



St. James Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Public Meeting

August 24, 2021



Introductions

- **St. James Parish OHSEP Director/Parish Staff**
- **Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI) at LSU**
 - Lauren Stevens – Associate Director, Disaster Management Programs
 - Chris Rippetoe – Hazard Mitigation Program Manager
 - Anna Daigle – Emergency Management Specialist
- **Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness**
 - Jeffrey Giering – State Hazard Mitigation Officer
 - Marion Pearson – Hazard Mitigation Planner



Agenda



Introductions



**Hazard Mitigation
Overview**



Planning Process



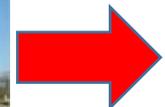
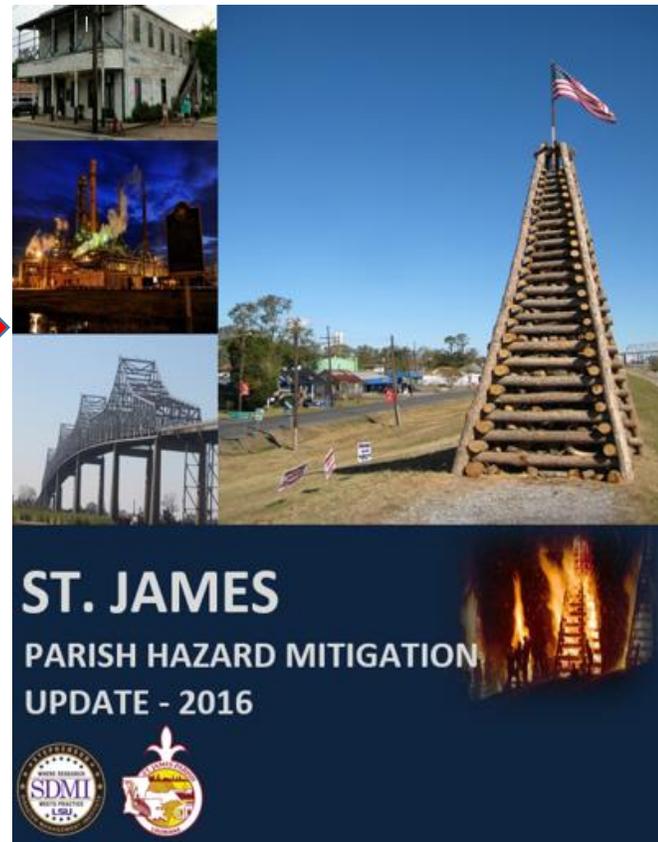
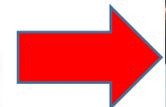
**Risk Assessment
Maps**



**Public Outreach
Activities**



Why Are We Here?



STATE OF LOUISIANA

This document has been prepared by:
Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and Emergency Preparedness
7667 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

With Support From:
Department of Geography and Anthropology
Department of Construction Management
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

University of New Orleans Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology
[UNO-CHART]
2000 Lakeshore Drive
New Orleans, LA 70148



Hazard Mitigation Is....

Any action taken to reduce long term risk to life and property;

On-going process that occurs before, during, and after disasters;

Mitigation actions help prevent damage to a *community's infrastructure, economic, cultural and environmental assets*;

Implementation of mitigation actions leads to building stronger, safer and smarter!

Why Are We Required To Have A Hazard Mitigation Plan?

- Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000)

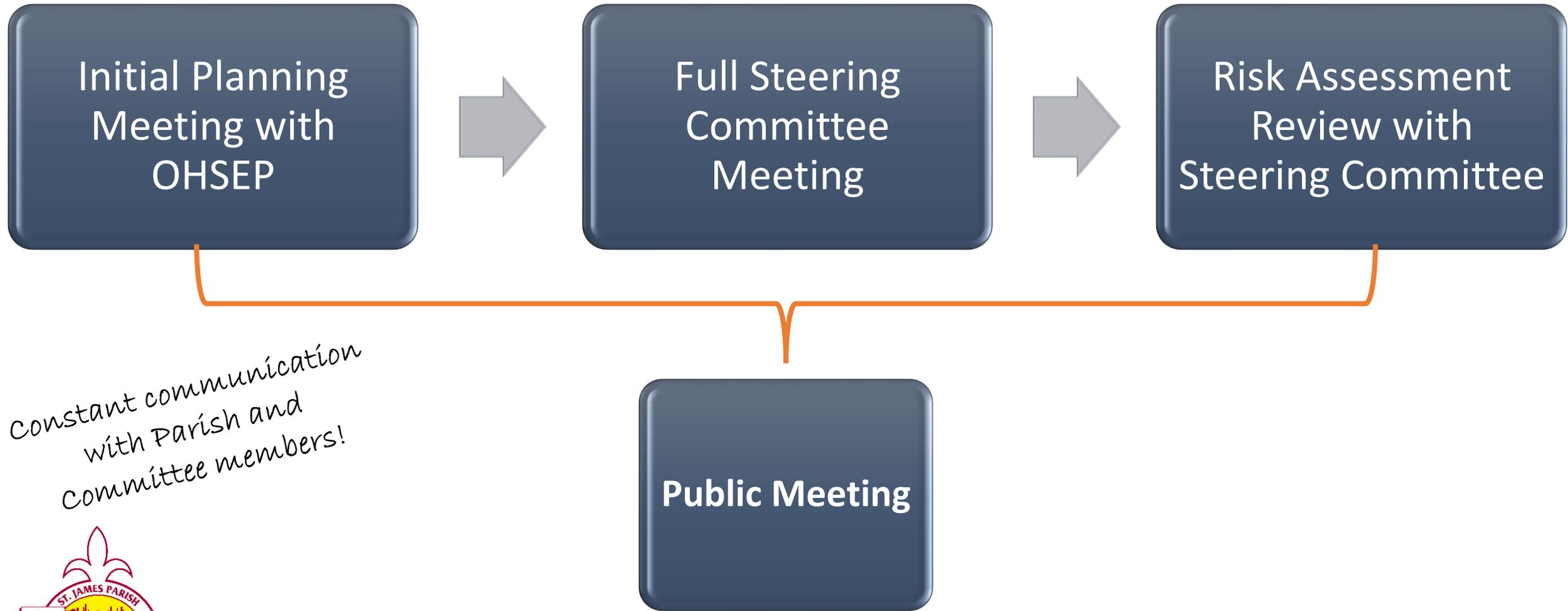
Section 322 of the Act specifically addresses mitigation planning and requires state and local governments to prepare multi-hazard migration plans as a precondition for receiving FEMA mitigation project grants.

