due to scant greenery. This excessive heat can induce migration and displacement, straining resources and instigating social tensions. Utility disruptions during heatwaves further compromise their well-being, and overburdened healthcare systems struggle to cope with the influx of heat-related cases.

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-27: Excessive Heat Score for Ascension Parish.

Excessive Heat Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	**Impact**	**Spatial Extent**	**Warning Time**	**Duration**	**Risk Factor**
Risk Level	3	2	4	1	2	2.5

Flooding

Profile

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.

Factors influencing the type and severity of flooding include natural variables such as precipitation, topography, vegetation, soil texture, and seasonality, as well as anthropogenic factors such as urbanization (extent of impervious surfaces), land use (agricultural and forestry tend to remove native vegetation and accelerate soil erosion), and the presence of flood-control structures such as levees and dams.

Extreme precipitation, produced from mid-latitude cyclones, thunderstorms, or hurricanes, is often the major initiating condition for flooding. During the cooler months, slow-moving frontal weather systems produce heavy rainfalls, while the summer and autumn seasons produce major precipitation in isolated thunderstorm occurrences (often on warm afternoons) that may lead to localized flooding. During these warmer seasons, floods are overwhelmingly of the flash flood variety, as opposed to the slower- developing river floods caused by heavy stream flow during the cooler months.

Six specific types of flooding are of main concern: riverine, flash, ponding, backwater, urban, and coastal.

- **Riverine flooding** occurs along a river or smaller stream. It is the result of runoff from heavy rainfall or intensive snow or ice melt. The speed with which riverine flood levels rise and fall depends not only on the amount of rainfall, but even more on the capacity of the river itself, as well as the shape and land cover of its drainage basin. The smaller the river, the faster that water levels rise and fall. For example, the Mississippi River levels rise and fall slowly due to its large capacity. Generally, elongated and intensely developed drainage basins will reach faster peak discharges and faster falls than circular-shaped and forested basins of the same area.
- **Flash flooding** occurs when locally intense precipitation inundates an area in a short amount of time, resulting in local stream flow and drainage capacity being overwhelmed.
- **Ponding** occurs when concave areas (e.g., parking lots, roads, and clay-lined natural low areas) collect water and are unable to drain.
- **Backwater flooding** occurs when water slowly rises from a normally unexpected direction where protection has not been provided.
- **Urban flooding** is similar to flash flooding but is specific to urbanized areas. It takes place when storm water drainage systems cannot keep pace with heavy precipitation, and water accumulates on the surface. Most urban flooding is caused by slow-moving thunderstorms or torrential rainfall.
- **Coastal flooding** can appear similar to any of the other flood types, depending on its cause. It occurs when normally dry coastal land is flooded by seawater, but may be caused by direct inundation (wen the sea level exceeds the elevation of the land), overtopping of a natural or artificial barrier, or the breaching of a natural or artificial barrier (i.e., when the barrier is broken down by the sea water). Coastal flooding is typically caused by storm surge, tsunamis, or gradual sea level rise.

Based on stream gauge levels and precipitation forecasts, the NWS posts flood statements, watches, and warnings. The NWS issues the following weather statements with regard to flooding:

- Flood Categories
  - Minor Flooding: Minimal or no property damage, but possibly some public threat.
  - Moderate Flooding: Some inundation of structures and roads near streams. Some evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations.
  - Major Flooding: Extensive inundation of structures and roads. Significant evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations.
  - Record Flooding: Flooding which equals or exceeds the highest stage or discharge at a given site during the period of record keeping.
- Flood Warning
  - Issued along larger streams when there is a serious threat to life or property.
- Flood Watch
  - Issued when current and developing hydrometeorological conditions are such that there is a threat of flooding, but the occurrence is neither certain nor imminent.

Floods are measured mainly by probability of occurrence. A 10-year flood occurrence, for example, is an occurrence of small magnitude (in terms of stream flow or precipitation) but with a relatively high annual probability of recurrence (10%). A 100-year flood occurrence is larger in magnitude, but it has a smaller chance of recurrence (1%). A 500-year flood is significantly larger than both a 100-year occurrence and a 10-year occurrence, but it has a lower probability than both to occur in any given year (0.2%). It is important to understand that an X-year flood occurrence does not mean an occurrence of that magnitude occurs only once in X years. Instead, it means that on average, we can expect a flood occurrence of that magnitude to occur once every X years. Given that such statistical probability terms are inherently difficult for the general population to understand, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) promotes the use of more tangible expressions of flood probability. As such, the ASFPM also expresses the 100-year flood occurrence as having a 25% chance of occurring over the life of a 30-year mortgage.

The 100-year flood occurrence is of particular significance since it is the regulatory standard that determines the obligation (or lack thereof) to purchase flood insurance. Flood insurance premiums are set depending on the flood zone, as modeled by National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Rate Maps. The NFIP and FEMA suggest insurance rates based on Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), as diagrammed in the following figure.

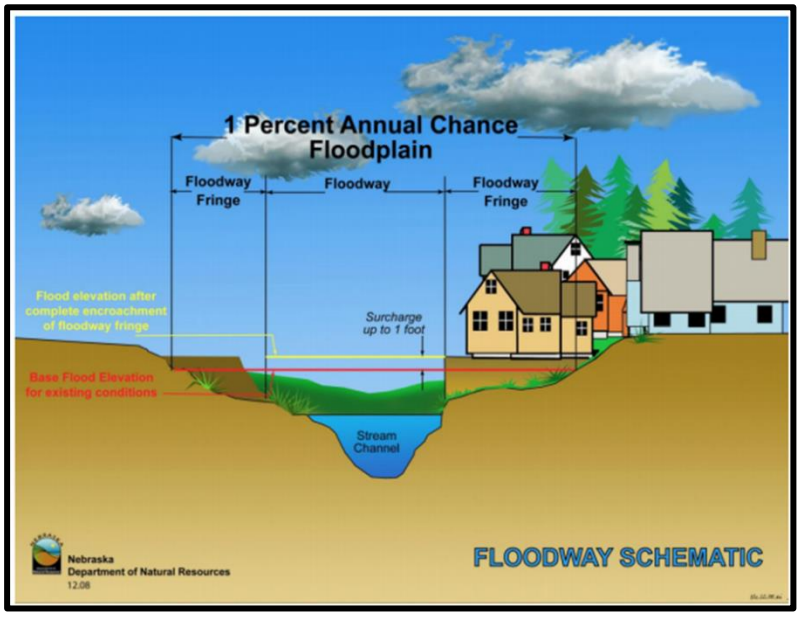


Figure 2-14: Schematic of 100-Year Floodplain.
The Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) extends to the end of the floodway fringe
(Source: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources)

A SFHA is the land area covered by the floodwaters of the base flood (red line in the above figure), where the NFIP's floodplain management regulations must be enforced and the area where the mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies. Flood zones for the parish are shown in the following figures.

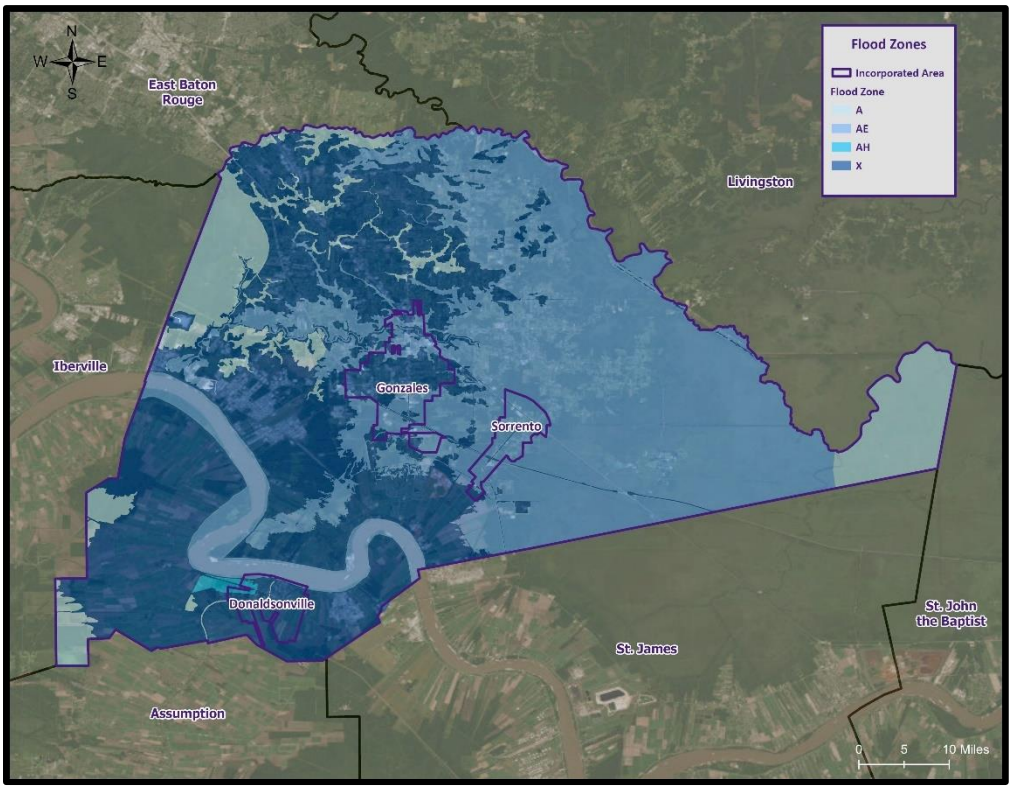


Figure 2-15: Flood Zones in Ascension Parish
(Source: Hazus)

Figure 2-16: Flood Zones in Donaldsonville
(Source: Hazus)

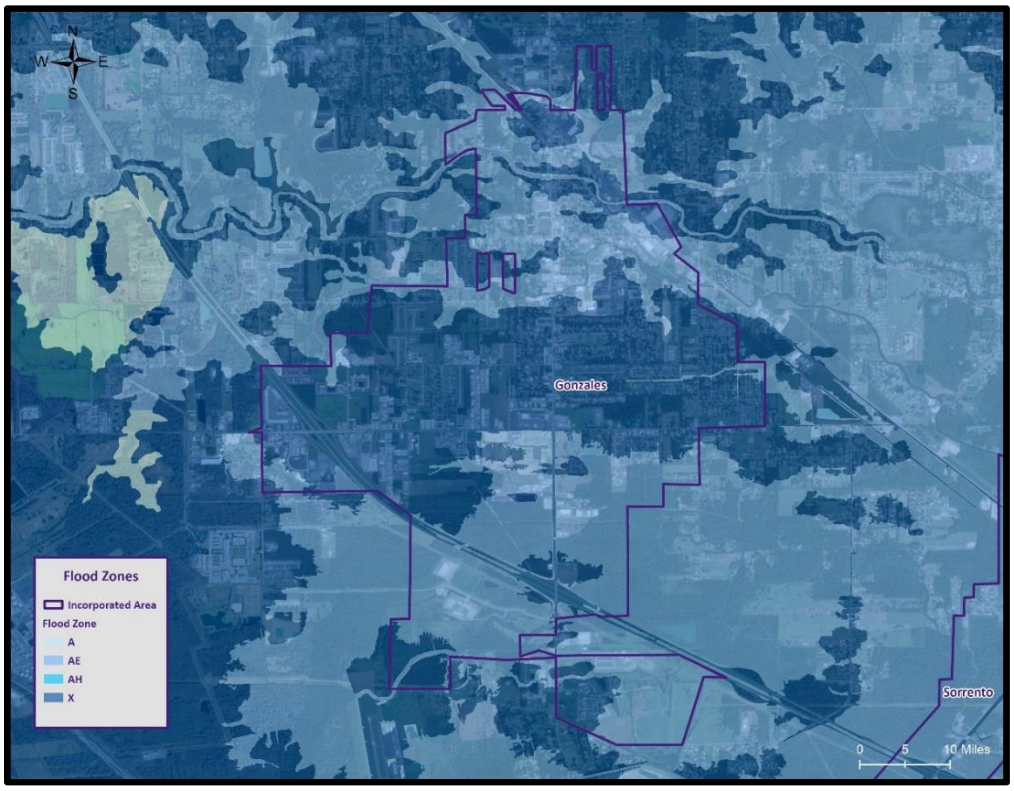


Figure 2-17: Flood Zones in Gonzales
(Source: Hazus)

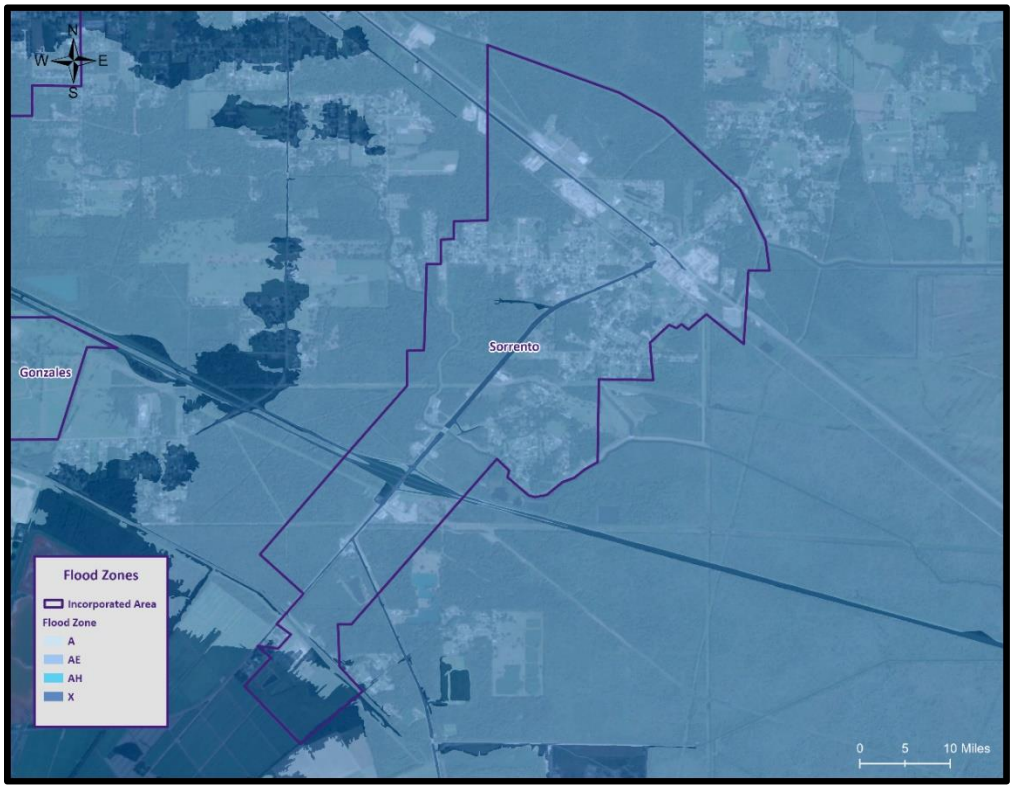


Figure 2-18: Flood Zones in Sorrento
(Source: Hazus)

Property Damage

The depth and velocity of flood waters are the major variables in determining property damage. Flood velocity is important because the faster water moves, the more pressure it puts on a structure and the more it will erode stream banks and scour the earth around a building's foundation. In some situations, deep and fast-moving waters can push a building off its foundation. Structural damage can also be caused by the weight of standing water (hydrostatic pressure).

Another threat to property from a flood is called "soaking". When soaked, many materials change their composition or shape. Wet wood will swell, and if dried too quickly, will crack, split, or warp. Plywood can come apart and gypsum wallboard can deteriorate if it is bumped before it has time to completely dry. The longer these materials are saturated, the more moisture, sediment, and pollutants they absorb.

Soaking can also cause extensive damage to household goods. Wooden furniture may become warped, making it unusable, while other furnishings such as books, carpeting, mattresses, and upholstery usually are not salvageable. Electrical appliances and gasoline engines will flood, making them worthless until they are professionally dried and cleaned.

Many buildings that have succumbed to flood waters may look sound and unharmed after a flood, but water has the potential to cause severe property damage. Any structure that experiences a flood should be stripped, cleaned, and allowed to dry before being reconstructed. This can be an extremely expensive and time-consuming effort.

Repetitive Loss Properties

Repetitive loss structures are structures covered by a contract for flood insurance made available under the NFIP that:

a. Have incurred flood-related damage on two occasions, in which the cost of the repair, on average, equaled or exceeded 25 percent of the market value of the structure at the time of each such flood event; and
b. At the time of the second incidence of flood-related damage, the contract for flood insurance contains increased cost of compliance coverage.

Severe repetitive loss (SRL) is defined by the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 and updated in the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. For a property to be designated SRL, the following criteria must be met:

a. It is covered under a contract for flood insurance made available under the NFIP; and
b. It has incurred flood related damage –
    1) For which four or more separate claims payments have been made under flood insurance coverage with the amount of each claim exceeding $5,000 and with the cumulative amount of such claim's payments exceeding $20,000; or
    2) For which at least two separate claims payments have been made under such coverage, with the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding the market value of the insured structure.

Figures regarding repetitive loss structures for the parish are provided in the table below:

Table 2-28: Repetitive Loss Structures for Ascension Parish.
(Source: FEMA, April 2024)

Jurisdiction	Number of Structures	Residential	Commercial	Government	Total Claims	Total Claims Paid	Average Claim Paid
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	245	236	9	0	765	$29,398,860	$38,430
Donaldsonville	9	9	0	0	19	$285,034	$15,002
Gonzales	160	19	141	0	508	$16,335,698	$32,157
Sorrento	9	9	0	0	23	$618,817	$26,905
Total	**423**	**273**	**150**	**0**	**1315**	**$46,638,409**	**$28,124**

The 423 repetitive loss structures were geocoded in order to provide an overview of where the repetitive loss structures are located throughout the parish. The following figures show the approximate locations of the structures and where the highest concentration of repetitive loss structures is located. Through the repetitive loss maps, it is clear the primary concentration of repetitive loss structures is focused on the central portion of the parish in the incorporated area of Gonzales.

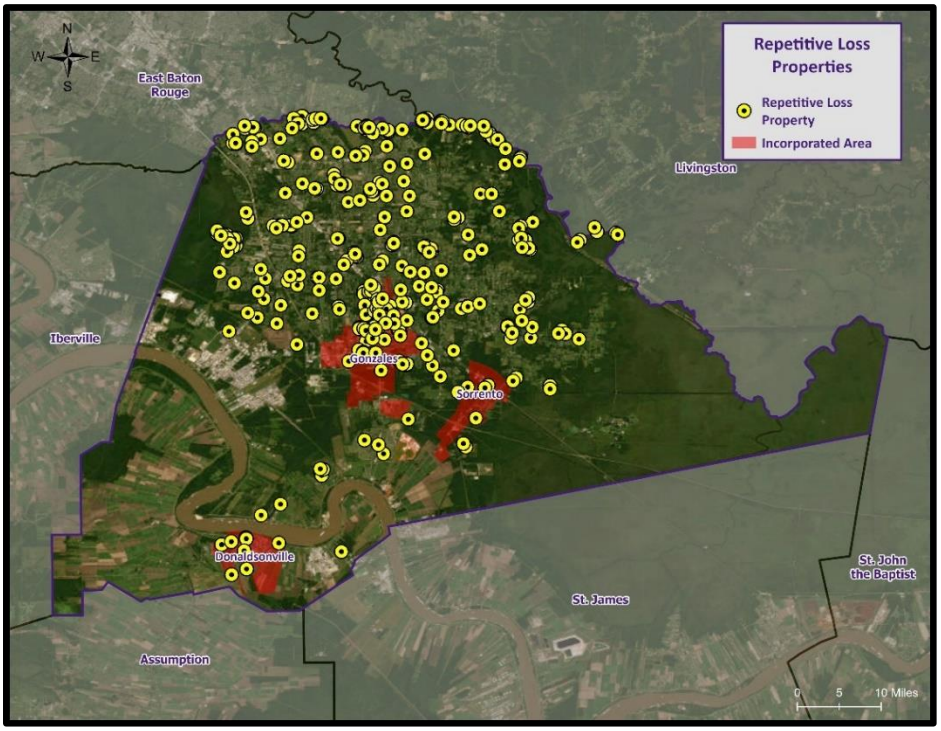


Figure 2-19: Repetitive Loss Properties in Ascension Parish.
(Source: FEMA, April 2024)

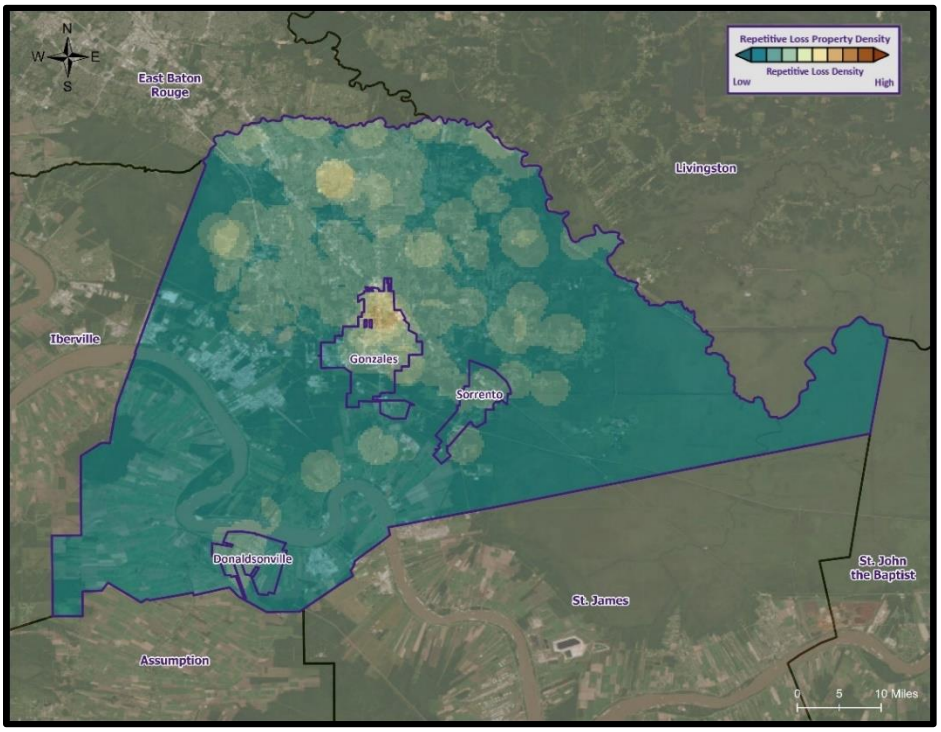


Figure 2-20: Repetitive Loss Property Densities in Ascension Parish.
(Source: FEMA, April 2024)

National Flood Insurance Program

Flood insurance statistics indicate that the Parish has 11,281 flood insurance policies with the NFIP, with total annual premiums of $10,090,479. The parish and the incorporated jurisdictions of Donaldsonville, Gonzales, and Sorrento all participate in the NFIP. The parish will continue to adopt and enforce floodplain management requirements, including regulating new construction Special Flood Hazard Areas, making substantial improvement and/or damage determinations, or determining the necessary permits required of owners to bring a substantially improved/damaged structure back into compliance. The parish will continue to monitor activities including local requests for new map updates. Flood insurance statistics and additional NFIP participation details for the parish are provided in the tables to follow.

Table 2-29: Summary of NFIP Policies for Ascension Parish.

Location	No. of Insured Structures	Total Insurance Coverage Value	Annual Premiums Paid	No. of Insurance Claims Filed Since 1978	Total Loss Payments
Unincorporated Ascension Parish*	13,450	$3,870,051,000	$9,581,125	6,002	$324,603,659
Donaldsonville	220	$68,971,000	$125,995	51	$898,085
Gonzales	1,233	$353,134,000	$1,385,398	688	$18,014,405
Sorrento	293	$63,696,000	$362,304	199	$9,926,779

Table 2-30: Summary of Community Flood Maps for Ascension Parish.

CID	Community Name	Initial FHBM Identified	Initial FIRM Identified	Adopted Date	Current Effective Map Date	Date Joined the NFIP	Tribal
220013	Ascension Parish	12/12/78	9/2/81	8/16/07	8/16/07	9/2/81	No
220014	Donaldsonville	6/7/74	5/15/80	8/16/07	8/16/07	5/15/80	No
220015	Gonzales	9/14/73	8/16/82	8/16/07	8/16/07	8/16/82	No
220016	Sorrento	6/28/74	6/01/78	8/16/07	8/16/07	6/1/78	No

According to the Community Rating System (CRS) list of eligible communities, Ascension Parish and the incorporated areas of Gonzales and Sorrento participate in the CRS program. The incorporated area of Donaldsonville does not participate in the CRS program.

Table 2-31: Summary of CRS Participating Communities in Ascension Parish.

CID	Community Name	CRS Entry Date	Current Effective Date	Current Class	% Discount for SFHA
220013	Ascension Parish	10/1/92	10/1/22	7	15%
220015	Gonzales	10/1/92	5/1/12	8	10%
220015	Sorrento	10/1/82	5/1/08	9	5%

Threat to People

Just as with property damage, depth and velocity are major factors in determining the threat posed to people by flooding. It takes very little depth or velocity for flood waters to become dangerous. A car will float in less than two feet of moving water, and can be swept downstream into deeper waters, trapping passengers within the vehicle. Victims of floods have often put themselves in perilous situations by entering flood waters that they believe to be safe, or by ignoring travel advisories.

Major health concerns are also associated with floods. Flood waters can transport materials such as dirt, oil, animal waste, and chemicals (e.g., farm, lawn, and industrial) that may cause illnesses of various degrees when coming in

contact with humans. Flood water can also infiltrate sewer lines and inundate wastewater treatment plants, causing sewage to back up and creating a breeding ground for dangerous bacteria. This infiltration may also cause water supplies to become contaminated and undrinkable.

Elevations in the Parish

The digital elevation model (DEM) for the parish is instructive in visualizing where the low-lying and high-risk areas are for the parish. Elevations in the parish range from less than one foot (NAVD88) to approximately 108 feet (NAVD88).

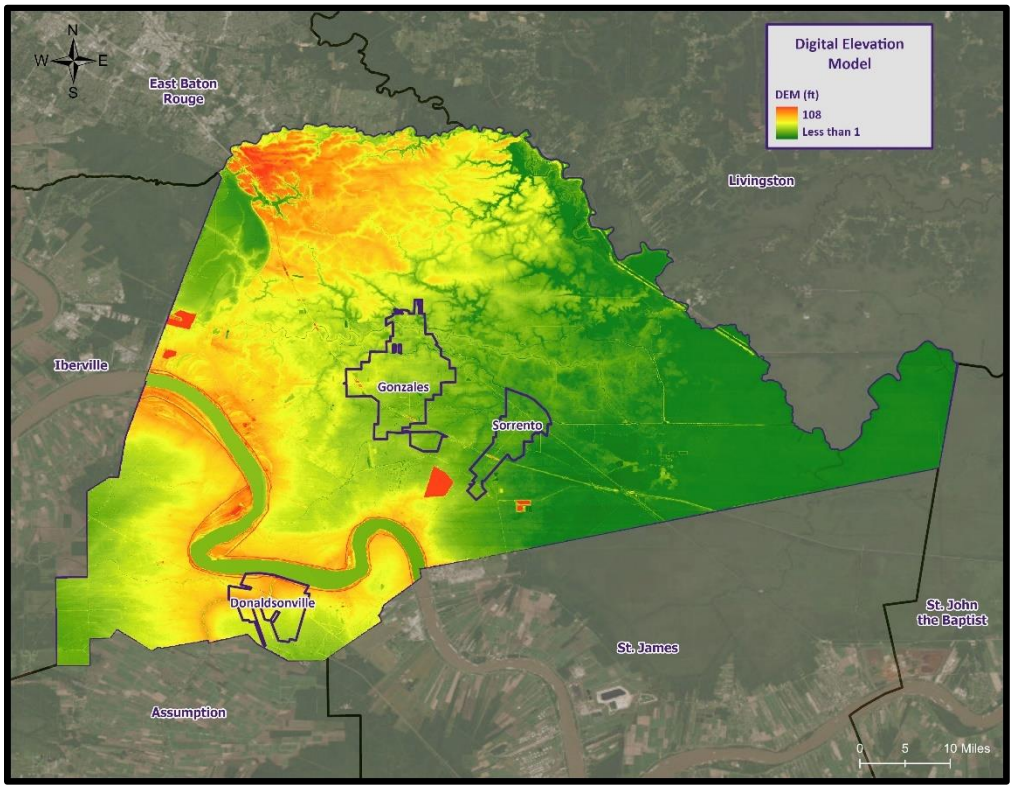


Figure 2-21: Elevation throughout Ascension Parish.

Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

The parish has experienced significant flooding in its history and can expect more in the future. Stormwater excesses caused by large amounts of rainfall in a short period of time occur frequently in the parish. Topography, poor drainage, and an extensive levee system mean that storm water cannot flow out of many areas of the parish. Generally, the most damaging storm water events are a function of a tropical storm or hurricane.

The worst-case scenarios are based on several different types of flooding events. Storm water excesses and riverine flooding primarily affect the low-lying areas of the parish, and flood depths of up to five feet can be expected in the unincorporated areas of the parish. The town of Sorrento can expect flood depths of two to three feet, while the City of Gonzales can expect flood depths of two to four feet. The City of Donaldsonville can expect flood depths up to two feet.

Previous Occurrences

The parish experienced 28 flooding occurrences between the years 1996 and 2023. Since the last update, there have been five flood occurrences within the boundaries of the parish.

Table 2-32: Historical Flooding Events in Ascension Parish since the Last Update. (Source: NCEI Storm Events Database)

Date	Area	Type of Flood	Property Damage	Fatalities	Injuries
7/6/2020	BRITTANY	Flash Flood	$0	0	0
5/17/2021	GEISMAR, DUTCHTOWN, HOPE VILLA	Flash Flood	$0	0	0
5/20/2021	DUTCHTOWN, PRAIRIEVILLE	Flash Flood	$1,000	0	0
7/2/2021	GALVEZ, HOBART	Flash Flood	$0	0	0
6/2/2022	GALVEZ	Flash Flood	$0	0	0

Probability

The annual return rate (frequency) for periods of flooding in the parish is 1.00 (100% annual probability) or approximately 1 flood occurrence every year. The table below shows the probability and return frequency for each jurisdiction in the parish.

Table 2-33: Annual Flood Probabilities for Each Jurisdiction in Ascension Parish.

Jurisdiction	Annual Probability	Return Frequency
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	72%	1 flood event every 1 to 2 years
Donaldsonville	17%	1 flood event every 5 to 8 years
Gonzales	34%	1 flood event every 2 to 3 years
Sorrento	17%	1 flood event every 5 to 8 years

Climate Change Impacts

Atmospheric moisture, precipitation, and atmospheric circulation can be affected by climate change, since radiative forcing alters heating which affects evaporation and sensible heating at the Earth's surface. This process alters the amount, frequency, intensity, duration, and type of precipitation which is part of the hydrological cycle. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that over 105-year period (1901 – 2005) precipitation has increased 5 to 10%. Additionally, water resource managers observed the following:

- Historical hydrological patterns can no longer be solely relied upon to forecast the water future.
- Precipitation and runoff patterns are changing, increasing the uncertainty for water supply quality, flood management, and ecosystem functions.
- Extreme climatic events will become more frequent, necessitating improvement in flood protection and emergency response.

Climate change poses significant threats to both infrastructure and vulnerable populations in the context of flooding. Rising global temperatures have led to the intensification of extreme weather events, such as heavy rainfall and storms, which increase the frequency and severity of floods. Infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and buildings, designed to withstand historical weather patterns, is now facing greater stress and damage due to the increased volume and intensity of floodwaters.

One of the most pressing impacts of climate change on infrastructure is the increased risk of damage and disruption to critical lifeline systems, such as water supply networks, energy grids, and transportation systems. Floods can

compromise the integrity of these systems, leading to widespread power outages, disrupted water access, and road closures, hindering emergency response and recovery efforts. As floods become more frequent and severe, the cost of repairing and reinforcing infrastructure becomes a significant burden on governments and communities.

Furthermore, climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including low-income communities, the elderly, and those with limited mobility or access to resources. These communities often reside in flood-prone areas with inadequate infrastructure and limited capacity to adapt to changing conditions. Floods can exacerbate existing social inequalities, displacing vulnerable populations and exposing them to health risks, property loss, and economic hardship. Lack of access to timely information and limited evacuation resources can further endanger their lives during extreme flooding events.

Additionally, climate change can disrupt local economies in flood-affected regions. Agricultural lands can be damaged, leading to reduced crop yields and affecting livelihoods. Businesses, particularly those without insurance or financial resilience, may face bankruptcy due to flood-related losses. The overall economic impacts ripple beyond immediate flood-affected regions, affecting supply chains and markets globally.

Addressing the impacts of climate change on infrastructure and vulnerable populations requires a comprehensive approach. Building more resilient infrastructure, incorporating climate adaptation measures, and enforcing zoning regulations to prevent development in flood-prone areas are essential steps. Additionally, governments must prioritize support and resources for vulnerable communities, providing them with better access to early warning systems, evacuation plans, and social safety nets to cope with flood-related challenges. Long-term climate change mitigation efforts are also necessary to reduce the severity and frequency of floods, ultimately safeguarding both infrastructure and vulnerable populations from the detrimental effects of flooding.

Future Hazard Impacts

Hazard impacts for flooding were estimated for the years 2025 and 2030. Yearly population and housing rates were applied to parish inventory assets for composite floods. Based on a review of available information, it is assumed that population and housing units will increase within the parish from the present until 2030. A summary of estimated future impacts is shown in the table below. Dollar values are expressed in future costs and assume an annual rate of inflation of 1.02%

Table 2-34: Estimated Future Impacts, 2020 - 2030.
(Source: Hazus, US Census Bureau)

Hazard / Impact	Total in Parish (2020)	Hazard Area (2020)	Hazard Area (2025)	Hazard Area (2030)
Flood Damage				
Structures	54,811	32,114	32,340	32,502
Value of Structures	$5,082,874,000	$2,978,081,994.13	$3,219,784,033.18	$3,404,348,019
# of People	126,500	77,124	82,769	87,052

Vulnerability Analysis

The NRI includes data on the expected annual losses to individual natural hazards, historical losses, and overall risk at the county and Census tract level. The following table provides an overview of each category at the county level for flooding.

Table 2-35: National Risk Index (NRI) Summarization of Riverine Flood Occurrences for Ascension Parish
(Source: National Risk Index)

Expected Annual Losses	Overall Risk Rating
Relatively High	Relatively High

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

Using the Hazus Flood Model, the 100-year flood scenario was analyzed to determine losses from this scenario. The following table shows the total economic losses that would result from a 100-year flood occurrence.

Table 2-36: Estimated Losses in Ascension Parish from a 100-Year Flood Event (Source: Hazus)

Jurisdiction	Estimated Loss
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	$1,321,269,000
Donaldsonville	$21,187,000
Gonzales	$27,268,000
Sorrento	$16,556,000

The Hazus Flood Model also provides a breakdown by jurisdiction for seven primary categories (Hazus occupancy) throughout the parish. The losses for each jurisdiction by sector are listed in the following tables:

Table 2-37: Estimated 100-year Flood Losses for Unincorporated Ascension Parish by Sector. (Source: Hazus)

Unincorporated Ascension Parish	Estimated Total Losses from 100-Year Flood Event
Agricultural	$509,000
Commercial	$75,213,000
Government	$6,264,000
Industrial	$62,487,000
Religious / Non-Profit	$5,348,000
Residential	$1,168,037,000
Schools	$3,411,000
Total	**$1,321,269,000**

Table 2-38: Estimated 100-year Flood Losses for Donaldsonville by Sector. (Source: Hazus)

Donaldsonville	Estimated Total Losses from 100-Year Flood Event
Agricultural	$0
Commercial	$5,141,000
Government	$479,000
Industrial	$716,000
Religious / Non-Profit	$1,199,000
Residential	$11,541,000
Schools	$2,111,000
Total	**$21,187,000**

Table 2-39: Estimated 100-year Flood Losses for Gonzales by Sector.
(Source: Hazus)

Gonzales	Estimated Total Losses from 100-Year Flood Event
Agricultural	$169,000
Commercial	$5,114,000
Government	$613,000
Industrial	$1,457,000
Religious / Non-Profit	$1,111,000
Residential	$17,913,000
Schools	$891,000
Total	**$27,268,000**

Table 2-40: Estimated 100-year Flood Losses for the Sorrento by Sector.
(Source: Hazus)

Sorrento	Estimated Total Losses from 100-Year Flood Event
Agricultural	$11,000
Commercial	$1,331,000
Government	$455,000
Industrial	$751,000
Religious / Non-Profit	$89,000
Residential	$13,919,000
Schools	$0
Total	**$16,556,000**

Vulnerable Population

The total population within the parish that is susceptible to a flood hazard is shown in the table below:

Table 2-41: Vulnerable Populations Susceptible to a 100-year Flood Event.
(Source: Hazus)

Number of People Exposed to Flood Hazards			
Location	**# in Community**	**# in Hazard Area**	**% in Hazard Area**
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	106,060	63,806	60.2%
Donaldsonville	6,695	4,221	63.0%
Gonzales	12,231	5,113	41.8%
Sorrento	1,514	977	64.5%

The Hazus Flood model was also extrapolated to provide an overview of the vulnerable populations throughout the jurisdictions in the following tables:

Table 2-42: Vulnerable Populations Susceptible to a 100-year Flood Event in Ascension Parish. (Source: Hazus)

Unincorporated Ascension Parish		
Category	**Total Numbers**	**Percentage of Unincorporated Parish Population in Hazard Area**
Number in Hazard Area	63,806	60.2%
Persons Under 5 Years	4,996	7.8%
Persons Under 18 Years	13,310	20.9%
Persons 65 Years and Over	5,653	8.9%
White	46,757	73.3%
Minority	17,049	26.7%

Table 2-43: Vulnerable Populations Susceptible to a 100-year Flood Event in Donaldsonville. (Source: Hazus)

Donaldsonville		
Category	**Total Numbers**	**Percentage of Community Population in Hazard Area**
Number in Hazard Area	4,221	63.0%
Persons Under 5 Years	383	9.1%
Persons Under 18 Years	853	20.2%
Persons 65 Years and Over	543	12.9%
White	967	22.9%
Minority	3,254	77.1%

Table 2-44: Vulnerable Populations Susceptible to a 100-year Flood Event in Gonzales. (Source: Hazus)

Gonzales		
Category	**Total Numbers**	**Percentage of Community Population in Hazard Area**
Number in Hazard Area	5,113	41.8%
Persons Under 5 Years	364	7.1%
Persons Under 18 Years	927	18.1%
Persons 65 Years and Over	624	12.2%
White	2,495	48.8%
Minority	2,618	51.2%

Table 2-45: Vulnerable Populations Susceptible to a 100-year Flood Event in Sorrento. (Source: Hazus)

Sorrento		
Category	**Total Numbers**	**Percentage of Community Population in Hazard Area**
Number in Hazard Area	977	64.5%
Persons Under 5 Years	68	7.0%
Persons Under 18 Years	187	19.1%
Persons 65 Years and Over	123	12.6%
White	792	81.1%
Minority	185	18.9%

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-46: Flood Vulnerability Score for Ascension Parish.

Flood Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	**Impact**	**Spatial Extent**	**Warning Time**	**Duration**	**Risk Factor**
Risk Level	3	4	3	4	3	3.4

Levee Failure

Profile

Levees and floodwalls are flood control barriers constructed of earth, concrete, or other materials. For the purposes of this plan, levees are distinguished from smaller flood barriers (such as berms) by their size and extent. Berms are barriers that only protect a small number of structures, or at times only a single structure. Levees and floodwalls are barriers that protect significant areas of residential, commercial, or industrial development; at a minimum, they protect neighborhoods or small communities. Levee failure involves the overtopping, breach, or collapse of the levee. Levee failure is especially destructive to nearby development during flood and hurricane events.

The northern half of Louisiana is protected by levees on the Ouachita River, under the authority of the Vicksburg District of the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). The Vicksburg District encompasses 68,000 mi^2 in the states of Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. They manage seven drainage basins, including the Yazoo, Pearl, Big Black, Red, Ouachita, and Mississippi Rivers; 12 locks and dams on the Pearl, Red, and Ouachita Rivers; 1,808 miles of levees, including 468 miles along the Mississippi River; and multiple lakes with 1,709 miles of shoreline.

Coastal and southern Louisiana are protected by an extensive levee system under the authority of the New Orleans District of the USACE. This system includes 30,000 mi^2 of Louisiana south of Alexandria, including 961 miles of river levees in the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project, 449 miles of river levees in the Atchafalaya Basin, and 340 miles of hurricane-protection levees. Other levees have been built along stretches of rivers throughout Louisiana by local levee districts and private citizens. The data regarding these non-federal levees are managed by the individual entity responsible for construction and subsequent maintenance and are not kept in a consistent format for comprehensive hazard analysis.

The effects of a levee failure on property are similar to that of a flood, as discussed in the flooding section. One major difference is that the velocity of the water is increased in the area of the breach, so the potential for property damage is higher in these areas.

A levee failure occurs during high water events, so the populace is normally alerted to the potential danger. Levees are normally monitored during these events and the population in danger is alerted to a possible levee failure. However, if people consider themselves safe once a levee has been breached and do not evacuate, the results could be deadly.

The Mississippi River levee system is constantly monitored during high water events by federal, state, and parish officials. Any potential failure of the Mississippi River levee would be observed long before a failure took place. Once observed, it would be mitigated to prevent any failure in the levee. As a slowly developing hazard, there is significant lead time to warn and evacuate the population in the event of a potential failure. The more likely scenario involving a potential level failure would be an overtopping event for a major precipitation event taking place during a tropical cyclone, similar to Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. An event of this nature is less likely to produce an early warning and most likely to subject more people to flooding.

Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

Per the National Inventory of Levees, there are five levee systems located within the parish. Due to the unincorporated areas of the parish and the incorporated jurisdictions being included in inundation zones, levee failure has been identified as an applicable hazard to Ascension Parish and the incorporated jurisdictions of Donaldsonville, Gonzales, and Sorrento.

The worst-case scenarios for levee failure are based upon where the levee failure occurs and the flow of water downstream into lower lying areas. If a levee failure were to occur, the unincorporated areas of the parish along with the City of Gonzales and Town of Sorrento could expect flood depths of up to three feet while the City of Donaldsonville could expect flood depths up to two feet.

For figures 2-23 to 2-27, those maps show the inundation zones for each levee alignment within Ascension Parish. The red lines depict the location of the levee alignment while the blue shaded regions depict the inundation zones of said levees in the event of a failure. These maps were collected and provided by the US Army Corps of Engineers via the National Levee Database. The figures on the following pages display the levee systems located in the parish and the inundation areas of the levees:

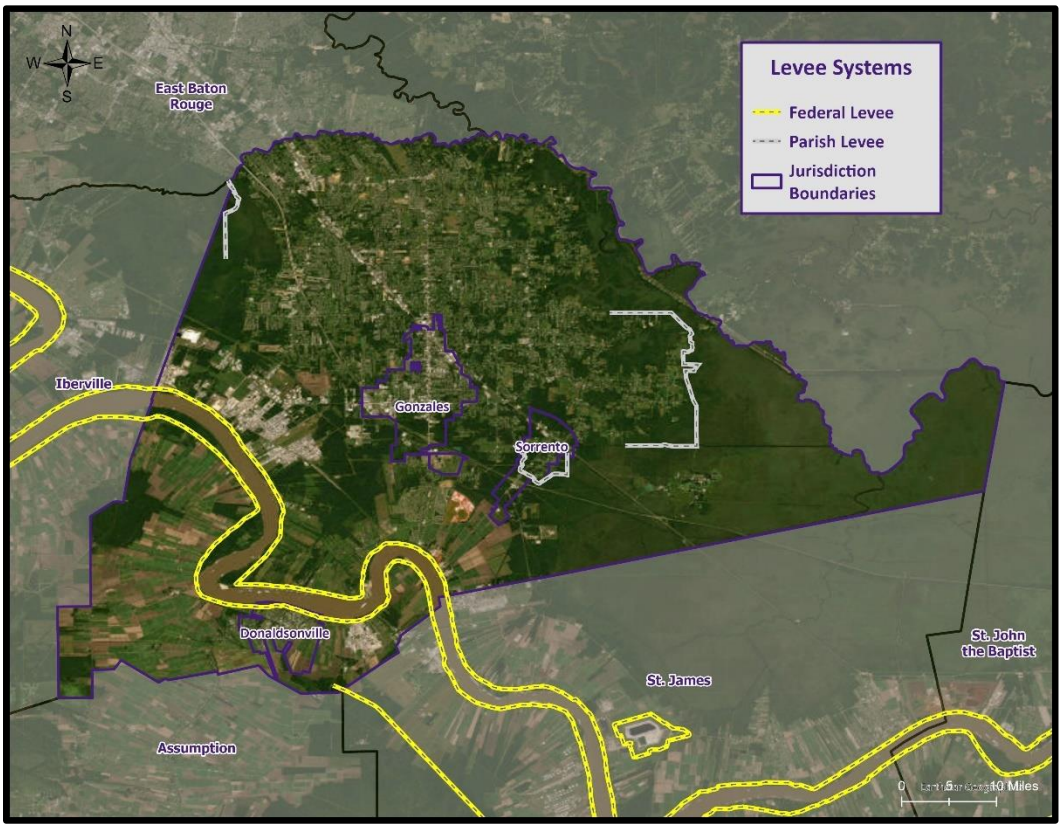


Figure 2-22: Levee Systems in Ascension Parish.