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



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

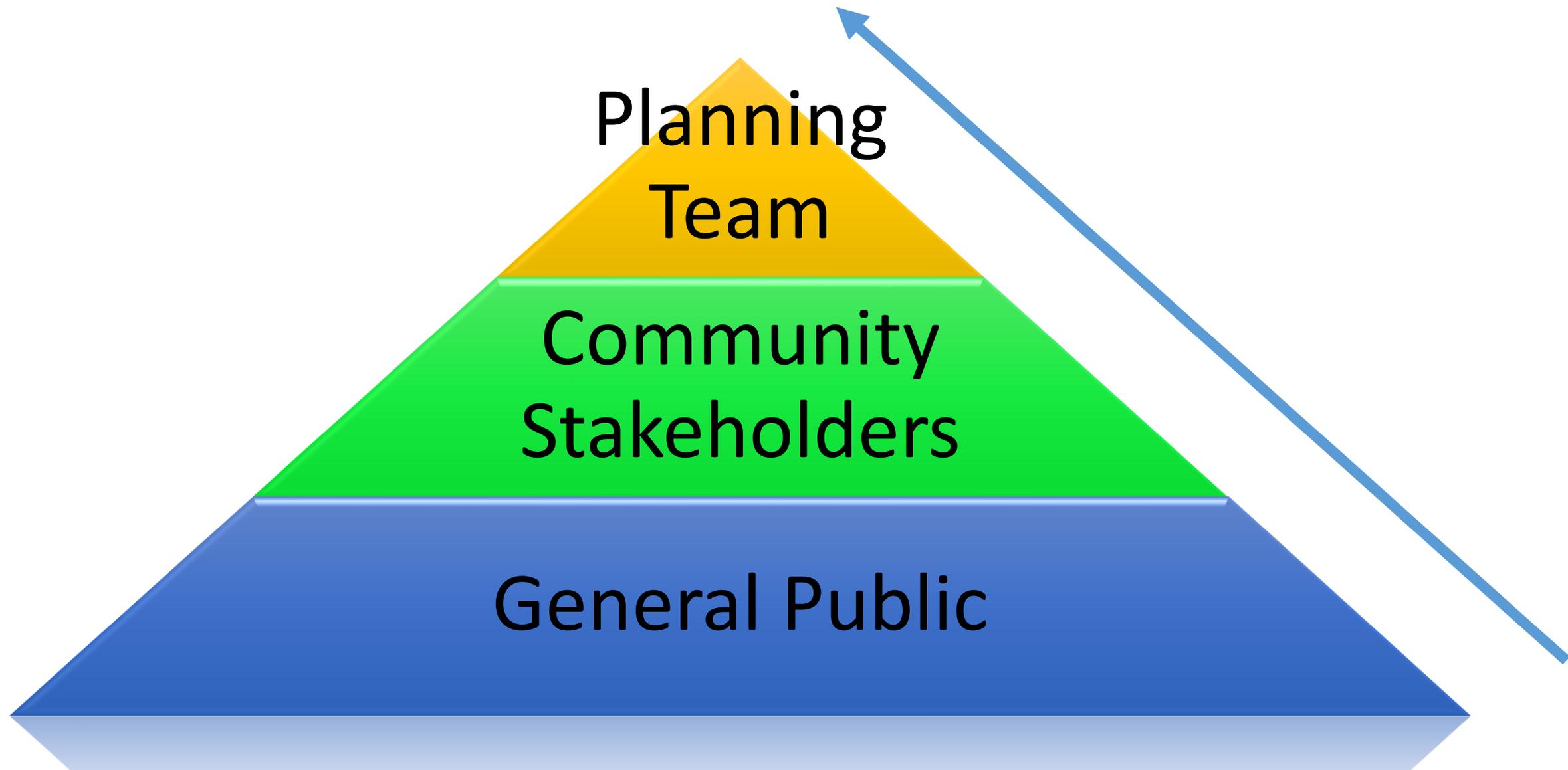
Planning Process to Date



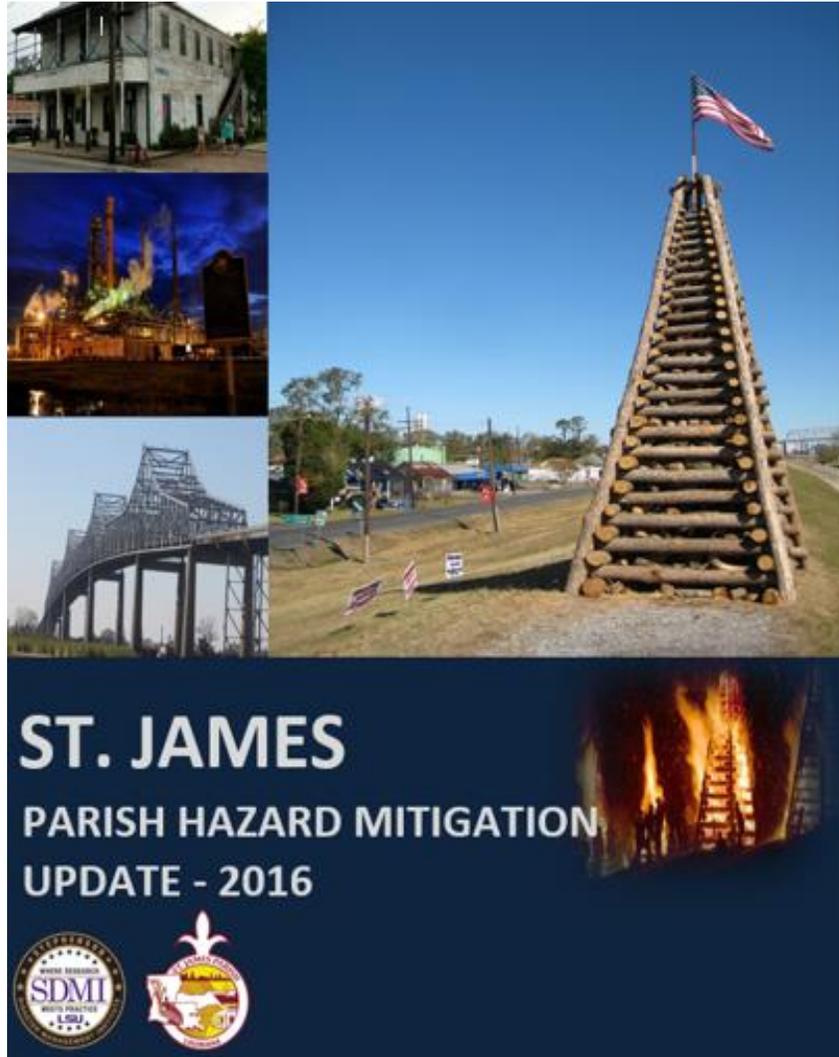
*Constant communication
with Parish and
Committee members!*



Collaborative Planning Approach



Planning Development



Plan Layout

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



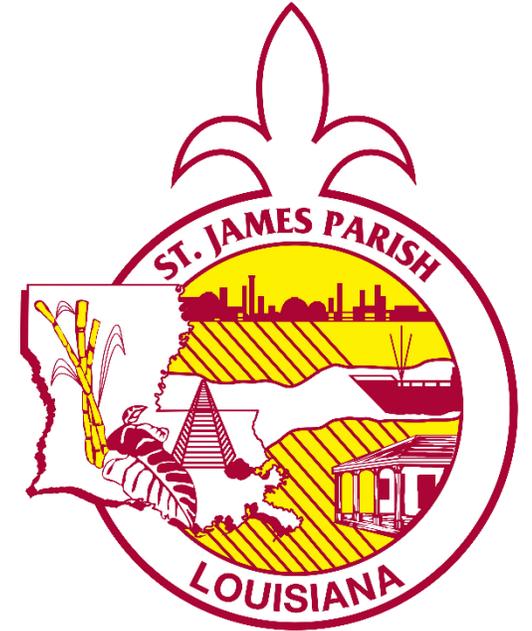
Plan Layout

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



Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

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



Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

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



Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

- Coastal Hazards/
Subsidence
- Drought
- Expansive Soils
- Flooding
- Sinkholes



- Thunderstorms
- Tornadoes
- Tropical Cyclones
- Wildfires
- Winter Weather

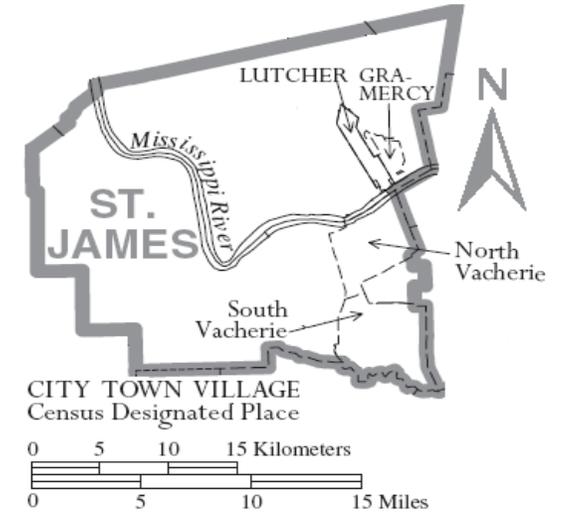


Risk Matrix for St. James Parish

Hazard	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	Overall Risk
Coastal Hazards	4	1	3	1	4	2.6
Drought	2	2	4	2	3	2.55
Flooding	4	1	4	1	4	2.8
Sinkholes	3	4	3	4	3	3.4
Thunderstorms - Hail	1	2	1	4	2	1.85
Thunderstorms - Lightning	3	2	3	3	1	2.45
Thunderstorms - Wind	2	2	2	3	1	2
Tornadoes	4	2	3	3	1	2.7
Tropical Cyclones	3	3	2	4	3	2.95
Wildfires	3	4	4	1	4	3.3
Winter Storms	1	3	4	1	2	2.25