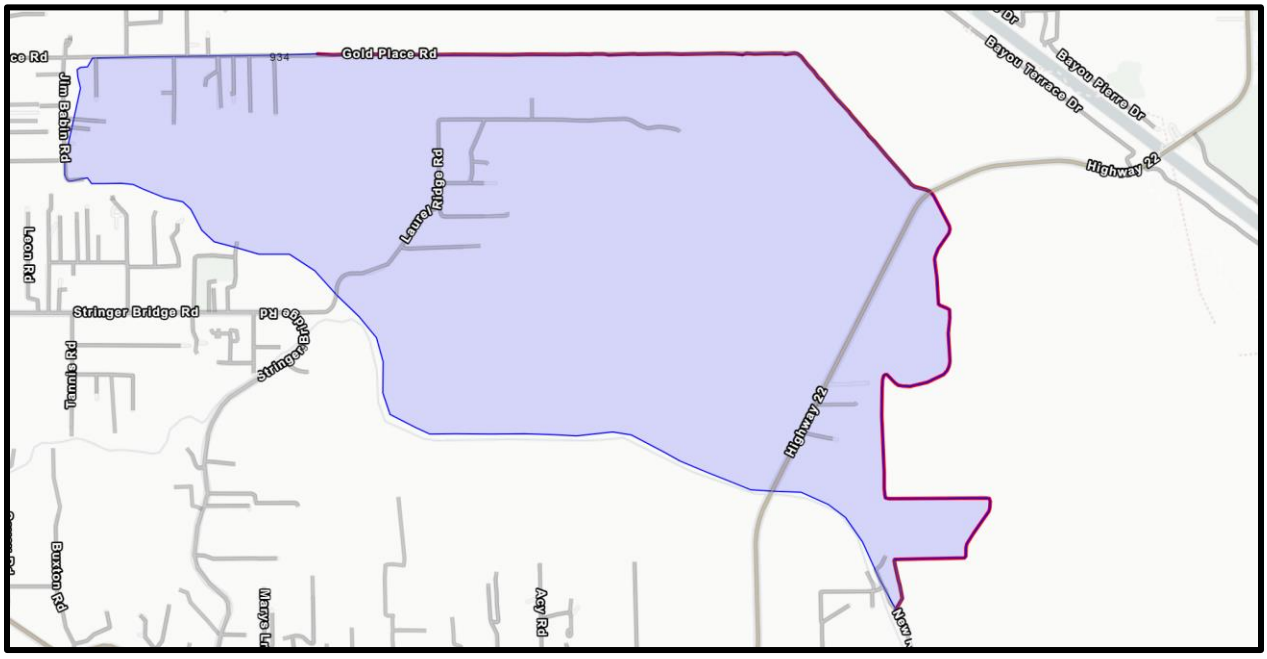


Figure 2-23: Inundation Areas from the Laurel Ridge Levee System

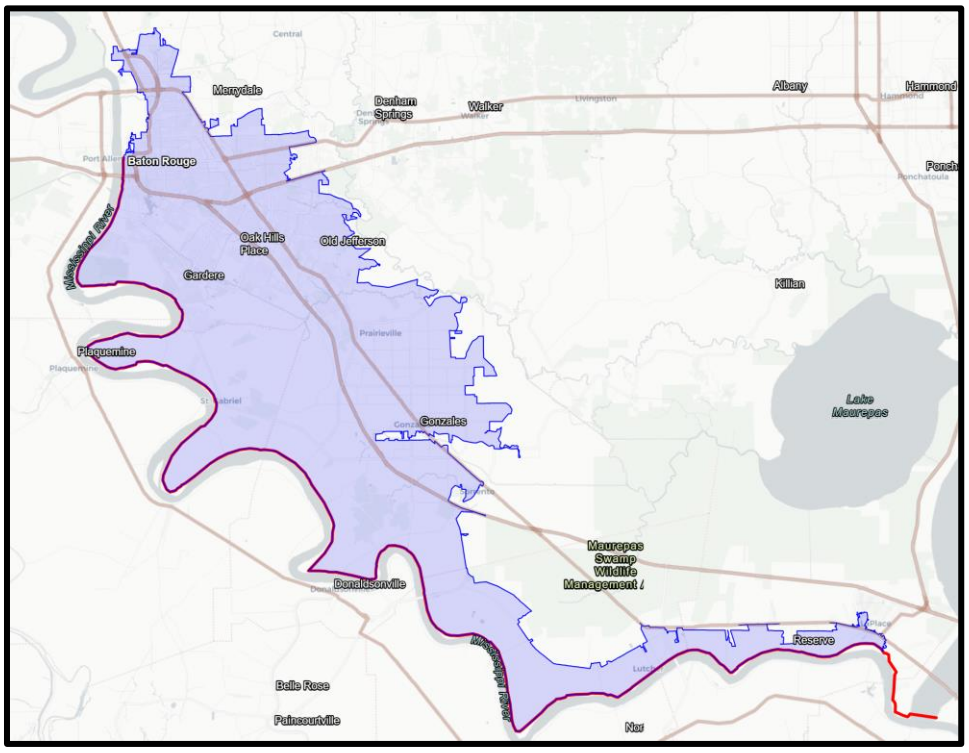


Figure 2-24: Inundation Zones from the Mississippi River East Bank Levee System

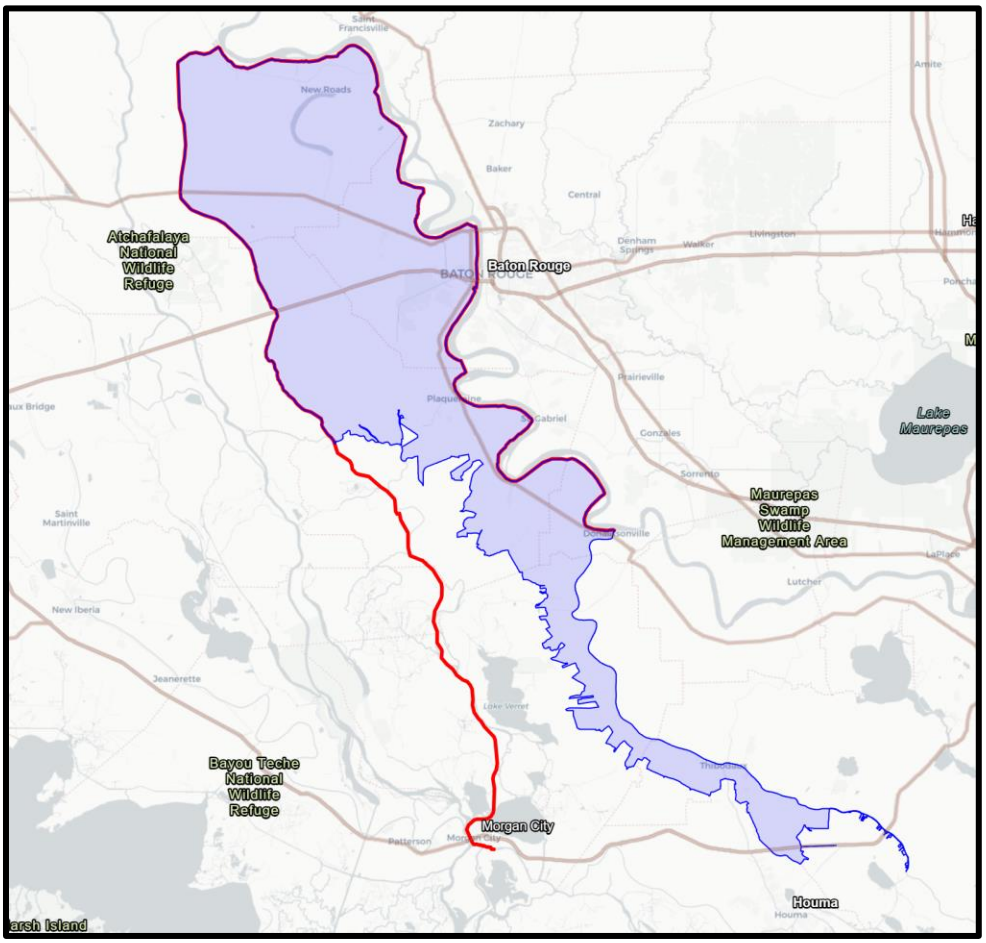


Figure 2-25: Inundation Areas from the Mississippi River West Bank – Below Morganza Levee System

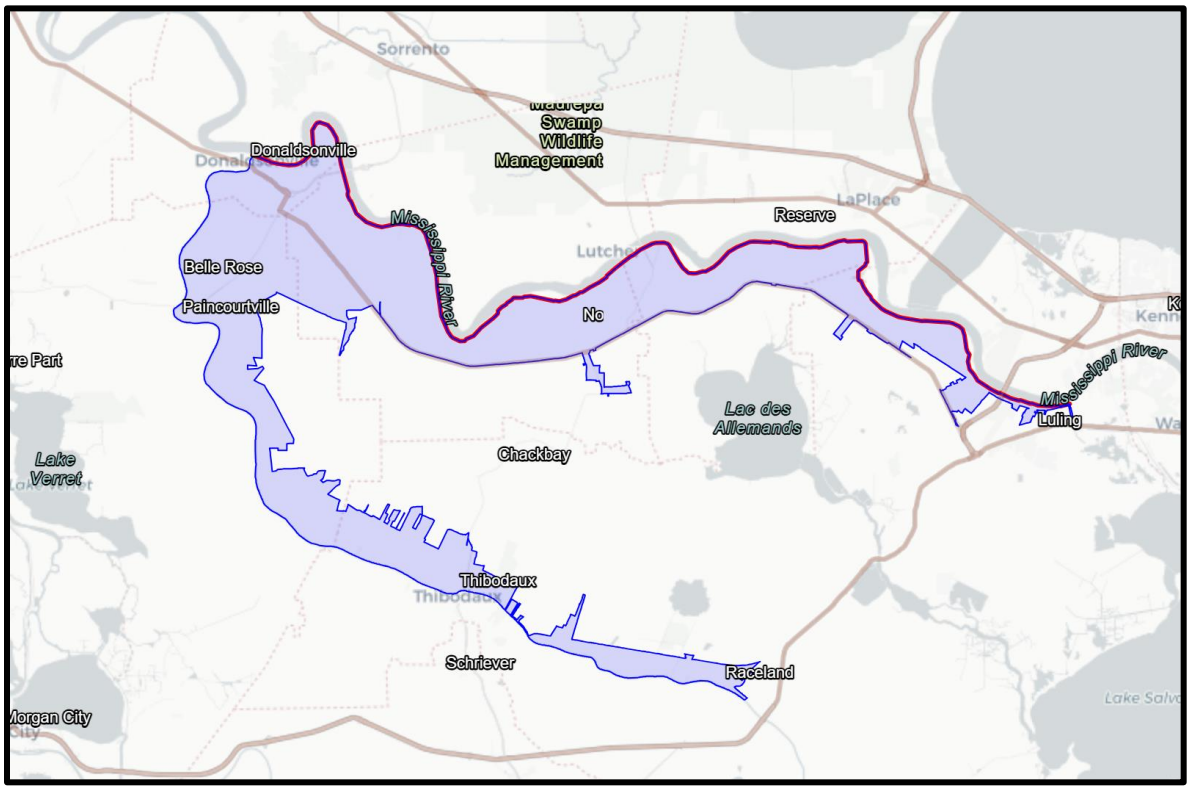


Figure 2-26: Inundation Areas from the Mississippi River West Bank – Lafourche Basin Levee System

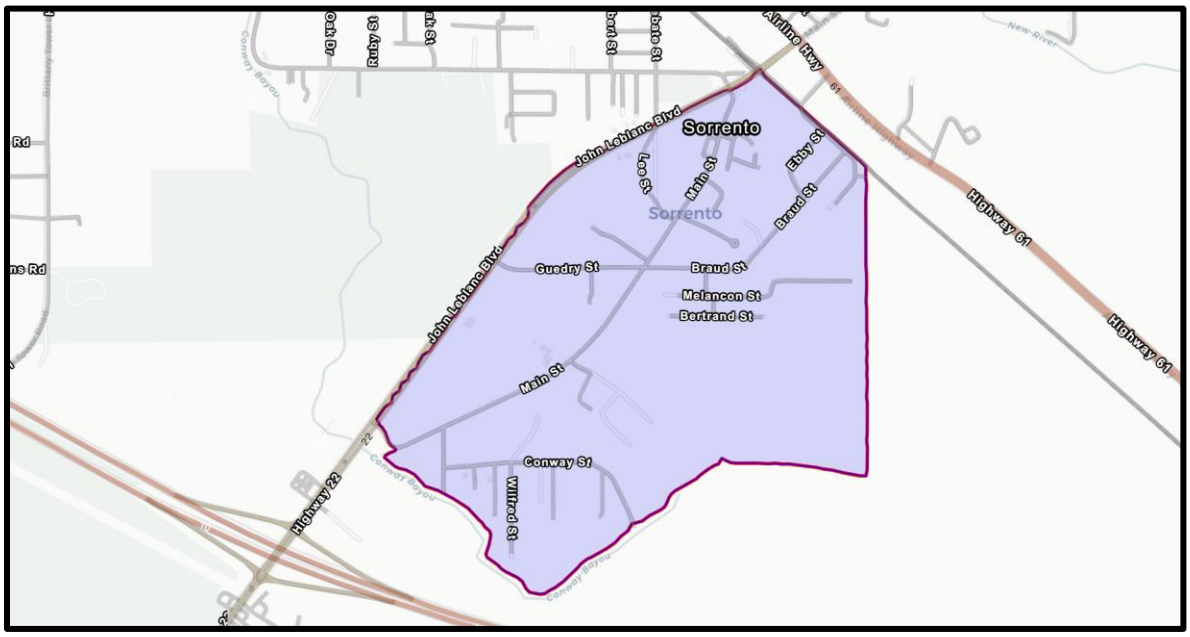


Figure 2-27: Inundations Areas from the Sorrento System Levee

Previous Occurrences

There have been no reported levee failure occurrences within the parish and the jurisdictions.

Probability

It is nearly impossible to predict and model levee failure and its impact on the parish. Due to the unpredictability of levee failures, it is calculated that the probability of a levee failure is less than 1% annually for the unincorporated areas of the parish.

Climate Change Impacts

Extreme precipitation, primarily the type that contributes to flash flooding and not widespread areal flooding, is expected to increase due to climate change. While this may not contribute to the traditional definition of a levee failure, it could increase the chances of a levee overtopping.

Future Hazard Impacts

Population growth and urban development exert significant pressure on levees, as more people and infrastructure depend on their protection from floods. Rapid development often leads to alterations in natural drainage patterns and increased impermeable surfaces, exacerbating flood risks. Expanding urban areas may also encroach upon floodplains and wetlands, reducing natural buffers against floodwaters.

Vulnerability Analysis

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

Determining the annualized loss as a result of a levee failure is difficult in the parish due to the availability of data on past levee failure events. The National Inventory of Levees was utilized to determine the levees within the parish, the risk level, and the height of the levee. The tables below provide an extensive list of the levees in the parish with the risks associated with each system.

Table 2-47: Levees and Risk Associated with each in Ascension Parish.
(Source: National Inventory of Levees)

System	System ID	Length (miles)	Height (ft)
Laurel Ridge System	300005009195	5.448	No Data
Mississippi River East Bank	4405000501	107.108	22
Mississippi River West Bank – Below Morganza	4405000525	183.634	20
Mississippi River West Bank – Lafourche Basin	4405000526	58.386	32
Sorrento System	300005009185	4.282	No Data

Table 2-48: Levees and Risk Associated with each in Ascension Parish.
(Source: National Inventory of Levees)

System	Population	Buildings	Property Value
Laurel Ridge System	634	275	$130 million
Mississippi River East Bank	429,480	178,846	$62 billion
Mississippi River West Bank – Below Morganza	243,744	129,113	$20 billion
Mississippi River West Bank – Lafourche Basin	73,459	36,223	$9 billion
Sorrento System	913	357	$180 million

Vulnerable Population

There have been no reported fatalities or injuries due to levee failure in the parish.

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-49: Levee Vulnerability Score for Ascension Parish.

Levee Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	**Impact**	**Spatial Extent**	**Warning Time**	**Duration**	**Risk Factor**
Risk Level	1	3	4	1	3	2.4

Sinkholes

Profile

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 are usually found in karst terrain—that is, areas where limestone, carbonate rock, salt beds, and other water-soluble rocks lie below the Earth's surface. Karst terrain is marked by the presence of other uncommon geologic features such as springs, caves, and dry streambeds that lose water into the ground. In general, sinkholes form gradually (in the case of cover subsidence sinkholes), but they can also occur suddenly (in the case of cover-collapse sinkholes).

Sinkhole formation is a very simple process. Whenever water is absorbed through soil, encounters water-soluble bedrock, and then begins to dissolve it, sinkholes start to form. The karst rock dissolves along cracks; as the fissures grow, soil and other particles fill the gaps, loosening the soil above the bedrock. As the soil sinks from the surface, a depression forms, which draws in more water, funneling it down to the water-soluble rock. The increase of water and soil in the rock pushes open the cracks, again drawing more soil and water into it. This positive feedback loop continues, unless clay plugs into the cracks in the bedrock, at which time a pond may form. A sudden cover-collapse sinkhole occurs when the topsoil above dissolving bedrock does not sink but forms a bridge over the soil that is sinking beneath it. Underground soil continues to fill the bedrock fissures, until finally the soil bridge collapses and fills the void beneath it.

Both kinds of sinkholes can occur naturally or through human influence. While sinkholes tend to form naturally in karst areas, sinkholes can form in other geological areas that have been altered by humans such as mining, sewers, hydraulic fracture drilling, groundwater pumping, irrigation, or storage ponds. In all of these cases, and others, the cause for the sinkhole is that support for surface soil has been weakened or substantially removed.

In the United States, 20% of land in the United States is susceptible to sinkholes. Most of this area lies in Florida, Texas, Alabama, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania. In Louisiana, most of the sinkholes are precipitated by the human-influenced collapse of salt dome caverns. The collapse of a salt dome is usually a slow process; however, it may occur suddenly and without any advance warning.

Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

Currently, there are two identifiable salt dome locations in the parish with one having a two-mile buffer around the location impacting the parish. The figure on the following page displays the location of salt domes with their relative location to the nearest jurisdiction. As depicted in the figure, the salt domes are dispersed throughout the parish, with all of the salt domes located in the unincorporated areas of the parish. At this time, there are no salt domes or sinkholes located in the incorporated areas of Donaldsonville, Gonzales, and Sorrento, but the salt domes will continue to be monitored.

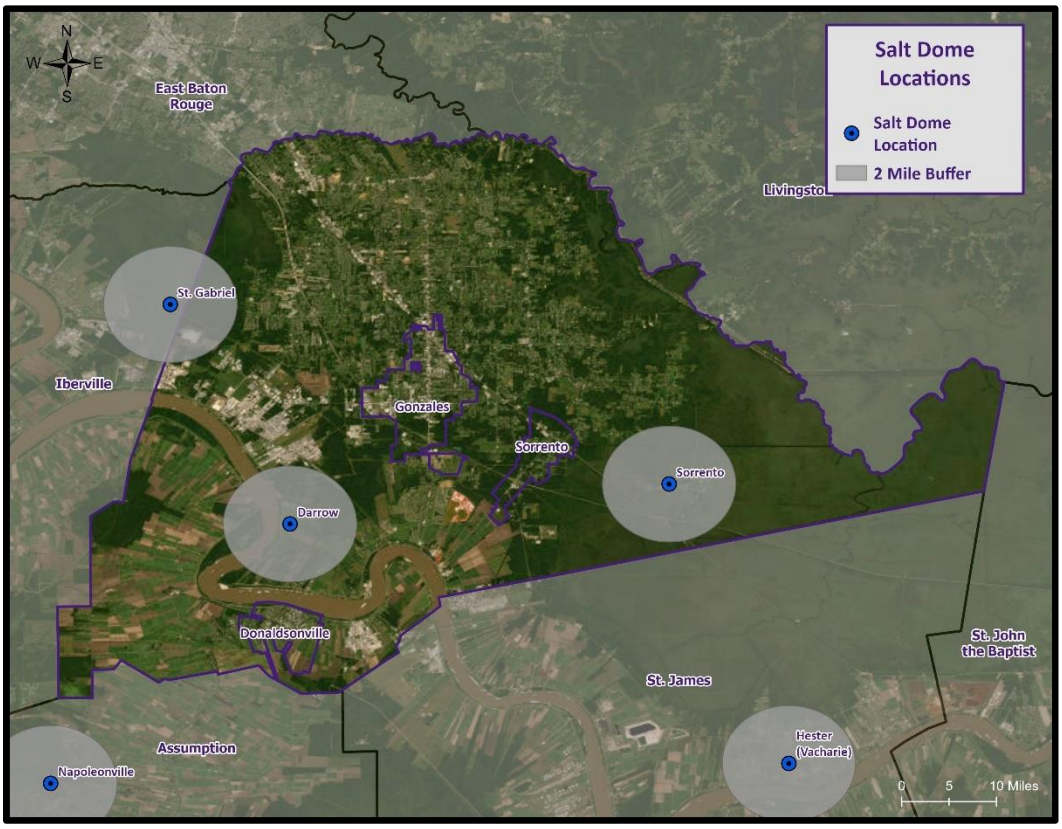


Figure 2-28: Salt Dome Locations in Ascension Parish.

Previous Occurrences

There have been no recorded incidents of sinkholes or salt dome collapses in the parish to date.

Probability

Based on historical data for the past 28-years, there has been no incident of a sinkhole formation or salt dome collapse in the Parish. The annual chance of occurrence is calculated at less than 1%.

Climate Change Impacts

Climate change is exerting significant impacts on the occurrence and behavior of sinkholes, geological formations characterized by ground collapse. Altered precipitation patterns, intensified by climate change, result in increased infiltration of water into the ground, eroding underground rock layers and forming voids that can lead to sinkhole formation. Rising sea levels, another consequence of climate change, contribute to the intrusion of saltwater into coastal aquifers, accelerating the dissolution of underground rocks and enhancing the likelihood of sinkhole development. Furthermore, shifting hydrological patterns and extreme weather events, both exacerbated by climate change, disrupt natural water movement and contribute to the instability of soil and rock formations, increasing the susceptibility of sinkhole formation. As climate change continues to reshape ecosystems and exacerbate these processes, adequate mitigation strategies, including improved urban planning, infrastructure design, and geological assessments, become essential to curbing the escalating impacts of sinkholes on both natural landscapes and human settlements.

Vulnerability Analysis

Sinkholes can have profound and wide-ranging impacts on both natural environments and human communities. These sudden depressions in the Earth's surface can pose serious risks to infrastructure, causing damage to roads, buildings, and utility lines. The resulting economic losses can be substantial, affecting businesses, disrupting local economies, and straining resources for repairs and recovery. Human populations can be directly affected through

displacement due to sinkhole-related damage, leading to temporary or permanent evacuations and upending lives. Public safety concerns also arise as sinkholes can appear with little warning, endangering individuals and vehicles. The environmental consequences are also significant, altering local hydrology, groundwater flow, and potentially causing groundwater contamination if hazardous materials are exposed. As urbanization and climate change further interact with sinkhole dynamics, understanding and managing these impacts becomes increasingly crucial for sustainable development and community resilience.

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

The three salt dome locations were analyzed to determine the number of people and homes that are potentially susceptible to losses from a sinkhole materializing from the salt domes. The following table is based on conducting a two-mile buffer around the center of the salt domes. The values were determined by querying the 2020 U.S. Census block data to determine the number of houses and people located within two miles of the salt domes and sinkholes. Critical facilities were also analyzed to determine if they fell within the two-mile buffer of the salt domes and sinkholes. Total value for all occupancy group from Hazus was used to estimate a total loss of all facilities that were within two miles of the salt domes and sinkholes.

Table 2-50: Estimated Potential Losses from a Sinkhole formation. (Source: U.S. 2020 Census Data and Hazus)

Salt Dome Name	Total Building Exposure	Critical Infrastructure Exposure	Number of People Exposed	Number of Houses Exposed
Darrow Salt Dome	$1,333,370,000	0	186	57
Sorrento Salt Dome	$375,470,000	0	0	0
St. Gabriel Salt Dome	$6,346,000	0	0	0

Vulnerable Population

Per the NCEI Storm Events Database, there have been no reported fatalities or injuries as a result of sinkholes. However, sinkholes pose particularly severe and disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations, exacerbating existing social disparities. Low-income communities often lack the resources to adequately prepare for and recover from sinkhole-related events. These populations may reside in areas prone to sinkhole formation due to limited housing options or historical settlement patterns. When sinkholes occur, they can destroy homes, disrupt essential services, and force displacement, leaving vulnerable individuals without stable housing and access to necessary amenities. Additionally, marginalized communities might face barriers in receiving timely assistance and information, compounding the challenges they face in the aftermath of sinkhole incidents. Limited financial means can hinder the ability to rebuild or relocate, trapping vulnerable populations in unsafe environments.

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-51: Sinkhole Vulnerability Score for Ascension Parish.

Sinkhole Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	**Impact**	**Spatial Extent**	**Warning Time**	**Duration**	**Risk Factor**
Risk Level	1	2	2	1	4	1.9

Subsidence

Profile

Subsidence is the sinking of land over time, as a result of natural and/or human-caused actions. Subsidence results from a number of factors, including:

- Compaction/consolidation of shallow strata caused by the weight of delta deposit from the Mississippi River, soil oxidation, and aquifer draw-down (shallow component)
- Consolidation of deeper strata (intermediate component)
- Tectonic effects (deep component)

The last element has only been recently quantified, and research indicates that it may account for 50% or more of subsidence.

Geology and soil type do not have a direct effect on subsidence rates. Other causes like human occupancy, buildings, infrastructure, oil and gas extraction, and lowering the water table due to groundwater extraction have much more of an effect. Human acceleration of natural processes through levying rivers, draining wetlands, dredging channels, and cutting canals through marshes exacerbates the subsidence hazard.

Subsidence has not been identified as a significant acute contributor to direct disaster damages in Louisiana. However, it is certainly one of the main drivers of land loss in Louisiana, and thus it dramatically increases flood risk—which is one of the most dangerous hazards the state faces. One of the very few hazard events to be documented as a direct result of subsidence is the appearance of sinkholes over a mining operation in Weeks Island. The repeated removal of underground materials (originally salt and later oil) resulted in the formation of a sinkhole in 1992. The Weeks Island facility was decommissioned as a result of this discovery.

The highest rate of subsidence is occurring at the Mississippi River Delta (estimated at greater than 3.5 ft./century). Subsidence rates tend to decrease inland, and they also vary across the coast. Subsidence creates three distinct problems in Louisiana:

- By lowering elevations in coastal Louisiana, subsidence accelerates the effects of saltwater intrusion and other factors that contribute to land loss
- By lowering elevations elsewhere in Louisiana, subsidence may make structures more vulnerable to flooding
- By destabilizing elevations in general, subsidence undermines the accuracy of surveying benchmarks (including those affecting levee heights, coastal restoration programs, surge modeling, BFEs, and other engineering inputs), which can contribute to additional flooding problems if construction occurs at lower elevations than anticipated or planned

Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

Subsidence in Ascension Parish occurs in very isolated patches mostly in the southern portions of the parish and in areas surrounding Lake Maurepas where swamp and inland coast wetland areas are prevalent. The figure on the following page displays the land lost due to subsidence and also the land gained from the years 2010 to 2020 for Ascension Parish. The worst-case scenario for subsidence is an annual rate of subsidence of 10 mm per year in the unincorporated areas of the parish and two mm per year in the incorporated areas of Donaldsonville, Gonzales, and Sorrento.

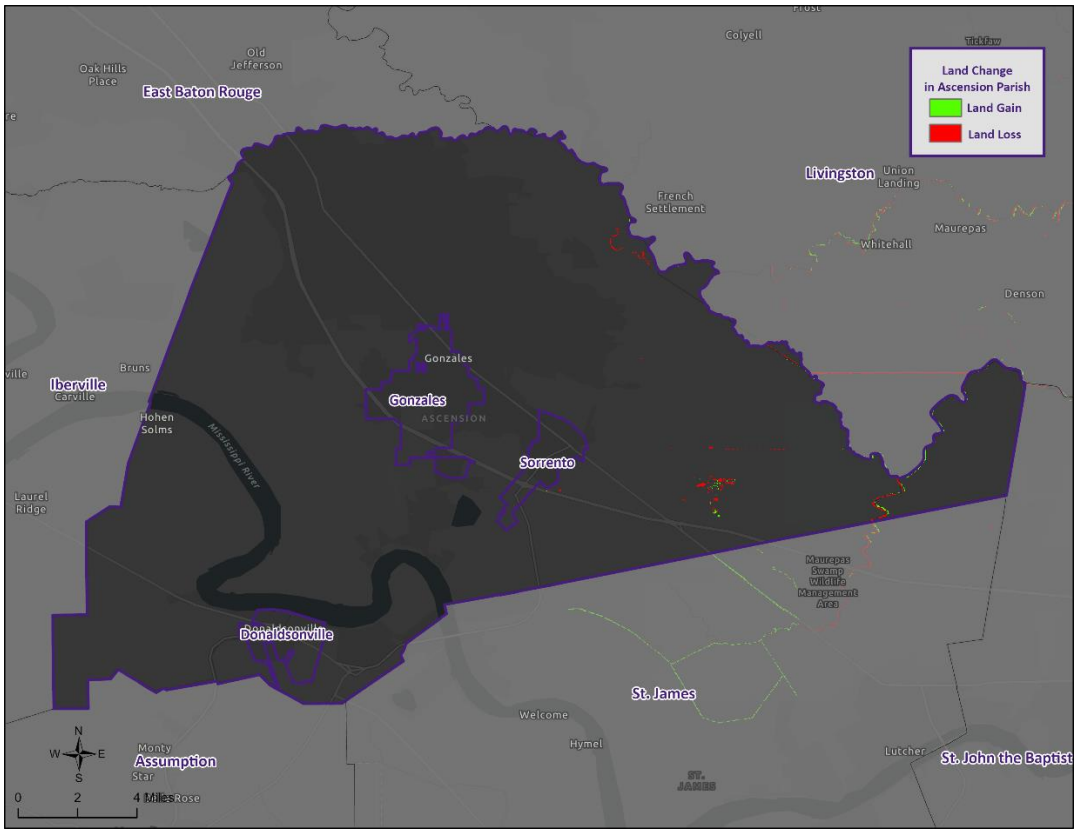


Figure 2-29: Land Change in Ascension Parish from 2010 – 2020.
(Source: USGS)

Previous Occurrences

For the most part, subsidence is a slow-acting process with effects that are not as evident as hazards associated with a discrete event. Subsidence is considered to be a "creeping" hazard event that occurs over an extreme length of time making it difficult to identify a single occurrence. Subsidence can happen anywhere in the parish and the incorporated jurisdictions, but it poses the greatest risk to the unincorporated areas, specifically in the southeastern portion of the parish. No known previous hazard events involving subsidence are known. While subsidence is taking place on an annual basis, its occurrence is measured in centimeters and not readily visible without scientific instruments.

Probability

While there have been slight instances of land loss, there have been no known major subsidence events that have taken place in Ascension Parish. Due to this, the annual rate of occurrence of subsidence events in the unincorporated areas of Ascension Parish and the incorporated areas of Donaldsonville, Gonzales, and Sorrento is less than 1%.

Climate Change Impacts

Climate change significantly impacts subsidence through several interconnected factors. As global temperatures rise, polar ice melts and ocean waters expand, resulting in higher sea levels. This phenomenon exacerbates land subsidence in coastal areas, particularly in regions already experiencing sinking due to natural geological processes or human activities. Changes in precipitation patterns can lead to heavier rainfall and flooding, which saturate soils and cause the ground to settle, particularly in areas with loose or unconsolidated sediments. Groundwater extraction also plays a critical role; climate change can induce droughts, prompting increased withdrawal of groundwater for irrigation and drinking water. This over-extraction lowers the water table, leading to the compaction of soil layers and subsequent subsidence. In Arctic regions, rising temperatures result in the thawing of permafrost, destabilizing the ground and potentially damaging infrastructure. Climate change also alters vegetation patterns and soil moisture levels, impacting the organic content and stability of soils. For example, dried-out wetlands can compact, leading to

further subsidence. The increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, storms, and droughts, can also trigger localized subsidence through erosion, land degradation, or shifts in water levels.

Vulnerability Analysis

Subsidence poses significant vulnerabilities to both people and infrastructure, particularly in regions prone to geological instability. In areas experiencing severe subsidence, communities may be forced to relocate due to unsafe living conditions, resulting in social disruption and loss of homes. Additionally, subsidence can create or exacerbate health hazards, such as increased exposure to floodwaters that can lead to waterborne diseases, or the collapse of buildings that endanger lives. Economic strain is another major concern; communities facing subsidence often encounter rising costs associated with property damage, infrastructure repair, and increased insurance premiums, while economic activities may decline if the area becomes less habitable. Access to essential services such as transportation, healthcare, and education can also be disrupted, as roads may become impassable and public facilities may be damaged or inaccessible.

The impact on infrastructure is equally severe. Buildings, roads, bridges, and pipelines can suffer significant damage from subsidence, with cracks, uneven surfaces, and even total collapse necessitating costly repairs or replacements. Moreover, underground utilities like water, sewage, and electricity can be compromised by ground movement, leading to service interruptions that affect daily life and public health. Infrastructure in subsiding areas often requires more frequent maintenance and monitoring, resulting in higher long-term costs for municipalities and governments. Urban planning and development are also complicated by subsidence, as future growth must consider the potential for ground instability, often leading to restrictions on building in certain areas. Furthermore, infrastructure damage can hinder local businesses, affecting their operations and profitability, which may result in job losses and reduced economic vitality in the region.

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

Subsidence can lead to significant potential losses across various aspects of life, impacting individuals and communities alike. One of the most immediate effects is property damage, as structural issues such as cracks in foundations, walls, and roads can result in costly repairs or even total loss of property, imposing financial burdens on homeowners and businesses. The economic repercussions can be substantial; property devaluation, increased maintenance costs, and disruptions to local businesses can reduce economic activity and lead to job losses in affected areas. Severe subsidence may also render homes uninhabitable, forcing families to relocate, which disrupts social networks and community cohesion, resulting in long-term emotional and psychological impacts. Public infrastructure, including roads and bridges, can also suffer, leading to increased maintenance costs and service interruptions that hinder access to essential services like healthcare and education. Environmental degradation is another concern, as subsidence can affect natural landscapes, including wetlands and ecosystems, resulting in loss of biodiversity and altered habitats, which may negatively impact agriculture and natural resource management. Health risks increase as structural instability creates hazardous living conditions and exposure to waterlogged areas raises the threat of waterborne diseases. Subsidence can threaten cultural and historical landmarks, leading to the loss of heritage and identity for local communities. Addressing these potential losses necessitates proactive planning and investment in resilient infrastructure, along with support for vulnerable populations to mitigate the impacts of subsidence effectively.

Vulnerable Population

There have been no reported fatalities or injuries as a result of subsidence. Vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected by subsidence, facing heightened risks due to a combination of socioeconomic factors and geographical location. Communities with limited resources often live in areas more prone to subsidence, such as low-lying coastal regions or places with unstable soil. These individuals may lack the financial means to relocate or repair damaged homes, making them more susceptible to displacement and social disruption. Additionally, vulnerable groups, including the elderly, low-income families, and marginalized communities, often have less access to healthcare and essential services, exacerbating health risks associated with subsidence, such as exposure to floodwaters and deteriorating living conditions. Economic strain is also significant; as subsidence damages property and infrastructure, affected communities face increased costs for repairs and higher insurance premiums, further

entrenching cycles of poverty. The compounding effects of limited access to resources, healthcare, and economic opportunities highlight the urgent need for targeted support and interventions to protect these populations from the impacts of subsidence. Addressing these vulnerabilities is essential for fostering resilience and ensuring equitable recovery in the face of environmental challenges.

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-52: Subsidence Vulnerability Score for Ascension Parish.

Subsidence Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	Risk Factor
Risk Level	1	2	2	4	2	2.05

Thunderstorms (Hail, Lightning, & Thunderstorm Wind)

Overview

The term "thunderstorm" is usually used as a catch-all term for several kinds of storms. Here "thunderstorm" is defined to include any precipitation occurrence in which thunder is heard or lightning is seen. Thunderstorms are often accompanied by heavy rain and strong winds, and occasionally, depending on conditions, by hail or snow. Thunderstorms form when humid air masses are heated, which causes them to become convectively unstable. Consequently, the air masses rise. Upon rising, the air masses' water vapor condenses into liquid water and/or deposits directly into ice when they rise sufficiently to cool to the dew-point temperature.

Thunderstorms are classified into four main types (single-cell, multi-cell, squall line, and supercell) depending on the degree of atmospheric instability, the change in wind speed with height (called wind shear), and the degree to which the storm's internal dynamics are coordinated with those of adjacent storms. There is no such interaction for single-cell thunderstorms, but there is significant interaction with clusters of adjacent thunderstorms in multi-cell thunderstorms, and with a linear "chain" of adjacent storms in squall line thunderstorms. Though supercell storms have no significant interactions with other storms, they have very well-organized and self-sustaining internal dynamics, which allows them to be the longest-lived and most severe of all thunderstorms.

The life of a thunderstorm proceeds through three stages: the developing (or cumulus) stage, the mature stage, and the dissipation stage. During the developing stage, the unstable air mass is lifted as an updraft into the atmosphere. This sudden lift rapidly cools the moisture in the air mass, releasing latent heat as condensation and/or deposition occurs, which warms the surrounding environment, thus making it less dense than the surrounding air. This process intensifies the updraft and creates a localized lateral rush of air from all directions into the area beneath the thunderstorm to feed continued updrafts. At the mature stage, the rising air is accompanied by downdrafts caused by the shear of falling rain (if melted completely), or hail, freezing rain, sleet, or snow (if not melted completely). The dissipation stage is characterized by the dominating presence of the downdraft as the hot surface that gave the updrafts their buoyancy is cooled by precipitation. During the dissipation stage, the moisture in the air mass largely empties out.

The Storm Prediction Center, in conjunction with the National Weather Service (NWS), has the ability to issue advisory messages based on forecasts and observations. The following are the advisory messages that may be issued, along with definitions of each:

- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** Issued to alert people to the possibility of a severe thunderstorm developing in the area. Expected time frame for these storms is three to six hours.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** Issued when severe thunderstorms are imminent. This warning is highly localized and covers parts of one to several counties.

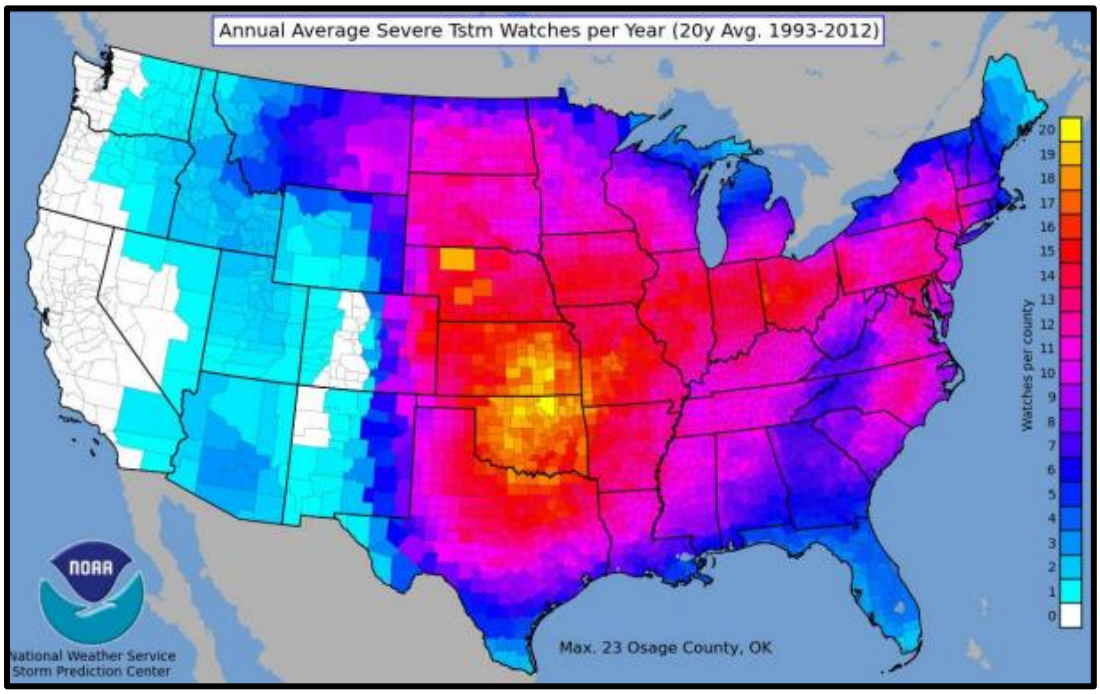


Figure 2-30: County-Level Severe Thunderstorm Watches Issued Per Year on Average.

A variety of hazards might be produced by thunderstorms, including lightning, hail, tornadoes or waterspouts, flash flooding, and high-speed winds called downbursts. Nevertheless, given the criteria, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) characterize a thunderstorm as severe when it produces one or more of the following:

- Hail of one inch in diameter or larger
- Wind gusts to 58 mph or greater
- One or more tornadoes

Tornadoes and flooding hazards have been profiled individually within this report; therefore, for the purpose of thunderstorms, the sub-hazards of hail, high winds, and lightning will be profiled.

Thunderstorms occur throughout the United States at all times of the year, although the types and severity of these storms vary greatly depending on a wide variety of atmospheric conditions. Severe thunderstorms occur more frequently during the late spring and early summer and late summer and early fall when extreme variations exist between ground surface temperatures and upper atmospheric temperatures.

Climate Change Impacts

The impact of climate change on thunderstorms is not well understood at this time. However, thunderstorms are complex, dynamic systems fueled by heat and moisture which can be measured with CAPE (convective available potential energy). It is predicted that CAPE will increase across the Eastern United States by the second half of the 21st century, meaning there is more energy to fuel severe thunderstorms. In this same time frame, there would be a small decrease in vertical wind shear, which helps produce long-lived severe storms. However, the increase in energy outweighs the decreasing shear to produce a net increase in environmental favorability for severe thunderstorms by the end of the century. Some climate models maintained by the Goddard Institute for Space Studies indicate that the number of severe thunderstorms will not change much, but the severe storms that do occur would have stronger winds and more intense precipitation.

Climate change is influencing the frequency and severity of thunderstorms, resulting in significant impacts on infrastructure and vulnerable populations. As global temperatures rise, the atmosphere becomes more energized, leading to an increase in the intensity of thunderstorm activity. Thunderstorms bring heavy rainfall, strong winds, hail, and lightning, all of which can cause substantial damage to various types of infrastructure.

One of the most significant impacts of thunderstorms on infrastructure is the damage to power and communication lines. Strong winds and lightning strikes can lead to power outages, disrupting essential services and communication networks. This can have severe consequences for communities that rely on electricity for medical equipment, communication, and daily living. Additionally, damage to power infrastructure can result in economic losses due to business interruptions and increased repair costs.

Furthermore, heavy rainfall associated with thunderstorms can lead to flash flooding, overwhelming stormwater drainage systems and causing road and bridge damage. This not only disrupts transportation networks but also poses a safety hazard for motorists and pedestrians. Flooded roads can isolate communities and hinder emergency response efforts, leaving vulnerable populations at higher risk during and after thunderstorm events.

Vulnerable populations, such as low-income communities and the elderly, often lack access to resources and live in areas with inadequate infrastructure. They are disproportionately affected by the impacts of thunderstorms. For instance, substandard housing in flood-prone regions can suffer severe damage during storms, displacing already marginalized individuals and families. The elderly and people with limited mobility may face difficulties evacuating during severe weather events, putting their lives at risk.

Moreover, thunderstorms can lead to an increase in lightning-related accidents and wildfires. Lightning strikes can cause fires that spread rapidly, threatening communities and posing additional risks to vulnerable populations living in areas prone to wildfires. These events not only endanger lives but also strain emergency response resources and increase the financial burden on affected communities.

To address the impacts of climate change on infrastructure and vulnerable populations concerning thunderstorms, several measures are crucial. Investment in resilient infrastructure, such as strengthening power grids and stormwater drainage systems, can help mitigate damage and improve response capabilities. Additionally, raising awareness and providing resources to vulnerable communities can enhance preparedness and evacuation plans. Climate change mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are also essential in curbing the intensification of thunderstorms, ultimately safeguarding both infrastructure and vulnerable populations from the adverse effects of these severe weather events.

Future Hazard Impacts

Population growth and development trends can influence thunderstorm dynamics in several ways. Urban heat islands generated by increased development can enhance local convection and thunderstorm activity. Urbanization can alter land cover, increasing impermeable surfaces that reduce natural drainage and potentially exacerbate localized flooding during thunderstorms. Increased human activity can also introduce aerosols and pollutants into the atmosphere which may influence cloud formation and precipitation patterns, possibly intensifying thunderstorm characteristics.

Hail Profile

Hailstorms are severe thunderstorms in which balls or chunks of ice fall along with rain. Hailstorm densities and reports vary spatially across Louisiana. Hail initially develops in the upper atmosphere as ice crystals that are bounced about by high-velocity updraft winds. The ice crystals grow through deposition of water vapor onto their surface. They then fall partially to a level in the cloud where the temperature exceeds the freezing point, melt partially, and then get caught in another updraft whereupon re-freezing and deposition grows another concentric layer of ice. After several trips up and down the cloud, they develop enough weight to fall. The size of hailstones varies depending on the severity and size of the thunderstorm. Higher surface temperatures generally mean stronger updrafts, which allow more massive hailstones to be supported by updrafts, leaving them suspended longer. This longer suspension time results in larger hailstone sizes. The tables on the next page display the TORRO Hailstorm Intensity Scale, along with a spectrum of hailstone diameters and their everyday equivalents.

Table 2-53: TORRO Hailstorm Intensity Scale.

Intensity Category		Hail Diameter (mm)	Probable Kinetic Energy (J m^{-2})	Typical Damage Impacts
H0	Hard Hail	5	0 - 20	No damage
H1	Potentially Damaging	5 - 15	>20	Slight general damage to plant, crops
H2	Significant	10 - 20	>100	Significant damage to fruit, crops, vegetation
H3	Severe	20 - 30	>300	Severe damage to fruit and crops, damage to glass and plastic structures, paint and wood scored
H4	Severe	25 - 40	>500	Widespread glass damage, vehicle body work
H5	Destructive	30 - 50	>800	Wholesale destruction of glass, damage to tiled roofs, significant risk of injuries
H6	Destructive	40 - 60		Bodywork of grounded aircraft dented; brick walls pitted
H7	Destructive	50 - 75		Severe roof damage, risk of serious injuries
H8	Destructive	60 - 90		Severe damage to aircraft bodywork
H9	Super Hailstorms	75 - 100		Extensive structural damage. Risk of severe or even fatal injuries to persons caught in the open
H10	Super Hailstorms	>100		Extensive structural damage. Risk of severe or even fatal injuries to persons caught in the open

Table 2-54: Spectrum of Hailstone Diameters and their Everyday Description. (Source: National Weather Service)

Spectrum of Hailstone Diameters	
Hail Diameter Size	**Description**
1/4”	Pea
1/2”	Plain M&M
3/4”	Penny
7/8”	Nickle
1” (severe)	Quarter
1 1/4”	Half Dollar
1 1/2”	Ping Pong Ball / Walnut
1 3/4”	Golf Ball
2”	Hen Egg / Lime
2 1/2"	Tennis Ball
2 3/4"	Baseball
3”	Teacup / Large Apple
4”	Softball
4 1/2"	Grapefruit
4 3/4” – 5”	Computer CD-DVD

Hailstorms can cause widespread damage to homes and other structures, automobiles, and crops. While the damage to individual structures or vehicles is often minor, the cumulative cost to communities, especially across large metropolitan areas, can be quite significant. Hailstorms can also be devastating to crops. Thus, the severity of hailstorms depends on the size of the hailstones, the length of time the storm lasts, and where it occurs. Hail rarely causes loss of life, although large hailstones can cause bodily injury.

Lightning Profile

Lightning is defined by the National Weather Service as any and all of the various forms of visible electrical discharge caused by thunderstorms. Thunderstorms and lightning are usually (but not always) accompanied by rain. Cloud-to-ground lightning can kill or injure people by direct or indirect means. Objects can be struck directly, which may result in an explosion, burn, or total destruction. Damage may also be indirect, which occurs when the current passes through or near an object.

Intra-cloud lightning is the most common type of discharge. This occurs between oppositely charged centers within the same cloud. Usually, it transpires inside the cloud and looks from the outside of the cloud like a diffuse brightening that flickers. However, the flash may exit the boundary of the cloud, and a bright channel, similar to a cloud-to-ground flash, can be visible for many miles.

Cloud-to-ground lightning is the most damaging and dangerous type of lightning, though it is also less common. Most flashes originate near the lower-negative charged center and deliver negative charge to the earth. However, a large minority of flashes carry a positive charge to earth. These positive flashes often occur during the dissipating stage of a thunderstorm. Positive flashes are also more common as a percentage of total ground strikes during the winter months. This type of lightning is particularly dangerous for several reasons. It frequently strikes away from the rain core, either ahead or behind the thunderstorm. It can strike five to ten miles from the storm in areas that most people do not consider a threat. Positive lightning also has a longer duration, so fires are more easily ignited. When positive lightning strikes, it usually carries a high peak electrical current, which can potentially result in greater damage.

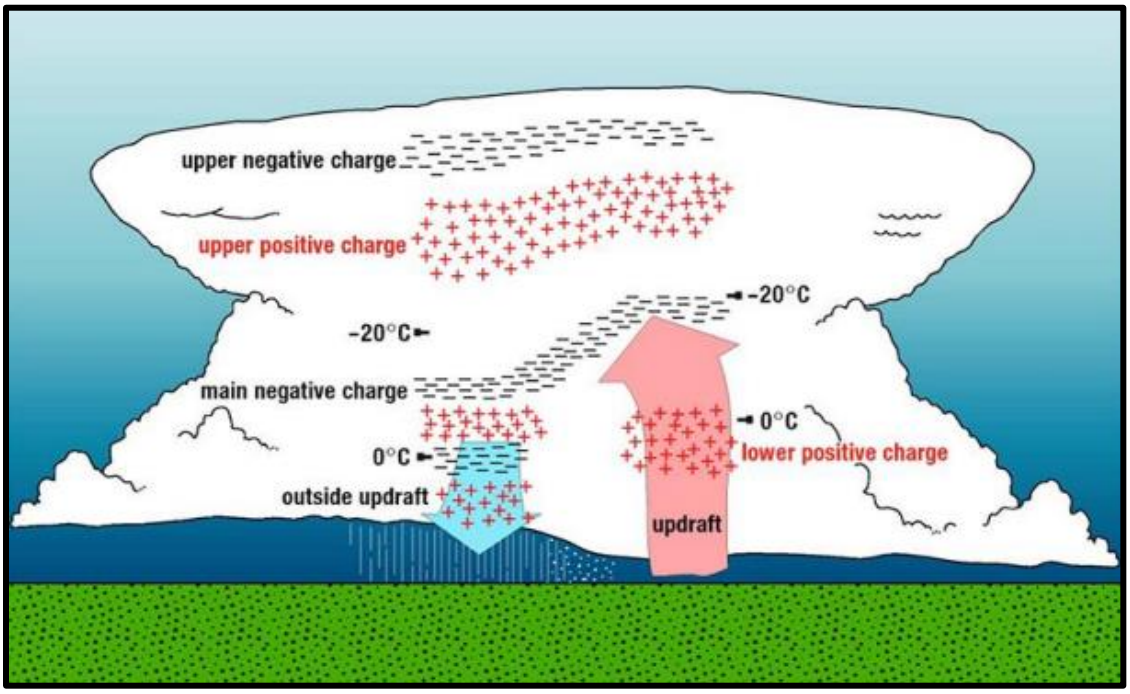


Figure 2-31: Charge Distribution in a Typical Storm Cloud
(Source: The National Severe Storms Laboratory)

Lightning continues to be one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States per FEMA, but it also has the ability to cause negative long-term health effects to the individual that is struck. The table on the following page outlines the lightning activity level and intensity scale:

Table 2-55: Lightning Activity Level (LAL) Grids.

LAL	Cloud and Storm Development	Lightning Strikes/15 Min
1	No thunderstorms.	-
2	Cumulus clouds are common but only a few reaches the towering cumulus stage. A single thunderstorm must be confirmed in the observation area. The clouds produce mainly virga, but light rain will occasionally reach the ground. Lightning is very infrequent.	1-8
3	Towering cumulus covers less than two-tenths of the sky. Thunderstorms are few, but two to three must occur within the observation. Light to moderate rain will reach the ground, and lightning is infrequent.	9-15
4	Towering cumulus covers two to three-tenths of the sky. Thunderstorms are scattered and more than three must occur within the observation area. Moderate rain is common, and lightning is frequent.	16-25
5	Towering cumulus and thunderstorms are numerous. They cover more than three-tenths and occasionally obscure the sky. Rain is moderate to heavy and lightning is frequent.	>25
6	Similar to LAL 3 except thunderstorms are dry	

Thunderstorm Wind Profile

In general, high winds occur in a number of different ways, with and without thunderstorms. Similar to hailstorms (and often associated with the same storm), high wind damage densities and reports resulting from severe thunderstorms vary spatially across Louisiana. The only high winds of present concern from the following table are thunderstorm winds and downbursts. Straight-line winds are common but are a relatively insignificant hazard (on land) compared to other high winds. Downslope winds are common, but relatively insignificant in Louisiana. Nor'easters are cyclonic low-pressure systems that have a minimal impact if any on Louisiana while hurricane winds have a significant impact on the state due to its location.

Table 2-56: High Winds Categorized by Source.
(Source: Making Critical Facilities Safe from High Wind, FEMA)

High Wind Type	Description
Straight-Line Winds	Wind blowing in straight line; usually associated with intense low-pressure area
Downslope Winds	Wind blowing down the slope of a mountain; associated with temperature and pressure gradients
Thunderstorm Winds	Wind blowing due to thunderstorms, and thus associated with temperature and pressure gradients
Downbursts	Sudden wind blowing down due to downdraft in a thunderstorm; spreads out horizontally at the ground, possible forming horizontal vortex rings around the downdraft.
Northeaster (Nor'easter) Winds	Wind blowing due to cyclonic storm off the east coast of North America; associated with temperature and pressure gradients between the Atlantic Ocean and land
Hurricane Winds	Wind blowing in spirals, converging with increasing speed toward eye; associated with temperature and pressure gradients between the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and land
Tornado Winds	Violently rotating column of air from base of thunderstorm to the ground with rapidly decreasing winds at greater distances from center; associated with extreme temperature gradient

Major damage directly caused by thunderstorm winds is relatively rare, while minor damage is common and pervasive, and most noticeable when it contributes to power outages. These power outages can have major negative impacts such as increased tendency for traffic accidents, increased vulnerability to fire, food spoilage, and other

losses that might be sustained by a loss of power. The following table presents the Beaufort Wind Scale, first developed in 1805 by Sir Francis Beaufort, which aids in determining relative force and wind speed based on the appearance of wind effects:

Table 2-57: Beaufort Wind Scale.
(Source: NOAA's SPC)

Beaufort Wind Scale			
Force	**Wind (MPH)**	**WMO Classification**	**Appearance of Wind Effects on Land**
			Calm, smoke rises vertically
1	1-3	Light Air	Smoke drift indicates wind direction, still wind vanes
2	4-7	Light Breeze	Wind felt on face, leaves rustle, vanes begin to move
3	8-12	Gentle Breeze	Leaves and small twigs constantly moving, light flags extended
4	13-17	Moderate Breeze	Dust, leaves, and loose paper lifted; small tree branches move
5	18-24	Fresh Breeze	Small trees in leaf begin to sway
6	25-30	Strong Breeze	Larger tree branches moving, whistling in wires
7	31-38	Near Gale	Whole trees moving, resistance felt walking against wind
8	39-46	Gale	Twigs breaking off trees, generally impedes progress
9	47-54	Strong Gale	Slight structural damage occurs, slate blows off roofs
10	55-63	Storm	Seldom experienced on land, trees broken or uprooted, "considerable structural damage"
11	54-73	Violent Storm	N/A
12	74+	Hurricane	N/A

Hail Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

Because hailstorms are a climatological based occurrence that can occur anywhere, the entire planning area is at risk from hailstorms. The worst-case scenario for hailstorms is hail up to 2.5 inches in diameter.

Previous Occurrences

The parish experienced 30 hail occurrences between the years 1996 and 2023. Since the last update, there have been eight hail occurrences within the boundaries of the parish.

Table 2-58: Historical Hail Occurrences in Ascension Parish since the Last Update.
(Source: NCEI Storm Events Database)

Date	Magnitude (inches)	Property Damage	Fatalities	Injuries
2/5/2020	1	$0	0	0
4/18/2020	1.25	$0	0	0
4/18/2020	1.75	$0	0	0
2/12/2024	1	$0	0	0
2/12/2024	1.5	$0	0	0
2/12/2024	1	$0	0	0
2/12/2024	1.75	$0	0	0
2/12/2024	2	$0	0	0

Probability

The annual return rate (frequency) for hail occurrences in the parish is 1.07 (100% annual probability) or approximately 1 to 2 hail occurrences every year. The figures on the following page display the density of hailstorm events and an overview of hailstorm size based on location.

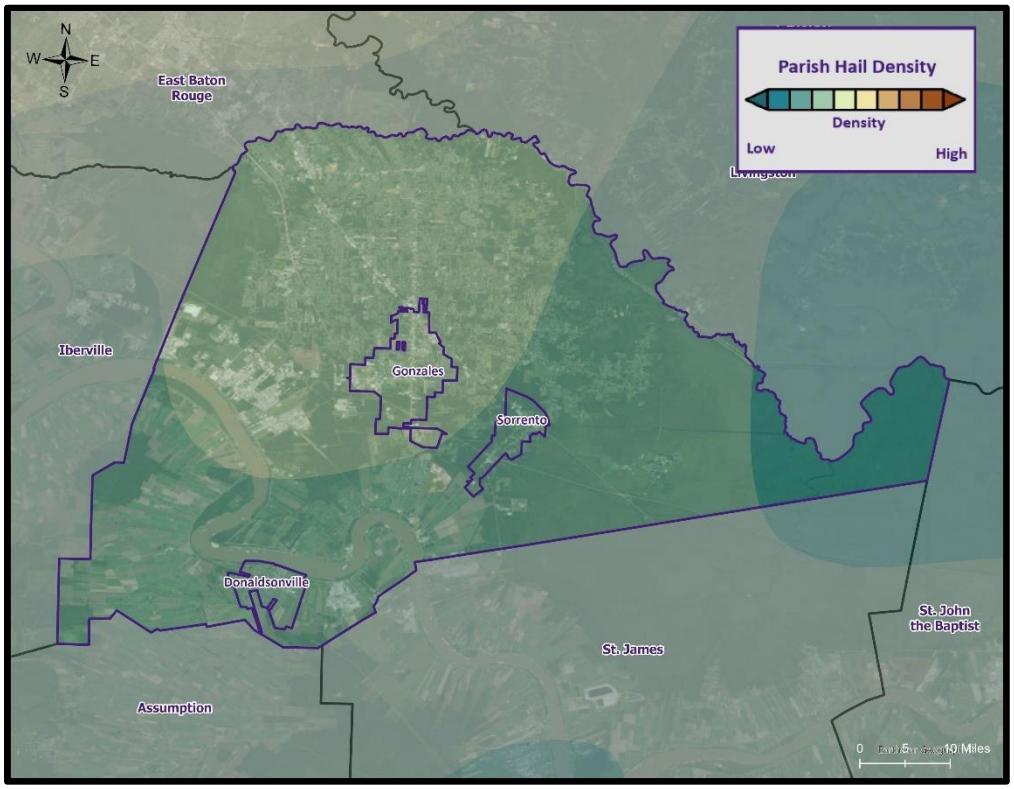


Figure 2-32: Density of Hailstorms by Diameter from 1950-2019.

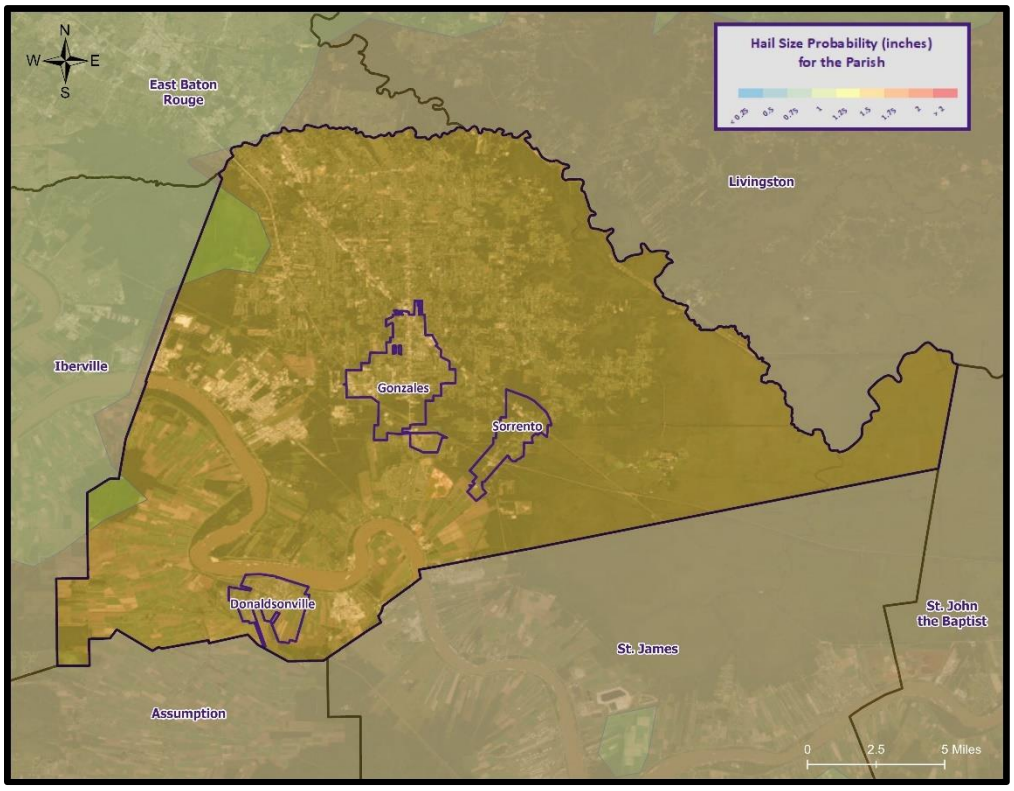


Figure 2-33: Hail Size Probability in Inches for Ascension Parish.

Lightning Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

Because lightning strikes are a climatological based occurrence that can occur anywhere, the entire planning area is at risk from lightning strikes. The worst-case scenario for lightning incidents is a lightning activity level of 4 which is approximately 16 to 25 lightning strikes every 15 minutes.

Previous Occurrences

The parish experienced six lightning occurrences between the years 1996 and 2023. Since the last update, there have been no significant lightning occurrences within the boundaries of the parish.

Probability

The annual return rate (frequency) for lightning occurrences in the parish is 0.21 (21% annual probability) or approximately 1 lightning occurrence every 4 to 5 years.

Thunderstorm Wind Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

Because thunderstorm winds are a climatological-based occurrence that can occur anywhere, the entire planning area is at risk from thunderstorm wind. The worst-case scenario for thunderstorm wind occurrences is hail wind speeds of approximately 90 knots.

Previous Occurrences

The parish experienced 72 thunderstorm wind occurrences between the years 1996 and 2024. Since the last update, there have been 20 thunderstorm wind occurrences within the boundaries of the parish.

Table 2-59: Historical Thunderstorm Wind Occurrences in Ascension Parish since the Last Update.

Date	Magnitude (knots)	Property Damage	Crop Damage	Fatalities	Injuries
4/9/2020	52	$10000	$0	0	0
6/25/2020	52	$5000	$0	0	0
12/24/2020	50	$10000	$0	0	0
4/10/2021	50	$1000	$0	0	0
4/10/2021	50	$0	$0	0	0
4/13/2021	50	$0	$0	0	0
4/24/2021	50	$1000	$0	0	0
4/24/2021	50	$3000	$0	0	0
5/17/2021	50	$3000	$0	0	0
5/6/2023	52	$3000	$0	0	0
5/6/2023	52	$3000	$0	0	0
5/6/2023	52	$0	$0	0	0
5/6/2023	52	$0	$0	0	0
6/17/2023	50	$3000	$0	0	0
7/17/2023	50	$1000	$0	0	0
8/26/2023	52	$1000	$0	0	0
9/7/2023	52	$1500	$0	0	0
3/15/2024	52	$1500	$0	0	0
5/13/2024	70	$10000	$0	0	0
5/13/2024	61	$5000	$0	0	0

Probability

The annual return rate (frequency) for thunderstorm wind occurrences in the parish is 2.57 (100% annual probability) or approximately two to three thunderstorm wind events every year. The following figure displays the thunderstorm wind speed probability for the parish.

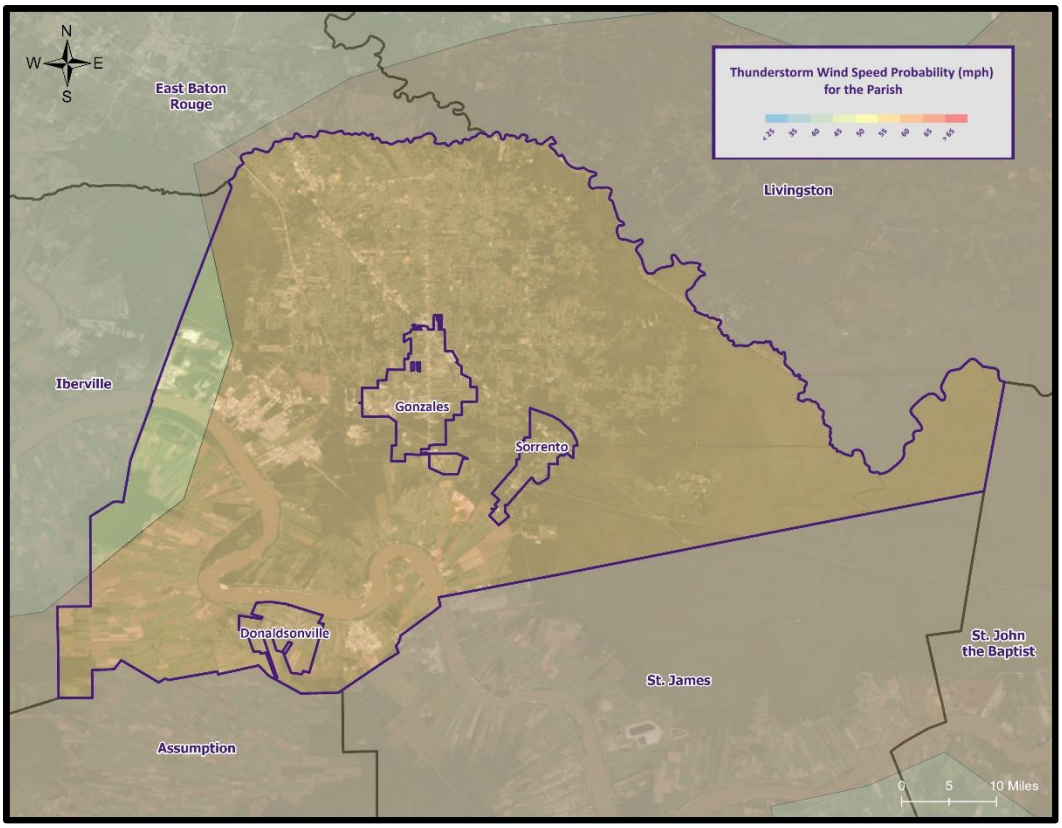


Figure 2-34: Thunderstorm High Wind Speed Probability in Miles Per Hour for Ascension Parish.

Hail Vulnerability Analysis

The NRI includes data on the expected annual losses to individual natural hazards, historical losses, and overall risk at the county and Census tract level. The following table provides an overview of each category at the county level for hail.

Table 2-60: National Risk Index (NRI) Summarization of Hail Occurrences for Ascension Parish (Source: National Risk Index)

Expected Annual Losses	Overall Risk Rating
Relatively Low	Relatively Low

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

Since 1996, there have been 28 significant hail occurrences in Ascension Parish per the NCEI Storm Events Database. The total property damage associated with these storms totaled approximately $50,000. To estimate the potential losses on an annual basis, the total damages recorded were divided by the total number of years of available data in the NCEI Storm Events Database (1996 – 2023). This provides an annual estimated potential loss of $1,724 and $1,667 per event. The table on the next page provides an estimate of potential property losses for the Parish.

Table 2-61: Estimated Annual Property Losses in Ascension Parish resulting from Hail Damage.

Estimated Annual Potential Losses Due to Hail Damage			
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	**Donaldsonville**	**Gonzales**	**Sorrento**
$1,446	$91	$167	$21

Vulnerable Population

Per the NCEI Storm Events Database, there have been no reported injuries or fatalities as a result of hail.

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-62: Hail Vulnerability Score for Ascension Parish.

Hail Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	**Impact**	**Spatial Extent**	**Warning Time**	**Duration**	**Risk Factor**
Risk Level	4	2	3	3	1	2.7

Lightning Vulnerability Analysis

The NRI includes data on the expected annual losses to individual natural hazards, historical losses, and overall risk at the county and Census tract level. The following table provides an overview of each category at the county level for lightning.

Table 2-63: National Risk Index (NRI) Summarization of Lightning Occurrences for Ascension Parish (Source: National Risk Index)

Expected Annual Losses	Overall Risk Rating
Relatively High	Relatively High

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

Since 1996, there have been six significant lightning occurrences per the NCEI Storm Events Database. The total property damage associated with this storm totaled approximately $120,000. To estimate the potential losses on an annual basis, the total damages recorded were divided by the total number of years of available data in the NCEI Storm Events Database (1996 – 2023). This provides an annual estimated potential loss of $4,286 and $7,500 per event. The following table provides an estimate of potential property losses for the Parish:

Table 2-64: Estimated Annual Property Losses in Ascension Parish resulting from Lightning Damage.

Estimated Annual Potential Losses Due to Lightning			
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	**Donaldsonville**	**Gonzales**	**Sorrento**
$359	$23	$41	$5

Vulnerable Population

Per the NCEI Storm Events Database, there have been no reported fatalities or injuries as a result of lightning.

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-65: Lightning Vulnerability Score for Ascension Parish.

Lightning Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	Risk Factor
Risk Level	3	2	2	3	1	2.25

Thunderstorm Wind Vulnerability Analysis

The NRI includes data on the expected annual losses to individual natural hazards, historical losses, and overall risk at the county and Census tract level. The following table provides an overview of each category at the county level for thunderstorm wind.

Table 2-66: National Risk Index (NRI) Summarization of Thunderstorm Wind Occurrences for Ascension Parish. (Source: National Risk Index)

Expected Annual Losses	Overall Risk Rating
Very Low	Very Low

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

Since 1996, there have been 72 significant thunderstorm wind occurrences per the NCEI Storm Events Database. The total property damage associated with these storms totaled approximately $552,100. To estimate the potential losses on an annual basis, the total damages recorded were divided by the total number of years of available data in the NCEI Storm Events Database (1996 – 2023). This provides an annual estimated potential loss of $19,038 and $6,652 per event. The following table provides an estimate of potential property losses for the Parish:

Table 2-67: Estimated Annual Property Losses in Ascension Parish resulting from Thunderstorm Wind Damage.

Estimated Annual Potential Losses Due to Thunderstorm Winds			
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	Donaldsonville	Gonzales	Sorrento
$15,962	$1,008	$1,841	$228

Vulnerable Population

Per the NCEI Storm Events Database, there have been no reported fatalities or injuries as a result of thunderstorm winds.

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-68: Thunderstorm Wind Vulnerability Score for Ascension Parish.

Thunderstorm Wind Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	Risk Factor
Risk Level	4	2	3	3	1	2.7

Tornadoes

Profile

Tornadoes (also called twisters or cyclones) are rapidly rotating funnels of wind extending between storm clouds and the ground. Tornadoes and waterspouts form during severe weather occurrences, such as thunderstorms and hurricanes, when cold air overrides a layer of warm air, causing the warm air to rise rapidly. This usually results in a counterclockwise rotation in the northern hemisphere. The updraft of air in tornadoes always rotates because of wind shear (differing speeds of moving air at various heights), and it can rotate in either a clockwise or counterclockwise direction; clockwise rotations (in the northern hemisphere) will sustain the system, at least until other forces cause it to die seconds to minutes later.

Since February 1, 2007, the Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale has been used to classify tornado intensity. The EF Scale classifies tornadoes based on their damage pattern rather than wind speed; wind speed is then derived and estimated. This contrasts with the Saffir-Simpson scale used for hurricane classification, which is based on measured wind speed. The following table shows the EF scale in comparison with the original Fujita (F) Scale, which was used prior to February 1, 2007. When discussing past tornadoes, the scale used at the time of the hazard is used. Damage and adjustment between scales can be made using the following tables.

Table 2-69: Comparison of the Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale to the Fujita (F) Scale.

Wind speed (mph)	**Enhanced Fujita Scale**					
	EF0	**EF1**	**EF2**	**EF3**	**EF4**	**EF5**
	65-85	86-110	111-135	136-165	166-200	>200
	Fujita Scale					
	F0	**F1**	**F2**	**F3**	**F4**	**F5**
	<73	73-112	113-157	158-206	207-260	>261

Table 2-70: Fujita and Enhanced Fujita Tornado Damage Scale.

Scale	Typical Damage
F0/EF0	Light damage. Some damage to chimneys; branches broken off trees; shallow-rooted trees pushed over; sign boards damaged.
F1/EF1	Moderate damage. Peels surface off roofs; mobile homes pushed off foundations or overturned; moving autos blown off roads.
F2/EF2	Considerable damage. Roofs torn off frame houses; mobile homes demolished; boxcars overturned; light-object missiles generated; cars lifted off ground.
F3/EF3	Severe damage. Roofs and some walls torn of well-constructed houses; trains overturned; most trees in Brusly uprooted; heavy cars lifted off the ground and thrown.
F4/EF4	Devastating damage. Well-constructed houses leveled; structures with weak foundations blown away some distance; cars thrown, and large missiles generated.
F5/EF5	Incredible damage. Strong frame houses leveled off foundations and swept away; automobile-sized missiles fly through the air in excess of 100 meters (109 yards); trees debarked; incredible phenomena will occur.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has the ability to issue advisory messages based on forecasts and observations. The following are the advisory messages that may be issued with definitions of each:

- ***Tornado Watch***: Issued to alert people to the possibility of a tornado developing in the area. A tornado has not been spotted but the conditions are favorable for tornadoes to occur.

- ***Tornado Warning***: Issued when a tornado has been spotted or when Doppler radar identifies a distinctive "hook-shaped" area within a thunderstorm line.

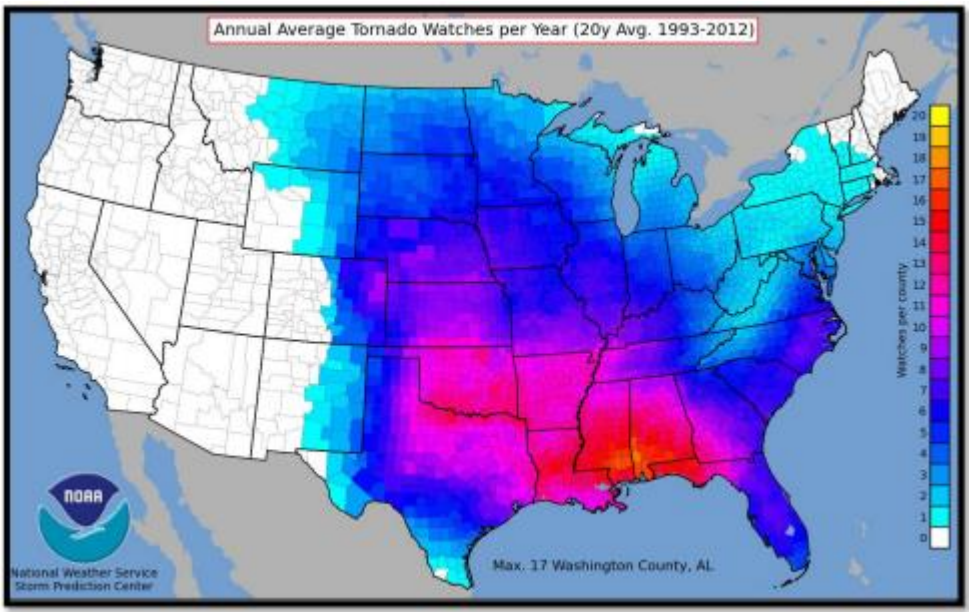


Figure 2-35: County-Level Tornado Watches Issued Per Year on Average. (Source: NOAA SPC)

Structures within the direct path of a tornado vortex are often reduced to rubble. Structures adjacent to the tornado's path are often severely damaged by high winds flowing into the tornado vortex, known as inflow winds. It is here, adjacent to the tornado's path, that the building type and construction techniques are critical to the structure's survival. Although tornadoes strike at random, making all buildings vulnerable, mobile homes, homes with crawlspaces, and buildings with large spans are more likely to suffer damage.

The major health hazard from tornadoes is physical injury from flying debris or being in a collapsed building or mobile home. Within a building, flying debris or projectiles are generally stopped by interior walls. However, if a building has no partitions, any glass, brick, or other debris blown into the interior is life threatening. Following a tornado, damaged buildings are a potential health hazard due to instability, electrical system damage, and gas leaks. Sewage and water lines may also be damaged. Tornadoes have historically impacted all areas of Louisiana.

Peak tornado activity in Louisiana occurs during the spring, as it does in the rest of the United States. Nearly one-third of observed tornadoes in the United States occur during April. About half of those in Louisiana, including many of the strongest, occur between March and June. Fall and winter tornadoes are less frequent, but the distribution of tornadoes throughout the year is more uniform in Louisiana than in locations farther north.

Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

Tornadoes occur sporadically throughout the parish and the occurrence of a tornado in the parish is highly unpredictable making it impossible to forecast the exact time and locations of when a tornado will touch down or

the path it will take. Because of this, the entire planning area is considered equally at risk for a tornadic incident. The worst-cast scenario of a tornado occurrence is an EF3 tornado.

Previous Occurrences

The parish has experienced 17 tornado occurrences between the years 1996 and 2023. Since the last update, there have been no tornado occurrences within the boundaries of the parish.

Probability

The annual return rate (frequency) for tornado occurrences in the parish is 0.63 (63% annual probability) or approximately one tornado occurrence every 1 to 2 years. The following figure displays the tornado density for the parish.

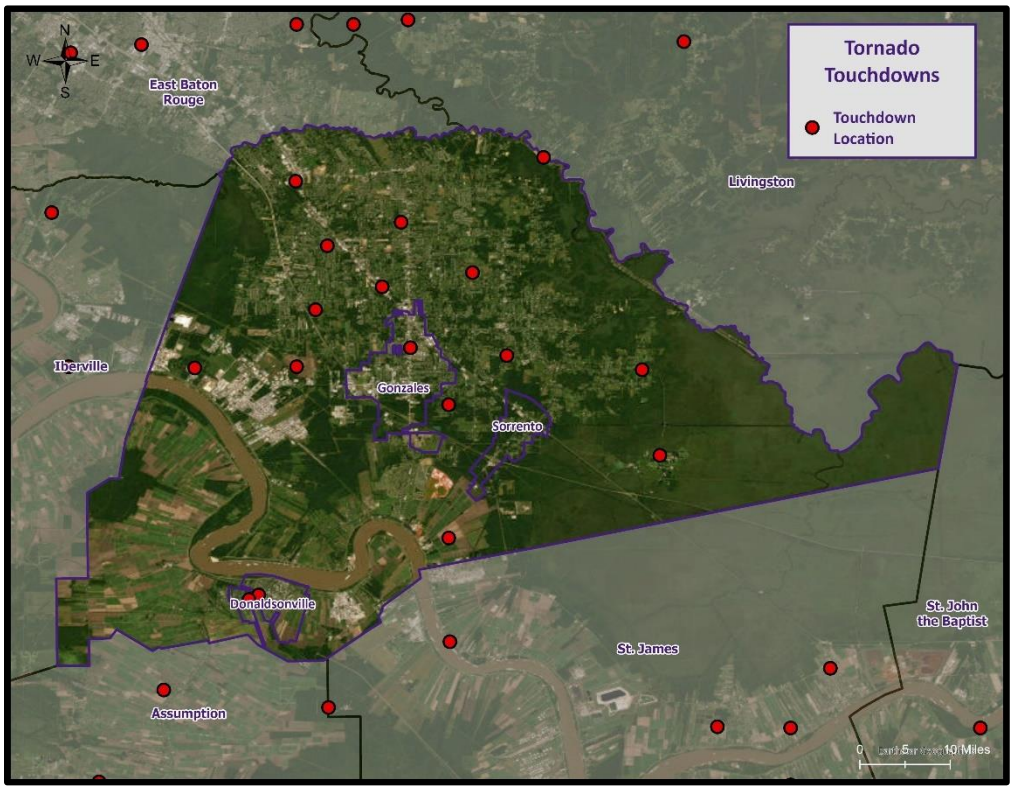


Figure 2-36: Location of Tornadoes to Touchdown in Ascension Parish (Source: NOAA/SPC Severe Weather Database)

Climate Change Impacts

Similar to thunderstorms, the impacts of climate change on the occurrence and strength of tornadoes is not well understood at this time, but is an area of ongoing research. While only about 1% of thunderstorms will produce a tornado, preliminary research and climate models indicate that the environmental suitability for severe thunderstorms, and therefore tornadoes, could increase over the Eastern United States by the end of the century.

Climate change is contributing to the increasing frequency and intensity of tornadoes, leading to significant impacts on both infrastructure and vulnerable populations. As global temperatures rise, the atmosphere becomes more unstable, creating conditions favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Tornadoes are powerful and destructive, capable of causing widespread damage to various types of infrastructure.

One of the most significant impacts of tornadoes on infrastructure is the destruction of buildings and critical facilities. Tornadoes can flatten homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses, leaving communities devastated and in need of urgent assistance. The damage to infrastructure disrupts essential services, such as electricity, water supply, and

communication networks, exacerbating the challenges faced by affected communities during recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Vulnerable populations are particularly at-risk during tornadoes. Low-income communities often live in substandard housing and lack access to proper storm shelters, leaving them more exposed to the destructive forces of tornadoes. Furthermore, elderly individuals and people with disabilities may struggle to seek shelter and escape the path of these fast-moving storms, increasing their vulnerability to injury or death. Tornadoes can also disproportionately affect marginalized communities due to limited access to emergency response services and resources.

Moreover, tornadoes can lead to economic hardships for vulnerable populations. Homes and properties are often uninsured or underinsured in these areas, leaving residents with significant financial burdens after tornadoes strike. As a result, vulnerable communities may face challenges in recovering and rebuilding their lives, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality.

To address the impacts of climate change on infrastructure and vulnerable populations concerning tornadoes, proactive measures are essential. Building tornado-resistant infrastructure and implementing better early warning systems can help minimize the damage caused by tornadoes. For vulnerable populations, providing accessible storm shelters and ensuring access to emergency resources and support are critical to saving lives and reducing the long-term impacts of tornadoes. Additionally, climate change mitigation efforts are crucial to addressing the root causes of tornado intensification, as reducing greenhouse gas emissions can help stabilize the climate and potentially mitigate the future increase in tornado frequency and severity.

Future Hazard Impacts

Population growth and development trends can influence tornado impacts in several ways. As urban areas expand, there is a higher likelihood of tornadoes affecting densely populated regions, increasing the potential for damage and casualties. Urbanization also alters land cover, creating more obstacles and structures that can disrupt tornado paths and increase the likelihood of tornado-related damage to infrastructure. Additionally, changes in land use can affect atmospheric conditions, potentially influencing tornado formation and intensity.

Vulnerability Analysis

The NRI includes data on the expected annual losses to individual natural hazards, historical losses, and overall risk at the county and Census tract level. The following table provides an overview of each category at the county level for tornadoes.

Table 2-71: National Risk Index (NRI) Summarization of Tornado Occurrences for Ascension Parish (Source: National Risk Index)

Expected Annual Losses	Overall Risk Rating
Relatively High	Relatively High

In assessing the overall risk to population, the most vulnerable population throughout the parish are those residing in manufacturing housing. The location and density of manufactured houses can be seen in the following figure.

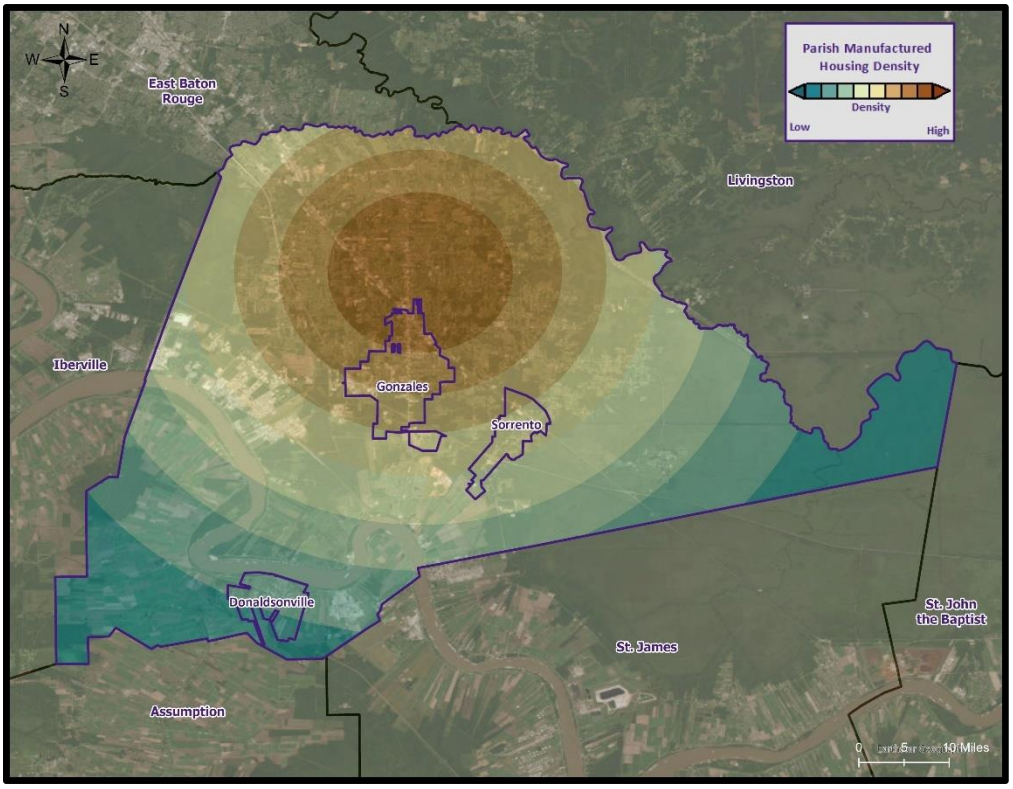


Figure 2-37: Manufacture Home Density in Ascension Parish

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

Since 1996, there have been 13 significant tornado occurrences per the NCEI Storm Events Database. The total property damage associated with these storms totaled approximately $622,520. To estimate the potential losses on an annual basis, the total damages recorded were divided by the total number of years of available data in the NCEI Storm Events Database (1996 – 2023). This provides an annual estimated potential loss of $21,466 and $47,886 per event. The following table provides an estimate of potential property losses for the Parish:

Table 2-72: Estimated Annual Property Losses in Ascension Parish resulting from Tornado Damage.

Estimated Annual Potential Losses Due to Tornadoes			
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	**Donaldsonville**	**Gonzales**	**Sorrento**
$17,998	$1,136	$2,076	$257

The following table presents an analysis of building exposure that are susceptible to tornadoes by general occupancy type for the parish along with the percentage of building stock that are mobile homes.

Table 2-73: Building Exposure by General Occupancy Type for Tornadoes in Ascension Parish. (Source: Hazus)

Building Exposure by General Occupancy Type for Tornadoes - Exposure Types ($1,000)							
Residential	**Commercial**	**Industrial**	**Agricultural**	**Religion**	**Government**	**Education**	**Mobile Homes (%)**
4,318,900	485,150	170,515	7,677	55,636	18,006	26,990	14.8%

Vulnerable Population

Per the NCEI Storm Events Database, there have been no reported fatalities and six injuries as a result of tornadoes. In accessing the overall risk to population, the most vulnerable population throughout the parish are those residing in manufacturing housing. Approximately 14.8% of all housing in the Parish consists of manufactured housing.

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-74: Tornado Vulnerability Score for Ascension Parish.

Tornado Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	Risk Factor
Risk Level	3	3	2	4	3	2.95

Tropical Cyclones

Profile

Hurricanes, typhoons, and cyclones are names for powerful tropical storms in which winds rotate around a closed circulation of low-pressure. In the Atlantic and eastern Pacific basins, they are known as hurricanes, in Asia (western Pacific) they are known as typhoons, and in Australia they are called cyclones. In the Northern Hemisphere, hurricane winds rotate in a counterclockwise direction (clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere). The key energy source for a hurricane is the release of latent heat energy from condensation.

This energy is found where there is a deep layer of warm water to fuel the system. Conditions for hurricane formation include warm waters, rotational force from the earth's spin (Coriolis Effect), and the absence of vertical wind shear (stability in the lower atmosphere). Tropical disturbances that affect North America typically originate off the west coast of Africa. If the tropical disturbance reduces in pressure and starts to rotate around a low pressure center, it may turn into a tropical depression. Barometric pressure (measured in millibars or inches) continues to fall in the center as these storm systems develop in intensity. When sustained wind speeds reach 39 mph, the system becomes a tropical storm and is given a name by the National Hurricane Center. When sustained wind speeds reach 74 mph, it becomes a hurricane. Hurricanes are much larger and powerful storms with an average diameter of 350 miles. The start of the official Atlantic hurricane season is June 1st and ends November 30th. Peak hurricane season is August and September in the Northern Hemisphere, when water temperatures and evaporation rates are greatest. Associated with these storms are damaging winds, heavy precipitation, and tornadoes. Coastal areas are also vulnerable to storm surge, wind-driven waves, and tidal flooding, which can cause more destruction than cyclone winds.

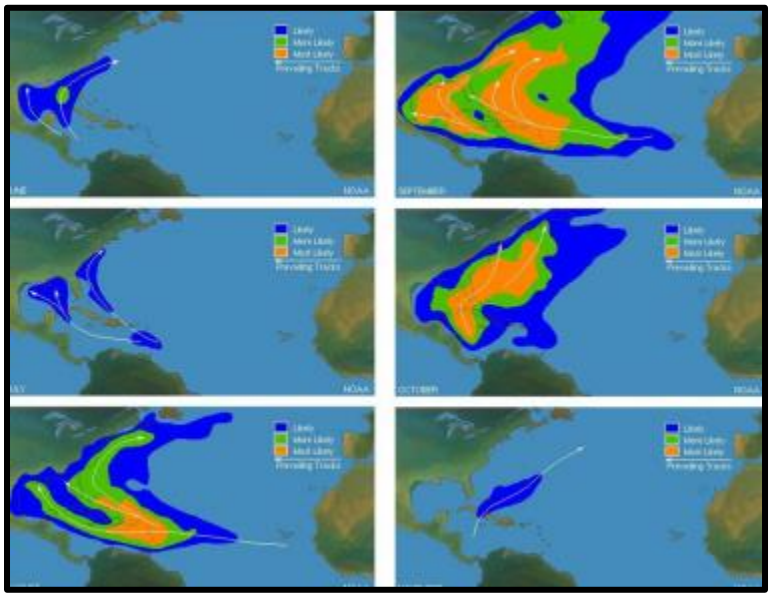


Figure 2-38: Areas of Likely Tropical Cyclone Formation and Tracking (Source: NOAA NHC)

Hurricane intensity is classified by the Saffir-Simpson Scale, which categorizes hurricane intensity based upon maximum sustained wind speeds on a scale of one to five, with five being the most intense. Typically, higher category hurricanes have lower pressure and greater storm surge. Categories three, four, and five are classified as "major" hurricanes, and while hurricanes within this range comprise only 20 percent of total landfalls, they account for over 70 percent of the damage incurred in the United States. Hurricane (Category 1 or higher) return periods are shown in the figure on the following page.