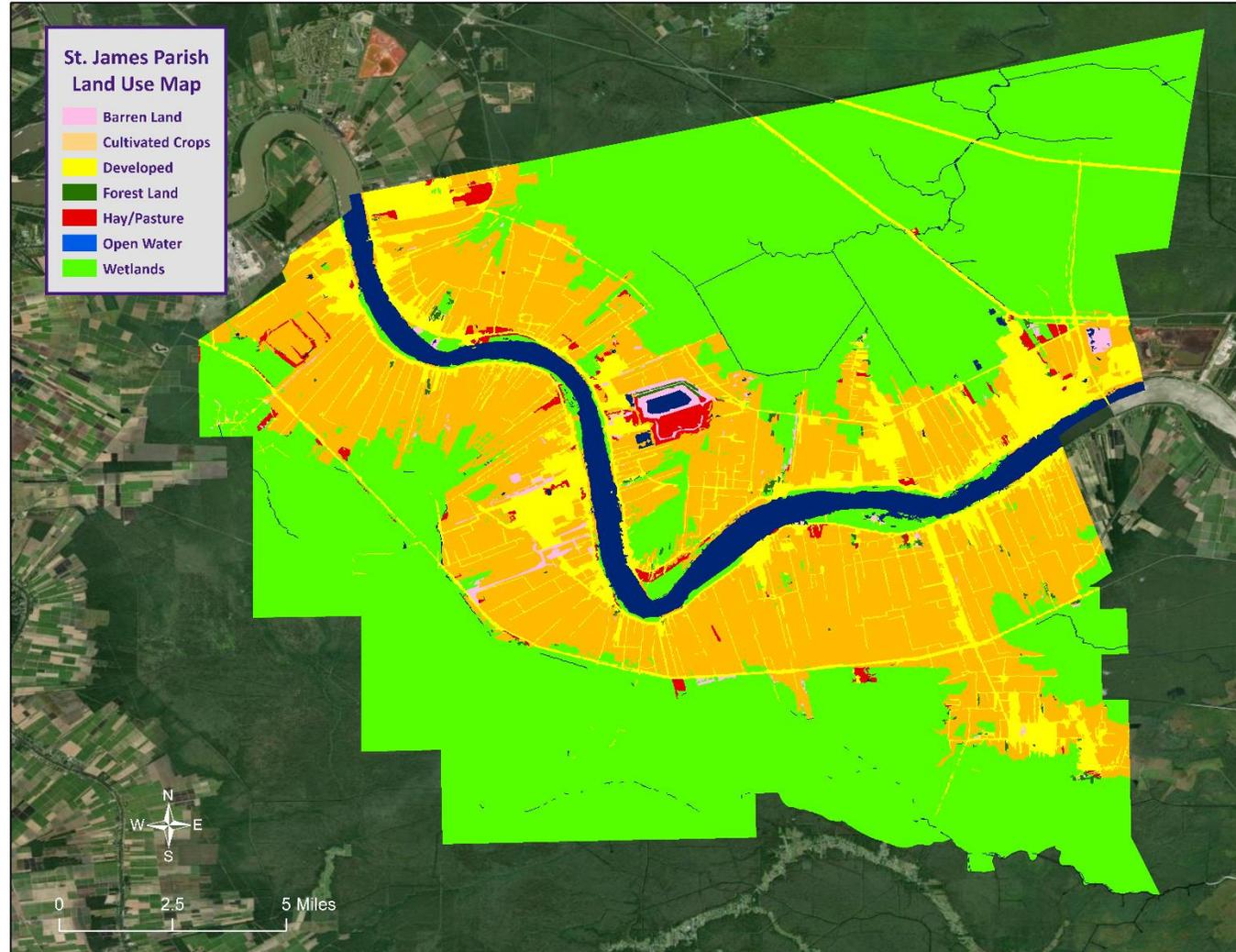
Risk Factor	PRI Range
High Risk	2.5 to 4.0
Moderate Risk	2.0 to 2.4
Low Risk	0 to 1.9



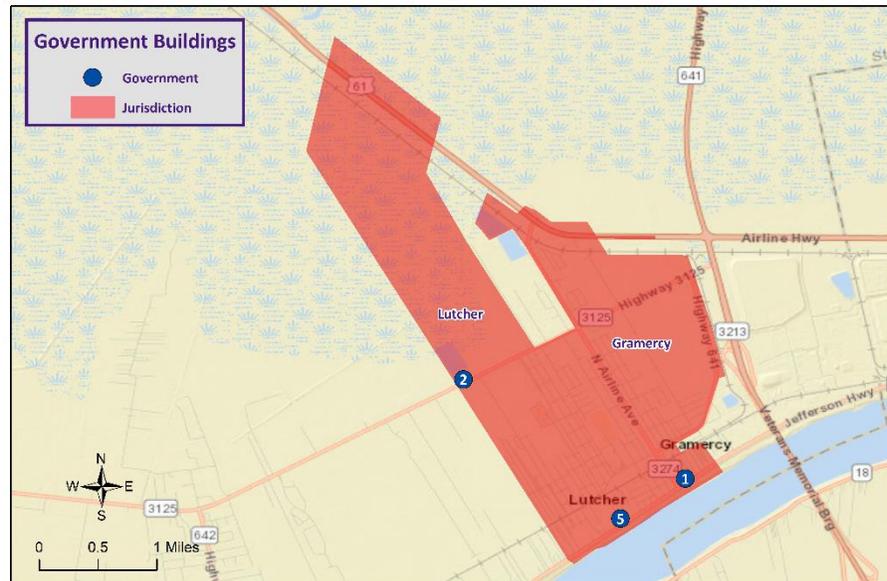
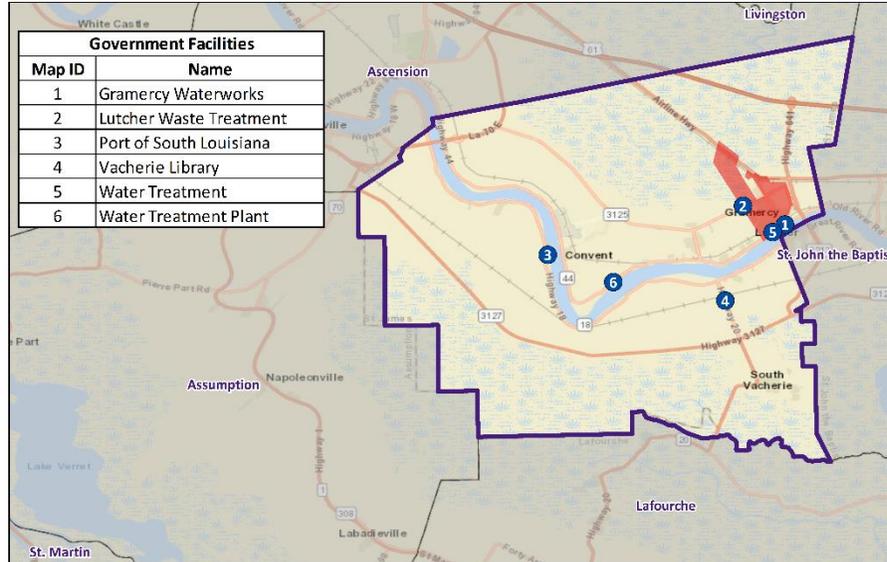


Risk Assessment Maps

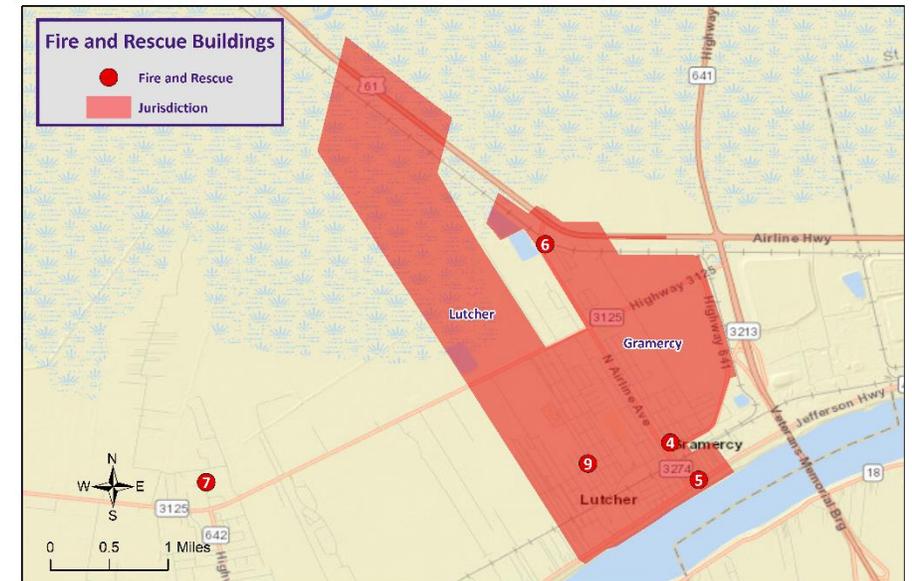
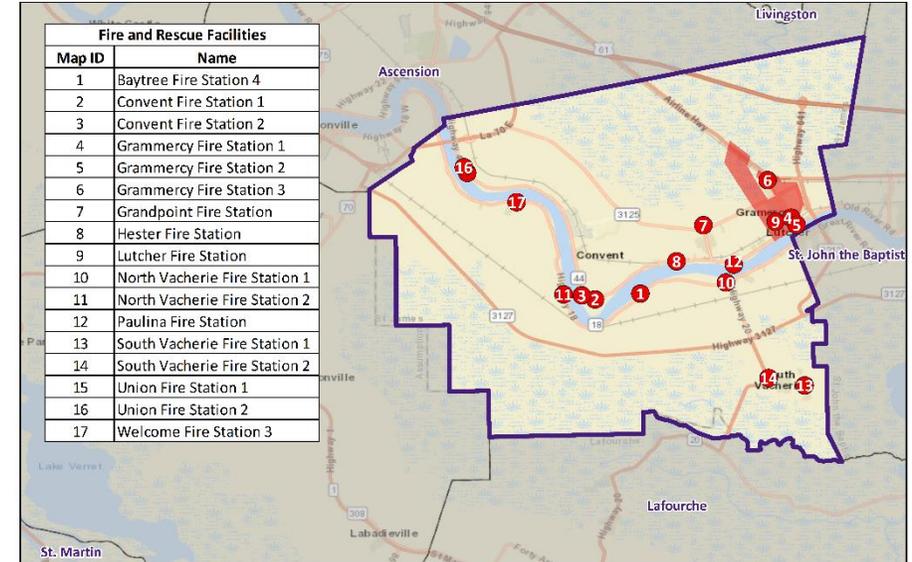
St. James Parish Land Use



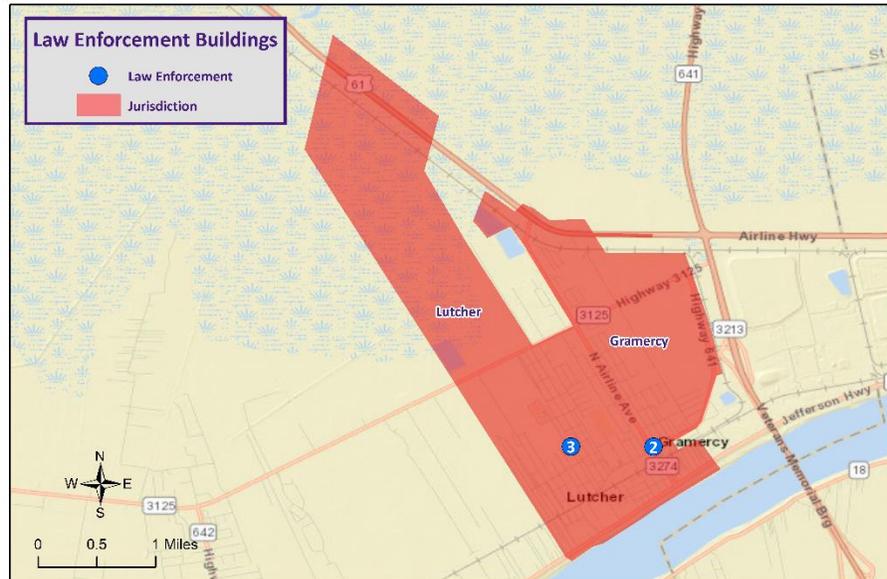
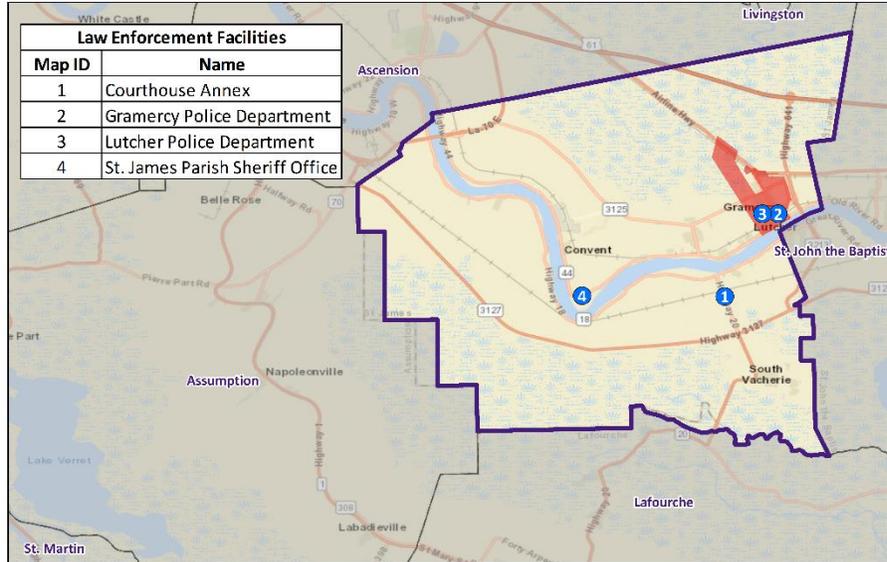
Critical Facilities: Civil Government