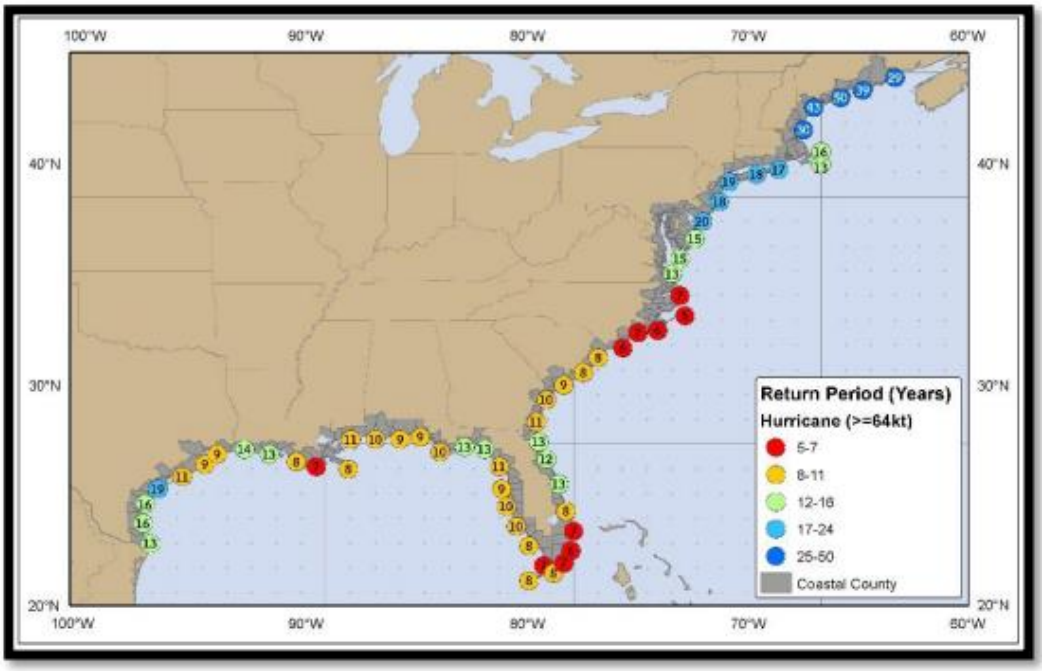


Figure 2-39: Hurricane Return Periods for the Atlantic Basin (USA (Source: NOAA NHC)

Table 2-75: Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale			
Category	**Sustained Winds**	**Pressure**	**Types of Damage Due to Winds**
Tropical Depression	<39 mph	N/A	N/A
Tropical Cyclone	39-73 mph	N/A	N/A
1	74-95 mph	>14.2 psi	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage. Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding, and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap, and shallow-rooted trees may be toppled, especially after the soil becomes waterlogged. Extensive damage to power lines and poles will likely result in power outages that could last several days.
2	96-110 mph	14-14.2 psi	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage. Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallow-rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted, especially after the soil becomes waterlogged, and block numerous roads. Near total power loss is expected, with outages that could last from several days to weeks.
3	111-129 mph	13.7 -14 psi	Devastating damage will occur. Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, especially after the soil becomes waterlogged, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water may be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.
4	130-156 mph	13.3-13.7 psi	Catastrophic damage will occur. Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted, especially after the soil becomes waterlogged, and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
5	157 mph or higher	<13.7 psi	Catastrophic damage will occur. A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks to months.

Storm surge is elevated water level that is pushed towards the shore by the force of strong winds that result in the piling up of water. The advancing surge combines with the normal tides, which in extreme cases can increase the normal water height over 20 feet. The storm surge arrives ahead of the storm's actual landfall and the more intense the hurricane is, the sooner the surge arrives. Water rise can be very rapid and can move far inland, posing a serious threat to those who have not yet evacuated flood-prone areas. Debris carried by the waves can also contribute to the devastation. As the storm approaches shore, the greatest storm surge will be to the north of the hurricane eye, in the right-front quadrant of the direction in which the hurricane is moving. Such a surge of high water topped by waves driven by hurricane force winds can be devastating to coastal regions, causing severe beach erosion and property damage along the immediate coast. Storm sure heights, and associated waves, are dependent upon the shape of the continental shelf (narrow or wide) and the depth of the ocean bottom (bathymetry). A narrow shelf, or one that drops steeply from the shoreline and subsequently produces deep water close to the shoreline, tends to produce a lower surge but higher and more powerful storm waves. While disassociated with the Saffir-Simpson Scale, storm surge remains the leading killer of residents along immediate coastal areas. Researchers at the Southern Regional Climate Center have indicated that hurricane strength at approximately 12-18 hours prior to landfall is a better indicator of storm surge strength (compared to wind speeds at landfall).

Many other associated hazards can occur during a hurricane, including heavy rains, flooding, high winds, and tornadoes. A general rule of thumb in coastal Louisiana is that the number of inches of rainfall to be expected from a tropical cyclone is approximately 100 divided by the forward velocity of the storm in mph; so, a fast-moving storm (20 mph) might be expected to drop five inches of rain while a slow-moving (5 mph) storm could produce totals of around 20 inches. However, no two storms are alike, and such generalizations have limited utility for planning purposes.

Hurricane Beulah, which struck Texas in 1967, spawned 115 confirmed tornadoes. In recent years, extensive coastal development has increased the storm surge resulting from these storms so much that this has become the greatest natural hazard threat to property and loss of life in the state. Storm surge is a temporary rise in sea level generally caused by reduced air pressure and strong onshore winds associated with a storm system near the coast. Although storm surge can technically occur at any time of the year in Louisiana, surges caused by hurricanes can be particularly deadly and destructive. Such storm surge events are often accompanied by large, destructive waves (exceeding ten meters in some places) that can inflict a high number of fatalities and economic losses. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina clearly demonstrated the destructive potential of this hazard, as it produced the highest modern-day storm surge levels in the State of Louisiana, reaching up to 18.7 feet near Alluvial City in St. Bernard Parish.

Property can be damaged by the various forces that accompany a tropical cyclone. High winds can directly impact structures in three ways: wind forces, flying debris, and pressure. By itself, the force of the wind can knock over trees, break tree limbs, and destroy loose items, such as television antennas and power lines. Many things can be moved by high winds. As winds increase, so does the pressure against stationary objects. Pressure against a wall rises with the square of the wind speed. For some structures, this force is enough to cause failure. The potential for damage to structures is increased when debris breaks the building "envelope" and allows the wind pressure to impact all surfaces (the building envelope includes all surfaces that make up the barrier between the indoors and the outdoors, such as the walls, foundation, doors, windows, and roof). Mobile homes and buildings in need of maintenance are most subject to wind damage. High winds mean bigger waves. Extended pounding by waves can demolish any poorly or improperly designed structures. The waves also erode sand beaches, roads, and foundations. When foundations are compromised, the building will collapse.

Nine out of ten deaths during hurricanes are caused by storm surge flooding. Falling tree limbs and flying debris caused by high winds have the ability to cause injury or death. Downed trees and damaged buildings are a potential health hazard due to instability, electrical system damage, broken pipelines, chemical releases, and gas leaks. Sewage and water lines may also be damaged. Salt water and freshwater intrusions from storm surge send animals, such as snakes, into areas occupied by humans.

Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

Tropical cyclones typically impact multiple regions and not one specific jurisdiction or campus. Because of this, all of the planning area is susceptible to the effects of tropical cyclones. Tropical cyclones are the single biggest threat to all of South Louisiana. With any single tropical cyclone event having the potential to devastate multiple parishes at once, tropical cyclones are a significant threat to the entire parish planning area. The worst-case scenario for a tropical cyclone event in the parish is a category 3 hurricane.

Previous Occurrences

The parish experienced 14 tropical cyclone occurrences between the years 2002 and 2023. Since the last update, there have been three notable tropical cyclone occurrences within the boundaries of the parish.

Table 2-76: Historical Tropical Cyclone Occurrences in Ascension Parish since the Last Update. (Source: NCEI Storm Events Database)

Date	Magnitude	Name	Property Damage	Crop Damage	Fatalities	Injuries
10/9/2020	Tropical Storm	Delta	$1,000,000	$0	0	0
10/28/2020	Tropical Storm	Zeta	$500,000	$0	1	0
8/29/2021	Category 2	Ida	$100,000,000	$0	0	0

The following figure displays historical hurricanes that have impacted the parish in the past:

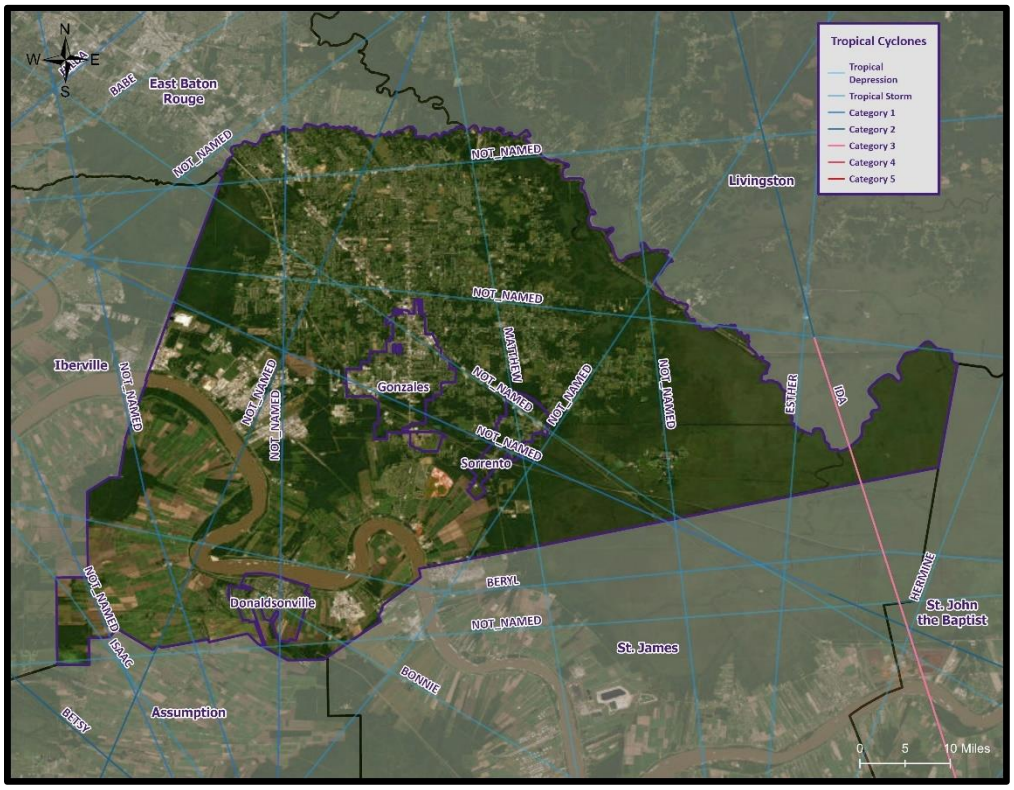


Figure 2-40: Historical Tropical Cyclones Impacting the Parish.

Probability

The annual return rate (frequency) for tropical cyclone occurrences in the parish is 0.61 (61% annual probability) or approximately 1 tropical cyclone occurrence every 1 to 2 years.

Climate Change Impacts

Climate change has the potential to alter the prevalence and severity of extreme incidents such as tropical cyclones. Louisiana is expected to experience more days with temperatures above 95°F this century which means an increase in sea surface and ambient temperatures, alterations in the hydrological cycle, and an increase in seal level which collectively may increase the frequency of large storm incidents and impacts. Research indicates that the warming climate will increase the frequency of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes but decrease the frequency of less severe tropical cyclone incidents by the end of the century. This increase in the frequency of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes will lead to an increase in damage to the built environment and increased negative effects on the economy and ecosystem.

Climate change is amplifying the impacts of tropical cyclones on both infrastructure and vulnerable populations, making them more frequent and severe. As ocean temperatures rise due to global warming, tropical cyclones have access to greater energy, leading to stronger and more destructive storms. The intensification of cyclones poses significant risks to infrastructure located in coastal regions.

One of the primary impacts of tropical cyclones on infrastructure is the damage caused by strong winds and storm surges. Cyclones can rip apart buildings, topple power lines, and uproot trees, leading to widespread destruction of homes, businesses, and public facilities. Coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to storm surges, which can inundate low-lying regions and cause severe flooding, damaging roads, bridges, and critical lifeline infrastructure such as water and sewage systems.

Vulnerable populations face disproportionate risks during tropical cyclones, especially in low-lying coastal communities. People with limited mobility, the elderly, and low-income households often lack resources and access to evacuation options, making them more susceptible to the devastating impacts of cyclones. Displacement, property damage, and loss of livelihoods are common consequences for vulnerable populations affected by cyclones, exacerbating existing social inequalities and pushing them further into hardship.

Moreover, tropical cyclones can have long-lasting effects on the mental and physical health of vulnerable populations. The trauma caused by experiencing such extreme weather events can lead to long-term psychological distress. Lack of access to healthcare and resources after cyclones can also result in a higher risk of waterborne diseases and malnutrition for vulnerable communities.

To mitigate the impacts of climate change on infrastructure and vulnerable populations concerning tropical cyclones, several actions are crucial. Investing in more resilient infrastructure that can withstand stronger storms and higher storm surges is essential to minimize damage and ensure the continuity of critical services. Enhancing early warning systems and evacuation plans can save lives and improve the preparedness of vulnerable populations. Additionally, providing social safety nets and support to vulnerable communities can aid in their recovery and reduce the long-term impacts of cyclones on their well-being. Mitigating climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions is also vital to curbing the intensification of tropical cyclones and protecting both infrastructure and vulnerable populations from their devastating effects.

Future Hazard Impacts

Hazard impacts for flood and tropical cyclones were estimated for the years 2025 and 2030. Yearly population and housing decline rates were applied to parish inventory assets for composite floods and tropical cyclones. Based on a review of available information, it is assumed that population and housing units will decrease within the parish from the present until 2030. A summary of estimated future impacts is shown in the table below. Dollar values are expressed in future costs and assume an annual rate of inflation of 1.02%

Table 2-77: Estimated Future Impacts, 2020 - 2030.
(Source: Hazus, US Census Bureau)

Hazard / Impact	Total in Parish (2020)	Hazard Area (2020)	Hazard Area (2025)	Hazard Area (2030)
Tropical Cyclone Damage				
Structures	54,811	54,811	55,196	55,472
Value of Structures	$5,082,874,000	$5,082,874,000	$5,495,401,597	$5,810,408,198
# of People	131,632	131,632	141,267	148,577

Vulnerability Analysis

The NRI includes data on the expected annual losses to individual natural hazards, historical losses, and overall risk at the county and Census tract level. The following table provides an overview of each category at the county level for tropical cyclones.

Table 2-78: National Risk Index (NRI) Summarization of Tropical Cyclone Occurrences for Ascension Parish
(Source: National Risk Index)

Expected Annual Losses	Overall Risk Rating
Relatively High	Relatively High

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

Using Hazus 100-Year Hurricane Model, the 100-year hurricane scenario was analyzed to determine losses from this worst-case scenario. The following table shows the total economic losses that would result from this occurrence.

Table 2-79: Total Estimated Losses for a 100-Year Hurricane Event
(Source: Hazus)

Jurisdiction	Estimated Total Losses from 100-Year Hurricane Event
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	$133,445,279
Donaldsonville	$8,423,686
Gonzales	$15,389,112
Sorrento	$1,904,923

Total losses from a 100-year hurricane event for the parish were compared with the total value of assets to determine the ratio of potential damage to total inventory in the table below.

Table 2-80: Ratio of Total Losses to Total Estimated Value of Assets for Ascension Parish. (Source: Hazus)

Jurisdiction	Estimated Total Losses from 100-Year Hurricane Event	Total Estimated Value of Assets	Ratio of Estimated Losses to Total Value
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	$133,445,279	$4,355,000,000	3.1%
Donaldsonville	$8,423,686	$229,428,000	3.7%
Gonzales	$15,389,112	$400,626,000	3.8%
Sorrento	$1,904,923	$48,910,000	3.9%

Based on the Hazus Hurricane Model, estimated total losses for the parish range from 3.1% to 3.9% of the total estimated value of all assets.

The Hazus Hurricane Model also provides a breakdown for seven primary sectors (Hazus occupancy) throughout the parish. The losses for the parish by sector are listed in the tables on the following pages.

Table 2-81: Estimated Losses in Unincorporated Ascension Parish for a 100-Year Hurricane Event (Source: Hazus)

Unincorporated Ascension Parish	Estimated Total Losses from 100-Year Hurricane Event
Agricultural	$692,534
Commercial	$14,606,097
Government	$736,970
Industrial	$6,029,909
Religious / Non-Profit	$1,773,256
Residential	$108,925,716
Schools	$680,796
Total	**$133,445,279**

Table 2-82: Estimated Losses in Donaldsonville for a 100-Year Hurricane Event (Source: Hazus)

Donaldsonville	Estimated Total Losses from 100-Year Hurricane Event
Agricultural	$43,716
Commercial	$922,005
Government	$46,521
Industrial	$380,636
Religious / Non-Profit	$111,936
Residential	$6,875,897
Schools	$42,975
Total	**$8,423,686**

Table 2-83: Estimated Losses in Gonzales for a 100-Year Hurricane Event (Source: Hazus)

Gonzales	Estimated Total Losses from 100-Year Hurricane Event
Agricultural	$79,864
Commercial	$1,684,397
Government	$84,989
Industrial	$695,378
Religious / Non-Profit	$204,495
Residential	$12,561,479
Schools	$78,510
Total	**$15,389,112**

Table 2-84: Estimated Losses in Sorrento for a 100-Year Hurricane Event (Source: Hazus)

Sorrento	Estimated Total Losses from 100-Year Hurricane Event
Agricultural	$9,886
Commercial	$208,501
Government	$10,520
Industrial	$86,077
Religious / Non-Profit	$25,313
Residential	$1,554,908
Schools	$9,718
Total	**$1,904,923**

The following figure displays the wind zones that affect the parish in relation to critical facilities throughout the parish:

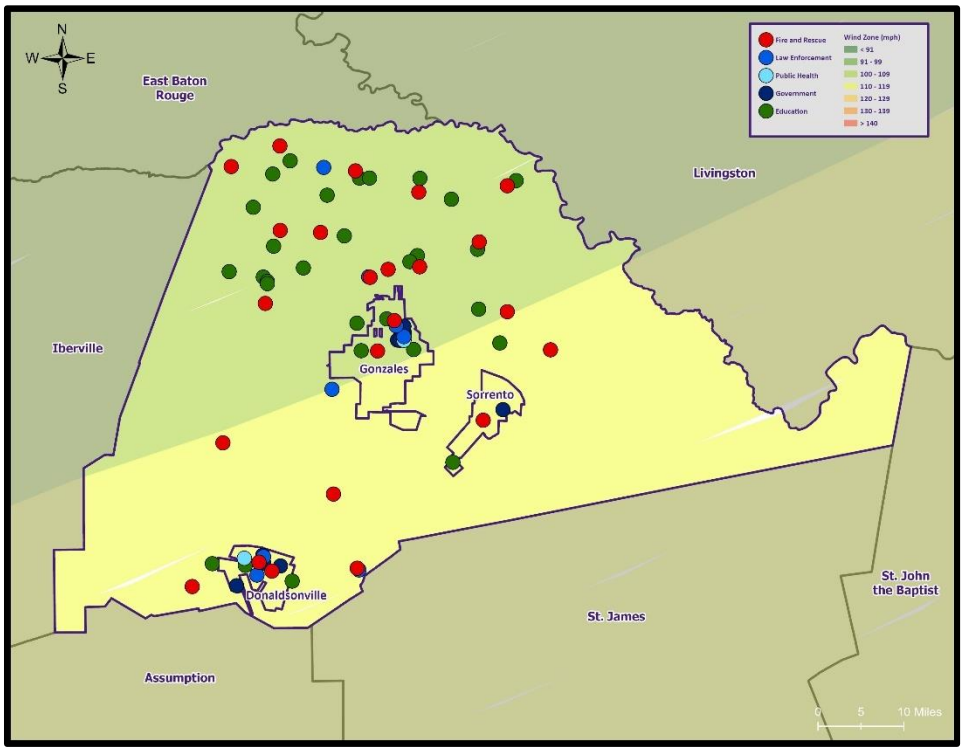


Figure 2-41: Winds Zones for Ascension Parish in Relation to Critical Facilities

Vulnerable Population

The total population within the parish that is susceptible to a tropical cyclone hazard is shown in the table below:

Table 2-85: Number of People Susceptible to a 100-Year Hurricane Event in Ascension Parish (Source: Hazus)

Number of People Exposed to Hurricane Hazards			
Location	**# in Community**	**# in Hazard Area**	**% in Hazard Area**
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	106,060	106,060	100.0%
Donaldsonville	6,695	6695	100.0%
Gonzales	12,231	12231	100.0%
Sorrento	1,514	1514	100.0%

The Hazus hurricane model was also extrapolated to provide an overview of vulnerable populations throughout the parish. These populations are illustrated in the following tables:

Table 2-86: Vulnerable Populations in Unincorporated Ascension Parish for a 100-Year Hurricane Event (Source: Hazus)

Unincorporated Ascension Parish		
Category	**Total Numbers**	**Percentage of People in Hazard Area**
Number in Hazard Area	106,060	100.0%
Persons Under 5 Years	8,304	7.8%
Persons Under 18 Years	22,124	20.9%
Persons 65 Years and Over	9,397	8.9%
White	77,721	73.3%
Minority	28,339	26.7%

Table 2-87: Vulnerable Populations in Donaldsonville for a 100-Year Hurricane Event (Source: Hazus)

Donaldsonville		
Category	**Total Numbers**	**Percentage of People in Hazard Area**
Number in Hazard Area	6,695	100.0%
Persons Under 5 Years	608	9.1%
Persons Under 18 Years	1,352	20.2%
Persons 65 Years and Over	861	12.9%
White	1,533	22.9%
Minority	5,162	77.1%

Table 2-88: Vulnerable Populations in Gonzales for a 100-Year Hurricane Event (Source: Hazus)

Gonzales		
Category	**Total Numbers**	**Percentage of People in Hazard Area**
Number in Hazard Area	12,231	100.0%
Persons Under 5 Years	870	7.1%
Persons Under 18 Years	2,219	18.1%
Persons 65 Years and Over	1,493	12.2%
White	5,968	48.8%
Minority	6,263	51.2%

Table 2-89: Vulnerable Populations in Sorrento for a 100-Year Hurricane Event (Source: Hazus)

Sorrento		
Category	**Total Numbers**	**Percentage of People in Hazard Area**
Number in Hazard Area	1,514	100.0%
Persons Under 5 Years	106	7.0%
Persons Under 18 Years	290	19.1%
Persons 65 Years and Over	190	12.6%
White	1,228	81.1%
Minority	286	18.9%

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-90: Tropical Cyclone Vulnerability Score for Ascension Parish.

Tropical Cyclone Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	**Impact**	**Spatial Extent**	**Warning Time**	**Duration**	**Risk Factor**
Risk Level	3	4	4	1	4	3.3

Wildfires

Profile

A wildfire is combustion in a natural setting, marked by flames or intense heat. Most frequently, wildfires are ignited by lightning or unintentionally by humans. Fires set purposefully (but lawfully) are referred to as controlled fires or burns. There are three different types of wildfires: (1) Ground fires burn primarily in the thick layers of organic matter directly on the forest floor and even within the soil. Ground fires destroy root networks, peat, and compact litter. These fires spread extremely slowly and can smolder for months. (2) Surface fires burn litter (e.g., leaves, small sticks) and vegetative matter in the underbrush of a forest. (3) Crown fires spread rapidly by wind and move quickly by jumping along the tops of trees. There are two types of crown fires: (a) passive (or dependent) crown fires rely on heat transfer from surface fire, whereas (b) active (or independent) crown fires do not require any heat transfer from below. Active crown fires tend to occur with greater tree density and drier conditions. A firestorm is a mass crown fire (also called a running crown fire, area fire, or conflagration). They are large, continuous, intense fires that lead to violent convection. They are characterized by destructively violent surface in-drafts near and beyond their perimeter. Crown fires are the most damaging and most difficult to contain. The intensity of crown fires enables the fire to produce its own wind gusts. These so-called fire whirls can move embers ahead of the fire front and ignite new fires. Fire whirls are spinning vortex columns of ascending hot air and gases rising from the fire. Large fire whirls have the intensity of a small tornado.

The conditions conducive to the occurrence of wildfires are not distributed equally across the United States. Wildfires have a much greater likelihood of occurring in the western part of the country. Although less frequent than in other areas, wildfires do occur in Louisiana. Wildfire danger can vary greatly from season to season, and is exacerbated by dry weather conditions. Factors that increase susceptibility to wildfires are the availability of fuel (e.g., litter and debris), topography (i.e., slope and elevation affect various factors like precipitation, fuel amount, and wind exposure), and specific meteorological conditions (e.g., low rainfall, high temperatures, low relative humidity, and winds). The potential for wildfire is often measured by the Keetch–Byram Drought Index (KBDI), which represents the net effect of evapotranspiration and precipitation in producing cumulative moisture deficiency in the soil. The KBDI aims to measure the amount of precipitation needed to return soil to its full field capacity, with KBDI values ranging from 0 (moist soil) to 800 (severe drought).

The wildland-urban interface and intermix land cover surface, developed by the SILVIS Lab at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, can be used to determine areas at risk. Wildland-urban interface is defined as the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. This usually includes communities or areas of human development that are within 0.5 miles of the zone. Wildland-urban intermix is defined as areas in which human development is intermixed with wildland fuels. Intermix and interface areas are at risk of wildfires.

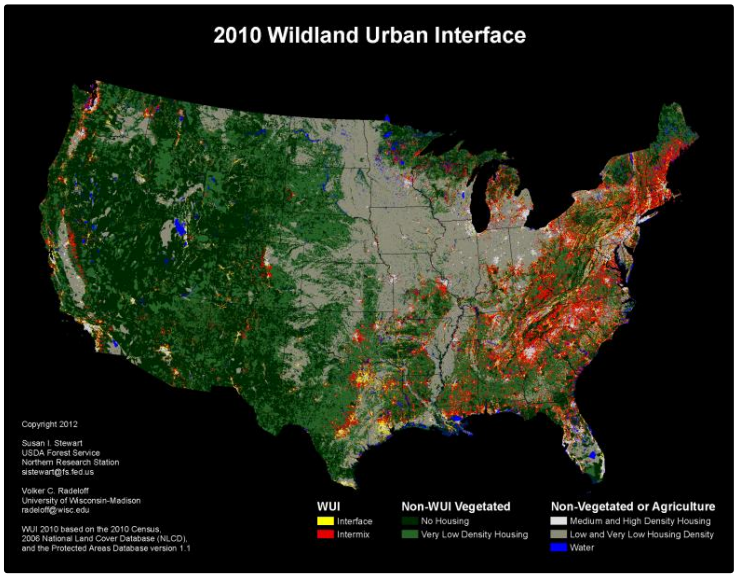


Figure 2-42: Contiguous USA Wildland Urban Interface Map.

According to the State of Louisiana Forestry Division, most forest fires in Louisiana are caused by intentional acts (arson) or carelessness and negligence committed by people, exacerbated by human confrontation with nature. The wildland–urban interface is the area in which development meets wildland vegetation, where both vegetation and the built environment provide fuel for fires. As development near wildland settings continues, more people and property are exposed to wildfire danger.

The Southern Group of State Foresters developed the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal to create awareness among the public and government sectors about the threat of wildfires in their areas. The Southern Wildfire Assessment Portal allows users to identify areas that are most prone to wildfires. The table on the next page summarizes the intensity levels assigned to areas in the Southern Wildfire Assessment Portal.

Table 2-91: Southern Group of State Foresters Wildfire Risk Assessment Fire Intensity Scale. (Source: Southern Wildfire Assessment Portal)

Fire Intensity	
Level	**Definition**
1	Lowest Intensity: Minimal direct wildfire impacts. Location has a minimal chance of being directly impacted by a wildfire.
2	Low Intensity: Small flames usually less than two feet long; small amount of very short-range spotting possible. Fires are easy to suppress.
3	Moderate Intensity: Flames up to eight feet in length; short-range spotting is possible.
4	High Intensity: Large flames up to 30 feet in length; short-range spotting common; medium range spotting possible.
5	Highest Intensity: Very large flames up to 150 feet in length; profuse short-range spotting, frequent long-range spotting; strong fire induced winds.

Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

Wildfires impact areas that are populated with forests and grasslands. The worst-case scenario for the unincorporated area of the parish is a level 5, Donaldsonville is a level 1, Gonzales is a level 1, and Sorrento is a level 1. The figures on the following pages display the areas of wildland-urban interface and intermix in the Parish and the jurisdictions.

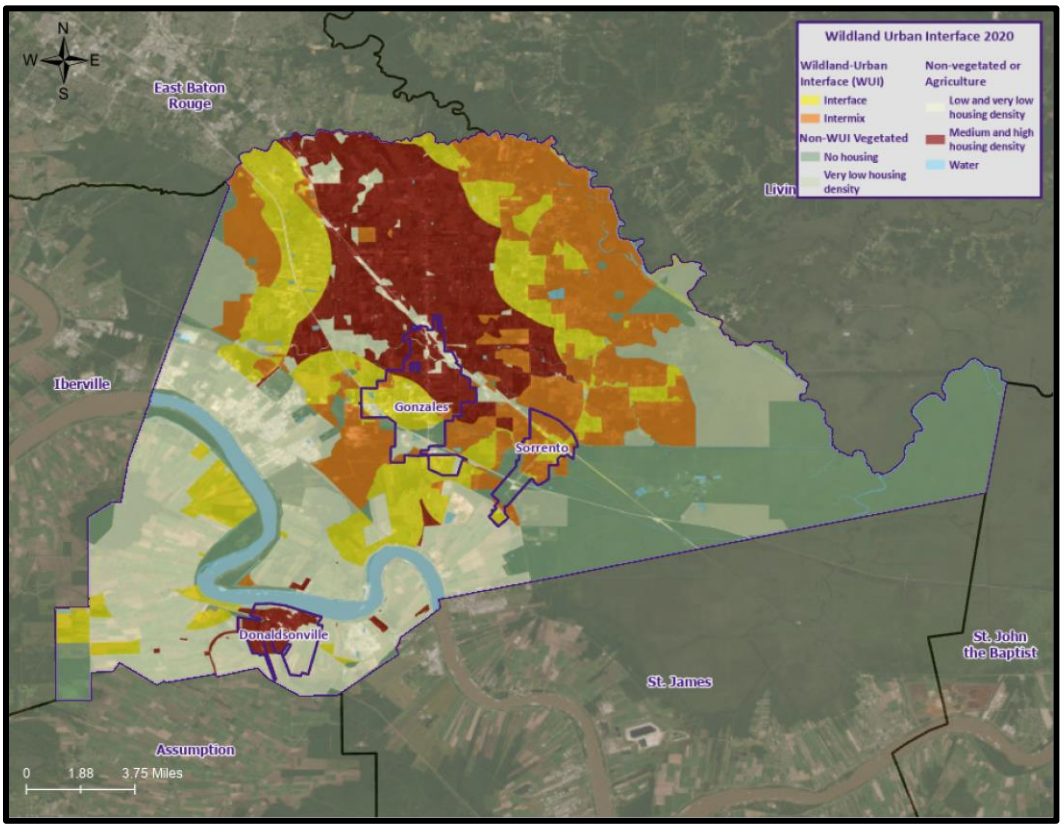


Figure 2-43: Wildland-Urban Interaction in Ascension Parish.

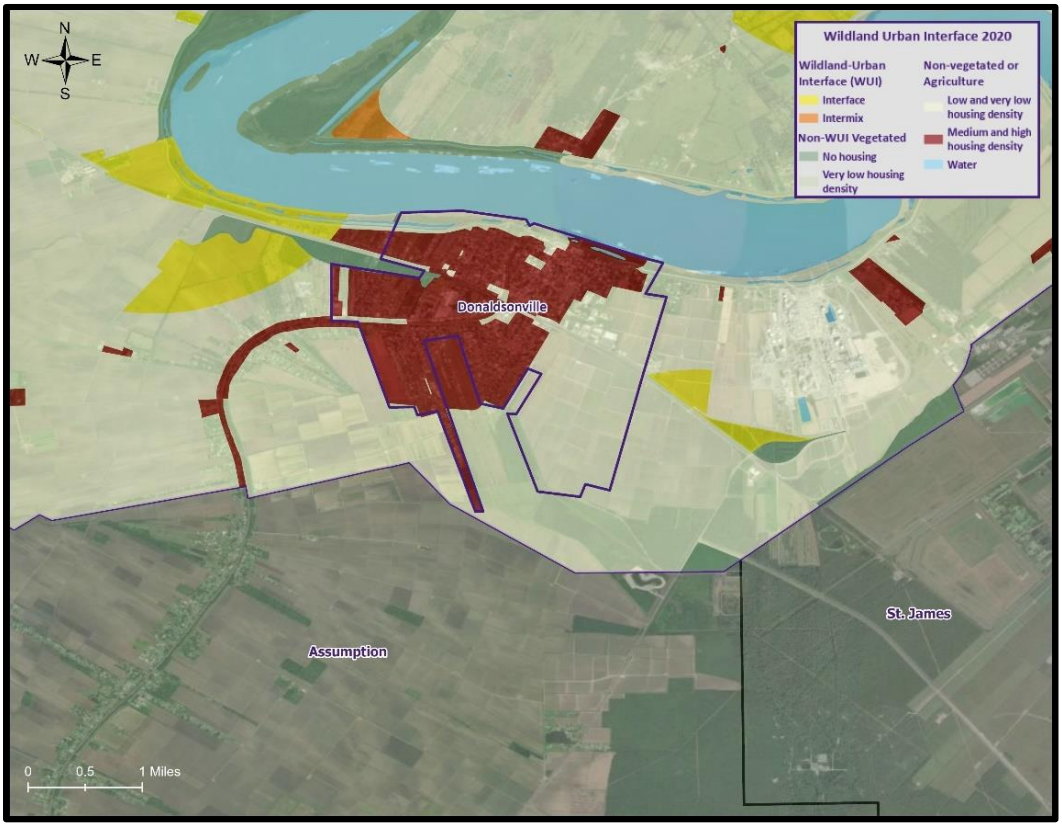


Figure 2-44: Wildland-Urban Interaction in Donaldsonville.

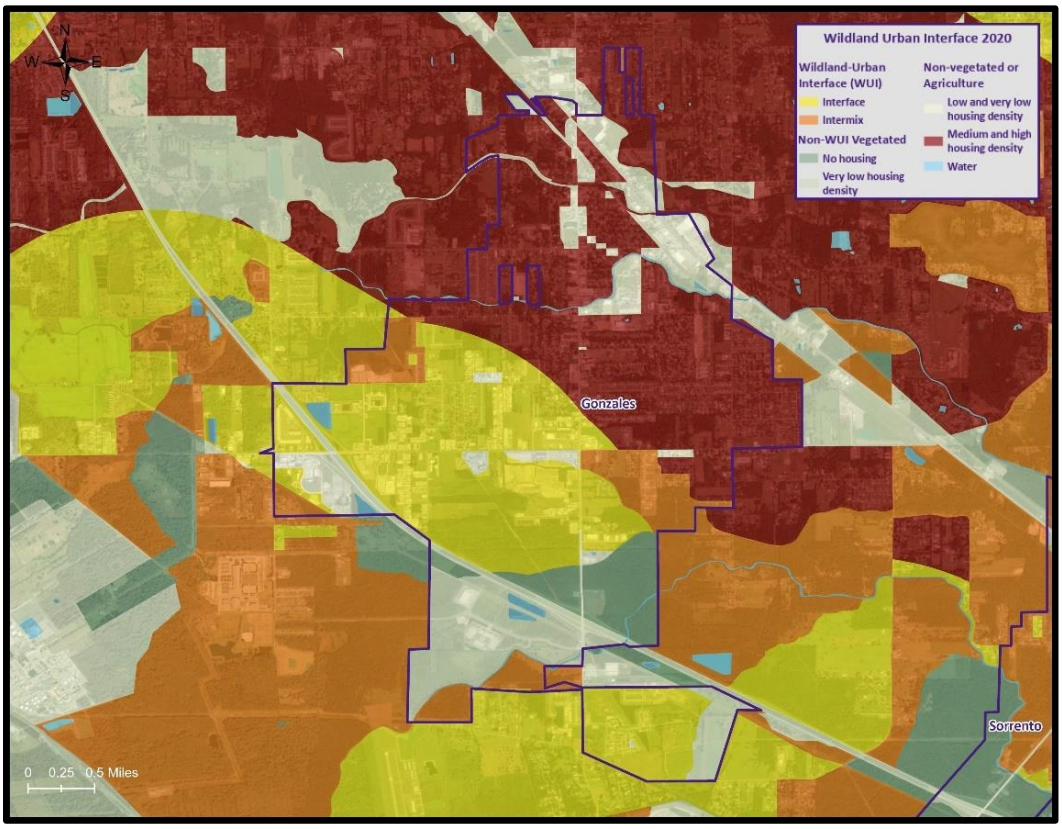


Figure 2-45: Wildland-Urban Interaction in Gonzales.

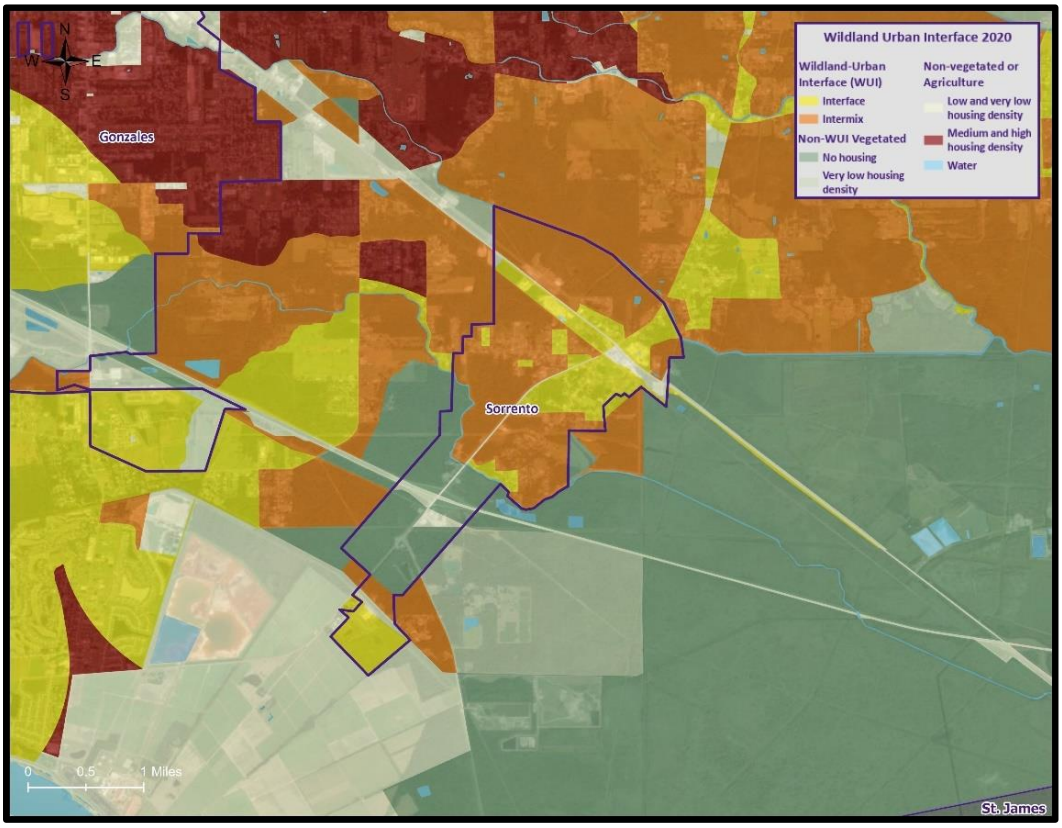


Figure 2-46: Wildland-Urban Interaction in Sorrento.

Previous Occurrences

The parish has experienced no significant wildfire occurrences between the years 1996 and 2023 per the NCEI Storm Events Database.

Probability

The annual return rate (frequency) for wildfire occurrences in the parish is less than 0.01 (< 1% annual probability) or 1 wildfire event approximately every 28 years.

Climate Change Impacts

The increasing probability and intensity of drought caused by climate change across Louisiana indicates that the risk of wildfires will also increase. The presence of drought or prolonged dry spells will lead to an increase in dry grasses, brush, and forests that act as fuel for fires.

Climate change is playing a significant role in the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires, resulting in substantial impacts on infrastructure and vulnerable populations. Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and altered precipitation patterns create ideal conditions for wildfires to ignite and spread rapidly. The destruction of critical infrastructure is one of the most profound consequences of wildfires. Roads, power lines, telecommunication networks, and water supply systems are vulnerable to damage, hindering emergency response efforts and disrupting access to essential services for communities affected by wildfires.

Vulnerable populations face unique challenges during wildfires. Those living in fire-prone areas often lack the means to adequately protect their homes and properties, making them more susceptible to property loss and displacement. Low-income communities may also have limited access to resources for evacuation and recovery, further exacerbating the impacts of wildfires on their well-being. Additionally, the elderly, children, and individuals with respiratory conditions are at heightened health risks due to poor air quality caused by wildfire smoke, which can lead to respiratory problems and other health issues.

Furthermore, wildfires can have long-term social and economic impacts on vulnerable populations. Displacement and property loss can force people to leave their homes and communities, leading to disruptions in education, employment, and social connections. The loss of livelihoods, particularly for those dependent on agriculture or tourism in affected regions, can exacerbate poverty and economic inequality.

To address the impacts of climate change on infrastructure and vulnerable populations concerning wildfires, various strategies are necessary. Investing in fire-resistant infrastructure and implementing better land use planning can help reduce the risk of infrastructure damage during wildfires. Creating and improving evacuation plans and warning systems can aid in ensuring the safety of vulnerable communities. Additionally, providing support and resources for those affected by wildfires, such as temporary housing, healthcare, and financial assistance, is essential for their recovery and well-being. To mitigate future wildfires and their impacts, it is imperative to take urgent action on climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing sustainable land management practices to protect both infrastructure and vulnerable populations from the increasing threats of wildfires.

Future Hazard Impacts

Population growth and development trends can significantly impact wildfire risks and impacts in several ways. As more people move into wildland-urban interface areas, there is an increased likelihood of human-caused fires due to activities like outdoor recreation or accidental ignition. Urban sprawl into fire-prone areas also increases the need for fire suppression and evacuation efforts during wildfire events, putting more lives and property at risk. Furthermore, development can alter natural fire regimes and vegetation patterns, potentially leading to more intense and difficult-to-control wildfires.

Vulnerability Analysis

The NRI includes data on the expected annual losses to individual natural hazards, historical losses, and overall risk at the county and Census tract level. The following table provides an overview of each category at the county level for wildfires.

Table 2-92: National Risk Index (NRI) Summarization of Wildfire Occurrences for Ascension Parish (Source: National Risk Index)

Expected Annual Losses	Overall Risk Rating
Very Low	Very Low

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

Using Hazus, along with wildland-urban interaction areas, the following table presents an analysis of total building exposure that is located within the wildland-urban interaction areas.

Table 2-93: Total Building Exposure by Wildland-Urban Interaction Areas. (Source: Hazus)

Jurisdiction	Estimated Total Building Exposure
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	$20,441,493
Donaldsonville	$1,290,362
Gonzales	$2,357,344
Sorrento	$291,801

Hazus also provides a breakdown by jurisdiction for seven primary sectors (Hazus occupancy) throughout the parish. Utilizing this information with the wildland-urban interaction areas allows for identifying the total exposure by jurisdiction.

Table 2-94: Estimated Exposure for Unincorporated Ascension Parish by Sector. (Source: Hazus)

Unincorporated Ascension Parish	Estimated Total Building Exposure by Sector
Agricultural	$21,799
Commercial	$6,204,300
Government	$637,198
Industrial	$1,609,764
Religious / Non-Profit	$933,999
Residential	$10,522,158
Schools	$512,274
Total	**$20,441,493**

Table 2-95: Estimated Exposure for Donaldsonville by Sector.
(Source: Hazus)

Donaldsonville	Estimated Total Building Exposure by Sector
Agricultural	$1,376
Commercial	$391,644
Government	$40,223
Industrial	$101,616
Religious / Non-Profit	$58,958
Residential	$664,208
Schools	$32,337
Total	**$1,290,362**

Table 2-96: Estimated Exposure for Gonzales by Sector.
(Source: Hazus)

Gonzales	Estimated Total Building Exposure by Sector
Agricultural	$2,514
Commercial	$715,489
Government	$73,483
Industrial	$185,640
Religious / Non-Profit	$107,710
Residential	$1,213,431
Schools	$59,076
Total	**$2,357,344**

Table 2-97: Estimated Exposure for Sorrento by Sector.
(Source: Hazus)

Sorrento	Estimated Total Building Exposure by Sector
Agricultural	$311
Commercial	$88,566
Government	$9,096
Industrial	$22,979
Religious / Non-Profit	$13,333
Residential	$150,203
Schools	$7,313
Total	**$291,801**

Vulnerable Population

The total population within the parish that is located within a wildland-urban interaction area is shown in the table below:

Table 2-98: Population Located within a Wildland-Urban Interaction Areas. (Source: 2020 U.S. Census Data)

Number of People Located in Wildland-Urban Interaction Areas			
Location	**# in Community**	**# in Hazard Area**	**% in Hazard Area**
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	106,060	49,989	47.1%
Donaldsonville	6,695	2541	38.0%
Gonzales	12,231	5368	43.9%
Sorrento	1,514	714	47.2%

The 2020 U.S. Census data was also extrapolated to provide an overview of populations located within wildland-urban interaction areas throughout the jurisdictions. The data is illustrated in the following tables:

Table 2-99: Population in Unincorporated Ascension Parish Located within a Wildland-Urban Interaction Area. (Source: 2020 Census Data)

Unincorporated Ascension Parish		
Category	**Total Numbers**	**Percentage of People in Hazard Area**
Number in Hazard Area	49,989	47.1%
Persons Under 5 Years	3,914	7.8%
Persons Under 18 Years	10,428	20.9%
Persons 65 Years and Over	4,429	8.9%
White	36,632	73.3%
Minority	13,357	26.7%

Table 2-100: Population in Donaldsonville within a Wildland-Urban Interaction Area. (Source: 2020 Census Data)

Donaldsonville		
Category	**Total Numbers**	**Percentage of People in Hazard Area**
Number in Hazard Area	2,541	38.0%
Persons Under 5 Years	231	9.1%
Persons Under 18 Years	513	20.2%
Persons 65 Years and Over	327	12.9%
White	582	22.9%
Minority	1,959	77.1%

Table 2-101: Population in Gonzales Located within a Wildland-Urban Interaction Area. (Source: 2020 Census Data)

Gonzales		
Category	**Total Numbers**	**Percentage of People in Hazard Area**
Number in Hazard Area	5,368	43.9%
Persons Under 5 Years	382	7.1%
Persons Under 18 Years	974	18.1%
Persons 65 Years and Over	655	12.2%
White	2,619	48.8%
Minority	2,749	51.2%

Table 2-102: Population in Sorrento Located within a Wildland-Urban Interaction Area. (Source: 2020 Census Data)

Sorrento		
Category	**Total Numbers**	**Percentage of People in Hazard Area**
Number in Hazard Area	714	47.2%
Persons Under 5 Years	50	7.0%
Persons Under 18 Years	137	19.1%
Persons 65 Years and Over	90	12.6%
White	579	81.1%
Minority	135	18.9%

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-103: Wildfire Vulnerability Score for the Parish.