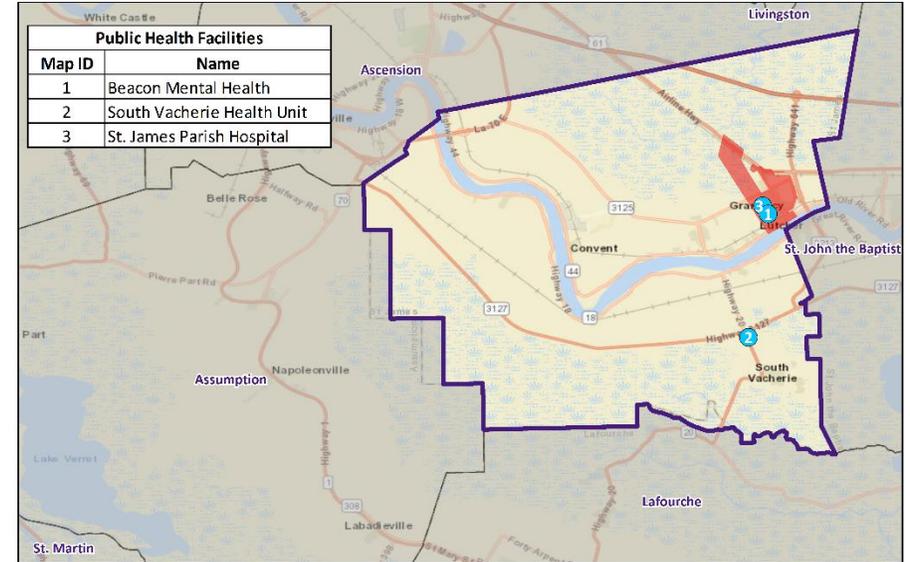
Critical Facilities: Fire & SAR



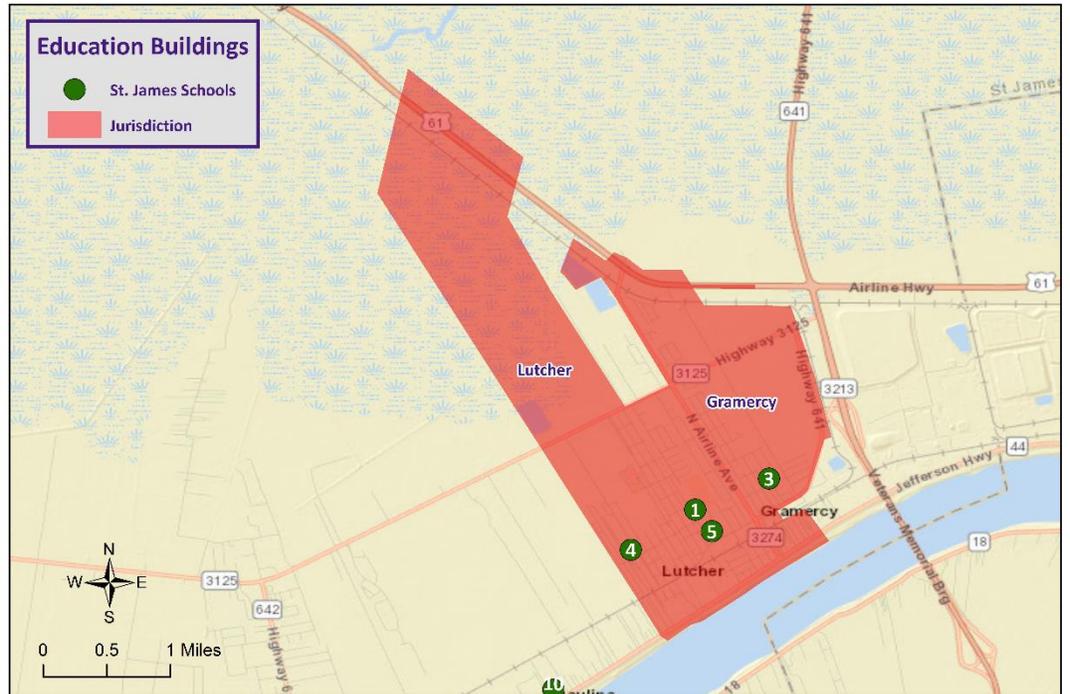
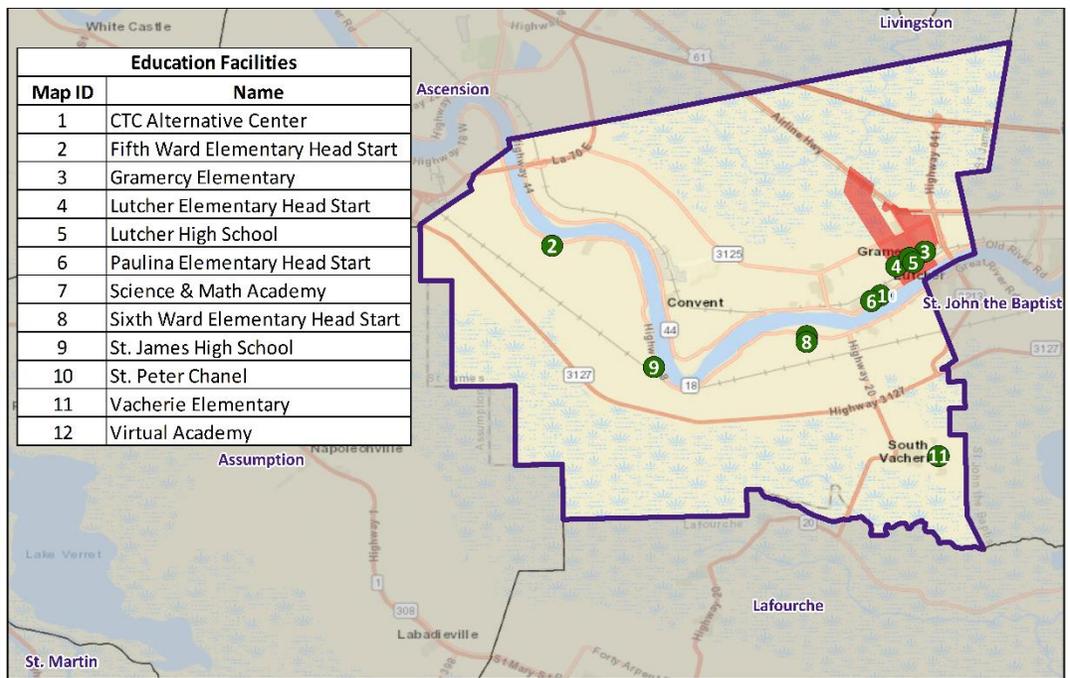
Critical Facilities: Law Enforcement



Critical Facilities: Public Health



Critical Facilities: Education



Coastal Hazards

- **Subsidence** is the gradual caving in or sinking of an area of land
 - Slow-acting process with impacts that can be readily seen in coastal parishes over the course of decades
 - Lowers elevations in coastal Louisiana, accelerates the effects of saltwater intrusion
 - Causes structures to become more vulnerable to flooding by lowering elevations
- **Saltwater intrusion/Coastal Land Loss** is the movement of salty water into freshwater aquifers or is the encroachment of saline water into freshwater estuaries
 - One of the major causes of subsidence and marshland loss
 - Causes the loss of fresh and intermediate vegetation, which results in rapid erosion of marsh soils and the ultimate conversion of the area to open water

Land Loss/Gain

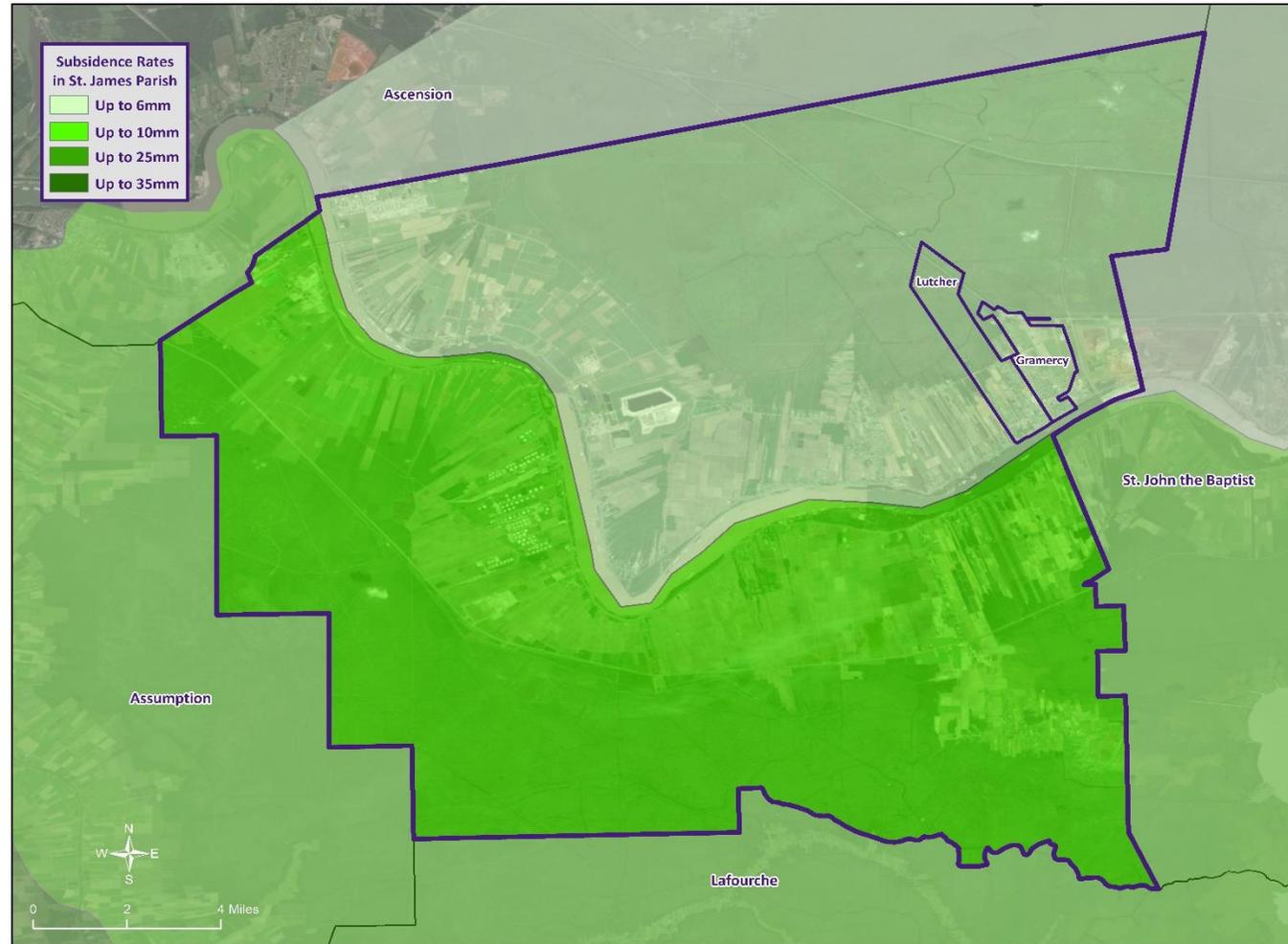


Subsidence

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



Subsidence Rates



Drought



- 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.
- There are four classes of drought:
 - ✓ Meteorological Drought
 - ✓ Hydrologic Drought
 - ✓ Agricultural Drought
 - ✓ Socioeconomic Drought
- Generally, the entire parish will be affected by drought
 - Not limited to one particular location within the parish

Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Louisiana

August 17, 2021
(Released Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



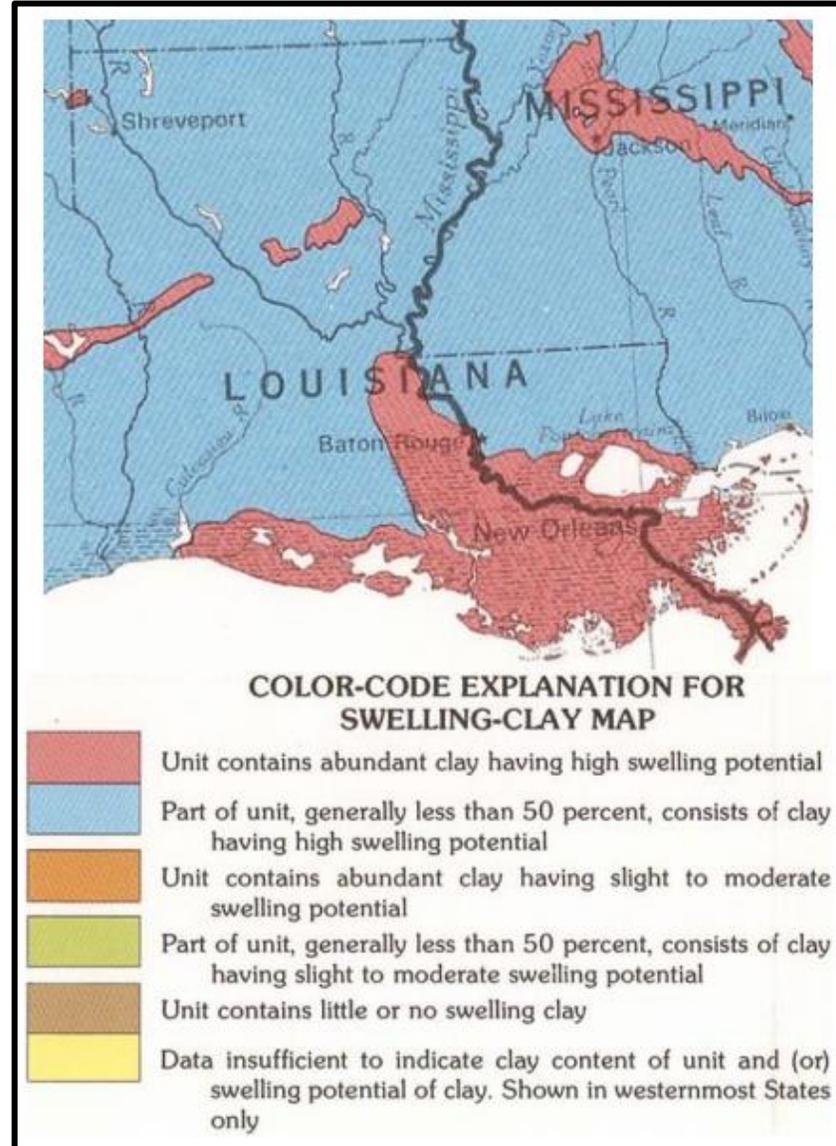
Expansive Soils



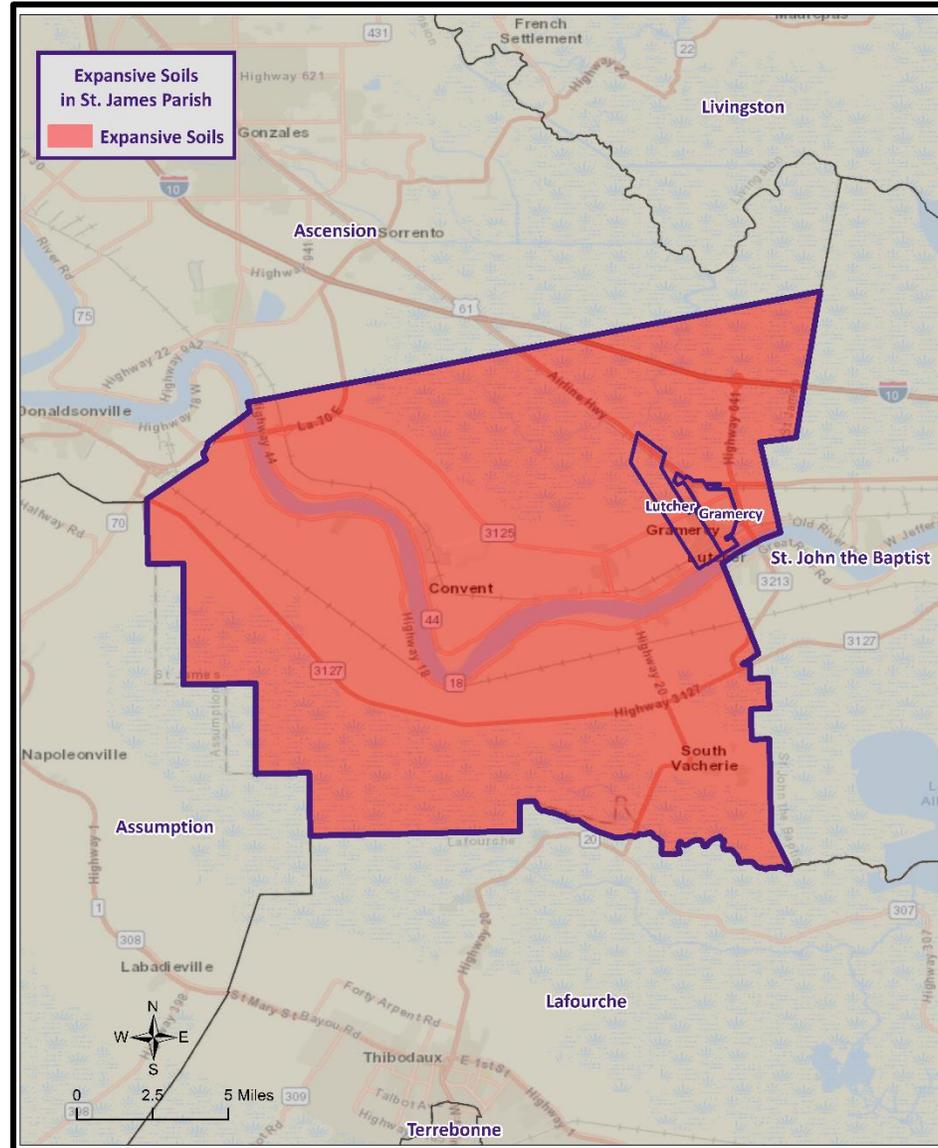
- Soils and soft rock that tend to shrink or swell due to changes in moisture content
- Areas of the Southern, Central, and Western States are most heavily impacted
 - Variations in moisture content and volume changes are greatest in clays found in regions of moderate to high precipitation, where prolonged periods of drought are followed by long periods of rainfall.
- Most noticeable impacts will be seen in infrastructure projects
 - Roads/Highways/Bridges
 - Commercial Buildings
 - Single Family Homes



Swelling Clays



Expansive Soils



Flooding

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



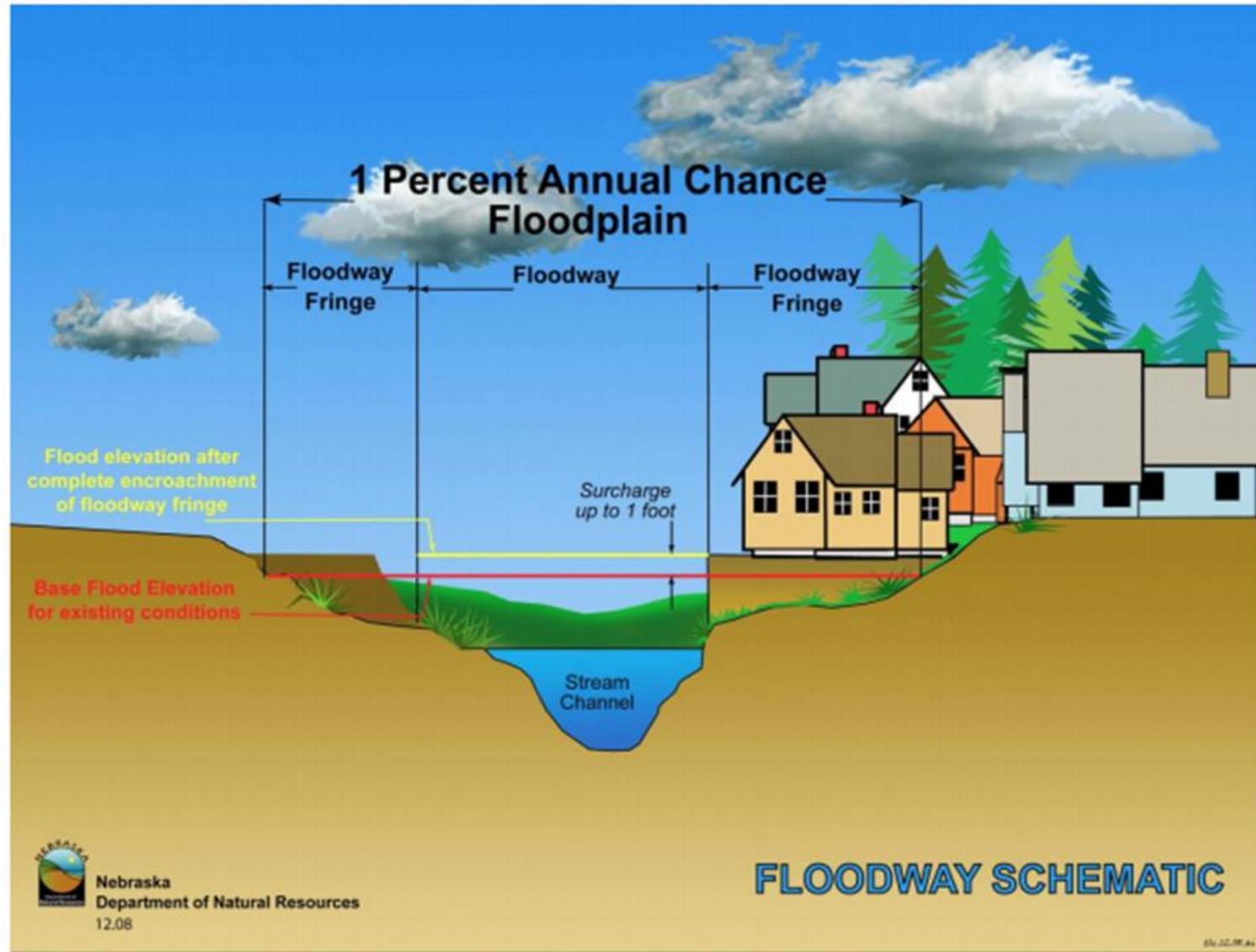
Flooding

In Louisiana, six specific types of flooding are of main concern:

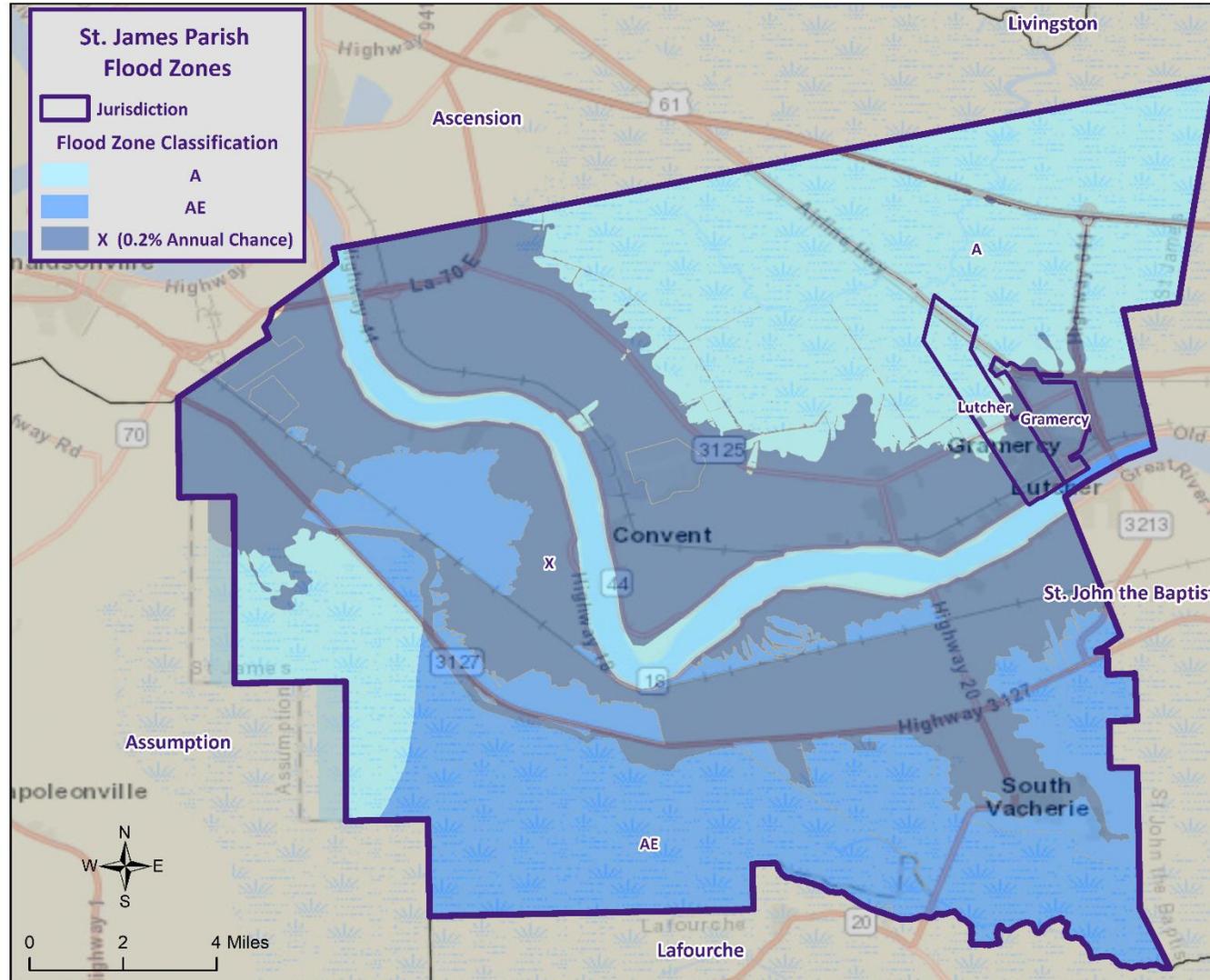
- Riverine
- Flash
- Ponding
- Backwater
- Urban
- Coastal