Wildfire Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	**Impact**	**Spatial Extent**	**Warning Time**	**Duration**	**Risk Factor**
Risk Level	1	3	4	1	2	2.25

Winter Weather

Profile

For Louisiana and other parts of the southeastern United States, a severe winter weather event occurs when humid air from the Gulf of Mexico meets a cold air mass from the north. Once the cold air mass crosses Louisiana, and the temperature drops, precipitation may fall in the form of snow or sleet. If the ground temperature is cold enough but air temperature is above freezing, rain can freeze instantly on contact with the surface, causing massive ice storms.

The winter weather events that affect the state of Louisiana are ice storms, freezing temperatures, and snow events. Of the winter weather types listed above, ice storms are the most dangerous. Ice storms occur during a precipitation event when warm air aloft exceeds 32 °F, while the surface remains below the freezing point. Ice will form on all surfaces when precipitation originating as rain or drizzle contacts physical structures. These ice storms are usually accompanied by freezing temperatures and occasionally snow.

Winter weather can be accompanied by strong winds, creating blizzard conditions with blinding, wind driven snow, severe drifting, and dangerous wind chill. These types of conditions are very rare in Louisiana, even in north Louisiana, but ice storms are more common. The climatic line between snow and rain often stalls over north Louisiana, creating ideal conditions for ice accumulation.

In a typical winter weather event, homes and buildings are damaged by ice accumulation, either directly by the weight of the ice on the roofs or by trees and/or limbs falling on buildings. While it is not very prevalent, this type of damage can occur in Louisiana, particularly in north Louisiana. Effects of winter weather more likely to occur in Louisiana, especially southern Louisiana, include extreme temperatures which can cause waterlines to freeze and sewer lines to rupture. This is especially true with elevated or mobile homes since cold air is able to access more of the building's infrastructure. Winter weather events can also have a devastating effect on agriculture, particularly on crops (like citrus) that are dependent on warm weather. Long exposures to low temperatures can kill many kinds of crops, and ice storms can weigh down branches and fruit.

Winter weather events are not only a direct threat to human health through conditions like frostbite and hypothermia, but they are also an indirect threat to human health due to vehicle accidents and loss of power and heat, which can be disrupted for days. However, these impacts are rarely seen in Louisiana. As people use space heaters and fireplaces to stay warm, the risk of household fires and carbon monoxide poisoning increases.

Winter weather events occur throughout Louisiana usually during the colder calendar months of December, January, and February. Severe weather events do not occur with the same frequency across all parts of Louisiana. The northern quarter of Louisiana has historically experienced the most severe winter events between 1987 and 2012. The central, and to an even greater extent the southern parts of the state, such as Ascension Parish, have experienced the fewest severe winter events. The table on the following page shows the Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation Index which is utilized to predict the potential damage to overhead utility systems from freezing rain and ice storms.

Table 2-104: Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation Index

Ice Damage Index	Damage and Impact Descriptions
0	Minimal risk of damage to exposed utility systems; no alerts or advisories needed for crews, few outages.
1	Some isolated or localized utility interruptions are possible, typically lasting only a few hours. Roads and bridges may become slick and hazardous.
2	Scattered utility interruptions expected, typically lasting 12 to 24 hours. Roads and travel conditions may be extremely hazardous due to ice accumulation.
3	Numerous utility interruptions with some damage to main feeder lines and equipment expected. Tree limb damage is excessive. Outages lasting 1 – 5 days.
4	Prolonged and widespread utility interruptions with extensive damage to main distribution feeder lines and some high voltage transmission lines/structure. Outages lasting 5 – 10 days.
5	Catastrophic damage to entire exposed utility systems, including both distribution and transmission networks. Outages could last several weeks in some areas. Shelters needed.

Risk Assessment

Geographic Extent

All of the parish planning area is susceptible to the effects of winter weather. The worst-case scenario for winter weather is a 2 on the Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation Index.

Previous Occurrences

The parish has experienced three winter weather occurrences between the years 1996 and 2023 per the NCEI Storm Events Database. There has been one winter weather event since the last update.

Table 2-105: Historical Winter Weather Occurrences in the Parish since the Last Update.

Date	Event	Property Damage	Fatalities	Injuries
01/15/2024	Winter Weather	$0	0	0

Probability

The annual return rate (frequency) for winter weather occurrences in the parish is 0.03 (3% annual probability) or approximately 1 winter weather event every 9 or 10 years.

Climate Change Impacts

Winter weather is likely to become less frequent as the winter season decreases in length over the next century due to an increase in ambient and sea surface temperatures. By the end of the century, Louisiana is expected to experience a 5°F to 10°F increase in average ambient temperatures which will drastically reduce the number of days below freezing and lower the chance of winter weather. Precipitation is expected to increase during the winter months.

Climate change is influencing winter weather patterns, leading to significant impacts on both infrastructure and vulnerable populations. While it may seem counterintuitive, global warming can cause more frequent and intense winter weather. The warming of the Arctic and the disruption of the polar jet stream can result in polar vortex shifts, causing freezing temperatures and extreme winter conditions in regions that typically experience milder winters.

Winter weather impacts infrastructure in various ways. Freezing temperatures can damage roads, bridges, and other transportation networks, leading to increased maintenance costs and travel disruptions. Ice and snow accumulation on power lines can cause blackouts and outages, leaving communities without electricity and heating during frigid temperatures. Water supply systems can also be affected, as frozen pipes can burst, leading to water shortages and damage to properties.

Vulnerable populations are particularly at risk during severe winter weather events. Homeless individuals may struggle to find shelter and protection from the cold, leading to an increased risk of hypothermia and frostbite. Low-income households may face difficulties in affording heating costs, potentially exposing them to unsafe living conditions. The elderly and those with limited mobility may find it challenging to access essential services and resources during snowstorms, leading to isolation and health risks.

Moreover, winter weather can have economic consequences for vulnerable populations. Closures of schools and businesses during severe weather can lead to loss of income and educational disruptions, impacting families already facing financial challenges. In regions where winter tourism is vital, extreme winter weather can affect local economies, leading to job losses and reduced economic opportunities for vulnerable communities.

To address the impacts of climate change on infrastructure and vulnerable populations concerning winter weather, various measures are essential. Investing in winter-ready infrastructure, such as weather-resistant roads and insulated power lines, can help mitigate damage and improve resilience. Implementing programs to support vulnerable populations, such as providing emergency shelters, fuel assistance, and resources for winter preparedness, can protect them during extreme winter events. Climate change mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are also crucial to addressing the root causes of extreme winter weather patterns, helping to protect both infrastructure and vulnerable populations from the adverse effects of winter weather in the long run.

Future Hazard Impacts

Population growth and development trends can affect winter weather in various ways. Urbanization and increased human activity can create localized urban heat islands, which may alter temperature patterns and affect the distribution of winter precipitation types. Changes in land use, such as deforestation or construction, can modify surface albedo and thermal properties potentially influencing regional climate patterns and snowfall amounts. Additionally, urban areas with more impervious surfaces can experience altered drainage patterns, affecting snow accumulation and melt rates.

Vulnerability Analysis

The NRI includes data on the expected annual losses to individual natural hazards, historical losses, and overall risk at the county and Census tract level. The following table provides an overview of each category at the county level for winter weather.

Table 2-106: National Risk Index (NRI) Summarization of Winter Weather Occurrences for Ascension Parish (Source: National Risk Index)

Expected Annual Losses	Overall Risk Rating
Relatively Moderate	Relatively Moderate

Estimated Impact and Potential Loss

Since 1996, there have been four significant winter weather occurrences per the NCEI Storm Events Database. The total property damage associated with these storms totaled approximately $5,000. To estimate the potential losses on an annual basis, the total damages recorded were divided by the total number of years of available data in the NCEI Storm Events Database (1996 – 2023). This provides an annual estimated potential loss of $172 and $1,250 per event.

The following table provides an estimate of potential property losses for the Parish:

Table 2-107: Estimated Annual Property Losses in Ascension Parish resulting from Winter Weather Damage.

Estimated Annual Potential Losses Due to Winter Weather			
Unincorporated Ascension Parish	**Donaldsonville**	**Gonzales**	**Sorrento**
$145	$9	$17	$2

Vulnerable Population

Per the NCEI Storm Events Database, there have been no reported fatalities or injuries as a result of winter weather. However, winter weather can have a significant impact on the population. They can cause physical injuries and even fatalities. High winds, falling trees, and structural collapses can pose immediate risks to people's safety during a storm. These events can displace individuals and families from their homes, either temporarily or permanently. In cases of extensive property damage, people may be forced to evacuate or seek emergency shelter. The displacement can result in temporary homelessness or the need for long-term housing solutions.

Winter weather can disrupt critical infrastructure such as transportation systems, power grids, and water supply networks. Disruption in these services could lead to health issues or the inability to access essential services that are needed to meet basic needs. This can lead to not only physical issues but psychological effects as well.

Everyone in the parish is vulnerable to the impacts of winter weather; however, they can have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations exacerbating existing social, economic, and health disparities. Vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, the homeless, and those living in standardized housing, are often more susceptible to the effects of winter weather.

Vulnerability Score

Table 2-108: Winter Weather Vulnerability Score for Ascension Parish.

Winter Weather Vulnerability Score						
	Probability	**Impact**	**Spatial Extent**	**Warning Time**	**Duration**	**Risk Factor**
Risk Level	2	4	4	1	2	2.75

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3. Capability Assessment

This section summarizes the results of efforts by each jurisdiction and other agency to develop policies, programs, and activities that directly or indirectly support hazard mitigation. It also provides information on resources and gaps in the parish's infrastructure, as well as relevant changes in its law since the last plan update, in order to suggest a mitigation strategy.

Through this assessment, Ascension Parish and the incorporated jurisdictions are able to identify strengths that could be used to reduce losses and reduce risk throughout the communities. It also identifies areas where mitigation actions might be used to supplement current capabilities and create a more resilient community before, during, and after a hazard event.

Policies, Plans and Programs

These capabilities are unique to the parish and jurisdictions, including planning, regulatory, administrative, technical, financial, and education and outreach resources. There are a number of mitigation-specific acts, plans, executive orders, and policies that lay out specific goals, objectives, and policy statements which already support or could support pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation. Many of the ongoing plans and policies hold significant promise for hazard mitigation, and take an integrated and strategic look holistically at hazard mitigation in the Ascension Parish planning area to propose ways to continually improve it. These tools are valuable instruments in pre- and post-disaster mitigation as they facilitate the implementation of mitigation activities through the current legal and regulatory framework. Examples of existing documents include the following:

Table 3-1: Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

Capability Assessment Worksheet					
Local mitigation capabilities are existing authorities, polices and resources that reduce hazard impacts or that could be used to implement hazard mitigation activities. Please complete the tables and questions in the worksheet as completely as possible.					
Planning and Regulatory					
Please indicate which of the following plans and regulatory capabilities your jurisdiction has in place.					
	Ascension Parish	Donaldsonville	Gonzales	Sorrento	Comments
Plans	**Yes / No**				
Comprehensive / Master Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Capital Improvements Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Economic Development Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes	No	No	No	
Transportation Plan	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Stormwater Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	No	No	No	
Other plans (redevelopment, recovery, coastal zone management)	No	No	No	No	
Building Code, Permitting and Inspections	**Yes / No**				
Building Code	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Score	Yes	No	No	No	
Fire Department ISO/PIAL rating	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ascension: PIAL Class 9/ Sorrento: PIAL Class 4
Site plan review requirements	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Land Use Planning and Ordinances	**Yes / No**				
Zoning Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Natural Hazard Specific Ordinance (stormwater, steep slope, wildfire)	No	No	Yes	No	
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation uses	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Other	No	N/A	No	No	

All jurisdictions within the Ascension Parish planning area will work to expand their capabilities by adding to these plans, as well as work to create new plans that will address a long-term recovery and resiliency framework. In instances where there are no existing plans, there will be a concerted effort to explore opportunities to create new plans that will address long-term recovery and resiliency framework as parish and local resources allow.

Building Codes, Permitting, Land Use Planning and Ordinances

Ascension Parish Government provides oversight for building permits and codes, land use planning, and all parish ordinances.

As of the 2025 update, Ascension Parish and the incorporated communities ensure that all adopted building codes are enforced and in compliance relating to the construction of any structure within the boundaries of the parish. Building permits are required prior to beginning any type of construction or renovation projects, installation of electrical wiring, plumbing or gas piping, moving manufactured/modular or portable buildings, and reroofing or demolitions.

Ascension Parish is also responsible for enforcing the parish ordinances related to health and safety, property maintenance standards, and condemnation of unsafe structures.

Ascension Parish meets regularly to consider any proposed ordinance changes, and to take final actions on proposed changes.

While local capabilities for mitigation can vary from community to community, the jurisdictions within the Ascension Parish planning area as a whole have a system in place to coordinate and share these capabilities through the OHSEP and through this Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Some programs and policies, such as the above described, might use complementary tools to achieve a common end, but fail to coordinate with or support each other. Thus, coordination among local mitigation policies and programs is essential to hazard mitigation.

Administration, Technical, and Financial

The jurisdictions within the Ascension Parish planning area have administrative and technical capabilities in place that may be utilized in reducing hazard impacts or implementing hazard mitigation activities. Such capabilities include staff, skillset, and tools available in the community that may be accessed to implement mitigation activities and to effectively coordinate resources. The ability to access and coordinate these resources is also important. The table on the following page shows examples of resources in place.

Table 3-2: Administration and Technical Capabilities

Administration and Technical					
Identify whether your community has the following administrative and technical capabilities. For smaller jurisdictions without local staff resources, if there are public resources at the next higher level government that can provide technical assistance, indicate so in your comments.					
	Ascension Parish	Donaldsonville	Gonzales	Sorrento	Comments
Administration	**Yes / No**				
Planning Commission	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Mitigation Planning Committee	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Maintenance programs to reduce risk (tree trimming, clearing drainage systems)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Staff	**Yes / No**				
Chief Building Official	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Floodplain Administrator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Emergency Manager	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Community Planner	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Civil Engineer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
GIS Coordinator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Grant Writer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Other	No	Yes	No	No	
Technical	**Yes / No**				
Warning Systems / Service (Reverse 911, outdoor warning signals)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Hazard Data & Information	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Grant Writing	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Hazus Analysis	No	No	No	No	
Other	No	N/A	No	No	

Financial capabilities are the resources that Ascension Parish and its incorporated jurisdictions have access to or are eligible to use in order to fund mitigation actions. Costs associated with implementing the actions identified by the parish may vary from little to no cost actions, such as outreach efforts, or substantial action costs such acquisition of flood prone properties.

The following financial resources are available to fund mitigation actions in the Ascension Parish planning area:

Table 3-3: Financial Capabilities

Financial					
Identify whether your jurisdiction has access to or is eligible to use the following funding resources for hazard mitigation.					
	Ascension Parish	Donaldsonville	Gonzales	Sorrento	Comments
Funding Resource	**Yes / No**				
Capital Improvements project funding	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Impact fees for new development	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Stormwater Utility Fee	No	No	No	No	
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Other Funding Programs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Education and Outreach

A key element in hazard mitigation is promoting a safer, more disaster resilient community through education and outreach activities and/or programs. Successful outreach programs provide data and information that improves overall quality and accuracy of important information for citizens to feel better prepared and educated with mitigation activities. These programs enable the individual communities and the parish as a whole to maximize opportunities for implementation of activities through greater acceptance and consensus of the community.

The jurisdictions within the Ascension Parish planning area have existing education and outreach programs to implement mitigation activities, as well as communicate risk and hazard related information to its communities. Specifically, focusing on advising repetitive loss property owners of ways they can reduce their exposure to damage by repetitive flooding remains a priority for the entire parish. The existing programs are as follows:

Table 3-4: Education and Outreach Capabilities

Education and Outreach					
Identify education and outreach programs and methods, already in place that could be used to implement mitigation activities and communicate hazard-related information.					
	Ascension Parish	Donaldsonville	Gonzales	Sorrento	Comments
Program / Organization	**Yes / No**				
Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Ongoing public education or information program (responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Natural Disaster or safety related school program	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Storm Ready certification	No	No	Yes	No	
Firewise Communities certification	No	No	No	No	
Public/Private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues	LEPC	Yes	Yes	No	
Other	No	No	No	No	

As reflected with the above existing regulatory mechanisms, programs and resources within the parish, the jurisdictions within the Ascension Parish planning area remain committed to expanding and improving on the existing capabilities within the parish. Communities will work together along with Ascension Parish toward increased participation in funding opportunities and available mitigation programs. Should funding become available, the hiring of additional personnel to dedicate to hazard mitigation initiatives and programs, as well as increasing ordinances within the parish, will enhance and expand overall risk reduction for the entirety of Ascension Parish.

Flood Insurance and Community Rating System

Participation in the CRS strengthens local capabilities by lowering flood insurance premiums for jurisdictions that exceed NFIP minimum requirements. As noted in the CRS Eligible Communities List effective October 1, 2024, Unincorporated Ascension Parish retains a Class 7 rating, the City of Gonzales retains a Class 8 rating, and the Town of Sorrento retains a Class 9 rating for the CRS program. The city of Donaldsonville does not actively participate in the CRS program.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) administers the Community Rating System (CRS). Under the CRS, flood insurance premiums for properties in participating communities are reduced to reflect the flood protection activities that are being implemented. This program can have a major influence on the design and implementation of flood mitigation activities, so a brief summary is provided here.

A community receives a CRS classification based upon the credit points it receives for its activities. It can undertake any mix of activities that reduce flood losses through better mapping, regulations, public information, flood damage reduction and/or flood warning and preparedness programs.

There are ten CRS classes: Class 1 requires the most credit points and gives the largest premium reduction; Class 10 receives no premium reduction (see *Figure 3-1*). A community that does not apply for the CRS or that does not obtain the minimum number of credit points is a class 10 community.

CLASS	DISCOUNT	CLASS	DISCOUNT
1	45%	6	20%
2	40%	7	15%
3	35%	8	10%
4	30%	9	5%
5	25%	10	–

SFHA (Zones A, AE, A1–A30, V, V1–V30, AO, and AH): Discount varies depending on class.

SFHA (Zones A99, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1–A30, AR/AH, and AR/AO): 10% discount for Classes 1–6; 5% discount for Classes 7–9.*

Non-SFHA (Zones B, C, X, D): 10% discount for Classes 1–6; 5% discount for Classes 7–9.

Figure 3-1: CRS Discounts by Class (Source: FEMA)

As of October 2024, 316 communities in the State of Louisiana participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Of these communities, 47 (or 15%) participate in the Community Rating System (CRS). Jefferson Parish and the City of Mandeville lead the state with a rating of Class 5, followed by three cities with a rating of Class 6: the Cities of Gretna and Kenner in Jefferson Parish and the City of Slidell in St. Tammany Parish. Of the top fifty Louisiana communities, in terms of total flood insurance policies held by residents, 29 participate in the CRS. The remaining 21 communities present an outreach opportunity for encouraging participation in the CRS.

The CRS provides an incentive not just to start new mitigation programs, but to keep them going. There are two requirements that "encourage" a community to implement flood mitigation activities. Once the parish has obtained a CRS rating and is a participant, the parish will receive CRS credit for this plan when it is adopted. To retain that credit, though, the parish must submit an evaluation report on progress toward implementing this plan to FEMA by October 1 of each year. That report must be made available to the media and the public. Second, the parish must annually recertify to FEMA that it is continuing to implement its CRS credited activities. Failure to maintain the same level of involvement in flood protection can result in a loss of CRS credit points and a resulting increase in flood insurance rates to residents.

In 2011[1], the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) completed a comprehensive review of the Community Rating System (CRS) that resulted in the release of a new CRS Coordinator's Manual. The changes to the 2013 CRS Coordinator's Manual are the result of a multi-year program evaluation that included input from a broad group of contributors to evaluate the CRS and refine the program to meet its stated goals. The changes helped to drive new achievements in the following six core flood loss reduction areas important to the NFIP: (1) reduce liabilities to the NFIP Fund; (2) improve disaster resiliency and sustainability of communities; (3) integrate a Whole Community approach to addressing emergency management; (4) promote natural and beneficial functions of floodplains; (5) increase understanding of risk, and; (6) strengthen adoption and enforcement of disaster-resistant building codes.

Since the revision of the 2013 Coordinator's Manual, FEMA released the 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual which continued the evolution of the CRS program and its mission to reward communities that prioritize mindful floodplain regulations. As with the 2013 manual, the changes made in the 2017 manual impact each CRS community differently. Some communities see an increase in the points they receive since points for certain activities have increased (e.g., Activity 420 Open Space Preservation). Other communities receive fewer points for certain activities (e.g., Activity 320 Map Information Service). It is likely that some communities with marginal CRS Class 9 programs have to identify new CRS credits in order to remain in the CRS class. Most notably, as it relates to this hazard mitigation plan, more credit was made available for Activity 410 Floodplain Mapping.

[1] https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system

Typically, CRS communities do not request credit for all the activities they are currently implementing unless it would earn enough credit to advance the community to a higher CRS Class. A community that finds itself losing CRS credit with the 2017 manual could likely identify activities deserving credit they had not previously received. Due to the changes in both activities and CRS points, community CRS coordinators should speak with their ISO/CRS Specialist to understand how the 2017 manual will impact their community and when.

In addition to the direct financial reward for participating in the Community Rating System, there are many other reasons to participate in the CRS. As FEMA staff often say, "If you are only interested in saving premium dollars, you're in the CRS for the wrong reason."

The other benefits that are more difficult to measure in dollars include:

1. The activities credited by the CRS provide direct benefits to residents, including:
   – Enhanced public safety
   – A reduction in damage to property and public infrastructure
   – Avoidance of economic disruption and losses
   – Reduction of human suffering
   – Protection of the environment

2. A community's flood programs will be better organized and more formal. Ad hoc activities, such as responding to drainage complaints rather than an inspection program, will be conducted on a sounder, more equitable basis.

3. A community can evaluate the effectiveness of its flood program against a nationally recognized benchmark.

4. Technical assistance in designing and implementing a number of activities is available at no charge from the Insurance Services Office.

5. The public information activities will build a knowledgeable constituency interested in supporting and improving flood protection measures.

6. A community would have an added incentive to maintain its flood programs over the years. The fact that its CRS status could be affected by the elimination of a flood related activity or a weakening of the regulatory requirements for new developments would be taken into account by the governing board when considering such actions.

7. Every time residents pay their insurance premiums, they are reminded that the community is working to protect them from flood losses, even during dry years.

NFIP Worksheets

Parish NFIP worksheets can be found in *Appendix E: State Required Worksheets*.

4. Mitigation Strategy

Introduction

The Hazard Mitigation Strategy for Ascension Parish and its incorporated communities have a common guiding principle and is the demonstration of the parish's commitment to reduce risks from hazards. The strategy also serves as a guide for parish and local decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of hazards.

Officials from all jurisdictions within the planning area confirmed the goals, objectives, actions and projects over the period of the hazard mitigation plan update process. The mitigation actions and projects in this 2025 HMP update are a product of analysis and review of the Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Committee under the coordination of the Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The committee was presented a list of projects and actions, new and from the 2020 plan, for review from June 2024 – October 2024

An online public opinion survey of Ascension Parish residents was conducted between May 2024 and November 2024. The survey was designed to capture public perceptions and opinions regarding natural hazards in the Ascension Parish planning area. In addition, the survey collected information regarding the methods and techniques preferred by the respondents for reducing the risks and losses associated with local hazards.

This activity was created in an effort to confirm that the goals and action items developed by the Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Committee are representative of the outlook of the community at large. However, because there was minimal public input, this public feedback could not be incorporated into the plan. The Ascension Parish survey can be found at the following link:

https://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_78PLF31VMuOdSNU

Goals

The goals represent the guidelines that the parish and its communities want to achieve with this plan update. To help implement the strategy and adhere to the mission of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the preceding section of the plan update was focused on identifying and quantifying the risks faced by the residents and property owners in Ascension Parish from natural and manmade hazards. By articulating goals and objectives based on the previous plans, the risk assessment results, and intending to address those results, this section sets the stage for identifying, evaluating, and prioritizing feasible, cost effective, and environmentally sound actions to be promoted at the parish and municipal level – and to be undertaken by the state for its own property and assets. By doing so, Ascension Parish can make progress toward reducing identified risks.

For the purposes of this plan update, goals and action items are defined as follows:

- **Goals** are general guidelines that explain what the parish wants to achieve. Goals are expressed as broad policy statements representing desired long-term results.
- **Action Items** are the specific steps (projects, policies, and programs) that advance a given goal. They are highly focused, specific, and measurable.

The current goals of the Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Planning Committee represent long-term commitments by the parish. After assessing these goals, the committee decided that the current goals remain valid.

The goals are as follows:

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

The Mitigation Action Plan focuses on actions to be taken by Ascension Parish and its communities. All of the activities in the Mitigation Action Plan will be focused on helping the parish and its communities in developing and funding projects that are not only cost effective but also meet the other DMA 2000 criteria of environmental compatibility and technical feasibility.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Committee reviewed and evaluated the potential action and project lists in which consideration was given to a variety of factors. Such factors include determining a project's eligibility for federal mitigation grants as well as its ability to be funded. This process required evaluation of each project's engineering feasibility, cost effectiveness, and environmental and cultural factors.

2025 Mitigation Actions and Update on Previous Plan Actions

The Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Committee identified new actions that would reduce and/or prevent future damage within the Ascension Parish planning area. In that effort, the committee focused on a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions. These actions were identified in thorough fashion by the consultant team and the committee by way of frequent and open communications and meetings held throughout the planning process. The addition of these new actions, coupled with any ongoing and/or carried over projects from their previous update, provide Ascension Parish with a solid mitigation strategy through which risk and losses will be reduced throughout the parish and its communities.

As outlined in the Local Mitigation Planning Handbook the following are eligible types of mitigation actions:

- **Local Plans and Regulations –** These actions include government authorities, policies, or codes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built.
- **Structure and Infrastructure Projects –** These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area, and also includes projects to construct manmade structures to reduce the impact of hazards.
- **Natural System Protection –** These actions minimize the damage and losses and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.
- **Education and Awareness Programs –** These actions inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them.

Status updates for actions included in the previous plan can be found on the following pages. Additionally, new mitigation actions agreed upon by the parish and its jurisdictions are included.

Ascension Parish Mitigation Actions

Previous Action Update

Unincorporated Ascension Parish Mitigation Action Sheet						
Jurisdiction-Specific Action	**Action Description**	**Funding Source**	**Timeframe**	**Responsible Party, Agency, or Department**	**Hazard**	**Status**
AP1: Building Retrofits	Retrofit public buildings exterior shell to maintain use during and after storm events. Benefits: Reduces damage from high winds, and helps ensure that the public buildings can be used, occupied and operable during or after storms.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	In Progress
AP2: Drainage Improvement	Will relieve flooding problems, reduce flood damage and costs of damage, overtopping of roads with drain water, while also keeping open roadways during periods of high precipitation. Benefits: Relieves Parish or local government and property owners of the continual flooding problems, with closed roadways (loss of function). Saves public funds for road repairs, drainage ditch repairs, sandbagging and blocking of roadways during storm periods.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclones	In Progress
AP3: Mitigation of repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties and other hazard prone structures	Elevation, acquisition-demolition, acquisition-relocations, and reconstruction of repetitive loss or flooding or other hazard prone properties.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclones	In Progress
AP4: Safe Room Projects	Construction of a safe room for first responders located in Ascension Parish. Other locations will be identified based on funding availability.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	In Progress

AP5: Education and Outreach	Enhance the public outreach programs for the parish and all communities by increasing awareness of risks and safety for Drought, excessive Heat, Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather hazards as well as providing information on high risk areas. Informing communities, business and citizens on proper mitigation efforts and activities will create resiliency within the parish and its communities.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/PIO/ Communications/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Sinkholes, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones, Tornadoes, Wildfires, Winter Weather	In Progress
AP6: Generators for Continuity of Operations and Government	Procurement and Installation of generators at public facilities to ensure continued operations during and after events.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	In Progress
AP7: Lightning Mitigation	Procurement and installation of lightning rods and surge protectors for public buildings to preserve life and property.	HGMP, BRIC, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Thunderstorms	Not Started - Carried Over (See Ascension Parish Mitigation Action 1)
AP8: Warning Systems	Update/upgrade public warning system components throughout Ascension Parish as necessary. Install audible and/or reverse 911 warning system(s).	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Sinkholes, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones, Tornadoes, Wildfires, Winter Weather	In Progress
AP9: Potable Water	Create redundancy of potable water supply to critical facilities, especially hospitals in Parish, and provide protection of potable water supply by acquisition/installation of backflow preventers at appropriate critical locations.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Sinkholes, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones, Tornadoes, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Not Started - Carried Over (See Ascension Parish Mitigation Action 2)

AP10: Promote Flood Insurance	Promote the purchase of flood insurance. Advertise the availability, cost, and coverage of flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones	Not Started - Carried Over (See Ascension Parish Mitigation Action 3)
AP11: Levee Failure Working Group	Create a working group in order to assess the extent and determine the possible effects of a levee failure	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Planning and Development/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure	Not Started - Carried Over (See Ascension Parish Mitigation Action 4)
AP12: Flood Plain Management Partnerships	Effectively communicate and coordinate all flood mitigation issues.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Planning and Development/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone	In Progress
AP13: Construct Safe Rooms to protect parish employees	Lamar Dixon Expo Center- 4- H Building	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under AP4 Action
AP14: Inter-Jurisdictional Flood Risk Assessments	Effectively assess the risk from backwater, headwater, and storm surge flooding through the use of surge and inundation models.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Planning and Development/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone	In Progress
AP15: Storm Surge and Inundation Modeling	Determine changes in storm surge threats due to surge inundation through Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas, as well as into the McElroy Swamp.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Planning and Development/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Tropical Cyclones	In Progress
AP16: Improve NFIP Compliance	Maintain Parish NFIP compliance by conducting to ensure protocols are followed and actions are taken to improve NFIP ratings in all jurisdictions.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure	Deleted - Included under AP10 Action

AP17: Retrofits	Wind hardens municipal and parish structures including new buildings and infrastructure	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Tropical Cyclone, Tornadoes, Thunderstorms	Deleted - Included under AP1 Action
AP18: Safe Rooms	Lamar Dixon Expo Center- Shelter only- Trademart, Gym	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Tropical Cyclone, Tornadoes	Deleted - Included under AP4 Action
AP19: NFIP	Continue parish and municipal participation and compliance (Parish of Ascension, Donaldsonville, Gonzales, and Sorrento) in NFIP. Ongoing lines of communication and participation between Parish and municipalities, continuing education regarding updates related to NFIP requirements	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding	Deleted - Included under AP10 Action
AP20: Improve Stormwater Management Planning	Complete drainage study to improve stormwater management in areas subject to flooding during flash floods.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Planning and Development/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone, Levee Failure	In Progress
AP21: Safe Room Construction	Retrofit Existing Structures or construct new structures to act as emergency safe rooms during severe weather events.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclone,	Deleted - Included under AP4 Action
AP22: Water Works Generators	Provide backup power to parish-owned water works – PUA/ACUD 1.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Tropical Cyclone, Thunderstorms	Deleted - Included under AP6 Action
AP23: Sewer Auxiliary Power	Provide backup generator power to sewage plants throughout parish to ensure continuous operations during severe weather events.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Tropical Cyclone, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes	Deleted - Included under AP6 Action

AP24: General Population Shelter Auxiliary Power	Provide backup generator power to sheltering facilities to include schools and the Lamar Dixon Expo Center to ensure the parish can meet extended sheltering requirements.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Tropical Cyclone, Tornadoes, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under AP6 Action
AP25: Retrofit Public Buildings	Retrofit public buildings to reinforce them against damages from high velocity wind events.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Tropical Cyclone, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes	Deleted - Included under AP1 Action
AP26: Ascension/St. James Auxiliary Power	Add auxiliary generator power to the Ascension Parish Airport for use during an emergency.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Tropical Cyclone, Thunderstorms, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under AP6 Action
AP27: Mitigation Public Outreach	Develop a parish wide outreach and educational campaign, to provide educational materials to libraries, schools, and other public facilities including mitigation measures for all hazards including flooding, levee failure, sinkholes, hail, heavy winds, winter weather, lightning, tornadoes, and tropical cyclones.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/PIO/ Communications/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Sinkholes, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under AP5 Action
AP28: SL & RSL Elevations/Acquisitions	Elevate or acquire all RL and SRL structures in Ascension Parish in flood zones and/or potential levee failure areas	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flood, Tropical Cyclone, Levee	Deleted - Included under AP3 Action
AP29: Future Development	Ensure that future development does not increase hazard losses	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Planning and Development/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Sinkholes, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	In Progress
AP30: Development Guides	Guide future development away from hazard areas while maintaining other parish goals such as economic development and improving the quality of life	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Planning and Development/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under AP29 Action

AP31: Strengthen Buildings	Enforce the International Building Code requirements for all new construction to strengthen buildings against high wind damage	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under AP1 Action
AP32: Item Safe Keeping	Provide safe locations for files, records, and computer equipment. IT manages the equipment and data to securely store records electronically and off site.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ IT Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Sinkhole, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	In Progress
AP33: Environment Conservation Programs	Participate in existing programs at the state and federal levels oriented to environmental enhancement and conservation	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/PIO/ Communications/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Sinkholes, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under AP5 Action
AP34: Generator Acquisitions	Purchase generators for critical facilities. Continuing to assess the need at critical facilities parish wide	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Grants Department/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under AP6 Action
AP35: Staging Areas	Maintain Lamar Dixon and the South Louisiana State Fairgrounds in Donaldsonville as Emergency Management Staging Areas and Points of Distribution to be utilized immediately after a storm event	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Sinkholes, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones, Tornadoes, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Not Started - Carried Over (See Ascension Parish Mitigation Action 5)
AP36: Drainage System Upgrades	Widen drainage ditches and upgrade culverts.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Planning and Development/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone	Deleted - Included under AP2 Action

AP37: Sinkhole Studies	Conduct study on effects of sinkholes to surrounding areas.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Sinkholes	Not Started - Carried Over (See Ascension Parish Mitigation Action 6)
AP38: Levee Construction	Laurel Ridge Levee Construction	Local	1 year	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone, Levee Failure	In Progress
AP39: Storm Surge protection	Marvin Braud Pump Station and Levee System Upgrades	HMGP/Local	7 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone, Levee Failure	In Progress
AP40: Storm Surge protection	Sorrento Storm Surge project	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	10 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone, Levee Failure	In Progress
AP41: Pumping Station network	New River Stormwater Management project	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	10 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone, Levee Failure	In Progress
AP42: Regional Detention sites	Property acquisition and project development	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	5 years	Ascension Parish Government/ Department of Public Works/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone, Levee Failure	In Progress

New Mitigation Actions

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 1	Lightning Mitigation
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government, Grants Department
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Procurement and installation of lightning rods and surge protectors for public buildings to preserve life and property.
Type of Mitigation Action	Structure and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	The installation of lightning rods and surge protectors in public buildings and critical infrastructure will reduce losses due to lightning strikes and surges in electricity.
Current Status of Action	Not Started – Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Thunderstorms (Lightning)

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 2	Potable Water
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards 5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Create redundancy of potable water supply to critical facilities, especially hospitals in Parish, and provide protection of potable water supply by acquisition/installation of backflow preventers at appropriate critical locations.
Type of Mitigation Action	Structure and Infrastructure Projects, Natural Systems Protection
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Creating a redundancy of potable water for critical facilities will reduce downtime and allow for the continuity of essential operations during and after an event.
Current Status of Action	Not Started – Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Sinkholes, Subsidence, Tropical Cyclones, Tornadoes, Wildfires, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 3	Promote Flood Insurance
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government, Ascension Parish Zoning Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards 5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	High
Action Description	Promote the purchase of flood insurance. Advertise the availability, cost, and coverage of flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
Type of Mitigation Action	Education and Awareness Programs
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Educating the public on flood insurance will allow public to obtain insurance at a cost that's affordable to them and will help gain relief to their home and personal items during post-flood events
Current Status of Action	Not Started – Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Tropical Cyclones

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 4	Levee Failure Working Group
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government, Department of Planning and Development, Department of Public Works
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Low
Action Description	Create a working group in order to assess the extent and determine the possible effects of a levee failure
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	The creation of a levee failure working group will allow for strategic planning in the event of a failure and prioritization of response to heavily impacted areas. i.e. inundation zones.
Current Status of Action	Not Started – Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Levee Failure

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 5	Staging Areas
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards 5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Maintain Lamar Dixon and the South Louisiana State Fairgrounds in Donaldsonville as Emergency Management Staging Areas and Points of Distribution to be utilized immediately after a storm event
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Utilization of staging areas will allow for first responders to address hazard events effectively. Communication among departments will benefit.
Current Status of Action	Not Started – Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Sinkholes, Subsidence, Tropical Cyclones, Tornadoes, Wildfires, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 6	Sinkhole Studies
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government, Department of Planning and Development, Department of Public Works
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Conduct study on effects of sinkholes to surrounding areas.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations, Education and Awareness Programs
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Conducting sinkhole studies will allow communities to create an action plan for the hazard events and also determine what areas need to be proactively assessed.
Current Status of Action	Not Started – Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Sinkholes

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 7	Communication Strategies
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Implementation of an Interoperability Plan for Mobile Command/Command Post. Allow for the procurement of communications equipment such as portable radios.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	The Interoperability Plan will allow the parish to conduct response efforts in a timely manner and help to establish chain of command for hazard events. Procurement of radios will allow for seamless communication among departments
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 8	Pump Stations
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government, Department of Public Works
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Make upgrades to fixed and portable pump stations located throughout the parish
Type of Mitigation Action	Structure and Infrastructure Projects, Natural Systems Protection
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Upgrades to pump stations will reduce the risk of failure during flooding/hazard related event.
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Levee Failure, Sinkholes, Subsidence, Tropical Cyclones

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 9	Flood Control
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards 5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	High
Action Description	Floodproof vulnerable buildings/locations throughout the parish
Type of Mitigation Action	Structure and Infrastructure Projects, Natural Systems Protection
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Floodproofing vulnerable buildings will reduce the risk of loss of property and loss of life throughout the parish. For critical infrastructure, this will reduce the interruptions to day-to-day operations among those facilities.
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Tropical Cyclones

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 10	Stormwater Management Planning
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government, Department of Planning and Development, Department of Public Works
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards 5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	High
Action Description	Assess the current state of the storm water management plan and create initiatives to better reduce the risk of flooding around the parish. i.e. dredging waterways
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Flood prevention measures reduce the risk of flooding and allow water to flow downstream without the chance of backwater flooding
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Levee Failure, Tropical Cyclones

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 11	Wildfire Strategies
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government, Department of Planning and Development, Department of Public Works
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	2 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	Low
Action Description	Assess the wildfire prevention initiatives and formalize the process wildfire response in the parish
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Creating a redundancy of wildfire initiatives allows the parish to be proactive on how to prepare and respond to wildfire events
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Wildfires

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 12	Drought Ordinances
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Adopt ordinances requiring water-saving measures in time of drought.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Water saving measures will allow the community to remain resilient during drought related events, providing necessary water to the public
Current Status of Action	NEW
Hazard Addressed	Drought

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 13	Heating and Cooling Stations
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Government
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Establish heating and cooling stations at various locations around the parish to provide relief to the public during excessive heat and winter weather events
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Heating and cooling stations will reduce the risk of loss of life amongst the public, especially vulnerable populations, during excessive heat and winter weather related events.
Current Status of Action	NEW
Hazard Addressed	Excessive Heat, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 14	Wildfire Defensible Space
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Department of Planning and Zoning
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HMGP, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Identify and create a defensible space around critical infrastructure to slow the spread of wildfires
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Creation of a defensible space will slow the spread of wildfires by treating or clearing the area around a structure where vegetation, debris, and other combustible materials may be present
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Wildfires

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 15	Mobile Home Mitigation Regulations
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Department of Planning and Zoning
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HMGP, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Adopt regulations that mobile homes meet the requirements set forth by safety codes. These regulations include, but are not limited to proper anchoring techniques, elevations, no permanent additions, etc.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Adopting these regulations allows the mobile home to be compliant with safety codes and will reduce the risk of loss of life and property around the parish due to high-wind and flooding events.
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Thunderstorms (High Wind), Tornadoes

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS ASCENSION PARISH	
	DESCRIPTION
ASCENSION PARISH MITIGATION ACTION 16	Hazard Resistant Building Materials
LEAD AGENCY	Ascension Parish Public Works
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HMGP, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Regulate the use of impact resistant building materials on all new construction around the parish. This includes items such as Class-4 rated asphalt shingles, metal roofing, rubber tiles, shatter-resistant windows, protective covers for outside utilities, etc.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Regulating building materials allows for the reduction to risk of property damage around the parish
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Thunderstorms (Lightning, High Wind, Hail), Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones

City of Donaldsonville Mitigation Actions

Previous Action Update

City of Donaldsonville Mitigation Action Sheet						
Jurisdiction-Specific Action	**Action Description**	**Funding Source**	**Timeframe**	**Responsible Party, Agency, or Department**	**Hazard**	**Status**
DON1: Building Retrofits	Retrofit public buildings exterior shell to maintain use during and after storm events. Benefits: Reduces damage from high winds and helps ensure that the public buildings can be used, occupied and operable during or after storms.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Completed
Comments: Retrofit Lemann Center, City Hall, and other facilities for use as a shelter, staging center, and point of commodity distribution during a disaster.						
DON2: Drainage Improvement	Will relieve flooding problems, reduce flood damage and costs of damage, overtopping of roads with drain water, while also keeping open roadways during periods of high precipitation. Benefits: Relieves Parish or local government and property owners of the continual flooding problems, with closed roadways (loss of function). Saves public funds for road repairs, drainage ditch repairs, sandbagging and blocking of roadways during storm periods.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones	In Progress
DON3: Mitigation of repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties and other hazard prone structures	Elevation, acquisition-demolition, acquisition-relocations, and reconstruction of repetitive loss or flooding or other hazard prone properties.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Tropical Cyclones	Not Started - Carried Over (See Donaldsonville Mitigation Action 1)
DON4: Safe Room Projects	Construction of a safe room for first responders located in Donaldsonville. Other locations will be identified based on funding availability.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Completed

DON5: Education and Outreach	Enhance the public outreach programs for the parish and all communities by increasing awareness of risks and safety for drought, excessive heat, flooding, levee failure, subsidence, thunderstorms, tornadoes, tropical cyclones, wildfires, winter weather hazards as well as providing information on high risk areas. Informing communities, business and citizens on proper mitigation efforts and activities will create resiliency within the parish and its communities.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Not Started - Carried Over (See Donaldsonville Mitigation Action 2)
DON6: Generators for Continuity of Operations and Government	Procurement and Installation of generators at public facilities to ensure continued operations during and after events.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Not Started - Carried Over (See Donaldsonville Mitigation Action 3)
DON7: Lightning Mitigation	Procurement and installation of lightning rods and surge protectors for public buildings to preserve life and property.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Thunderstorms	Not Started - Carried Over (See Donaldsonville Mitigation Action 4)
DON8: Warning Systems	Update/upgrade public warning system components throughout Donaldsonville as necessary. Install audible and/or reverse 911 warning system(s).	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires Winter Weather	Not Started - Carried Over (See Donaldsonville Mitigation Action 5)
DON9: Potable Water	Create redundancy of potable water supply to critical facilities, especially hospitals in Parish, and provide protection of potable water supply by acquisition/installation of backflow preventers at appropriate critical locations.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones, Tornadoes, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Not Started - Carried Over (See Donaldsonville Mitigation Action 6)

DON10: Promote Flood Insurance	Promote the purchase of flood insurance. Advertise the availability, cost, and coverage of flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones	Not Started - Carried Over (See Donaldsonville Mitigation Action 7)
DON11: Levee Failure Working Group	Create a working group in order to assess the extent and determine the possible effects of a levee failure	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure	Not Started - Carried Over (See Donaldsonville Mitigation Action 8)
DON12: NFIP	Continue parish and municipal participation and compliance (Parish of Ascension, Donaldsonville, Gonzales, and Sorrento) in NFIP	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding	Deleted - Included under DON10 Action
DON13: Wind Hardening of the Lemann Center and City Hall	Retrofit Lemann Center, City Hall, and other facilities for use as a shelter, staging center, and point of commodity distribution during a disaster.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Tropical Cyclone, Thunderstorm, Tornado	Deleted - Included under DON1 Action
DON14: Flood Risk – Infrastructure Improvements	Drainage improvements for high risk flooding areas, including Opelousas Street, West 7th Street, St. Patrick Street, and all City underpasses.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone, Levee, Thunderstorm	Deleted - Included under DON2 Action
DON15: Bayou Stormwater Management	Dredging of waterways in surrounding parishes alleviate flooding in 3 surrounding parishes.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone	Deleted - Included under DON2 Action
DON16: Pumping Stations at Lafourche Street and Railroad Tracks	Addition of pumping stations at Lafourche Street and railroad crossing.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclone	In Progress
DON17: RL & SRL Elevations/Acquisitions	Elevate or acquire all RL and SRL structures in Ascension Parish in flood zones and/or potential levee failure areas	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flood, Tropical Cyclone, Levee	Deleted - Included under DON3 Action
DON18: Future Development	Ensure that future development does not increase hazard losses	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes,	Completed

					Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	
DON19: Development Guidelines	Guide future development away from hazard areas while maintaining other parish goals such as economic development and improving the quality of life	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under DON18 Action
DON20: Strengthen Buildings	Enforce the International Building Code requirements for all new construction to strengthen buildings against high wind damage	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under DON1 Action
DON21: Item Safe Keeping	Provide safe locations for files, records, and computer equipment. Off site file storage, daily, and weekly file storage backup.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Completed
DON22: Purchase generators for critical facilities	New Generator, Main Pump Station, and Fire Station #110 completed and need to install generator at Lemann Center.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under DON6 Action
DON23: Communication System Upgrades	Implement upgrades and additions to communications systems, including the Auto call out system for Sheriff's Department. Implement a public notification system, such as sirens or a call down system with backup capabilities.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Not Started - Carried Over (See Donaldsonville Mitigation Action 9)

DON24: Drainage Improvement Projects	Implementation of drainage improvement/flood mitigation projects to relieve flooding problems, reduce flood damage and costs of damage, overtopping of roads with drain water, while also keeping open roadways during periods of high precipitation.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones	Deleted - Included under DON2 Action
DON25: Mitigation Outreach and Education	Increase public awareness of hazards and hazardous areas. Actions may include distribution of public awareness information regarding all hazards and potential mitigation measures; implementation of educational program for children and merchants; Integrate "Disaster Resistance Education" into the public school curriculum, providing public education on the importance of maintaining the ditches, promotion of the purchase of flood insurance for public. Sponsor a "Multi-Hazard Awareness Week", to educate the public on all hazards	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under DON5 Action
DON26: Potable Water	Create redundancy of potable water supply to critical facilities and provide protection of potable water supply by acquisition/installation of backflow preventers at appropriate critical locations.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under DON9 Action
DON27: Flood Proofing Projects	Flood-proof critical structures within the city to help promote continuation of critical services during a storm event	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones	In Progress

DON28: Road Elevation	Elevate roads in vulnerable locations prone to flooding and drainage problems.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones	Deleted - Included under DON2 Action
DON29: Pumping Station Projects	Elevate or flood proof pump stations; upgrade existing pump stations by installing block valves to prevent/protect against backwater	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones	In Progress
DON30: Flood Ordinances	Adopt new regulations reducing development density in floodplains.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones	Deleted - Included under DON2 Action

New Mitigation Actions

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF DONALDSONVILE	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE MITIGATION ACTION 1	Mitigation of repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties and other hazard prone structures
LEAD AGENCY	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards
PRIORITY	High
Action Description	Elevation, acquisition-demolition, acquisition-relocations, and reconstruction of repetitive loss or flooding or other hazard prone properties.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Projects, Natural System Protection
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Eliminates flooding risk of repetitive and severe repetitive loss structures.
Current Status of Action	Not Started – Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Levee Failure Tropical Cyclones

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF DONALDSONVILE	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE MITIGATION ACTION 2	Education and Outreach
LEAD AGENCY	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness 3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards 5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Enhance the public outreach programs for the parish and all communities by increasing awareness of risks and safety for drought, excessive heat, flooding, levee failure, subsidence, thunderstorms, tornadoes, tropical cyclones, wildfires, winter weather hazards as well as providing information on high risk areas. Informing communities, business and citizens on proper mitigation efforts and activities will create resiliency within the parish and its communities.
Type of Mitigation Action	Education and Awareness Programs
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Informing communities, business and citizens on proper mitigation efforts and activities will create resiliency within the parish and its communities.
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms (Lightning, High Wind, Hail), Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF DONALDSONVILE	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE MITIGATION ACTION 3	Generators for continuity of operations and government
LEAD AGENCY	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Procurement and Installation of generators at public facilities to ensure continued operations during and after events.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Installation of generators will allow public facilities to run accordingly and aid with local relief efforts
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Thunderstorms (High Wind), Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF DONALDSONVILE	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE MITIGATION ACTION 4	Lightning Mitigation
LEAD AGENCY	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Procurement and Installation of Lightning rods and surge protectors for public buildings to preserve life and property
Type of Mitigation Action	Structure and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	The installation of lightning rods and surge protectors in public buildings and critical infrastructure will reduce losses due to lightning strikes and surges in electricity.
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Thunderstorms (Lightning)

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF DONALDSONVILE	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE MITIGATION ACTION 5	Warning Systems
LEAD AGENCY	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness 5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Update/upgrade public warning system components throughout Ascension Parish as necessary. Install audible and/or reverse 911 warning system(s).
Type of Mitigation Action	Structure and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	An upgraded public warning system will increase the likelihood of public notification immediately prior to an event
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms (Lightning, High Wind, Hail), Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF DONALDSONVILE	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE MITIGATION ACTION 6	Potable Water
LEAD AGENCY	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Create redundancy of potable water supply to critical facilities, especially hospitals in Parish, and provide protection of potable water supply by acquisition/installation of backflow preventers at appropriate critical locations.
Type of Mitigation Action	Structure and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Creating a redundancy of potable water for critical facilities will reduce downtime and allow for the continuity of essential operations during and after an event.
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Tropical Cyclones, Tornadoes, Wildfires, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF DONALDSONVILE	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE MITIGATION ACTION 7	Promote Flood Insurance
LEAD AGENCY	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness 3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities
PRIORITY	High
Action Description	Promote the purchase of flood insurance. Advertise the availability, cost, and coverage of flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
Type of Mitigation Action	Education and Awareness Programs
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Educating the public on flood insurance will allow public to obtain insurance at a cost that's affordable to them and will help gain relief to their home and personal items during post-flood events
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Levee Failure, Tropical Cyclones

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF DONALDSONVILE	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE MITIGATION ACTION 8	Levee Failure Working Group
LEAD AGENCY	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	FEMA HGMP, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness 3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities 5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	Low
Action Description	Create a working group in order to assess the extent and determine the possible impact of a levee failure.
Type of Mitigation Action	Natural System Protection
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Creation of working group will allow levees to be assessed and determine the possible outcomes during failure. This is a preventive measure that will allow the group to call upon others to reinforce structures if failure event is imminent.
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Levee Failure

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF DONALDSONVILE	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE MITIGATION ACTION 9	Communication System Upgrades
LEAD AGENCY	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Implement upgrades and additions to communications systems, including the Auto call out system for Sheriff's Department. Implement a public notification system, such as sirens or a call down system with backup capabilities.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Up to date communication systems will allow for preparation and response efforts to be cohesive and smooth during hazard events
Current Status of Action	Not Started – Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms (Lightning, High Wind, Hail), Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF DONALDSONVILE	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE MITIGATION ACTION 10	Drought Ordinances
LEAD AGENCY	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Adopt ordinances requiring water-saving measures in time of drought.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Water saving measures will allow the community to remain resilient during drought related events, providing necessary water to the public
Current Status of Action	NEW
Hazard Addressed	Drought

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF DONALDSONVILE	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE MITIGATION ACTION 11	Cooling Stations
LEAD AGENCY	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Establish cooling stations at various locations around the parish to provide relief to the public during heat wave events
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Cooling stations will reduce the risk of loss of life amongst the public, especially vulnerable populations, during excessive heat related events.
Current Status of Action	NEW
Hazard Addressed	Excessive Heat

City of Gonzales Mitigation Actions

Previous Action Update

City of Gonzales Mitigation Action Sheet						
Jurisdiction-Specific Action	**Action Description**	**Funding Source**	**Timeframe**	**Responsible Party, Agency, or Department**	**Hazard**	**Status**
GON1: Building Retrofits	Retrofit public buildings exterior shell to maintain use during and after storm events. Benefits: Reduces damage from high winds and helps ensure that the public buildings can be used, occupied and operable during or after storms.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Not Started - Carried Over (See Gonzales Mitigation Action 1)
GON2: Drainage Improvement	Will relieve flooding problems, reduce flood damage and costs of damage, overtopping of roads with drain water, while also keeping open roadways during periods of high precipitation. Benefits: Relieves Parish or local government and property owners of the continual flooding problems, with closed roadways (loss of function). Saves public funds for road repairs, drainage ditch repairs, sandbagging and blocking of roadways during storm periods.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclones	In Progress
Comments: Continually prioritizing roadway drainage improvements as needed. **Current Projects: 1)** Excavate and lower invert of Kennedy Height's outfall channel running from S. Edward Avenue to eastern lateral ditch. **2)** Upgrade cross drain under S. Edward Avenue from existing 18" CMP to 30" RCPA. **3)** Upgrade cross drain under W. Jacqueline Avenue from existing 15" CMP to 24" RCPA. **4)** Clean and grade roadside ditches along north side of W. Jacqueline Avenue. **5)** Upgrade cross drain under S. Robert Avenue from existing 15" CMP to 24" RCPA. **6)** Upgrade driveway culverts along north side of W. Jacqueline from existing 12" CMP to 18" RCPA. **7)** Replacing existing Tobey Avenue bridge with double 8' x 4' concrete box culverts						
GON3: Mitigation of repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties and other hazard prone structures	Elevation, acquisition-demolition, acquisition-relocations, and reconstruction of repetitive loss, severe repetitive loss or flooding or other hazard prone properties.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclones	In Progress
Comments: City supports rep loss structure elevations as permitted through any grant funding.						
GON4: Safe Room Projects	Construction of a safe room for first responders located in Gonzales. Other locations will be identified based on funding availability.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Not Started - Carried Over (See Gonzales Mitigation Action 2)

GON5: Education and Outreach	Enhance the public outreach programs for the parish and all communities by increasing awareness of risks and safety for drought, excessive heat, flooding, levee failure, subsidence, thunderstorms, tornadoes, tropical cyclones, wildfires, winter weather hazards as well as providing information on high risk areas. Informing communities, business and citizens on proper mitigation efforts and activities will create resiliency within the parish and its communities.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Ongoing
Comments: Public outreach events planned multiple times a year						
GON6: Generators for Continuity of Operations and Government	Procurement and Installation of generators at public facilities to ensure continued operations during and after events.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	In Progress
Comments: New generator being installed at Roddy Road water well October 2024. New generator installed at Fire Station 10 September 2024.						
GON7: Lightning Mitigation	Procurement and installation of lightning rods and surge protectors for public buildings to preserve life and property.	HGMP, BRIC, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Thunderstorms	Ongoing
Comments: All new city buildings will be equipped with surge protection as required by state electrical code.						
GON8: Warning Systems	Update/upgrade public warning system components throughout Gonzales as necessary. Install audible and/or reverse 911 warning system(s).	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Ongoing
Comments: Everbridge and reverse utility customer calling methods are utilized						
GON9: Potable Water	Create redundancy of potable water supply to critical facilities, especially hospitals in Parish, and provide protection of potable water supply by acquisition/installation of backflow preventers at appropriate critical locations.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Tornadoes	Completed
Comments: 2023-Completed water system pressure alarm and emergency controls at OLOL Ascension to ensure water pressure is maintained at critical hospital facility.						

GON10: Promote Flood Insurance	Promote the purchase of flood insurance. Advertise the availability, cost, and coverage of flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Continue parish and municipal participation and compliance (Parish of Ascension, Donaldsonville, Gonzales, and Sorrento) in NFIP	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclones	Not Started - Carried Over (See Gonzales Mitigation Action 3)
GON11: Levee Failure Working Group	Create a working group in order to assess the extent and determine the possible effects of a levee failure	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure	Not Started - Carried Over (See Gonzales Mitigation Action 4)
GON12: Future Developments	Ensure that future development does not increase hazard losses. Guide future development away from hazard areas while maintaining other parish goals such as economic development and improving the quality of life	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Not Started - Carried Over (See Gonzales Mitigation Action 5)
GON13: Item Safe Keeping	Provide safe locations for files, records, and computer equipment	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Ongoing
Comments: Cloud file storage is utilized to ensure record retention.						
GON14: Communication System Upgrades	Implement upgrades and additions to communications systems, including the Auto call out system for the Sheriff's Department. Implement a public notification system, such as sirens or a call down system with backup capabilities.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Ongoing
Comments: Everbridge and reverse utility customer calling methods are utilized						
GON15: Flood Proofing of Critical Facilities	Flood-proof critical structures within the parish to help promote continuation of critical services during a storm event	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones	In Progress
Comments: Jackie working to construct a high elevation driveway accessing Gonzales Police Station to provide access during flood events.						

GON16: Interoperable Communications Plan	Develop an interoperability/communications plan identifying resources and equipment needed to establish a single, interagency, mobile incident and communications command post.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Not Started - Carried Over (See Gonzales Mitigation Action 6)
GON17: Pump Station Enhancement and Elevations	Elevate or flood proof pump stations; upgrade existing pump stations by installing block valves to prevent/protect against backwater	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone, Subsidence, Levee Failure	Not Started - Carried Over (See Gonzales Mitigation Action 7)
GON18: Floodwall and Flood Control Construction Projects	Install and/or upgrade minor flood control structures including berms and floodwalls to protect critical facilities	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone, Subsidence, Levee Failure	Not Started - Carried Over (See Gonzales Mitigation Action 8)

New Mitigation Actions

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF GONZALES	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF GONZALES MITIGATION ACTION 1	Building Retrofits
LEAD AGENCY	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Retrofit public buildings exterior shell to maintain use during and after storm events
Type of Mitigation Action	Structure and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Reduces damage from high wind related events and helps assure that the public buildings can be used, occupied and operable during or after storms.
Current Status of Action	Not Started – Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Thunderstorms (Lightning, High Wind, Hail), Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF GONZALES	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF GONZALES MITIGATION ACTION 2	Safe Room Projects
LEAD AGENCY	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Construction of a safe room for first responders located in Gonzales Other locations will be identified based on funding availability.
Type of Mitigation Action	Structure and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Allows for continued operations of essential personal to actively respond during a natural hazard event
Current Status of Action	Not Started – Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Thunderstorms (Lightning, High Wind, Hail), Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF GONZALES	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF GONZALES MITIGATION ACTION 3	Promote Flood Insurance
LEAD AGENCY	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness 3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities
PRIORITY	High
Action Description	Promote the purchase of flood insurance. Advertise the availability, cost, and coverage of flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
Type of Mitigation Action	Education and Awareness Programs
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Educating the public on flood insurance will allow public to obtain insurance at a cost that's affordable to them and will help gain relief to their home and personal items during post-flood events
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Tropical Cyclones

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF GONZALES	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF GONZALES MITIGATION ACTION 4	Levee Failure Working Group
LEAD AGENCY	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness 3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities
PRIORITY	High
Action Description	Create a working group in order to assess the extent and determine the possible effects of a levee failure.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Determining the extents of a levee failure will allow the community to readily prepare for the event if it were to happen. Reviewing inundation zones around the community's area should be taken into account.
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Levee Failure, Tropical Cyclones

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF GONZALES	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF GONZALES MITIGATION ACTION 5	Future Developments
LEAD AGENCY	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness 3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Ensure that future development does not increase hazard losses. Guide future development away from hazard areas while maintaining other parish goals such as economic development and improving the quality of life
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Future development that does not incur an increase in losses will in return reduce the risk to loss of life and property due to hazard events
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms (Lightning, High Wind, Hail), Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF GONZALES	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF GONZALES MITIGATION ACTION 6	Interoperable Communications Plan
LEAD AGENCY	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness 5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Develop an interoperability/communications plan identifying resources and equipment needed to establish a single, interagency, mobile incident and communications command post.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Interoperability communications plan will allow for a coordinated and collaborative effort among disaster recovery after hazard events
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms (Lightning, High Wind, Hail), Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF GONZALES	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF GONZALES MITIGATION ACTION 7	Pump Station Enhancements and Elevations
LEAD AGENCY	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Elevate or flood proof pump stations; upgrade existing pump stations by installing block valves to prevent/protect against backwater
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Elevating pump stations will reduce the risk of a failure during a flooding event
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone, Subsidence, Levee Failure

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF GONZALES	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF GONZALES MITIGATION ACTION 8	Floodwall and Flood Control Construction Programs
LEAD AGENCY	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Install and/or upgrade minor flood control structures including berms and floodwalls to protect critical facilities
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Construction of flood control structures will allow the risk of flooding and loss of property to decrease. This will also ensure the operation of critical infrastructure is not interrupted.
Current Status of Action	Not Started - Carried Over from 2020 Plan
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone, Subsidence, Levee Failure

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF GONZALES	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF GONZALES MITIGATION ACTION 9	Drought Ordinances
LEAD AGENCY	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Adopt ordinances requiring water-saving measures in time of drought.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Water saving measures will allow the community to remain resilient during drought related events, providing necessary water to the public
Current Status of Action	NEW
Hazard Addressed	Drought

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS CITY OF GONZALES	
	DESCRIPTION
CITY OF GONZALES MITIGATION ACTION 10	Cooling Stations
LEAD AGENCY	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Establish cooling stations at various locations around the parish to provide relief to the public during heat wave events
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Cooling stations will reduce the risk of loss of life amongst the public, especially vulnerable populations, during excessive heat related events.
Current Status of Action	NEW
Hazard Addressed	Excessive Heat

Town of Sorrento Mitigation Actions

Previous Action Update

Town of Sorrento Mitigation Action Sheet						
Jurisdiction-Specific Action	**Action Description**	**Funding Source**	**Timeframe**	**Responsible Party, Agency, or Department**	**Hazard**	**Status**
SOR1: Building Retrofits	Retrofit public buildings exterior shell to maintain use during and after storm events. Benefits: Reduces damage from high winds and helps ensure that the public buildings can be used, occupied and operable during or after storms.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Completed
SOR2: Drainage Improvement	Will relieve flooding problems, reduce flood damage and costs of damage, overtopping of roads with drain water, while also keeping open roadways during periods of high precipitation. Benefits: Relieves Parish or local government and property owners of the continual flooding problems, with closed roadways (loss of function). Saves public funds for road repairs, drainage ditch repairs, sandbagging and blocking of roadways during storm periods.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclones	Ongoing
SOR3: Mitigation of repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties and other hazard prone structures	Elevation, acquisition-demolition, acquisition-relocations, and reconstruction of repetitive loss or flooding or other hazard prone properties.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclones	In Progress
SOR4: Safe Room Projects	Construction of a safe room for first responders located in Sorrento. Other locations will be identified based on funding availability.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Completed

SOR5: Education and Outreach	Enhance the public outreach programs for the parish and all communities by increasing awareness of risks and safety for drought, excessive heat, flooding, levee failure, subsidence, thunderstorms, tornadoes, tropical cyclones, wildfires, winter weather hazards as well as providing information on high risk areas. Informing communities, business and citizens on proper mitigation efforts and activities will create resiliency within the parish and its communities.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Ongoing
SOR6: Generators for Continuity of Operations and Government	Procurement and Installation of generators at public facilities to ensure continued operations during and after events.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Completed
SOR7: Lightning Mitigation	Procurement and installation of lightning rods and surge protectors for public buildings to preserve life and property.	HGMP, BRIC, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Thunderstorms	In Progress
SOR8: Warning Systems	Update/upgrade public warning system components throughout Sorrento as necessary. Install audible and/or reverse 911 warning system(s).	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Completed
SOR9: Potable Water	Create redundancy of potable water supply to critical facilities, especially hospitals in Parish, and provide protection of potable water supply by acquisition/installation of backflow preventers at appropriate critical locations.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones, Tornadoes, Wildfires	Deleted – Covered under parish
SOR10: Promote Flood Insurance	Promote the purchase of flood insurance. Advertise the availability, cost, and coverage of flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclones	Ongoing
SOR11: Levee Failure Working Group	Create a working group in order to assess the extent and determine the possible effects of a levee failure	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure	Deleted – Covered under parish

SOR12: Sewer System	A drainage project between St. James Parish and Ascension Parish to clear and maintain Bayou Conway will help alleviate repetitive loss areas and the sewer problems in Sorrento.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding	Deleted - Included under SOR2 Action
SOR13: Drainage System	Clearing of ditches, waterways and bayous is needed to alleviate the backwater and stormwater after an incident.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclones	Deleted - Included under SOR2 Action
SOR14: RL & SRL Elevations/Acquisitions	Elevate or acquire all RL and SRL structures in Ascension Parish in flood zones and/or potential levee failure areas	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flood, Tropical Cyclone, Levee	Deleted - Included under SOR3 Action
SOR15: Future Developments	Ensure that future development does not increase hazard losses	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Ongoing
SOR16: Development Guidelines	Guide future development away from hazard areas while maintaining other parish goals such as economic development and improving the quality of life	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under SOR15 Action
SOR17: Item Safe Keeping	Provide safe locations for files, records, and computer equipment	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Completed
SOR18: Wind Retrofits	Wind retrofit of parish facilities	HGMP, BRIC, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Tropical Cyclone, Thunderstorm, Tornadoes	Deleted - Included under SOR1 Action
SOR19: Drainage Improvements	Widen drainage ditches and upgrade culverts.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Tropical Cyclone	Deleted - Included under SOR2 Action
SOR20: Generator Acquisitions	Purchase generators for critical facilities	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under SOR6

SOR21: Drainage Improvement Projects	Implementation of drainage improvement/flood mitigation projects to relieve flooding problems, reduce flood damage and costs of damage, overtopping of roads with drain water, while also keeping open roadways during periods of high precipitation.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones	Deleted - Included under SOR2 Action
SOR22: Mitigation Outreach and Education	Increase public awareness of hazards and hazardous areas. Actions may include distribution of public awareness information regarding all hazards and potential mitigation measures; implementation of educational program for children and merchants; Integrate "Disaster Resistance Education" into the public school curriculum, providing public education on the importance of maintaining the ditches, promotion of the purchase of flood insurance for public. Sponsor a "Multi-Hazard Awareness Week", to educate the public on all hazards	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under SOR5 Action
SOR23: Potable Water	Create redundancy of potable water supply to critical facilities and provide protection of potable water supply by acquisition/installation of backflow preventers at appropriate critical locations.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Winter Weather	Deleted - Included under SOR9 Action
SOR24: Flood Proofing Projects	Flood-proof critical structures within the city to help promote continuation of critical services during a storm event	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones	In Progress
SOR25: Road Elevation	Elevate roads in vulnerable locations prone to flooding and drainage problems.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones	Deleted - Included under SOR2 Action
SOR26: Pumping Station Projects	Elevate or flood proof pump stations; upgrade existing pump stations by installing block valves to prevent/protect against backwater	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones	Deleted – Covered under parish

SOR27: Flood Ordinances	Adopt new regulations reducing development density in floodplains.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones	Deleted - Included under SOR2 Action
SOR28: Communication System Upgrades	Implement upgrades and additions to communications systems, including the Auto call out system for Sheriff's Department. Implement a public notification system, such as sirens or a call down system with backup capabilities.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Completed
SOR29: Purchase Interoperable Communication Equipment	Purchase communication equipment to allow cohesive response during disaster events.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather	Completed
SOR30: Debris Management	Institute debris removal practices to ensure cleanup is accomplished post disaster.	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local	1-5 years	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office/ Ascension Parish OHSEP	Thunderstorms, Tornadoes	Completed

New Mitigation Actions

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS TOWN OF SORRENTO	
	DESCRIPTION
TOWN OF SORRENTO MITIGATION ACTION 1	Drought Ordinances
LEAD AGENCY	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Adopt ordinances requiring water-saving measures in time of drought.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations, Natural Systems Protection
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Water saving measures will allow the community to remain resilient during drought related events, providing necessary water to the public
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Drought

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS TOWN OF SORRENTO	
	DESCRIPTION
TOWN OF SORRENTO MITIGATION ACTION 2	Heating and Cooling Stations
LEAD AGENCY	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Establish heating and cooling stations at various locations around the parish to provide relief to the public during heat wave and winter weather events
Type of Mitigation Action	Structure and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Heating and cooling stations will reduce the risk of loss of life amongst the public, especially vulnerable populations.
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Excessive Heat, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS TOWN OF SORRENTO	
	DESCRIPTION
TOWN OF SORRENTO MITIGATION ACTION 3	Wildfire Defense Area
LEAD AGENCY	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Develop a defensible space program in order to reduce fuels surrounding homes in the urban-wildland interface.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations, Natural Systems Protection, Structure, and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Creation of a defensible area will reduce the likelihood of a wildfire occurrence.
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Wildfires

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS TOWN OF SORRENTO	
	DESCRIPTION
TOWN OF SORRENTO MITIGATION ACTION 4	Flood Control Measures
LEAD AGENCY	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 3. Reduce repetitive flood losses in Ascension Parish and its municipalities 4. Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Install and/or upgrade minor flood control structures including berms and floodwalls to protect critical facilities.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Flood control measures will reduce the risk of flooding and protect critical infrastructure. This will also ensure that essential personnel's operations are not interrupted during hazard events
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Levee Failure, Thunderstorms, Tropical Cyclones

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS TOWN OF SORRENTO	
	DESCRIPTION
TOWN OF SORRENTO MITIGATION ACTION 5	Identify and pursue preventative measures that will reduce future damage from hazards.
LEAD AGENCY	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HGMP, BRIC, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness 5. Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Send town representatives to relevant State and National hazard mitigation meetings to identify and pursue grants and project funding sources and measures that will mitigate future damages from hazards. These funding sources will allow the town to mitigate critical infrastructure to be less prone to hazard events. Mitigative efforts include, but are not limited to retrofitting/hardening, flood-proofing, reconstruction in less hazardous areas, etc.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Attending meetings oriented around grants and project funding will allow the community to engage in mitigation projects they could partake in, creating a safer community
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Drought, Excessive Heat, Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones, Wildfires, Winter Weather

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS TOWN OF SORRENTO	
	DESCRIPTION
TOWN OF SORRENTO MITIGATION ACTION 6	Mobile Home Mitigation Regulations
LEAD AGENCY	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HMGP, FMA, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Adopt regulations that mobile homes meet the requirements set forth by safety codes. These regulations include, but are not limited to proper anchoring techniques, elevations, no permanent additions, etc.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Adopting these regulations allows the mobile home to be compliant with safety codes and will reduce the risk of loss of life and property around the parish due to high-wind and flooding events.
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Thunderstorms (High Wind), Tornadoes

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS TOWN OF SORRENTO	
	DESCRIPTION
TOWN OF SORRENTO MITIGATION ACTION 7	Hazard Resistant Building Materials
LEAD AGENCY	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HMGP, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Regulate the use of impact resistant building materials on all new construction around the parish. This includes items such as Class-4 rated asphalt shingles, metal roofing, rubber tiles, shatter-resistant windows, protective covers for outside utilities, etc.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Regulating building materials allows for the reduction to risk of property damage around the parish
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Thunderstorms (Lightning, High Wind, Hail), Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclones

IMPLEMENTATION KEY FOR POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS TOWN OF SORRENTO	
	DESCRIPTION
TOWN OF SORRENTO MITIGATION ACTION 8	Relocation of Critical Infrastructure
LEAD AGENCY	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office
SUPPORTING AGENCIES	Ascension Parish OHSEP
TIMELINE	1-5 years
COST ESTIMATE	Unknown
POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE(S)	HMGP, Local
ASSOCIATED GOALS	1. Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce further damages from hazards 2. Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness
PRIORITY	Medium
Action Description	Relocate existing critical infrastructure and regulate new development away from hazard prone areas.
Type of Mitigation Action	Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Projects
How Action Aligns with Risk Reduction	Removing critical infrastructure from hazard prone areas will allow for the reduction to potential loss of property and allow the facility to remain operable during hazard events
Current Status of Action	New
Hazard Addressed	Flooding, Levee Failure, Subsidence, Wildfires

Action Prioritization

During the prioritization process, the planning committee considered the costs and relative benefits of each new action. Costs can usually be listed in terms of dollars, although at times it involves staff time rather than the purchase of equipment or services that can be readily measured in dollars. In most cases, benefits, such as lives saved or future damage prevented, are hard to measure in dollars. Therefore, many projects were prioritized with these factors in mind. In addition, prioritization of the mitigation actions was performed based on the following economic criteria: i) whether the action can be performed with the existing parish resources; ii) whether the action requires additional funding from external sources; and iii) relative costs of the mitigation actions.

In all cases, the committee concluded that the benefits (in terms of reduced property damage, lives saved, health problems averted and/or economic harm prevented) outweighed the costs for the recommended action items.

The planning committee prioritized the possible activities that could be pursued. Planning committee members consulted appropriate agencies in order to assist with the prioritizations. The results were items that address the major hazards, are appropriate for those hazards, are cost-effective, and are affordable. On-going actions, as well as actions which will provide maximum benefit that can be undertaken by existing parish staff with or without additional external funding were given high priority. The actions with medium benefit and relatively low cost, political support, and public support but require additional funding from parish or external sources were given medium priority. The actions that require substantial funding from external sources and would result in limited benefit to the community were given low priority.

Ascension Parish and the incorporated jurisdictions will implement and administer the identified actions based off the proposed timeframes and priorities for each reflected in the portions of this section where actions are summarized. The inclusion of any specific action item in this document does not commit the parish to implementation. Each action item will be subject to availability of staff and funding. Certain items may require regulatory changes or other decisions that must be implemented through standard processes. This plan is intended to offer priorities based on an examination of hazards.

Appendix A: Planning Process

Purpose

The Hazard Mitigation Plan Update process prompts local jurisdictions to keep their hazard mitigation plan current and moving toward a more resilient community. The plan update builds on the research and planning efforts of previous plans while reviewing recent trends. The planning committee followed FEMA's hazard mitigation planning process per the FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook. This planning process assured public involvement and the participation of interested agencies and private organizations. Documentation of the planning process for the updated plan is addressed in this section.

The Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

The Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update process began in June 2025 with a series of emails, phone calls, meetings, and collaborations between the contractor (SDMI) and a diverse group of participating agencies and stakeholders. Update activities were intended to give each participating agency and stakeholder the opportunity to shape the plan to best fit their community's mitigation goals. Community stakeholders and the general public were invited to attend and contribute information to the planning process during specific time periods or meetings.

The table below details the meeting schedule and purpose for the planning process:

Date	Meeting or Outreach	Location	Public Invited	Purpose
6/12/2024	Kick Off Meeting	Gonzales, LA	No	Discuss with the Parish OHSEP Director expectations and requirements of the project. Discuss meeting schedules, committee make up, and next steps.
8/20/2024	Initial Planning Committee Meeting	Gonzales, LA	No	Discuss with Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee the process and expectations of plan participants. Discuss timeline and action items for parish and each jurisdiction.
10/3/2024	Mitigation Action Workshop	Zoom Conference	No	Discussion with Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee of the outstanding data required for plan update, as well as discussion of mitigation actions (old and new) for plan update.
10/16/2024	Planning Committee Risk Assessment Review	Gonzales, LA	Yes	Presentation of Risk Assessment and profiled hazards to Planning Committee.
10/16/2024	Public Meeting	Gonzales, LA	Yes	Presentation of Risk Assessment s and profiled hazards to public. Presentation also includes current mitigation project highlights within communities and public survey discussion.
Ongoing throughout planning process	Public Opinion Survey	Online	Yes	This survey asked participants about public perceptions and opinions regarding natural hazards in Ascension Parish. In addition, questions covered the methods and techniques preferred for reducing the risks and losses associated with these hazards. Survey Link: https://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_78PLF31VMuOdSNU

Planning

The plan update process consisted of several phases:

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11
Plan Revision											
Data Collection											
Risk Assessment											
Public Input											
Mitigation Strategy											
Plan Review by GOHSEP and FEMA											
FEMA APA											
Plan Adoptions											
Final Plan Approval											

Coordination

The Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) oversaw the coordination of the 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Planning Committee during the update process. The parish OHSEP was responsible for identifying members for the committee. Representatives of relevant local and parish government departments were invited for inclusion in the planning process via email from SDMI and the Ascension Parish OHSEP Director. Ascension Parish and their jurisdictions identified and reached out, via email, to representatives of non-profits, local businesses and organizations, and private organizations that provide for the betterment and benefit of populations identified as socially vulnerable and work directly with communities that are deemed as underserved so that they could be involved in the entirety of this plan update process and participate as key stakeholders. Some directors from organizations contacted included the Council on Aging, the local American Red Cross chapter, and local volunteer organizations. Representatives from the Ascension Parish Council on Aging and Volunteer Ascension were active in the planning process and attended multiple meetings. There are no higher education institutions in Ascension Parish; therefore, no members of academia could be included in the planning process on a parish level. However, SDMI is an institution under the Louisiana State University system, so this plan update received constant feedback from academia personnel on LSU's campus. Therefore, LSU was able to be included for academic participation during the plan update process.

The Parish Director was responsible for inviting the planning committee and key stakeholders to schedule meetings and activities via phone call and/or email. SDMI assisted the Parish Director with press releases and social media statements for notification to the media and general public for public meetings and public outreach activities. SDMI was responsible for facilitating all meetings and assisting outreach efforts during the update process.

Neighboring Community, Local and Regional Planning Process Involvement

From the outset of the planning process, the planning committee encouraged participation from a broad range of parish entities. The involvement of representatives from the city, state, and regional agencies provided diverse perspectives and mitigation ideas.

Formal participation in this plan includes but is not limited to the following activities:

- Participation in Hazard Mitigation planning meetings at the local and parish level
- Sharing local data and information with jurisdictions
- Incorporation of other planning documents, studies and efforts
- Action item development and action progress from 2020 update
- Risk Assessment review
- Plan document draft review
- Formal adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan

The East Baton Rouge Parish OHSEP Director was invited to attend the Initial Planning and Risk Assessment Meetings for Ascension Parish in an effort to coordinate mitigation efforts where possible as neighboring communities. The East Baton Rouge OHSEP Director was invited via email and phone call to participate in an effort to collaborate with neighboring communities. SDMI assisted Ascension Parish with encouraging the collaboration with these neighboring communities via email by extending an invitation to the Ascension Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Meetings. As part of the coordination and planning process, the parish was provided the State Required Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Worksheet. The completed worksheets can be found in *Appendix E: State Required Worksheets*.

The 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Planning Committee consisted of representatives from Ascension Parish, incorporated jurisdictions, and the general public. Below is a detailed list of the 2025 HMPU Planning Committee:

Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee			
Name	**Title**	**Agency**	**Email**
Rachael Wilkinson	Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP	rachael.wilkinson@apgov.us
Michele Rayborn	Planning Section Chief	Ascension Parish OHSEP	michele.rayborn@apgov.us
Brady Edmonston	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP	brady.edmonston@apgov.us
Alvin Broussard	Director	City of Gonzales Public Works	alvin@gonzalesla.com
Brandon O'Deay	Director of Technology	Ascension Parish Government	Brandon.ODeay@apgov.us
Brian Martinez	Director of Performance & Accounting	Ascension Parish Government	bmartinez@apgov.us
Chase Melancon	District 6 Council Chair	Ascension Parish Government	chase.melancon@apgov.us
Chris Guidry	Mayor	Town of Sorrento	cguidry@sorrentola.gov
Chunyue Liu	GS Administrator	Ascension Parish Government	chunyueliu@apg.us
Clint Cointment	Parish President	APG Administration	Clint.Cointment@apgov.us
Cody Melancon	Deputy Chief	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office	cmelancon@ascensionsheriff.com
Colleen Arceneaux	Director	APG Health and Community Development	colleen.arceneaxu@apgov.us
Craig Berteau	Deputy	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office	cberteau@ascensionsheriff.com
Daniel Helms	Chief Transportation Engineer	Ascension Parish Government	daniel.helms@apgov.us
Darlene Schexnayder	Executive Director	Council on Aging	darlenes@ascensioncoa.org
Daniel Marks	Region Manager	All South Construction	
David Weil	Executive Assistant to the Parish President	Ascension Parish Government, PPO West	David.Weil@apgov.us

Edith Walker	Superintendent	Ascension Parish School Board	edith.walker@apsb.org
Eric Poche	Director	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development	EPoche@apgov.us
Hermina Edward Irvin	Grants Director	Ascension Parish Government	hermina.irvin@apgov.us
Jaci Marix	Permit Technician/Flood Plain	City of Gonzales	jaci@gonzalesla.com
Jackie Baumann	Chief Engineer	City of Gonzales	jackie@gonzalesla.com
Jade Robin	Project Manager Professional	Ascension Parish Government	jade.robin@apgov.us
James Breaux	Operations Director	West Ascension Parish Hospital	jamesb@prevosthospital.net
James LeBlanc	Fire Chief	Ascension Parish Government	james.leblanc@honeywell.com
Jamie McKnight	Supervisor of Planning and Construction	Ascension Parish Public Schools	Jamie.mcknight@apsb.org
Jason Ball	Airport Manager	Ascension/St. James Airport	laregional@eatel.net
Jason Licciardi	Interim Director of Utilities	Ascension Parish Utilities	jlicciardi@apgov.us
Jeff Parent	Director of Planning and Construction	Ascension Parish School Board	jeff.parent@apsb.org
Josh Wingerter	Fire Chief	Fire District #1	josh.wingerter@apfire.org
Juanita Pearley	Executive Director	Donaldsonville Chamber of Commerce	dvillecoc@bellsouth.net
Justin Brown	Facility Manager	OLOL Ascension	Justin.Brown@fmolhs.org
Justin Dupuy	Planning & Development Director	City of Gonzales	justin@gonzalesla.com
Karl Broussard	Deputy	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office	kbroussard@ascensionsheriff.com
Kelly Le	President	Gonzales Rotary	
Kyle Rogers	General Manager	Ascension Parish Government – Lamar Dixon	kyle.rogers@apgov.us
Lance Brock	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development	lbrock@apgov.us
Latricia Anthony	Senior Grants Coordinator	APG	latricia.anthony@apgov.us
Leroy Sullivan	Mayor	City of Donaldsonville	mayorofc@donaldsonville.brcoxmail.com; leroy.sullivan@cox.net
Marcia Shivers	Floodplain Manager	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development	mshivers@apgov.us
Mark Stewart	Fire Chief of Prairieville	Fire District #3	mstewart@prairievillefire.com
Melissa Burton Bourgeois	President	East Ascension Rotary	
Michele Ashby	Director of Community & Economic Development	City of Donaldsonville	m.ashby@coxbusiness.net
Paige Robert	Town Clerk	Town of Sorrento	probert@sorrentola.gov
Preston Landry	Assistant Fire Chief	Gonzales Fire	plandry@gonzalesfd.com
Regina Thomas	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish Government – Public Works	lrpdelaney1@bellsouth.net
Ricky Compton	Infrastructure Developmental Director	Ascension Parish Government-Administration	Ricky.Compton@apgov.us
Ron Savoy	Deputy Director of Operations	Ascension Parish Government – Public Works	ron.savoy@apgov.us

Ruth Phillips	CAO	Ascension Parish Government – Administration	ruth.phillips@apgov.us
Ryland Percy	Interim Mayor	City of Gonzales	mayora@gonzalesla.com
Shelton Anthony	Administrator	Prevost Memorial Hospital	santhony@prevosthospital.net
Sherman Jackson	Police Chief	City of Gonzales	sjackson001@gonzalespd.org; gonzpd@eatel.net
Sherry Denig	Executive Director	Volunteer Ascension	sherry@volunteerascension.org
Skyler Waaso	Transportation Engineer	Ascension Parish Government	skyler.waaso@apgov.us
Steven Nethken	Police Rep	City of Gonzales	snethken@gonzalespd.org
Thomas Anders	Environmental Safety Manager	OLOL Regional Medical Center	thomas.anders@fmolhs.org
Tracey Normand	Fire Chief	City of Gonzales Fire	tnormand@gonzalesfd.com
Travis Cedotal	Fire Chief of Donaldsonville	Fire District #2	dfdfirechief@gmail.com
Zephna Douglas	Region 2 Coordinator	GOHSEP	zephna.douglas@la.gov
Brian Stevens	Special Projects Manager	SDMI	bstevens2@lsu.edu
Chris Rippetoe	Program Manager	SDMI	crippe@lsu.edu
Jason Martin	Emergency Management Analyst	SDMI	jmar293@lsu.edu

Program Integration

Local governments are required to describe how their mitigation planning process is integrated with other ongoing local and area planning efforts. This subsection describes Ascension Parish programs and planning.

A measure of integration and coordination is achieved through the HMPU participation of planning committee members and community stakeholders who administer programs such as: floodplain management under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Community Rating System, parish planning and zoning, and building code enforcement.

Since the last update in 2020, Ascension Parish has used the hazard mitigation plan as a reference point to various projects and mitigation strategies that take place throughout the planning area. Along with the mitigation actions outlined for each parish, Ascension Parish has used vulnerability statistics and integration strategies within the plan to help guide their mitigation practices. The strategies and practices in this plan update build upon the practices that have been used since the previous update. Those strategies and practices can be found in various sections throughout the risk assessment that address climate change, vulnerable populations, and future development trends. Furthermore, the parish has held and will continue to hold annual meetings to discuss any changes that have occurred within the parish that could alter the vulnerability of Ascension Parish, and how to combat any issues that have arisen within the means and regulations of the hazard mitigation plan.

Ascension Parish will continue to integrate the requirements of this Hazard Mitigation Plan into other local planning mechanisms that are to be identified through future meetings of the parish, and through the five-year review process described in *Appendix B: Plan Maintenance*. The primary means for integrating mitigation strategies into other local planning mechanisms will be through the revision, update and implementation of any individual municipal plans that require specific planning and administrative tasks (e.g. risk assessment, plan amendments, ordinance revisions, capital improvement projects, etc.).

The members of the Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will remain charged with ensuring that the goals and strategies of new and updated local planning documents for their communities or agencies are consistent with the goals and actions of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and will not contribute to increased hazard vulnerability in the parish. Existing plans, studies, and technical information were incorporated in the planning process. Examples include flood data from FEMA and the U. S. Geological Survey. Much of this data was incorporated

into the Risk Assessment component of the plan relative to plotting historical events and the magnitude of damages that occurred. The parish's 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan was also used in the planning process. Other existing data and plans used in the planning process include those listed below.

- Parish Emergency Operations Plan
- Stormwater Management Plan
- Flood Insurance Rate Maps
- State of Louisiana Hazard Mitigation Plan

Further information on the plans can be found in *Section 3: Capability Assessment*.

Meeting Documentation and Public Outreach Activities

The following pages contain documentation of the meetings and public outreach activities conducted during this hazard mitigation plan update.

Meeting #1: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Kick-Off

Date: June 12, 2024

Location: 828 S Irma Blvd, Gonzales, LA

Purpose: Discuss with the Parish OHSEP Director expectations and requirements of the project. Discuss meeting schedules, committee make up, and next steps.

Public Invitation: No

Meeting Invitees:

Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee		
Name	**Title**	**Agency**
Rachael Wilkinson	Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Michele Rayborn	Planning Section Chief	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Brady Edmonston	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Hermina Irvin	Grants Director	Ascension Parish Government
Latricia Anthony	Senior Grants Coordinator	Ascension Parish Government
Zephna Douglas	Region 2 Coordinator	GOHSEP
Chris Rippetoe	Program Manager	LSU-SDMI
Jason Martin	Emergency Management Analyst	LSU-SDMI
Brian Stevens	Special Projects Manager	LSU-SDMI

Meeting #2: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Initial Planning Committee Meeting

Date: August 20, 2024

Location: 815 E Worley St, Gonzales, LA

Purpose: Discuss the expectations and requirements of the hazard mitigation plan update process and establish an initial project timeline with the Parish's Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Committee. Assign each individual tasks related to the parish data collection for the plan update.

Public Invitation: No

Meeting Invitees:

Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee		
Name	**Title**	**Agency**
Rachael Wilkinson	Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Michele Rayborn	Planning Section Chief	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Brady Edmonston	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Alvin Broussard	Director	City of Gonzales Public Works
Brandon O'Deay	Director of Technology	Ascension Parish Government
Brian Martinez	Director of Performance & Accounting	Ascension Parish Government
Chase Melancon	District 6 Council Chair	Ascension Parish Government
Chris Guidry	Mayor	Town of Sorrento
Chunyue Liu	GS Administrator	Ascension Parish Government
Clint Cointment	Parish President	APG Administration
Cody Melancon	Deputy Chief	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office
Colleen Arceneaux	Director	APG Health and Community Development
Craig Berteau	Deputy	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office
Daniel Helms	Chief Transportation Engineer	Ascension Parish Government
Darlene Schexnayder	Executive Director	Council on Aging

Daniel Marks	Region Manager	All South Construction
David Weil	Executive Assistant to the Parish President	Ascension Parish Government, PPO West
Edith Walker	Superintendent	Ascension Parish School Board
Eric Poche	Director	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development
Hermina Edward Irvin	Grants Director	Ascension Parish Government
Jaci Marix	Permit Technician/Flood Plain	City of Gonzales
Jackie Baumann	Chief Engineer	City of Gonzales
Jade Robin	Project Manager Professional	Ascension Parish Government
James Breaux	Operations Director	West Ascension Parish Hospital
James LeBlanc	Fire Chief	Ascension Parish Government
Jamie McKnight	Supervisor of Planning and Construction	Ascension Parish Public Schools
Jason Ball	Airport Manager	Ascension/St. James Airport
Jason Licciardi	Interim Director of Utilities	Ascension Parish Utilities
Jeff Parent	Director of Planning and Construction	Ascension Parish School Board
Josh Wingerter	Fire Chief	Fire District #1
Juanita Pearley	Executive Director	Donaldsonville Chamber of Commerce
Justin Brown	Facility Manager	OLOL Ascension
Justin Dupuy	Planning & Development Director	City of Gonzales
Karl Broussard	Deputy	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office
Kelly Le	President	Gonzales Rotary
Kyle Rogers	General Manager	Ascension Parish Government – Lamar Dixon
Lance Brock	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development
Latricia Anthony	Senior Grants Coordinator	APG
Leroy Sullivan	Mayor	City of Donaldsonville
Marcia Shivers	Floodplain Manager	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development
Mark Stewart	Fire Chief of Prairieville	Fire District #3
Melissa Burton Bourgeois	President	East Ascension Rotary
Michele Ashby	Director of Community & Economic Development	City of Donaldsonville
Paige Robert	Town Clerk	Town of Sorrento
Preston Landry	Assistant Fire Chief	Gonzales Fire
Regina Thomas	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish Government – Public Works
Ricky Compton	Infrastructure Developmental Director	Ascension Parish Government- Administration
Ron Savoy	Deputy Director of Operations	Ascension Parish Government – Public Works
Ruth Phillips	CAO	Ascension Parish Government – Administration
Ryland Percy	Interim Mayor	City of Gonzales
Shelton Anthony	Administrator	Prevost Memorial Hospital
Sherman Jackson	Police Chief	City of Gonzales
Sherry Denig	Executive Director	Volunteer Ascension
Skyler Waaso	Transportation Engineer	Ascension Parish Government
Steven Nethken	Police Rep	City of Gonzales
Thomas Anders	Environmental Safety Manager	OLOL Regional Medical Center
Tracey Normand	Fire Chief	City of Gonzales Fire
Travis Cedotal	Fire Chief of Donaldsonville	Fire District #2
Zephna Douglas	Region 2 Coordinator	GOHSEP
Brian Stevens	Special Projects Manager	SDMI
Chris Rippetoe	Program Manager	SDMI
Jason Martin	Emergency Management Analyst	SDMI

Meeting #3: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Mitigation Action Workshop

Date: October 3, 2024

Location: Conference Call

Purpose: Discussion with Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee of the outstanding data required for plan update, as well as discussion of mitigation actions (old and new) for plan update. Continued timeline discussions.

Public Invitation: No

Meeting Invitees:

Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee		
Name	**Title**	**Agency**
Rachael Wilkinson	Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Michele Rayborn	Planning Section Chief	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Brady Edmonston	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Alvin Broussard	Director	City of Gonzales Public Works
Brandon O'Deay	Director of Technology	Ascension Parish Government
Brian Martinez	Director of Performance & Accounting	Ascension Parish Government
Chase Melancon	District 6 Council Chair	Ascension Parish Government
Chris Guidry	Mayor	Town of Sorrento
Chunyue Liu	GS Administrator	Ascension Parish Government
Clint Cointment	Parish President	APG Administration
Cody Melancon	Deputy Chief	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office
Colleen Arceneaux	Director	APG Health and Community Development
Craig Berteau	Deputy	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office
Daniel Helms	Chief Transportation Engineer	Ascension Parish Government
Darlene Schexnayder	Executive Director	Council on Aging
Daniel Marks	Region Manager	All South Construction
David Weil	Executive Assistant to the Parish President	Ascension Parish Government, PPO West
Edith Walker	Superintendent	Ascension Parish School Board
Eric Poche	Director	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development
Hermina Edward Irvin	Grants Director	Ascension Parish Government
Jaci Marix	Permit Technician/Flood Plain	City of Gonzales
Jackie Baumann	Chief Engineer	City of Gonzales
Jade Robin	Project Manager Professional	Ascension Parish Government
James Breaux	Operations Director	West Ascension Parish Hospital
James LeBlanc	Fire Chief	Ascension Parish Government
Jamie McKnight	Supervisor of Planning and Construction	Ascension Parish Public Schools
Jason Ball	Airport Manager	Ascension/St. James Airport
Jason Licciardi	Interim Director of Utilities	Ascension Parish Utilities
Jeff Parent	Director of Planning and Construction	Ascension Parish School Board
Josh Wingerter	Fire Chief	Fire District #1
Juanita Pearley	Executive Director	Donaldsonville Chamber of Commerce
Justin Brown	Facility Manager	OLOL Ascension
Justin Dupuy	Planning & Development Director	City of Gonzales
Karl Broussard	Deputy	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office
Kelly Le	President	Gonzales Rotary
Kyle Rogers	General Manager	Ascension Parish Government – Lamar Dixon
Lance Brock	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development
Latricia Anthony	Senior Grants Coordinator	APG
Leroy Sullivan	Mayor	City of Donaldsonville
Marcia Shivers	Floodplain Manager	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development
Mark Stewart	Fire Chief of Prairieville	Fire District #3
Melissa Burton Bourgeois	President	East Ascension Rotary

Michele Ashby	Director of Community & Economic Development	City of Donaldsonville
Paige Robert	Town Clerk	Town of Sorrento
Preston Landry	Assistant Fire Chief	Gonzales Fire
Regina Thomas	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish Government – Public Works
Ricky Compton	Infrastructure Developmental Director	Ascension Parish Government- Administration
Ron Savoy	Deputy Director of Operations	Ascension Parish Government – Public Works
Ruth Phillips	CAO	Ascension Parish Government – Administration
Ryland Percy	Interim Mayor	City of Gonzales
Shelton Anthony	Administrator	Prevost Memorial Hospital
Sherman Jackson	Police Chief	City of Gonzales
Sherry Denig	Executive Director	Volunteer Ascension
Skyler Waaso	Transportation Engineer	Ascension Parish Government
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Travis Cedotal	Fire Chief of Donaldsonville	Fire District #2
Zephna Douglas	Region 2 Coordinator	GOHSEP
Brian Stevens	Special Projects Manager	SDMI
Chris Rippetoe	Program Manager	SDMI
Jason Martin	Emergency Management Analyst	SDMI

Meeting #4: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Planning Committee Risk Assessment Review

Date: October 16, 2024
Location: 815 E Worley St, Gonzales, LA
Purpose: Presentation of Risk Assessment hazards and maps to Planning Committee.
Public Invitation: No
Meeting Invitees:

Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee		
Name	**Title**	**Agency**
Rachael Wilkinson	Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Michele Rayborn	Planning Section Chief	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Brady Edmonston	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Alvin Broussard	Director	City of Gonzales Public Works
Brandon O'Deay	Director of Technology	Ascension Parish Government
Brian Martinez	Director of Performance & Accounting	Ascension Parish Government
Chase Melancon	District 6 Council Chair	Ascension Parish Government
Chris Guidry	Mayor	Town of Sorrento
Chunyue Liu	GS Administrator	Ascension Parish Government
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Craig Berteau	Deputy	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office
Daniel Helms	Chief Transportation Engineer	Ascension Parish Government
Darlene Schexnayder	Executive Director	Council on Aging
Daniel Marks	Region Manager	All South Construction
David Weil	Executive Assistant to the Parish President	Ascension Parish Government, PPO West
Edith Walker	Superintendent	Ascension Parish School Board
Eric Poche	Director	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development
Hermina Edward Irvin	Grants Director	Ascension Parish Government
Jaci Marix	Permit Technician/Flood Plain	City of Gonzales
Jackie Baumann	Chief Engineer	City of Gonzales

Jade Robin	Project Manager Professional	Ascension Parish Government
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James LeBlanc	Fire Chief	Ascension Parish Government
Jamie McKnight	Supervisor of Planning and Construction	Ascension Parish Public Schools
Jason Ball	Airport Manager	Ascension/St. James Airport
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Latricia Anthony	Senior Grants Coordinator	APG
Leroy Sullivan	Mayor	City of Donaldsonville
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Mark Stewart	Fire Chief of Prairieville	Fire District #3
Melissa Burton Bourgeois	President	East Ascension Rotary
Michele Ashby	Director of Community & Economic Development	City of Donaldsonville
Paige Robert	Town Clerk	Town of Sorrento
Preston Landry	Assistant Fire Chief	Gonzales Fire
Regina Thomas	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish Government – Public Works
Ricky Compton	Infrastructure Developmental Director	Ascension Parish Government- Administration
Ron Savoy	Deputy Director of Operations	Ascension Parish Government – Public Works
Ruth Phillips	CAO	Ascension Parish Government – Administration
Ryland Percy	Interim Mayor	City of Gonzales
Shelton Anthony	Administrator	Prevost Memorial Hospital
Sherman Jackson	Police Chief	City of Gonzales
Sherry Denig	Executive Director	Volunteer Ascension
Skyler Waaso	Transportation Engineer	Ascension Parish Government
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Tracey Normand	Fire Chief	City of Gonzales Fire
Travis Cedotal	Fire Chief of Donaldsonville	Fire District #2
Zephna Douglas	Region 2 Coordinator	GOHSEP
Brian Stevens	Special Projects Manager	SDMI
Chris Rippetoe	Program Manager	SDMI
Jason Martin	Emergency Management Analyst	SDMI

Meeting #5: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Public Meeting

Date: October 16, 2024

Location: 815 E Worley St, Gonzales, LA

Purpose: The Public Meeting allowed the public and community stakeholders to participate and provide input into the hazard mitigation planning process. The presentation also included highlights of current mitigation projects highlights, as well as public survey discussion. The public meeting notice on the following page was presented to stakeholders as well as the general public, including those in underserved communities and those populations deemed as socially vulnerable. This notice was distributed via email as well as posted on the front door of the courthouse, published in the local newspaper, and posted via social media. This public meeting was also open to many different representatives from private, local community-based organizations and businesses, and non-profits that provide for the betterment of socially vulnerable populations and those areas that have been deemed as underserved. The parish and jurisdictions involved in the plan update were in charge of identifying these specific organizations so that they may be invited to participate at this public meeting and in the plan update process as a whole. This effort was carried out by Ascension Parish, their jurisdictions, and with assistance from SDMI.

Public Invitation: Yes

Meeting Invitees:

Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee		
Name	**Title**	**Agency**
Rachael Wilkinson	Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Michele Rayborn	Planning Section Chief	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Brady Edmonston	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP
Alvin Broussard	Director	City of Gonzales Public Works
Brandon O'Deay	Director of Technology	Ascension Parish Government
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Jamie McKnight	Supervisor of Planning and Construction	Ascension Parish Public Schools
Jason Ball	Airport Manager	Ascension/St. James Airport
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Justin Brown	Facility Manager	OLOL Ascension
Justin Dupuy	Planning & Development Director	City of Gonzales
Karl Broussard	Deputy	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office
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Kyle Rogers	General Manager	Ascension Parish Government – Lamar Dixon
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Brian Stevens	Special Projects Manager	SDMI
Chris Rippetoe	Program Manager	SDMI
Jason Martin	Emergency Management Analyst	SDMI

Meeting Announcement:

Parish of Ascension
Department of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 30, 2024

MEDIA CONTACT:
Pamela Matassa, Ascension Parish Government Deputy CAO and Communications Director
Email: pamela.matassa@apgov.us
Phone: (225) 270-6871

Community Input Sought for 2025 Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

GONZALES, LA—Ascension Parish Government, in collaboration with the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and the Stephenson Disaster Management Institute at LSU, invites residents to a public meeting to update the Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th, at 3:00 PM, will be held at the Ascension Parish Governmental Complex, located at 615 E. Worthey Street, Rooms 109 & 110, Gonzales, LA 70737. The purpose of the meeting is to inform residents about the Hazard Mitigation Plan update process and gather valuable community input on natural hazards affecting the parish.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan outlines strategies to mitigate risks from natural disasters, aiming to safeguard lives, reduce property damage, and enhance community resilience. Ascension Parish OHSEP (Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness) leads this initiative to effectively address the region's vulnerabilities.

Residents are encouraged to participate in a brief web-based survey to share their perceptions and opinions regarding natural hazards in Ascension Parish. The survey can be accessed via the Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Survey link.

https://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0iioxhtYflEyYom

"We value community input in developing a robust Hazard Mitigation Plan that reflects the needs and concerns of our residents," said Rachael Wilkinson, Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director. "Your participation is crucial in shaping our efforts to create a safer and more resilient Ascension Parish."

For more information about the public meeting or the Hazard Mitigation Plan update process, please contact Ascension Parish OHSEP by calling the Citizen Call Center at 225-450-1200.

Outreach Activity #1: Public Opinion Survey

Date: Ongoing throughout planning process
Location: Web survey
Public Invitation: Yes

As referenced in the *Mitigation Strategy* section of this document, an online public opinion survey of Ascension Parish residents was conducted between May and November 2025. The survey was designed to capture public perceptions and opinions regarding natural hazards in Ascension Parish. In addition, the survey collected information regarding the methods and techniques preferred by the respondents for reducing the risks and losses associated with local hazards. Due to very little public input, responses to the survey could not be incorporated into the plan at this time. A link to the Ascension Parish survey can be found here: https://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_78PLF31VMuOdSNU

Outreach Activity #2: Public Meeting Activity - Incident Questionnaire

Date: October 16, 2024
Location: Public Meeting
Public Invitation: Yes

An incident/issue questionnaire was provided at the public meeting in an effort to collect additional information from residents of Ascension Parish regarding hazard events and their localized impacts. While the information collected via the questionnaire was to be integrated into this planning document, there was no public turnout for the meeting, and subsequently no results could be collected. A copy of the incident questionnaire can be found on the next page.

Outreach Activity #3: 2025 Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Review

Date: Ongoing
Location: SDMI Hazard Mitigation Website
Public Initiation: Yes

After an initial review by the Ascension Parish Planning Committee was completed, the 2025 Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan was made available for public review and comment. The plan was hosted on SDMI's Hazard Mitigation website: https://hmplans.sdmi.lsu.edu/Home/Parish/ascension

ASCENSION PARISH PUBLIC MEETING

PUBLIC ACTIVITY: INCIDENT/ ISSUE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. HAZARD TYPE(S):

A. DROUGHT
B. EXCESSIVE HEAT
C. FLOODING
D. LEVEE FAILURE
E. SINKHOLES
F. SUBSIDENCE
G. THUNDERSTORMS
H. TORNADOES
I. TROPICAL CYCLONES
J. WILDFIRES
K. WINTER WEATHER

2. DESCRIBE INCIDENT OR ISSUE:

3. LOCATION:

A. CITY:

B. ADDRESS OR AREA:

4. INTENSITY:

A. DEPTH (FLOODING) OR SIZE (HAIL ETC.):

B. WIND STRENGTH

5. RECURRING OR ONE TIME:

A. IF RECURRING, HOW OFTEN:

6. WHAT TYPE OF INTERRUPTIONS DOES/DIDTHE INCIDENT OR ISSUE CAUSE? (BUSINESS CLOSURE,DAMAGE, EVACUATION, ETC.)

7. HOW LONG WAS THE INTERRUPTION (HOURS, DAYS, WEEKS ETC.)

8. HOW COULD THIS HAZARD OR IMPACT BE PREVENTED, FIXED OR ALLEVIATED?

Appendix B: Plan Maintenance

Purpose

The section of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) pertaining to Local Mitigation Plans lists five required components for each plan: a description of the planning process; risk assessments; mitigation strategies; a method and system for plan maintenance; and documentation of plan adoption. This section details the method and system for plan maintenance, following the CFR's guidelines that the Plan Update must include (1) "a section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle," (2) "a process by which local governments incorporated the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans", and (3) "discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process."

Implementing, Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan

The Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will be responsible for implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and documenting the plan's progress throughout the year. Part of the plan maintenance process should include a system by which local governing bodies incorporate the HMP into the parish and jurisdictions' other plans where applicable. This process provides for continued public participation through the diverse resources of the parish to help in achieving the goals and objectives of the plan. Public participation will be achieved through availability of copies of HMP in parish public buildings and SDMI's Hazard Mitigation website. This section describes the update process as a whole, which includes the following:

- Responsible parties
- Methods to be used
- Evaluation criteria to be applied
- Scheduling for monitoring and evaluating the plan

Responsible Parties

Ascension Parish has developed a method to ensure that a regular review and update of this Hazard Mitigation Plan occurs. This will be the responsibility of the planning committee, which consists of representatives from governmental organizations, local businesses, and private citizens, who will be involved in the process of monitoring, evaluating and updating the plan. All committee members in this plan will remain active in the planning committee.

Although the people filling the positions may change from year to year, the parish and its stakeholders will have representatives on the planning committee. The future planning committee will continue to be comprised of the same job functions as currently evident in the planning committee. However, the decision of specific job duties will be left to the Parish OHSEP Director to be assigned as deemed appropriate.

Methods for Monitoring and Evaluating the Plan and Plan Evaluation Criteria

Ascension Parish has developed a method to ensure implementation, monitoring, evaluating, and updating of the HMP occurs during the five-year cycle of the plan. Implementation will be accomplished through constant and transparent efforts to network and highlight the multi-objective, win-win benefits of each project proposed in the *Mitigation Strategy* section. These efforts include the routine actions of monitoring agendas, attending meetings, and promoting a safe and resilient community. The planning committee will seek to become a permanent body and will be responsible for monitoring, evaluating, and updating of the plan. The planning committee meeting will be held annually in order to monitor, evaluate, and update the plan. The Ascension Parish OHSEP Director will be responsible for conducting the annual planning committee meetings.

The lead person of the agency responsible for the implementation of a specific mitigation action will submit a progress report to the Director at least thirty days prior to the planning committee meeting. The progress report will provide project status monitoring to include the following: whether the project has started; if not started, reason for not starting; if started, status of the project; if the project is completed, whether it has reduced/eliminated the problem; and any changes recommended to improve the implementation of the project etc. In addition, the

progress report will provide status monitoring on the plan evaluation, changes to the hazard profile, changes to the risk assessment, and public input on the Hazard Mitigation Plan updates and reviews.

Progress on the mitigation action items and projects will be reviewed during the annual planning committee meeting. The criteria that would be utilized in the project review will include the following:

1) Whether the action was implemented and reasons, if the action was not implemented

2) What were the results of the implemented action

3) Were the outcomes as expected, and reasons if the outcomes were not as expected

4) Did the results achieve the stated goals and objectives

5) Was the action cost-effective

6) What were the losses avoided after completion of the project

7) In case of a structural project, did it change the hazard profile

In addition to monitoring and evaluating the progress of the mitigation plan actions and projects, the mitigation plan is required to be maintained and monitored annually, and fully updated every five years. The annual maintenance, monitoring and evaluation of the plan will be conducted in the annual planning committee meeting. The planning committee will review each goal to determine their relevance to changing situations in the parish, as well as changes to state or federal policy, and to ensure that they are addressing current and expected conditions. The planning committee will evaluate if any change in hazard profile and risk in the parish occurred during the past year. In addition, the evaluation will include the following criteria in respect of plan implementation:

1) Any local staffing changes that would warrant inviting different members to the planning committee

2) Any new organizations that would be valuable in the planning process or project implementation need to be included in the planning committee

3) Any new or existing procedures that can be done more efficiently

4) Any additional ways to gain more diverse and widespread cooperation

5) Any different or additional funding sources available for mitigation planning and implementation

The HMP will be updated every five years to remain eligible for continued HMGP funding. The planning committee will be responsible for updating the HMP. The OHSEP Director will be the lead person for the HMP update. The HMP update process will commence at least one year prior to the expiration of the plan. The HMP will be updated after a major disaster if an annual evaluation of the plan indicates a substantial change in hazard profile and risk assessment in the parish.

Additionally, the public will be canvassed to solicit public input to continue Ascension Parish's dedication to involving the public directly in review and updates of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Meetings will be scheduled as needed by the plan administrator to provide a forum for which the public can express their concerns, opinions, and/or ideas about the plan. The plan administrator will be responsible for using parish resources to publicize the annual public meetings and maintain public involvement through the newspapers, radio, and public access television channels. Copies of the plan will be catalogued and kept at all appropriate agencies in the city government, as well as at the SDMI website.

The review by the planning committee and input from the public will determine whether a plan update is needed prior to the required five-year update.

Annual reports on the progress of actions, plan maintenance, monitoring, evaluation, incorporation into existing planning programs, and continued public involvement will be documented at each annual meeting of the committee and kept by the Parish OHSEP Director. The planning committee will work together as a team, with each member sharing responsibility for completing the monitoring, evaluation and updates. It is the responsibility of the Parish OHSEP Director for contacting committee members, organizing the meeting and providing public noice for the meeting to solicit public input.

2025 Plan Version Plan Method and Schedule Evaluation

For the current plan update, the previously approved plan's method and schedule were evaluated to determine if the elements and processes involved in the required 2025 update. Based on this analysis, the method and schedule were deemed to be acceptable, and nothing was changed for this update.

Incorporation into Existing Planning Programs

It is and has been the responsibility of the Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Committee and participating jurisdictions to determine additional implementation procedures when appropriate. This may include integrating the requirements of the Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan into each jurisdiction's planning documents, processes, or mechanisms as follows:

- Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations
- Floodplain Ordinances
- Master Plans
- Capital Improvement Plans
- Economic Development Plans
- Emergency Operations Plans
- Continuity of Operations Plans
- Debris Removal Plan
- Transportation Plan
- Stormwater Management Plan

Opportunities to integrate the requirements of this plan into other local planning mechanisms will continue to be identified through future meetings of the Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee and through the five-year review process described herein. The primary means for integrating mitigation strategies into other local planning mechanisms will be through the revision, update and implementation of each jurisdiction's individual plans that require specific planning and administrative tasks (e.g. risk assessment, plan amendments, ordinance revisions, capital improvement projects, etc.).

During the planning process for new and updated local planning documents at the parish and jurisdiction level, such as a risk assessment, comprehensive plan, capital improvements plan, or emergency operations plan, the jurisdictions will provide a copy of the Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan to the appropriate parties and recommend that all goals and strategies of new and updated local planning documents are consistent with and support the goals of the Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan and will not contribute to increased hazards.

Although it is recognized that there are many possible benefits to integrating components of this plan into other parish and jurisdiction planning mechanisms, the development and maintenance of this stand-alone Hazard Mitigation Plan is deemed by the planning committee to be the most effective and appropriate method to ensure implementation of Parish and local hazard mitigation actions.

On behalf of the City of Donaldsonville, the City of Gonzales, and the Town of Sorrento, Ascension Parish has the authority to incorporate the contents of the Hazard Mitigation Plan into the parish's existing regulatory mechanisms. Agreements are currently in place with jurisdictions to allow for the parish incorporation mechanisms to take place.

The following parish and local plans/regulations incorporate requirements of this HMP Update as follows through planning committee member and jurisdiction representation throughout the planning process as described above:

Ascension Parish

Comprehensive Master Plan	Updated as needed	Ascension Parish Government	✓
Capital Improvements Plan	Updated as needed	Ascension Parish Government	✓
Continuity of Operations Plan	Updated as needed	Ascension Parish OHSEP	✓
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Updated as needed	Ascension Parish OHSEP	✓
Transportation Plan	Updated as needed	Ascension Parish Government	✓
Economic Development Plan	Updated as needed	Ascension Economic Development	✓
Stormwater Management Plan	Updated as needed	Ascension Parish Government	✓
Local Ordinances/Zoning Regulations	Updated as needed	Ascension Parish Government	✓
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Updated as needed	Ascension Parish Government	✓

City of Donaldsonville

Comprehensive Master Plan	Updated as needed	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office	✓
Economic Development Plan	Updated as needed	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office	✓
Capital Improvements Plan	Updated as needed	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office	✓
Stormwater Management Plan	Updated as needed	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office	✓
Local Ordinances/Zoning Regulations	Updated as needed	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office	✓
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Updated as needed	City of Donaldsonville Mayor's Office	✓

City of Gonzales

Comprehensive Master Plan	Updated as needed	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office	✓
Capital Improvements Plan	Updated as needed	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office	✓
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Updated as needed	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office	✓
Transportation Plan	Updated as needed	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office	✓
Economic Development Plan	Updated as needed	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office	✓
Stormwater Management Plan	Updated as needed	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office	✓
Local Ordinances/Zoning Regulations	Updated as needed	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office	✓
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Updated as needed	City of Gonzales Mayor's Office	✓

Town of Sorrento

Local Ordinances/Zoning Regulations	Updated as needed	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office	✓
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Updated as needed	Town of Sorrento Mayor's Office	✓

Continued Public Participation

Public participation is an integral component of the mitigation planning process and will continue to be essential as this plan evolves over time. Significant changes or amendments to the plan require a public hearing prior to any adoption procedures. Other efforts to involve the public in the maintenance, evaluation, and revision process will be made as necessary. These efforts may include:

- Advertising meetings of the Mitigation Committee in the local newspaper, public bulletin boards, and/or city and county office buildings
- Designating willing and voluntary citizens and private sector representatives as official members of the Mitigation Committee
- Utilizing local media to update the public of any maintenance and/or periodic review activities taking place
- Utilizing city and Parish web sites to advertise any maintenance and/or periodic review activities taking place
- Keeping copies of the plan in appropriate public locations.

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Appendix C: Critical Facilities

Critical Facilities within the Ascension Parish Planning Area

Ascension Parish Planning Area Critical Facilities												
Type	**Name**	**Drought**	**Excessive Heat**	**Flooding**	**Levee Failure**	**Sinkholes**	**Subsidence**	**Thunderstorms**	**Tornadoes**	**Tropical Cyclones**	**Wildfires**	**Winter Weather**
Civil Government	Ascension Parish Council on Aging	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Ascension Parish Council on Aging (Donaldsonville)	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Ascension Parish Courthouse	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Ascension Parish Courthouse Annex	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Ascension Parish Governmental Complex (East)	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Ascension Parish Courthouse (West)	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Ascension Parish Governmental Complex (West)	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Ascension Parish School Board	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Donaldsonville City Hall	X						X	X	X	X	X
	Gonzales City Hall	X						X	X	X		X
	Sorrento Town Hall	X		X				X	X	X		X
Fire & SAR	Donaldsonville Fire Department	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Donaldsonville Fire Department Station 110	X						X	X	X	X	X
	Fifth Ward Volunteer Fire Department	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Ascension Parish Fire District 1 Public Safety Center	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Fire District 2 Fire Department	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Fire Station 33	X		X				X	X	X		X

	Galvez-Lake Volunteer Fire Department Station 50	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Galvez-Lake Volunteer Fire Department Station 51	X						X	X	X		X
	Geismar Volunteer Fire Department Station 80	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Gonzales Fire Department - Caldwell Station	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Gonzales Fire Department - Orice Roth Station	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Modeste Fire Station 140	X						X	X	X	X	X
	Prairieville Volunteer Fire Department Station 32	X						X	X	X	X	X
	Prairieville Volunteer Fire Department Station 34	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Fire District 3 Prairieville Fire Department	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Prairieville Volunteer Fire Department Station 31	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Ronald Morris Fire Station	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Sorrento Volunteer Fire Department Station 20	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	St. Amant Volunteer Fire Department - Station 60	X						X	X	X	X	X
	St. Amant Volunteer Fire Department - Station 61	X						X	X	X		X
	St. Amant Volunteer Fire Department - Station 62	X						X	X	X		X
	Seventh District Fire Department Station 70	X		X				X	X	X		X

	Seventh District Fire Department Station 71	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
Law Enforcement	Ascension Parish Jail	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office District 2 Headquarters	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office District 3 Headquarters	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office Donaldsonville Substation	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office Hickley Waguespack Substation	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Shooting Range Complex	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Training Center	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Gonzales Police Department	X		X				X	X	X		X
Public Health	Ascension Parish Health Unit (East)	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Ascension Parish Health Unit (West)	X						X	X	X		X
	Ascension Parish Mental Health Unit	X						X	X	X		X
Education	Bluff Middle School	X						X	X	X	X	X
	Bluff Ridge Primary School	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Bullion Primary School	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Central Middle School	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Central Primary School	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Donaldsonville High School	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Donaldsonville Primary School	X		X				X	X	X	X	X

Duplessis Primary School	X		X				X	X	X		X
Dutchtown High School	X		X				X	X	X		X
Dutchtown Middle School	X						X	X	X		X
Dutchtown Primary School	X						X	X	X	X	X
East Ascension High School	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
G.W. Carver Primary School	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
Galvez Middle School	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
Galvez Primary School	X		X				X	X	X		X
Gonzales Middle School	X						X	X	X	X	X
Gonzales Primary School	X						X	X	X		X
Lake Elementary School	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
Lakeside Primary School	X		X				X	X	X		X
Lowery Elementary School	X		X				X	X	X		X
Lowery Middle School	X		X				X	X	X		X
Oak Grove Primary School	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
Pecan Grove Primary School	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
Prairieville High School	X						X	X	X	X	X
Prairieville Middle School	X						X	X	X	X	X
Prairieville Primary School	X		X				X	X	X		X
Sorrento Primary School	X		X				X	X	X		X
Spanish Lake Primary School	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
St. Amant High School	X		X				X	X	X		X
St. Amant Middle School	X		X				X	X	X		X

	St. Amant Primary School	X						X	X	X	X	X
	Sugar Mill Primary School	X						X	X	X	X	X
Parish Utilities	Marvin Braud Pumping Station	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Parish Utilities of Ascension (Veterans Blvd)	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Parish Utilities of Ascension (Memorial Dr.)	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Ascension Parish Public Works Office	X		X				X	X	X		X
	Donaldsonville Public Works	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Raw Water Intake	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Ground Storage Tank	X						X	X	X	X	X
	Elevated Storage Tank	X						X	X	X		X
	Highway 70 Tank	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	Palo Alto	X		X				X	X	X		X
	McCall Tank	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	St. Jude Lift Station	X		X				X	X	X	X	X

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Appendix D: Plan Adoption

FEMA Approval Letter

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 6
800 N. Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209

FEMA

June 3, 2025

Jeffrey Giering, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Louisiana Office of Homeland Security
and Emergency Preparedness
1500 North Main Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: Approvable Pending Adoption of the Ascension Parish, Louisiana Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Mr. Giering:

This office has concluded its review of the referenced plan, in conformance with the Final Rule on Mitigation Planning (44 CFR § 201.6). FEMA review does not include the review of content that exceeds the applicable FEMA mitigation planning requirements. Formal approval of this plan is contingent upon the adoption by the participants on Enclosure A, as well as the receipt of the final draft of the plan containing all plan components.

Adopting resolutions must be submitted to this agency for review and approval no later than one year from the date of this letter. Failure to submit these resolutions in a timely manner could lead to a required update of the plan prior to FEMA approval.

Once this final requirement has been met, a letter of official approval will be generated. The Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Tool, with the reviewer's comments, has been enclosed to further assist the jurisdictions in complying with planning requirements. If you have any questions, please contact David Freeborn, HM Community Planner, at (940) 268-7602.

Sincerely,

ROBERTO E RAMIREZ

Digitally signed by ROBERTO E RAMIREZ
Date: 2025.06.03 15:35:44 -05'00'

Roberto Ramirez
Acting Chief, Risk Analysis Branch

Enclosures: Participants

GOHSEP Approval Letter

Governor's Office of Homeland Security And Emergency Preparedness
State of Louisiana

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR

JASON P MAHFOUZ
BRIGADIER GENERAL
INTERIM DIRECTOR

June 4, 2025

Ms. Rachael Wilkinson, Director
Ascension Parish OHSEP
Ascension Parish HM Plan Update
620 S. Irma Blvd
Ascension, LA 70737

SUBJECT: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Approvable Pending Adoption
Ascension Parish Multi Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Dear Ms. Wilkinson:

I am pleased to inform you the Ascension Parish Multi Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation was reviewed by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (GOHSEP) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Per this review, the Ascension Parish Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan has been granted an Approvable Pending Adoption (APA) status. Before the Ascension Parish HM Plan can receive Final Approval from FEMA, all participating jurisdiction must formally adopt the plan by resolution.

After official adoption of the current version of the plan, an electronic copy of the plan, which includes all signed resolutions for all participating jurisdictions, must be submitted to SDMI/GOHSEP within 30 days of this letter. Funding for projects inside the Ascension Parish is dependent on the Final Approval of this plan.

Thank you for your interest in mitigation and your prompt delivery of this plan. If you have any questions, please contact Marion Pearson at 225.932.6302 or marion.pearson@la.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Giering
Executive Officer, Hazard Mitigation Assistance
Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
Office: 225.932.6300

JG:mp
Enclosure: 1) FEMA APA Letter Dated June 3, 2025
2) Ascension Parish – APA Plan Review Tool

7667 INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD ⚜ BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70806 ⚜ (225) 925-7500 ⚜ (225)925-7501
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Unincorporated Ascension Parish

City of Donaldsonville

City of Gonzales

Town of Sorrento

Appendix E: State Required Worksheets

During the planning process (Appendix A: Planning Process), the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Planning Committee was provided state-required plan update process worksheets to be filled out. The worksheets were presented at the Initial Planning Meeting by SDMI as tools for assisting in the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, but also as a state requirement for the update. The plan update worksheets allowed for collection of information such as planning team members, community capabilities, community infrastructure, vulnerable populations and NFIP information. The following pages contain documentation of the state required worksheets.

Mitigation Planning Team

Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee			
Name	**Title**	**Agency**	**Email**
Rachael Wilkinson	Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP	rachael.wilkinson@apgov.us
Michele Rayborn	Planning Section Chief	Ascension Parish OHSEP	michele.rayborn@apgov.us
Brady Edmonston	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish OHSEP	brady.edmonston@apgov.us
Alvin Broussard	Director	City of Gonzales Public Works	alvin@gonzalesla.com
Brandon O'Deay	Director of Technology	Ascension Parish Government	Brandon.ODeay@apgov.us
Brian Martinez	Director of Performance & Accounting	Ascension Parish Government	bmartinez@apgov.us
Chase Melancon	District 6 Council Chair	Ascension Parish Government	chase.melancon@apgov.us
Chris Guidry	Mayor	Town of Sorrento	cguidry@sorrentola.gov
Chunyue Liu	GS Administrator	Ascension Parish Government	chunyueliu@apg.us
Clint Cointment	Parish President	APG Administration	Clint.Cointment@apgov.us
Cody Melancon	Deputy Chief	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office	cmelancon@ascensionsheriff.com
Colleen Arceneaux	Director	APG Health and Community Development	colleen.arceneaxu@apgov.us
Craig Berteau	Deputy	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office	cberteau@ascensionsheriff.com
Daniel Helms	Chief Transportation Engineer	Ascension Parish Government	daniel.helms@apgov.us
Darlene Schexnayder	Executive Director	Council on Aging	darlenes@ascensioncoa.org
Daniel Marks	Region Manager	All South Construction	
David Weil	Executive Assistant to the Parish President	Ascension Parish Government, PPO West	David.Weil@apgov.us
Edith Walker	Superintendent	Ascension Parish School Board	edith.walker@apsb.org
Eric Poche	Director	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development	EPoche@apgov.us
Hermina Edward Irvin	Grants Director	Ascension Parish Government	hermina.irvin@apgov.us
Jaci Marix	Permit Technician/Flood Plain	City of Gonzales	jaci@gonzalesla.com
Jackie Baumann	Chief Engineer	City of Gonzales	jackie@gonzalesla.com
Jade Robin	Project Manager Professional	Ascension Parish Government	jade.robin@apgov.us
James Breaux	Operations Director	West Ascension Parish Hospital	jamesb@prevosthospital.net
James LeBlanc	Fire Chief	Ascension Parish Government	james.leblanc@honeywell.com
Jamie McKnight	Supervisor of Planning and Construction	Ascension Parish Public Schools	Jamie.mcknight@apsb.org
Jason Ball	Airport Manager	Ascension/St. James Airport	laregional@eatel.net
Jason Licciardi	Interim Director of Utilities	Ascension Parish Utilities	jlicciardi@apgov.us
Jeff Parent	Director of Planning and Construction	Ascension Parish School Board	jeff.parent@apsb.org
Josh Wingerter	Fire Chief	Fire District #1	josh.wingerter@apfire.org

Juanita Pearley	Executive Director	Donaldsonville Chamber of Commerce	dvillecoc@bellsouth.net
Justin Brown	Facility Manager	OLOL Ascension	Justin.Brown@fmolhs.org
Justin Dupuy	Planning & Development Director	City of Gonzales	justin@gonzalesla.com
Karl Broussard	Deputy	Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office	kbroussard@ascensionsheriff.com
Kelly Le	President	Gonzales Rotary	
Kyle Rogers	General Manager	Ascension Parish Government – Lamar Dixon	kyle.rogers@apgov.us
Lance Brock	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development	lbrock@apgov.us
Latricia Anthony	Senior Grants Coordinator	APG	latricia.anthony@apgov.us
Leroy Sullivan	Mayor	City of Donaldsonville	mayorofc@donaldsonville.brcoxmail.com; leroy.sullivan@cox.net
Marcia Shivers	Floodplain Manager	Ascension Parish Government – Planning and Development	mshivers@apgov.us
Mark Stewart	Fire Chief of Prairieville	Fire District #3	mstewart@prairievillefire.com
Melissa Burton Bourgeois	President	East Ascension Rotary	
Michele Ashby	Director of Community & Economic Development	City of Donaldsonville	m.ashby@coxbusiness.net
Paige Robert	Town Clerk	Town of Sorrento	probert@sorrentola.gov
Preston Landry	Assistant Fire Chief	Gonzales Fire	plandry@gonzalesfd.com
Regina Thomas	Assistant Director	Ascension Parish Government – Public Works	lrpdelaney1@bellsouth.net
Ricky Compton	Infrastructure Developmental Director	Ascension Parish Government- Administration	Ricky.Compton@apgov.us
Ron Savoy	Deputy Director of Operations	Ascension Parish Government – Public Works	ron.savoy@apgov.us
Ruth Phillips	CAO	Ascension Parish Government – Administration	ruth.phillips@apgov.us
Ryland Percy	Interim Mayor	City of Gonzales	mayora@gonzalesla.com
Shelton Anthony	Administrator	Prevost Memorial Hospital	santhony@prevosthospital.net
Sherman Jackson	Police Chief	City of Gonzales	sjackson001@gonzalespd.org; gonzpd@eatel.net
Sherry Denig	Executive Director	Volunteer Ascension	sherry@volunteerascension.org
Skyler Waaso	Transportation Engineer	Ascension Parish Government	skyler.waaso@apgov.us
Steven Nethken	Police Rep	City of Gonzales	snethken@gonzalespd.org
Thomas Anders	Environmental Safety Manager	OLOL Regional Medical Center	thomas.anders@fmolhs.org
Tracey Normand	Fire Chief	City of Gonzales Fire	tnormand@gonzalesfd.com
Travis Cedotal	Fire Chief of Donaldsonville	Fire District #2	dfdfirechief@gmail.com
Zephna Douglas	Region 2 Coordinator	GOHSEP	zephna.douglas@la.gov
Brian Stevens	Special Projects Manager	SDMI	bstevens2@lsu.edu
Chris Rippetoe	Program Manager	SDMI	crippe@lsu.edu
Jason Martin	Emergency Management Analyst	SDMI	jmar293@lsu.edu

Capability Assessment
Unincorporated Ascension Parish

Capability Assessment Worksheet - Ascension Parish		
Local mitigation capabilities are existing authorities, polices and resources that reduce hazard impacts or that could be used to implement hazard mitigation activities. Please complete the tables and questions in the worksheet as completely as possible.		
Planning and Regulatory		
Please indicate which of the following plans and regulatory capabilities your jurisdiction has in place.		
Plans	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Comprehensive / Master Plan	Yes	
Capital Improvements Plan	Yes	
Economic Development Plan	Yes	
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Yes	
Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes	
Transportation Plan	Yes	
Stormwater Management Plan	Yes	
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	
Other plans (redevelopment, recovery, coastal zone management)	No	
Building Code, Permitting and Inspections	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Building Code	Yes	
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Score	Yes	Class 9
Fire Department ISO/PIAL rating	Yes	
Site plan review requirements	Yes	
Land Use Planning and Ordinances	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Zoning Ordinance	Yes	
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	
Natural Hazard Specific Ordinance (stormwater, steep slope, wildfire)	No	
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Yes	
Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation uses	Yes	
Other		

Administration and Technical		
Identify whether your community has the following administrative and technical capabilities. For smaller jurisdictions without local staff resources, if there are public resources at the next higher level government that can provide technical assistance, indicate so in your comments.		
Administration	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Planning Commission	Yes	
Mitigation Planning Committee	Yes	
Maintenance programs to reduce risk (tree trimming, clearing drainage systems)	Yes	
Staff	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Chief Building Official	Yes	
Floodplain Administrator	Yes	
Emergency Manager	Yes	
Community Planner	Yes	
Civil Engineer	Yes	
GIS Coordinator	Yes	
Grant Writer	Yes	
Other		
Technical	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Warning Systems / Service (Reverse 911, outdoor warning signals)	Yes	
Hazard Data & Information	Yes	
Grant Writing	Yes	
Hazus Analysis	No	
Other		

Financial		
Identify whether your jurisdiction has access to or is eligible to use the following funding resources for hazard mitigation.		
Funding Resource	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Capital Improvements project funding	Yes	
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	No	
Impact fees for new development	Yes	Transportation
Stormwater Utility Fee	No	
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Yes	
Other Funding Programs	Yes	Subdivision road and drainage maintenance

Education and Outreach		
Identify education and outreach programs and methods, already in place that could be used to implement mitigation activities and communicate hazard-related information.		
Program / Organization	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.	No	
Ongoing public education or information program (responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education)	No	
Natural Disaster or safety related school program	No	
Storm Ready certification	No	
Firewise Communities certification	No	
Public/Private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues	LEPC	
Other	n/a	

City of Donaldsonville

Capability Assessment Worksheet - City of Donaldsonville		
Local mitigation capabilities are existing authorities, polices and resources that reduce hazard impacts or that could be used to implement hazard mitigation activities. Please complete the tables and questions in the worksheet as completely as possible.		
Planning and Regulatory		
Please indicate which of the following plans and regulatory capabilities your jurisdiction has in place.		
Plans	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Comprehensive / Master Plan	Yes	
Capital Improvements Plan	Yes	
Economic Development Plan	Yes	
Local Emergency Operations Plan	No	
Continuity of Operations Plan	No	
Transportation Plan	No	
Stormwater Management Plan	Yes	
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	
Other plans (redevelopment, recovery, coastal zone management)	No	
Building Code, Permitting and Inspections	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Building Code	Yes	
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Score	No	
Fire Department ISO/PIAL rating	Yes	
Site plan review requirements	Yes	
Land Use Planning and Ordinances	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Zoning Ordinance	Yes	
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	
Natural Hazard Specific Ordinance (stormwater, steep slope, wildfire)	No	
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Yes	
Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation uses	Yes	
Other	N/A	

Administration and Technical		
Identify whether your community has the following administrative and technical capabilities. For smaller jurisdictions without local staff resources, if there are public resources at the next higher level government that can provide technical assistance, indicate so in your comments.		
Administration	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Planning Commission	Yes	
Mitigation Planning Committee	Yes	
Maintenance programs to reduce risk (tree trimming, clearing drainage systems)	Yes	
Staff	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Chief Building Official	Yes	Contract with Ascension Parish
Floodplain Administrator	Yes	
Emergency Manager	Yes	
Community Planner	Yes	Fulltime
Civil Engineer	Yes	
GIS Coordinator	Yes	
Grant Writer	Yes	Fulltime
Other	Yes	Economic Development Staff-Fulltime
Technical	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Warning Systems / Service (Reverse 911, outdoor warning signals)	Yes	CAER System
Hazard Data & Information	Yes	Donaldsonville FD
Grant Writing	Yes	
Hazus Analysis	No	
Other	N/A	

Financial		
Identify whether your jurisdiction has access to or is eligible to use the following funding resources for hazard mitigation.		
Funding Resource	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Capital Improvements project funding	Yes	
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	Yes	
Impact fees for new development	Yes	
Stormwater Utility Fee	No	
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Yes	
Other Funding Programs	Yes	LGAP, USDA, Small Business Microlending, PHMSA, HUD

Education and Outreach		
Identify education and outreach programs and methods, already in place that could be used to implement mitigation activities and communicate hazard-related information.		
Program / Organization	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.	Yes	
Ongoing public education or information program (responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education)	Yes	
Natural Disaster or safety related school program	Yes	
Storm Ready certification	No	
Firewise Communities certification	No	
Public/Private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues	Yes	CF Industries, BR Food Bank, Local Churches
Other		

City of Gonzales

Capability Assessment Worksheet - City of Gonzales		
Local mitigation capabilities are existing authorities, polices and resources that reduce hazard impacts or that could be used to implement hazard mitigation activities. Please complete the tables and questions in the worksheet as completely as possible.		
Planning and Regulatory		
Please indicate which of the following plans and regulatory capabilities your jurisdiction has in place.		
Plans	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Comprehensive / Master Plan	Yes	Updated & Adopted December 2019
Capital Improvements Plan	Yes	
Economic Development Plan	Yes	
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Yes	
Continuity of Operations Plan	No	
Transportation Plan	Yes	Included in Master Comprehensive Plan
Stormwater Management Plan	Yes	
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	
Other plans (redevelopment, recovery, coastal zone management)	No	
Building Code, Permitting and Inspections	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Building Code	Yes	
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Score	No	
Fire Department ISO/PIAL rating	Yes	
Site plan review requirements	Yes	
Land Use Planning and Ordinances	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Zoning Ordinance	Yes	
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	
Natural Hazard Specific Ordinance (stormwater, steep slope, wildfire)	Yes	
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Yes	
Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation uses	Yes	Silverleaf acquisition and mitigation
Other	No	

Administration and Technical		
Identify whether your community has the following administrative and technical capabilities. For smaller jurisdictions without local staff resources, if there are public resources at the next higher level government that can provide technical assistance, indicate so in your comments.		
Administration	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Planning Commission	Yes	
Mitigation Planning Committee	No	
Maintenance programs to reduce risk (tree trimming, clearing drainage systems)	Yes	
Staff	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Chief Building Official	Yes	
Floodplain Administrator	Yes	
Emergency Manager	Yes	Thru Cooperative Endeavor with Ascension Parish Government OEP
Community Planner	Yes	
Civil Engineer	Yes	
GIS Coordinator	Yes	
Grant Writer	Yes	
Other	No	
Technical	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Warning Systems / Service (Reverse 911, outdoor warning signals)	Yes	
Hazard Data & Information	Yes	
Grant Writing	Yes	
Hazus Analysis	No	
Other	No	

Financial		
Identify whether your jurisdiction has access to or is eligible to use the following funding resources for hazard mitigation.		
Funding Resource	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Capital Improvements project funding	Yes	Thru Cooperative Endeavor with 911 Board and OEP
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	Yes	
Impact fees for new development	Yes	
Stormwater Utility Fee	No	
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Yes	
Other Funding Programs	Yes	LGAP/CWEF/USDA

Education and Outreach		
Identify education and outreach programs and methods, already in place that could be used to implement mitigation activities and communicate hazard-related information.		
Program / Organization	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.	Yes	
Ongoing public education or information program (responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education)	Yes	
Natural Disaster or safety related school program	Yes	
Storm Ready certification	Yes	
Firewise Communities certification	No	
Public/Private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues	Yes	
Other	No	

Town of Sorrento

Capability Assessment Worksheet - Town of Sorrento		
Local mitigation capabilities are existing authorities, polices and resources that reduce hazard impacts or that could be used to implement hazard mitigation activities. Please complete the tables and questions in the worksheet as completely as possible.		
Planning and Regulatory		
Please indicate which of the following plans and regulatory capabilities your jurisdiction has in place.		
Plans	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Comprehensive / Master Plan	No	
Capital Improvements Plan	No	
Economic Development Plan	No	
Local Emergency Operations Plan	No	
Continuity of Operations Plan	No	
Transportation Plan	No	
Stormwater Management Plan	No	
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	
Other plans (redevelopment, recovery, coastal zone management)	No	
Building Code, Permitting and Inspections	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Building Code	Yes	IBC
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Score	No	
Fire Department ISO/PIAL rating	Yes	PIAL Class 4
Site plan review requirements	Yes	Ascension Parish Government/Town Engineer
Land Use Planning and Ordinances	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Zoning Ordinance	Yes	
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	
Natural Hazard Specific Ordinance (stormwater, steep slope, wildfire)	No	
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Yes	
Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation uses	Yes	
Other	No	

Administration and Technical		
Identify whether your community has the following administrative and technical capabilities. For smaller jurisdictions without local staff resources, if there are public resources at the next higher level government that can provide technical assistance, indicate so in your comments.		
Administration	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Planning Commission	Yes	
Mitigation Planning Committee	Yes	
Maintenance programs to reduce risk (tree trimming, clearing drainage systems)	Yes	
Staff	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Chief Building Official	Yes	Contract with Ascension Parish Government
Floodplain Administrator	Yes	
Emergency Manager	Yes	Contract with Ascension Parish Government
Community Planner	Yes	Ricky Compton
Civil Engineer	Yes	All South Engineer
GIS Coordinator	Yes	Contract with Ascension Parish Government
Grant Writer	Yes	All South Engineer
Other	No	
Technical	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Warning Systems / Service (Reverse 911, outdoor warning signals)	Yes	
Hazard Data & Information	No	
Grant Writing	No	
Hazus Analysis	No	
Other	No	

Financial		
Identify whether your jurisdiction has access to or is eligible to use the following funding resources for hazard mitigation.		
Funding Resource	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Capital Improvements project funding	Yes	
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	Yes	
Impact fees for new development	No	PENDING APPROVAL
Stormwater Utility Fee	No	
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Yes	
Other Funding Programs	Yes	

Education and Outreach		
Identify education and outreach programs and methods, already in place that could be used to implement mitigation activities and communicate hazard-related information.		
Program / Organization	**Yes / No**	**Comments**
Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.	No	
Ongoing public education or information program (responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education)	Yes	Sorrento Volunteer Fire Department
Natural Disaster or safety related school program	No	
Storm Ready certification	No	
Firewise Communities certification	No	
Public/Private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues	No	
Other	No	

Building Inventory

Ascension Parish Owned Building Information								
Unincorporated Ascension Parish								
Name of Building	**Purpose of Building**	**Address**	**City**	**Latitude**	**Longitude**	**Assessed Value**	**Date Built**	**Construction Type**
Lamar Dixon Expo Center	Emergency Response	9039 St. Landry Rd.	Gonzales	30.196032	-90.958111	$17,972,357	2003	Reinforced Masonry
Ascension Sheriff's Training Center	Law Enforcement	9094 S St Landry Ave	Burnside	30.197513	-90.952259	$3,200,000	2014	Reinforced Masonry
Ascension Parish Fire District 1 Public Safety Center	Fire & SAR	13192 Airline Hwy	Prairieville	30.25943388	-90.9317315	$821,449	1965	Metal
Fifth Ward Volunteer Fire Department	Fire & SAR	39110 Louisiana 22	Darrow	30.151987	-90.922542	$444,073	1998	Metal
Geismar Volunteer Fire Department Station 80	Fire & SAR	12171 Louisiana 73	Geismar	30.244961	-90.989306	$207,234	1980	Metal
Prairieville Volunteer Fire Department Station 31	Fire & SAR	17183 Louisiana 929	Prairieville	30.318426	-90.939516	$519,896	1993	Metal
Prairieville Volunteer Fire Department Station 32	Fire & SAR	17899 Old Jefferson Hwy	Prairieville	30.332197	-90.981463	$594,168	2001	Metal
Prairieville Volunteer Fire Department Station 34	Fire & SAR	18345 Bluff Rd.	Prairieville	30.32077564	-91.00839837			
Fire District 3 Prairieville Fire Department	Fire & SAR	14517 Highway 73	Prairieville	30.285405	-90.981195	$2,660,819	2008	Metal
Galvez-Lake Volunteer Fire Department Station 50	Fire & SAR	16288 Joe Sevario Road	Prairieville	30.30682	-90.904543	$444,073	1978	Metal
Galvez-Lake Volunteer Fire Department Station 51	Fire & SAR	16573 LA 931	Prairieville	30.31018508	-90.85558615			
Fire Station 33	Fire & SAR	38484 Duplessis Road	Prairieville	30.284279	-90.958987	$1,200,000	2014	Metal
St. Amant Volunteer Fire Department - Station 60	Fire & SAR	44483 Stringer Bridge Rd	St. Amant	30.240383	-90.855462	$444,073	1990	Metal
St. Amant Volunteer Fire Department - Station 61	Fire & SAR	46107 Hwy 22	St. Amant	30.21937973	-90.83150727			
St. Amant Volunteer Fire Department - Station 62	Fire & SAR	14343 Hwy 431	St. Amant	30.27909805	-90.87102076			

Fire District 2 Fire Department	Fire & SAR	2359 Lemanville Cutoff Rd	Donaldsonville	30.09832068	-90.93858001			Metal
Modeste Fire Station 140	Fire & SAR	7139 Hwy 405	Donaldsonville	30.16788015	-91.01291201			Metal
Seventh District Fire Department Station 70	Fire & SAR	13337 LA 44	Gonzales	30.26395029	-90.92147213			
Seventh District Fire Department Station 71	Fire & SAR	13398 Roddy Rd.	Gonzales	30.26533737	-90.90403489			
Health Unit	Public Health	1024 East Ascension Complex Blvd.	Gonzales	30.132974	-90.544585			Reinforced Masonry
Mental Health East	Health	1112 S. East Ascension Complex Blvd.	Gonzales	30.132821	-90.544582			Reinforced Masonry
District Attorney East	Civil Government	120 E. Railroad	Gonzales	30.142126	-90.551209			Reinforced Masonry
District Attorney East - White House	Civil Government	208 E. Railroad	Gonzales	30.142181	-90.551043			Reinforced Masonry
Clerk of Court East	Civil Government	815 E. Worthey St.	Gonzales	30.133158	-90.544984			Reinforced Masonry
Courthouse East	Civil Government	828 S. Irma Blvd.	Gonzales	30.13356	-90.544641			Reinforced Masonry
ARC		1122 E. Ascension Complex Blvd.	Gonzales	30.132667	-90.544571			Reinforced Masonry
Public Works East	Civil Government	42077 Churchpoint Rd.	Gonzales	30.142344	-90.540484			Reinforced Masonry
Henderson Bayou Pump Station	Utilities		Galvez	30.190623	-90.513436			Reinforced Masonry
Marvin Braud Pump Station	Utilities		St. Amant	30.112403	-90.47104			Reinforced Masonry
Mosquito Control	Civil Government	14233 LA Hwy 431	St. Amant	30.1634	-90.521602			Reinforced Masonry
Mosquito Control Warehouse	Civil Government	14233 LA Hwy 431	St. Amant	30.163388	-90.521801			Reinforced Masonry
Animal Control	Civil Government	9894 Airline Hwy.	Sorrento	30.122853	-90.523257			Metal
Admin Building		615 E. Worthey Rd.	Gonzales	30.132875	-90.545404		2016	Reinforced Masonry
Admin Building Warehouse		615 E. Worthey Rd.	Gonzales	30.132631	-90.545343			Reinforced Masonry

Human Resources/Maintenance	Civil Government	9606 Airline Hwy.	Sorrento	30.115164	-90.514457			Reinforced Masonry
St Amant Park - Recreation Office	Recreation	45404 Stringer Bridge Rd.	St. Amant	30.143995	-90.502064			Metal
St Amant Park - Recreation Maintenance	Recreation	45404 Stringer Bridge Rd.	St. Amant	30.143916	-90.501644			Reinforced Masonry
Stevens Park Concession / Restrooms	Recreation	43230 Cannon Rd.	Gonzales	30.152194	-90.524707			Reinforced Masonry
Geismar Community Center	Recreation	12060 LA Hwy 73	Geismar	30.143104	-90.591815			Reinforced Masonry
Darrow Community Center	Recreation	37112 Martin Luther King St.	Darrow	30.07172	-90.590375			Reinforced Masonry
Oak Grove Community Center	Recreation	37433 Ascension Parish Rd.	Prairieville	30.19121	-90.583422			Reinforced Masonry
Butch Gore Memorial Park Concession / Restrooms	Recreation	14550 Harry Savoy Rd.	St. Amant	30.1642	-90.513026			Reinforced Masonry
Paula Park Concession / Restrooms	Recreation	16470 Pailette St	Prairieville	30.184198	-90.535155			Reinforced Masonry
Southwood Park Concession / Restrooms	Recreation	14318 Parkview Dr.	Prairieville	30.16485	-90.582114			Reinforced Masonry
Hillaryville Pavilion and Restrooms	Recreation	5120 Galaxy Blvd	Darrow	30.083004	-90.571085			Reinforced Masonry
Lamar Dixon		9039 S. St Landry	Gonzales	30.114921	-90.572695			Reinforced Masonry
Boxing Club Building		435 W Cypress St	Gonzales	30.143048	-90.552878			Reinforced Masonry
Courthouse West	Civil Government	300 Houma St.	Donaldsonville	30.06172	-90.592522			Reinforced Masonry
District Attorney West A	Civil Government	305 Chetimatches St.	Donaldsonville	30.061845	-90.59255			Reinforced Masonry
District Attorney West B	Civil Government	313 Chetimatches St.	Donaldsonville	30.061798	-90.592591			Reinforced Masonry
District Attorney West C	Civil Government	201 Opelousas St.	Donaldsonville	30.061661	-90.592689			Reinforced Masonry
Clerk of Court West	Civil Government	321 Houma St.	Donaldsonville	30.061496	-90.592397			Reinforced Masonry
Governmental Complex West	Civil Government	114 Nicholls St.	Donaldsonville	30.061956	-90.592737			Reinforced Masonry
Health Unit West		901 Catalpa St.	Donaldsonville	30.061568	-91.000357			Reinforced Masonry
Mental Health West		419 Memorial	Donaldsonville	30.051402	-91.000812			Reinforced Masonry

DPW West / Recreation	Civil Government	2171 D Thibaut Dr.	Donaldsonville	30.09751683	90.98106745			Metal
Apple Digital Academy & Ed	Education	9697 Airline Hwy	Sorrento					
Ascension Head Start	Education	603 Lee Avenue	Donaldsonville	30.09950924	-90.98344794			
Bluff Middle	Education	15464 Bluff Road	Prairieville	30.29833371	-90.99614366			
Bluff Ridge Primary	Education	14191 Hwy 73	Prairieville	30.27672578	-90.98497108			
Bullion Primary	Education	17005 Sills Drive	Prairieville	30.3167001	-90.98531769			
Central Middle	Education	14101 Roddy Road	Gonzales	30.2716112	-90.90537569			
Central Primary	Education	41469 Hwy 621	Gonzales	30.26814111	-90.90949168			
Donaldsonville High	Education	100 Tiger Drive	Donaldsonville	30.09997979	-91.00067292			
Donaldsonville Primary	Education	38210 Hwy 3089	Donaldsonville	30.09122735	-90.97466949			
Duplessis Primary	Education	38101 Hwy 621	Gonzales	30.26467373	-90.96841774			
Dutchtown High	Education	13165 Hwy 73	Geismar	30.25966326	-90.99066794			
Dutchtown Middle	Education	13078 Hwy 73	Geismar	30.25718504	-90.98839068			
Dutchtown Primary	Education	13046 Hwy 73	Geismar	30.25595116	-90.9884517			
East Ascension High	Education	612 East Worthey Street	Gonzales	30.22688734	-90.9148713			
G.W. Carver Primary	Education	11310 Legacy Oaks Lane	Gonzales	30.23415097	-90.93884047			
Galvez Middle	Education	42018 Hwy 933	Prairieville	30.314233	-90.903918	6000000	1956	Reinforced Masonry
Galvez Primary	Education	16093 Henderson Bayou Rd.	Prairieville	30.30271	-90.886592	5000000	1986	Reinforced Masonry
Gonzales Middle	Education	1502 W. Orice Roth St.	Gonzales	30.21887225	-90.93642586			
Gonzales Primary	Education	520 N. Pleasant Ave	Gonzales	30.23647546	-90.92227205			
Lake Elementary	Education	14185 Hwy 431	St. Amant	30.27506454	-90.8720761			
Lakeside Primary	Education	16500 Hwy 431	Prairieville	30.31301	-90.850385	15000000	40041	Reinforced Masonry
Lowery Elementary	Education	2389 B Hwy 1 S.	Donaldsonville	30.10088063	-91.01884213			
Lowery Middle	Education	2389 A Hwy 1 S.	Donaldsonville	30.10088063	-91.01884213			

Oak Grove Primary	Education	17550 Old Jefferson Hwy	Prairieville	30.324034	-90.975541	6000000	1996	Reinforced Masonry
Pecan Grove Primary	Education	1712 South Pecan Grove Ave.	Gonzales	30.21954152	-90.90738302			
Prairieville High	Education	40070 Parker Rd.	Prairieville	30.31445365	-90.93734611			
Prairieville Middle	Education	16200 Hwy 930	Prairieville	30.304142	-90.955263	5000000	1951	Reinforced Masonry
Prairieville Primary	Education	40228 Parker Road	Prairieville	30.31461	-90.931769	13000000	39658	Reinforced Masonry
Sorrento Primary	Education	42211 N. City Parc Dr.	Sorrento	30.15697055	-90.88558265			
Spanish Lake Primary	Education	13323 Bluff Road	Geismar	30.26268199	-91.00950382			
St. Amant High	Education	12035 Hwy 431	St. Amant	30.24191489	-90.87132475			
St. Amant Middle	Education	44317 Hwy 429	St. Amant	30.222889	-90.859584	5000000	1937	Reinforced Masonry
St. Amant Primary	Education	44365 Hwy 429	St. Amant	30.223205	-90.858513	5000000	1990	Reinforced Masonry
Sugar Mill Primary	Education	39319 Germany Road	Prairieville	30.28244206	-90.9457687			
LeBlanc Special Services	Education	611 North Burnside	Gonzales	30.23718832	-90.92112732			
BC Alwes	Education	501 Lee Avenue	Donaldsonville	30.1004171	-90.98301217			
Data Center	Education	1707 South Purpera STE 100	Gonzales	30.21944969	-90.90460989			
Darrow Conference and Technology Centers	Education	38608 Hwy 22	Darrow	30.13782242	-90.95482453			
Operations Center	Education	9690 Airline Highway	Sorrento	30.19938437	-90.86469578			
Old G. W. Carver	Education	518 West Oak Street	Gonzales	30.24533128	-90.92565115			
Student Services and RVTO	Education	1707 South Purpera STE 200	Gonzales	30.21918587	-90.90494648			
School Board Office	Education	1100 Webster Street	Donaldsonville	30.09970091	-90.98108384			
Supply Chain Office	Education	932 West Orice Roth Road	Gonzales	30.21870464	-90.93028782			
Ascension Parish Courthouse West	Civil Government	300 Houmas St.	Donaldsonville	30.104445	-90.990614	$4,150,000.00	2000	Reinforced Masonry
Ascension Parish Government Complex	Civil Government	Worthey Rd	Gonzales			$10,000,000	2015	Reinforced Masonry
Ascension Parish Courthouse East	Civil Government	828 South Irma Blvd	Gonzales	30.140255	-90.551411	$9,700,000	1977	Reinforced Masonry

Ascension Parish Courthouse	Civil Government	300 Houmas St	Donaldsonville	30.104754	-90.990302	4000000	1889	Reinforced Masonry
Ascension Parish Jail	Law Enforcement	2384 Lemanville Cut Off Rd.	Donaldsonville	30.09743929	-90.9377066	20000000	1963	Reinforced Masonry
Ascension Parish Public Works	Civil Government	721 Church Street	Donaldsonville	30.097902	-90.985638	300000	1951	Metal
Parish Utilities of Ascension	Civil Government	38 Veterans Blvd.	Donaldsonville	30.10687799	-90.98772118			Reinforced Masonry
Clerk of Courts / National Guard Armory	Civil Government	321 Houmas Street	Donaldsonville	30.10430439	-90.99015937			Reinforced Masonry
Ascension Parish Dept. of Public Works	Civil Government	2171 Thibaut Drive	Donaldsonville	30.09938	-90.98135			Metal
Ascension Parish Sheriff's District 2 Headquarters	Law Enforcement	13200 Airline Hwy	Gonzales	30.25978146	-90.93223878			
Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office Hickley Waguespack Substation	Law Enforcement	1201 Maginnis St.	Donaldsonville	30.09457842	-90.99419881			
Ascension Parish Sheriff's District 3 Headquarters	Law Enforcement	38567 Hwy 42	Prairieville	30.32029886	-90.95723629			
Ascension Parish Sheriff's Shooting Range Complex	Law Enforcement	9134 S. St. Landry Ave	Gonzales	30.19960773	-90.94672883			
ARC Donaldsonville	Parks/Recreation	1030 Clay Street	Donaldsonville	30.098751	-90.983166			
Armory	Civil Government	321 Houmas Street	Donaldsonville	30.104174	-90.989911			
Boxing Club Building	Parks/Recreation	435 W Cypress St	Gonzales	30.241929	-90.924625			
Council on Aging	Civil Government	520 S. Irma Blvd	Gonzales	30.228915	-90.912565			
Council on Aging West	Civil Government	101 Bocage Dr	Donaldsonville	30.088724	-91.005241			
Human Resources West	Civil Government	114 Nicholls St	Donaldsonville	30.105471	-90.990896			
Lemanville Park	Parks/Recreation	3131 Hwy 18	Donaldsonville	30.106352	-90.920568			
Lowery Park	Parks/Recreation	2389 LA-1	Donaldsonville	30.098606	-91.017582			
Modeste Park	Parks/Recreation	35444 Butler's Rd	Donaldsonville	30.160212	-91.010388			

OHSEP Warehouse West	Civil Government	725 Church Street	Donaldsonville	30.097902	-90.985638	300000	1951	Metal
Old Jail/Storage Facility	Civil Government	335 Chetimatches St	Donaldsonville	30.105	-90.990553			
Sorrento Pump Station	Parish Utilities	44362 Conway St	Sorrento	30.175208	-90.857637			
Water Plant	Parish Utilities	309 Mississippi St	Donaldsonville	30.107443	-90.98865			
Elevated Storage Tank	Parish Utilities	1116 Mill St.	Donaldsonville	30.09569113	-90.99565141			
Ground Storage Tank	Parish Utilities	60 Veterans Blvd	Donaldsonville	30.1076241	-90.99111268			
Highway 70 Tank	Parish Utilities	1572 Hwy 70	Donaldsonville	30.08193877	-90.95198721			
McCall Tank	Parish Utilities	3651 McCall Rd.	Donaldsonville	30.1171967	-91.04158486			
Palo Alto Tank	Parish Utilities	34082 Hwy 944	Donaldsonville	30.09218581	-91.03808679			
Raw Water Intake	Parish Utilities	220 Lafourche St.	Donaldsonville	30.10875816	-90.99055023			
St. Jude Lift Station	Parish Utilities	2311 Lemanville Cut Off Rd	Donaldsonville	30.09875763	-90.94140034			
Parish Utilities of Ascension (Memorial Dr.)	Parish Utilities	419 Memorial Dr	Donaldsonville	30.087289	-91.00208496			

City of Donaldsonville

Name of Building	Purpose of Building	Address	City	Latitude	Longitude	Assessed Value	Date Built	Construction Type
Donaldsonville City Hall	Administration	609 Railroad Avenue	Donaldsonville	30.101066	-90.990347	$1,500,000	1975	Reinforced Masonry
Office of the District Attorney	Administration	201 Opelousas	Donaldsonville	30.104596	-90.99078	$248,000	1979	Reinforced Masonry
Donaldsonville Fire Department	Fire & SAR	700 Lafourche St	Donaldsonville	30.10174	-90.993011	$920,000	1960	Reinforced Masonry
Ronald Morris Fire Department	Fire & SAR	2801 Louisiana 1	Donaldsonville	30.088273	-91.029896	$250,000	1978	Metal
Prevost Memorial Hospital	Public Health	301 Memorial Drive	Donaldsonville	30.08875	-91.00301	$850,000		Reinforced Masonry
Fire District 2 Fire Department	Fire & SAR	2411 Lemanville Cut Off Road	Donaldsonville	30.0966937	-90.9422502			Metal

Donaldsonville Fire Department	Fire & SAR	911 Marchand Drive	Donaldsonville	30.09907	-90.99009	$2,500,000	2019	Reinforced Masonry
City of Donaldsonville Dept. of Public Works	Public Works	2175 D Thibaut Drive	Donaldsonville	30.096386	-90.982325	$400,000	2016	Metal
Lemann Memorial Center	Multipurpose	1100 Clay Street	Donaldsonville	30.09797982	-90.98216964		1976	Metal
RRAAM	Museum	406 Charles St.	Donaldsonville	30.10133243	-90.99012068			wood

City of Gonzales

Name of Building	Purpose of Building	Address	City	Latitude	Longitude	Assessed Value	Date Built	Construction Type
City Hall Municipal Building	Civil Government	120 S Irma Blvd	Gonzales	30.2323077	-90.91279805	$763,400	1996	Concrete
Gonzales Civic Center	Recreation	219 S Irma	Gonzales	30.23146593	-90.91430373	$1,538,000	1967	Concrete
Gonzales Police Department	Law Enforcement	415 E. Cornerview	Gonzales	30.23261272	-90.91690361	$4,000,000	2012	Metal
Gonzales Fire Department - Caldwell Station	Fire & SAR	325 E. Caldwell	Gonzales	30.2356171	-90.91795355	$191,000	1956	Metal
Gonzales Fire Department - Orice Roth Station	Fire & SAR	724 W. Orice Roth	Gonzales	30.21870055	-90.92737355	$1,000,000	2002	Metal
Public Safety Center	Kitchen facility and training/meeting room	736 W. Orice Roth	Gonzales	30.21876092	-90.92784988	$384,000	2004	Reinforced Masonry
EMS Building	Fire & SAR	748 W. Orice Roth	Gonzales	30d 13'08.85"W	90d 55' 41.06" N	$1.5 Million	2023	Metal
City Room	Location for River Region Art Association	1006 W. Hwy. 30	Gonzales	90d 55' 52.326"W	30d 12' 40.679"N	$231,000	1974	Reinforced Masonry
Tourist Center	Central location to obtain visitor information	1006 W. Hwy. 30	Gonzales	90d 55' 51.198"W	30d 12' 40.799"N	$110,000	2003	Reinforced Masonry
Recreation Shop / Office	Recreation	911 Meylan	Gonzales	90d 54' 45.614"W	30d 13' 16.178"N	$200,000	1982	Reinforced Masonry
T. Joe Museum	Recreation	217 W Main Street	Gonzales	30.23932100	-90.92206568	200,000	1910	Unreinforced Masonry
Environmental Enhancement Facility Shop/Office - Equipment & Machinery	Wastewater Treatment	3213 S. Burnside	Gonzales	30.20286508	-90.92103429	$560,000	1999	Concrete
T. Joe Ballpark Concession Stand	Recreation	524 Orice Roth	Gonzales	30.21987752	-90.92649612	$100,000	2001	Concrete
Jambalaya Park Pool House	Recreation	1015 E. Cornerview	Gonzales	30.23226455	-90.91142832	$200,000	2002	Concrete
Jambalaya Park Amphitheater	Recreation	1015 E. Cornerview	Gonzales	30.23194531	-90.91218717	$150,000	2002	Metal

Pool Pump House w/ Equipment	Recreation	1015 E. Cornerview	Gonzales	30.23226455	-90.91142832	$23,000	2002	Concrete
Warehouse / Meeting Room		1006 W. Hwy. 30	Gonzales	90d 55' 52.433"W	30d 12' 41.439"N	$110,000	2008	Concrete
Chelsea St. Pumping Station	Pump Station	101 E. Chelsea Street	Gonzales	30.21432396	-90.92027157	$40,000	1999	Concrete
Carver Park Rec Building	Recreation	616 N. Tobey Ave	Gonzales	30.24817794	-90.92658854	$195,000	2005	Metal
City Maintenance Building	Civil Government	2919 S. Darla	Gonzales	30.20665903	-90.93755411	$1,000,000	2006	metal/Reinforced Masonry facade
Kidz Kove Park	Recreation	112 S Francois	Gonzales	30.23248821	-90.91602764	$250,000	2014	Metal
PACE Center	Recreation	2824 St. Anthony Ave	Gonzales	30d 12'31.87"N	90d 55'28.60 W	$13.5 Million	2023	Reinforced Masonry
Freeland Jackson Center	Recreation	1400 S Darla Ave	Gonzales	30d 13'17.42" N	90d 56'06.43"W	$8.5 Million	2024	metal/stucco façade
Gonzales, LA Dept. of Motor Vehicles		320 E Ascension St	Gonzales	30.238559	-90.91813	$32,290		Reinforced Masonry
Sewer Lift Station 1	Sewer Lift Station	315 W New River	Gonzales	30.240044	-90.923103			
Sewer Lift Station 2	Sewer Lift Station	914 S Hwy 44	Gonzales	30.226139	-90.920466			
Sewer Lift Station 3	Sewer Lift Station	840 E Rome	Gonzales	30.22257	-90.913507			
Sewer Lift Station 4	Sewer Lift Station	101 E Chelsea	Gonzales	30.214296	-90.92027			Reinforced masonry
Sewer Lift Station 5	Sewer Lift Station	303 E Neal	Gonzales	30.219099	-90.918533			
Sewer Lift Station 6	Sewer Lift Station	920 N Patricia	Gonzales	30.239843	-90.926668			
Sewer Lift Station 7	Sewer Lift Station	612 E Toby	Gonzales	30.247525	-90.926676			
Sewer Lift Station 8	Sewer Lift Station	2911 Southwood	Gonzales	30.207225	-90.911804			
Sewer Lift Station 9	Sewer Lift Station	1731 E Bocage	Gonzales	30.218061	-90.902067			
Sewer Lift Station 9A	Sewer Lift Station	1900 Evergreen	Gonzales	30.217351	-90.89979			
Sewer Lift Station 9B	Sewer Lift Station	1840 Bell Helene	Gonzales	30.214422	-90.900289			
Sewer Lift Station 10	Sewer Lift Station	1501 E Tiffani	Gonzales	30.217091	-90.904147			
Sewer Lift Station 11	Sewer Lift Station	750 W Edenborne Parkway	Gonzales	30.189199	-90.920421			Fiberglass
Sewer Lift Station 12	Sewer Lift Station	3700 S Hwy 44	Gonzales	30.190414	-90.919912			
Sewer Lift Station 13	Sewer Lift Station	2700 S Hwy 44	Gonzales	30.209678	-90.920243			
Sewer Lift Station 14	Sewer Lift Station	2615 W Hwy 30	Gonzales	30.210482	-90.951472			
Sewer Lift Station 15	Sewer Lift Station	2215 S Darla	Gonzales	30.214651	-90.937398			
Sewer Lift Station 16	Sewer Lift Station	1301 W Orice Roth	Gonzales	30.218114	-90.93378			
Sewer Lift Station 17	Sewer Lift Station	800 W Orice Roth	Gonzales	30.218421	-90.928126			

Sewer Lift Station 18	Sewer Lift Station	918 E Worthy	Gonzales	30.225888	-90.912952			
Sewer Lift Station 19	Sewer Lift Station	1008 E Cornerview	Gonzales	30.233068	-90.911622			Metal
Sewer Lift Station 20	Sewer Lift Station	813 W Hwy 30	Gonzales	30.210818	-90.913865			
Sewer Lift Station 21	Sewer Lift Station	834 W Worthy	Gonzales	30.225688	-90.928754			
Sewer Lift Station 22	Sewer Lift Station	1600 W Worthy	Gonzales	30.225546	-90.937553			
Sewer Lift Station 23	Sewer Lift Station	1440 E Hwy 30	Gonzales	30.210945	-90.936215			
Sewer Lift Station 24	Sewer Lift Station	1535 S Purpera	Gonzales	30.22104	-90.904163			
Sewer Lift Station 25	Sewer Lift Station	820 W New River	Gonzales	30.24331	-90.929404			
Sewer Lift Station 26	Sewer Lift Station	815 E Bayou Narcisse	Gonzales	30.247206	-90.91342			
Sewer Lift Station 27	Sewer Lift Station	543 W Oak	Gonzales	30.244462	-90.925619			
Sewer Lift Station 28	Sewer Lift Station	2799 Roth	Gonzales	30.208937	-90.92955			
Sewer Lift Station 29	Sewer Lift Station	812 N Airline Hwy	Gonzales	30.238401	-90.913351			
Sewer Lift Station 30	Sewer Lift Station	9351 S Hodgeson	Gonzales	30.204846	-90.904015			
Sewer Lift Station 31	Sewer Lift Station	1800 E Nelson	Gonzales	30.222147	-90.901609			
Sewer Lift Station 32	Sewer Lift Station	301 E New River	Gonzales	30.239895	-90.918795			
Sewer Lift Station 33	Sewer Lift Station	2601 S Veterans	Gonzales	30.210892	-90.94427			
Sewer Lift Station 34	Sewer Lift Station	902 N Airline Hwy	Gonzales	30.238919	-90.913816			
Sewer Lift Station 35	Sewer Lift Station	2701 S Diane	Gonzales	30.210022	-90.917093			
Sewer Lift Station 36	Sewer Lift Station	2702 Remy Robert	Gonzales	30.20986	-90.914869			
Sewer Lift Station 37	Sewer Lift Station	1206 E Grace	Gonzales	30.225059	-90.909818			
Sewer Lift Station 38	Sewer Lift Station	426 E Bayou Narcisse	Gonzales	30.247472	-90.917411			
Sewer Lift Station 39	Sewer Lift Station	120 S Irma Blvd	Gonzales	30.232315	-90.91311			
Sewer Lift Station 41	Sewer Lift Station	2519 Orice Roth	Gonzales	30.217936	-90.949654			Fiberglass
Sewer Lift Station 42	Sewer Lift Station	2929 S Darla	Gonzales	30.206692	-90.937275			Fiberglass
Sewer Lift Station 43	Sewer Lift Station	712 S Oleana	Gonzales	30.227487	-90.930222			Fiberglass
Sewer Lift Station 44	Sewer Lift Station	3135 S Outfitters	Gonzales	30.206445	-90.948751			Fiberglass
Sewer Lift Station 45	Sewer Lift Station	8140 S Hwy 44	Gonzales	30.185712	-90.920048			Fiberglass
Sewer Lift Station 46	Sewer Lift Station	1309 Point Andrew Drive	Gonzales	30.243436	-90.911389			Fiberglass
Sewer Lift Station 47	Sewer Lift Station	1910 W Orice Roth	Gonzales	30.218399	-90.940803			Fiberglass

Sewer Lift Station 48	Sewer Lift Station	1213 Thorning Drive	Gonzales	30.180857	-90.912557			Fiberglass
Sewer Lift Station 49	Sewer Lift Station	430 Belle Crest Ave	Gonzales	30.179271	-90.91654			Fiberglass
Sewer Lift Station 50	Sewer Lift Station	1211 Meadow Crossing	Gonzales	30.222364	-90.935341			Fiberglass
Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant	3213 S Hwy 44	Gonzales	30.203523	-90.921861			metal/reinforced masonry
Water Well #3	Water Well	13296 Roddy Rd	Gonzales	30.262812	-90.90402			reinforced masonry
Water Well #2	Water Well	13048 Roddy Rd.	Gonzales	30.256082	-90.903915			reinforced masonry
Water Well #1	Water Well	14049 Roddy Rd.	Gonzales	30.269626	-90.904476			reinforced masonry
Water Tower	Water Tower	220 N Marchand	Gonzales	30.233928	-90.923471			reinforced masonry
Water Tower	Water Tower	317 E City Park	Gonzales	30.231918	-90.918361			
Water Tower	Water Tower	3151 S Outfitters	Gonzales	30.206445	-90.948751			

Town of Sorrento

Name of Building	Purpose of Building	Address	City	Latitude	Longitude	Assessed Value	Date Built	Construction Type
Sorrento Volunteer Fire Department Station 20	Fire & SAR	7567 John LeBlanc Blvd	Sorrento	30.1803043	90.8710746		2020	Reinforced Masonry
Sorrento Town Hall	Administration	8173 Main St	Sorrento	30.186118	-90.857913	1, 950,000	1965	Reinforced Masonry
Sorrento Maintenance Bldg.	Maintenance	8165 Main St.	Sorrento	30.186118	-90.857913		1965	
Sorrento Community Center	Command Center/Rec.	7471 Main St.	Sorrento	30.181204	-90.861571		2014	

Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable Populations Worksheet					
All Hospitals (Private or Public)					
Name	**Address**	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Latitude**	**Longitude**
Lake Urgent Care	1702 N Burnside Ave	Prairieville	70737	30.280834	-90.981657
Premier Medical Center	17188 Airline Highway	Prairieville	70769	30.321894	-90.977911
Ochsner Urgent Care Clinic	16250 Airline Highway	Prairieville	70769	30.303788	-90.971757
St. James Behavioral Health Hospital	39066 Vindez Road	Burnside	70737	30.203451	-90.951933
St. Michael Hospice	16260 Airline Highway	Prairieville	70769	30.304498	-90.971858
Prevost Memorial Hospital	301 Memorial Drive	Donaldsonville	70346	30.08875	-91.00301
Options for Living	101 Memorial Drive	Donaldsonville	70346	30.09063	-91.00342
Our Lady of the Lake Ascension	1125 W HWY 30	Gonzales	70737	30.209167	-90.931944
Magnolia Assisted Living	1604 S Burnside	Gonzales	70737	30.220556	-90.918611
Ascension Oaks Nursing & Rehab	711 W Cornerview	Gonzales	70737	30.231389	-90.926944
Promise Rehab Hospital	615 E Worthey Rd	Gonzales	70737	30.225334	-90.954163
Nursing Homes (Private or Public)					
Name	**Address**	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Latitude**	**Longitude**
Chateau D'Ville Rehab and Retirement	401 Vatican Drive	Donaldsonville	70346	30.094068	-90.99756
Ascension Oaks Nursing & Rehabilitation Center	711 West Cornerview St	Gonzales	70737	30.232197	-90.926957
Gonzales Health Care Center	905 West Cornerview St	Gonzales	70737	30.232279	-90.929623
Azalea Estates	2305 S Purpera Ave	Gonzales	70737	30.212830	-90.905030
Francois Bend	326 E Industry St	Gonzales	70737	30-228130	-90.920650
Magnolia Assisted Living	1604 S Burnside	Gonzales	70737	30.220556	-90.918611
Mobile Home Parks					
Name	**Address**	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Latitude**	**Longitude**
Achord's Trailer Park (45)	16098 Bluff Rd	Prairieville	70769	30.301484	-91.001810°
Ascension Estates, LLC (75)	8544 S. St. Landry Avenue	Gonzales	70737	30.194964°	-90.953600°
B&B RV Park	48A Bellina Drive	Donaldsonville	70346	30.099215	-91.012902

Bayou Francois MHP (10)	8338 Paul Rd.	St. Amant	70774	30.192724°	-90.842832°
Cajon Trailer Park (40)	14180 Highway 44	Gonzales	70737	30.274010°	-90.921274°
CMI Mobile Court (30)	17867 Airline Hwy	Prairieville	70769	30.337754°	-90.989532°
Cobbs Mobile Home Park (32)	13250 Roddy Road	Gonzales	70737	30.261571°	-90.904109°
Colonial Oaks East Trailer Park (11)	42261 Colonial Oaks East	Gonzales	70737	30.247390°	-90.895665°
Community Mobile Home Park (22)	42057 Moody Dixon Rd.	Prairieville	70769	30.321137°	-90.903282°
Country Living Trailer Park (37)	40501 Nicholls Melancon Rd.	Prairieville	70769	30.319868°	-90.923284°
Cypress Trace Manufactured Housing Community (35)	10504 Hwy. 22	St. Amant	70774	30.225512°	-90.801321°
Deer Run Mobile Home Park (56)	8370 S. St. Landry Road	Gonzales	70737	30.190962°	-90.953689°
Dutchtown Lane M. H. Park (49)	12322 Dutchtown Lane	Geismar	70734	30.254435°	-90.996457°
Eddy's Mobile Home Park	8210 Pond St.	Sorrento	70778	30.18761	-90.8499
Fairhaven Trailer Park (33)	15365 Hwy. 73	Prairieville	70769	30.294870°	-90.976538°
Family Court, LLC (23)	43083 Weber City Rd.	Gonzales	70737	30.230125°	-90.884355°
Galvez Oak Park (31)	41270 Merrit Evans Rd.	Prairieville	70769	30.298946°	-90.913655°
Gray Trailer Park (formally KTB) (26)	17140 Hwy. 44	Prairieville	70769	30.317576°	-90.921260°
Hambrick Properties	44452 Braud St.	Sorrento	70778	30.18391	-90.85646
Henry Rd. Trailer Park (17)	38072 Henry Road	Prairieville	70769	30.305876°	-90.970471°
Jackson Trailer Park (10)	44283 Hwy 42	Prairieville	70769	30.338419°	-90.864331°
Jennifer's Mobile Home Court (11)	37051 Perkins Rd.	Prairieville	70769	30.328369°	-90.995925°
Joseph Stephens Trailer Park (13)	11081 Conner Rd.	Geismar	70734	30.228675°	-90.979643°
L & D Mobile home Park (30)	41149 Hwy 42	Prairieville	70769	30.326775°	-90.917895°
Lake Martin Trailer Court, LLC (18)	14383 L. Keller Rd.	St. Amant	70774	30.280596°	-90.852876°
Landry RV Park	712 Veterans Drive	Donaldsonville	70346	30.10112	-90.99412
Lindco RV Park (16)	17311 Valmon Roddy Rd.	Prairieville	70769	30.321448°	-90.883578°
Lucky Mobile Home Park (28)	41235 Zeola Lane	Gonzales	70737	30.276229°	-90.912860°
Mallard Point (23)	42298 Hwy 933	Prairieville	70769	30.314302°	-90.895644°
Moody Dixon Place Trailer Park, LLC (22)	42245 Moody Dixon Rd.	Prairieville	70769	30.321208°	-90.897400°
Oak Place Trailer Park (50)	38263 Hwy. 621	Gonzales	70737	30.269251°	-90.963462°
Oak Village Mobile Home Pk, LLC (34)	42421 Hwy. 30	Gonzales	70737	30.211343°	-90.890860°
Oakwood Estates MHP (49)	44444 Melancon St.	Sorrento	70778	30.181875°	-90.852058°
Old Galvez Town MH Estates (30)	42553 Hwy. 42	Prairieville	70769	30.341115°	-90.894907°
Pine Park Village (28)	42284 Bayou Narcisse	Gonzales	70737	30.247476°	-90.895189°

Pines Mobile Home Park (20)	13363 Oreal Bourgeois Rd.	Gonzales	70737	30.264672°	-90.874636°
Plantation Village MHP (60)	10474 Acy Rd.	St. Amant	70774	30.224978°	-90.815982°
Powers RV Park & Mobile Homes (89)	11056-11 Airline Hwy.	Gonzales	70737	30.227673°	-90.902075°
Prairie Oaks MHP (33)	42385 Moody Dixon Rd	Prairieville	70769	30.322290°	-90.893172°
Raybon Village (41)	17091 Swamp Rd E.	Prairieville	70769	30.316908	-90.988804
Roddy Road Village MHP (46)	12195 Roddy Rd	Gonzales	70737	30.245252°	-90.903915°
Roddy Road Village MHP, Phase 2 (26)	11232 Roddy Rd.	Gonzales	70737	30.231664°	-90.903921°
Roy's Trailer Park (46)	41036-18 Marchand Rd.	Gonzales	70737	30.273868°	-90.921336°
S & M Mobile Home Park (17)	16260-1 Hwy 44	Prairieville	70769	30.306143°	-90.922125°
Shady Oaks Mobile Home Park (64)	43264 Moody Dixon Rd.	Prairieville	70769	30.321200°	-90.883625°
St Amant Trailer Park (23)	13128 Lamar Moran Rd	St. Amant	70774	30.258743°	-90.852254°
Stafford Park (24)	13502 Airline Hwy.	Gonzales	70737	30.266207°	-90.938472°
Susan's Place Trailer Park (39)	40206 Coontrap Rd.	Gonzales	70737	30.247649°	-90.931070°
T. Mobile Home Park (26)	Christy Dr. Hwy. 308	Donaldsonville	70346	30.094468°	-91.022312°
Treyville Courts (23)	10037 Hwy. 22	St. Amant	70774	30.212461	-90.843315
Twin Lakes MHC & RV Park (230)	37313 Hwy. 74	Geismar	70734	30.252230°	-90.976279°
Twin Oaks of Ascension MHP (48)	14054 Hwy. 44	Gonzales	70737	30.270873°	-90.921093°
Vesta Trailer Park	2228 S Burnside	Gonzales	70737	30.216111	-90.923056
Village Trace Manufactured Housing Community (26)	47021 Hwy. 22	St. Amant	70774	30.218821°	-90.817258°
Vista Mobile Home Park	206 East Chelsea St	Gonzales	70737	30.214146	-90.919630
Wallace Pines Park (9)	15210 Hwy. 44	Gonzales	70737	30.289621°	-90.921514°
Wells Trailer Park (5)	38434 Bonnieview Drive	Prairieville	70769	30.288948°	-90.959669°
White Oaks Manufactured Housing Community (47)	37113 White Rd.	Prairieville	70769	30.294748°	30.294748°

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)				
	Ascension Parish	**Donaldsonville**	**Gonzales**	**Sorrento**
Insurance Summary				
How many NFIP polices are in the community? What is the total premium and coverage?	9959 Total Premium $6,468,276Total Coverage $2,860,426,000	No. of policies: 162 / Total premium: $75,688 / Total coverage: $48,691,000	No. of policies: 946 / Total premium: $928,421 / Total coverage: $266,426,000	No. of policies: 207 / Total premium: $236,680 / Total coverage: $46,421,000
How many claims have been paid in the community? What is the total amount of paid claims? How many of the claims were for substantial damage?	Claims paid 6,073 Paid Claims $326,206,519. 1,665 Substantial Damage Closed Paid Losses	Claims paid: 51 / Total amount of claims paid: $898,085. 4 substantial damage	694 claims; $18,353,136 total amount paid; 69 Substantial Damage	Claims paid: 199 / Total amount of claims paid: $9,801,607. 63 substantial damage
How many structures are exposed to flood risk within the community?	All structures are exposed to flooding		1126	615
Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage.	N/A			Unknown
Staff Resources				
Is the Community FPA or NFIP Coordinator certified?	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes
Is flood plain management an auxiliary function?	NO	Yes	Yes	Yes
Provide an explanation of NFIP administration services (e.g., permit review, GIS, education or outreach, inspections, engineering capability)	Reviews all Development Applications, CRS Coordinator, CRAFT (PPI Outreach), Coordinates with the NFIP, FEMA and LFMA	Parish	Permit review, GIS, education or outreach, inspections	Parish
What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community, if any?	Getting the Community Involved	Unknown	Limited local staff resources	Unknown

Compliance History				
Is the community in good standing with the NFIP?	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes
Are there any outstanding compliance issues (i.e., current violations)?	NO	No	No	No
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?	CAV March 2023		6/12/2024	6/1/2021
Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed? If so, when?	Not at this time			No
Regulation				
When did the community enter the NFIP?	4/26/1973	5/15/1980	10/1/1992	6/28/1974
Are the FIRMs digital or paper?	BOTH	Both	Digital	Both
When did the communities adopt the FIRMs	8/16/2007	8/16/2007	8/16/2007	8/16/2007
Do floodplain development regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements? If so, in what ways?	Exceed	Exceed	Exceed	The Town of Sorrento exceeds regulations. We have 1 foot freeboard per ordinance. Our fill is limited to 24 inches. No fill within 10 feet of property line and no fill past 12 feet of dwelling.
Community Rating System (CRS)				
Does the community participate in CRS?	YES	No	Yes	Yes
What is the community's CRS Class Ranking?	7	N/A	Class 8	9
Does the plan include CRS planning requirements?	YES	N/A	Yes	N/A