Floodway Diagram



St. James Parish Flood Map



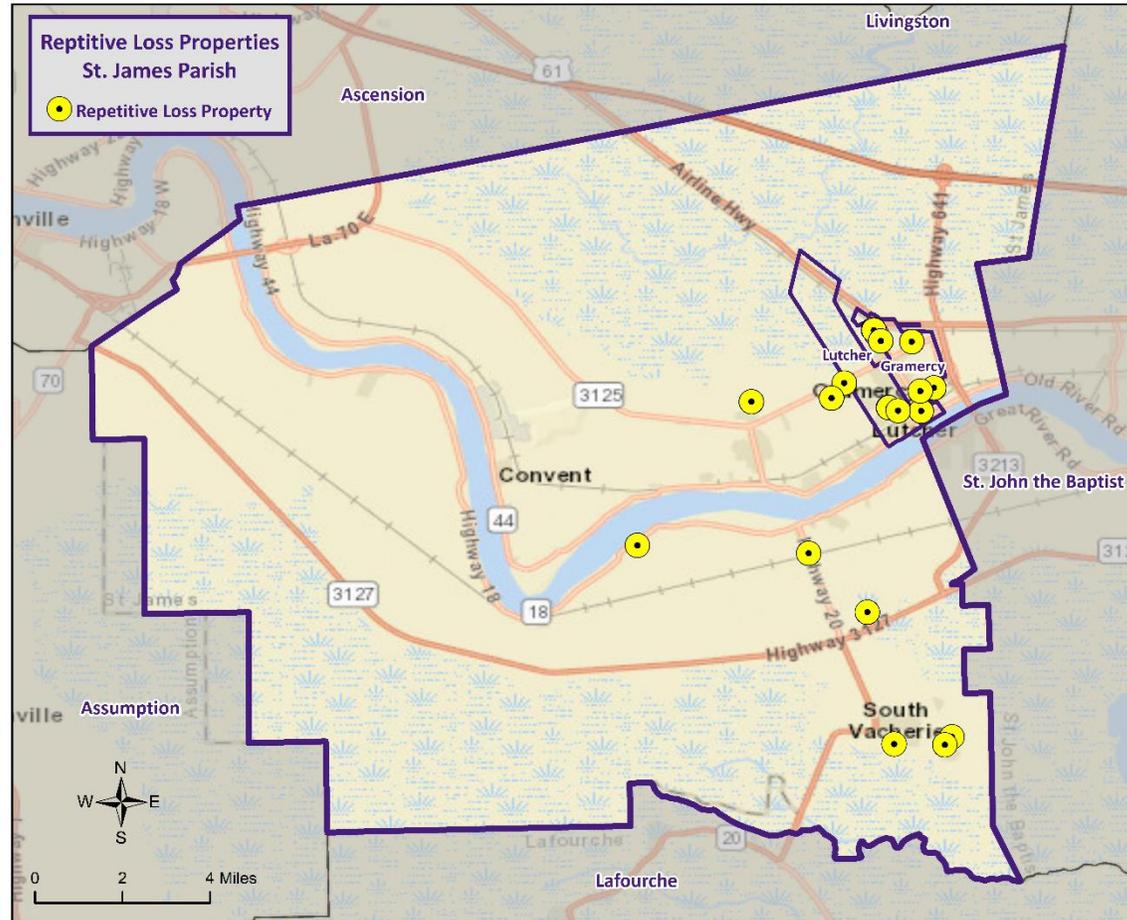
Flooding



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



Repetitive Loss Properties

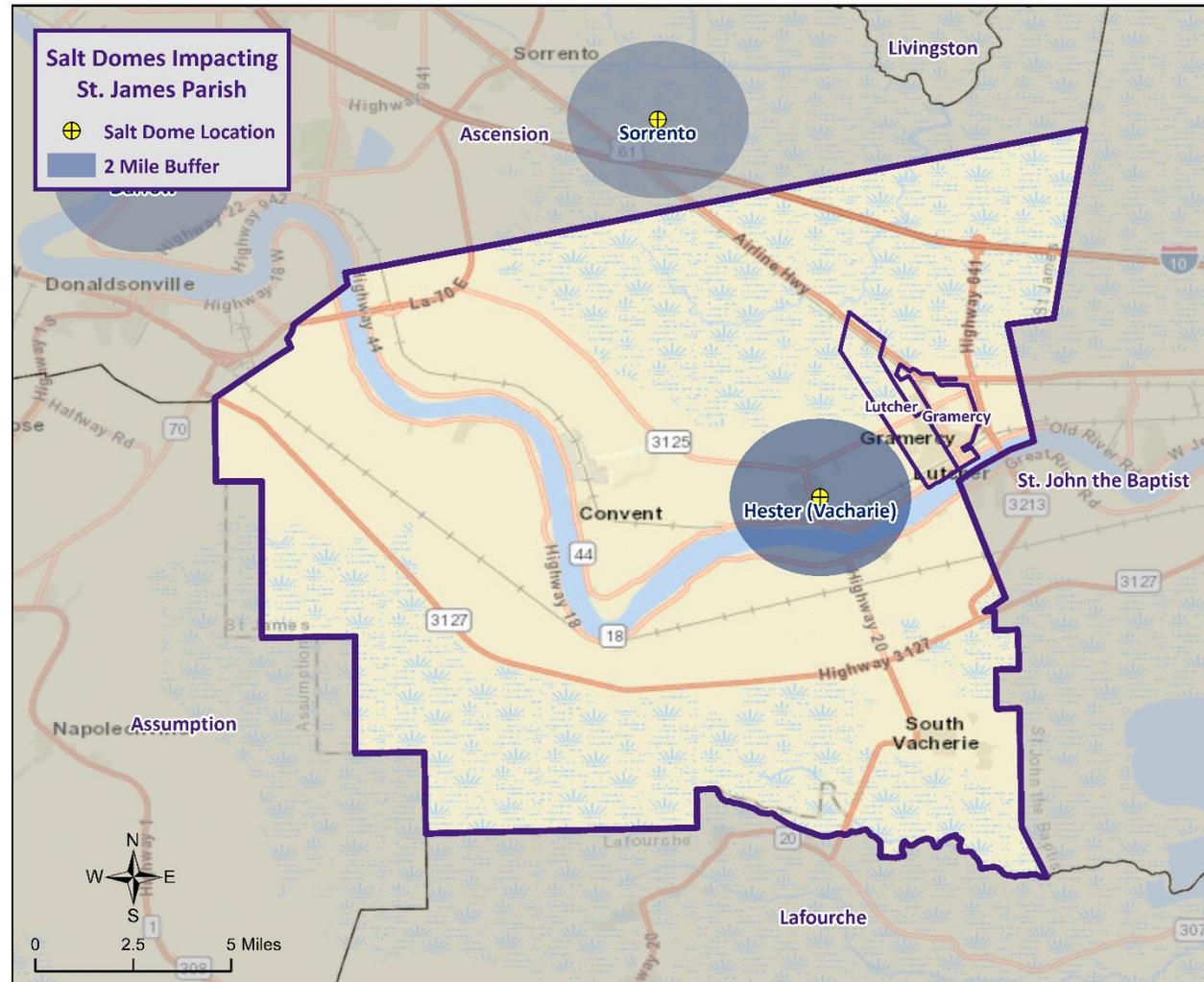


Sinkholes

- A sinkhole is an area of ground that has no natural external surface drainage – when it rains, all of the water stays inside the sinkhole and typically drains into the subsurface.
- Sinkholes form in areas where the rock below the land surface is limestone, carbonate rock, salt beds, or rocks that can naturally be dissolved by groundwater circulating through them.
- As the rock dissolves, spaces and caverns develop underground. Once the spaces underground become too large, there is not enough support for the land above the spaces which causes a sudden collapse on the land surface.



Salt Dome Locations

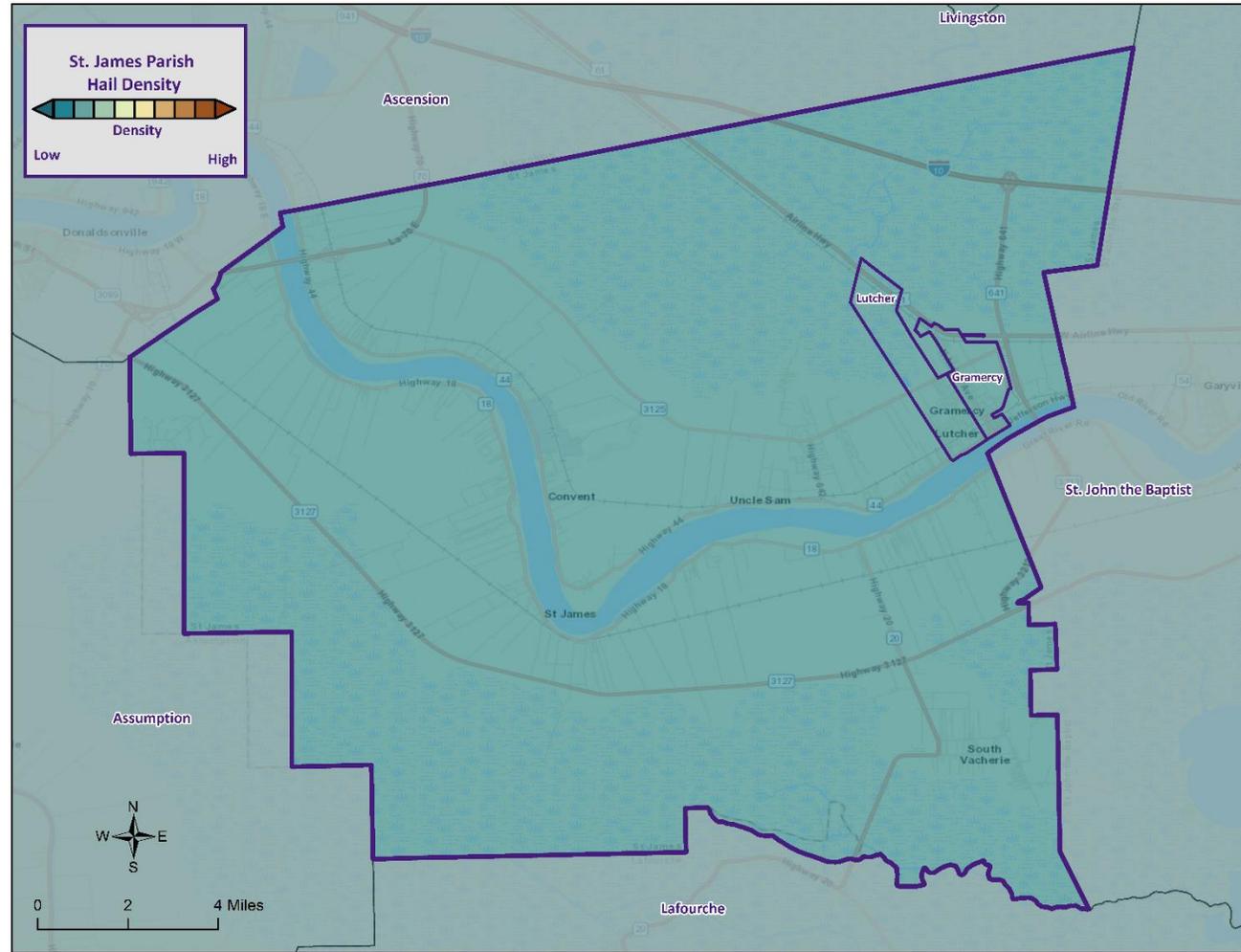


Thunderstorms

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



Density of Prior Hailstorms



Tornadoes

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

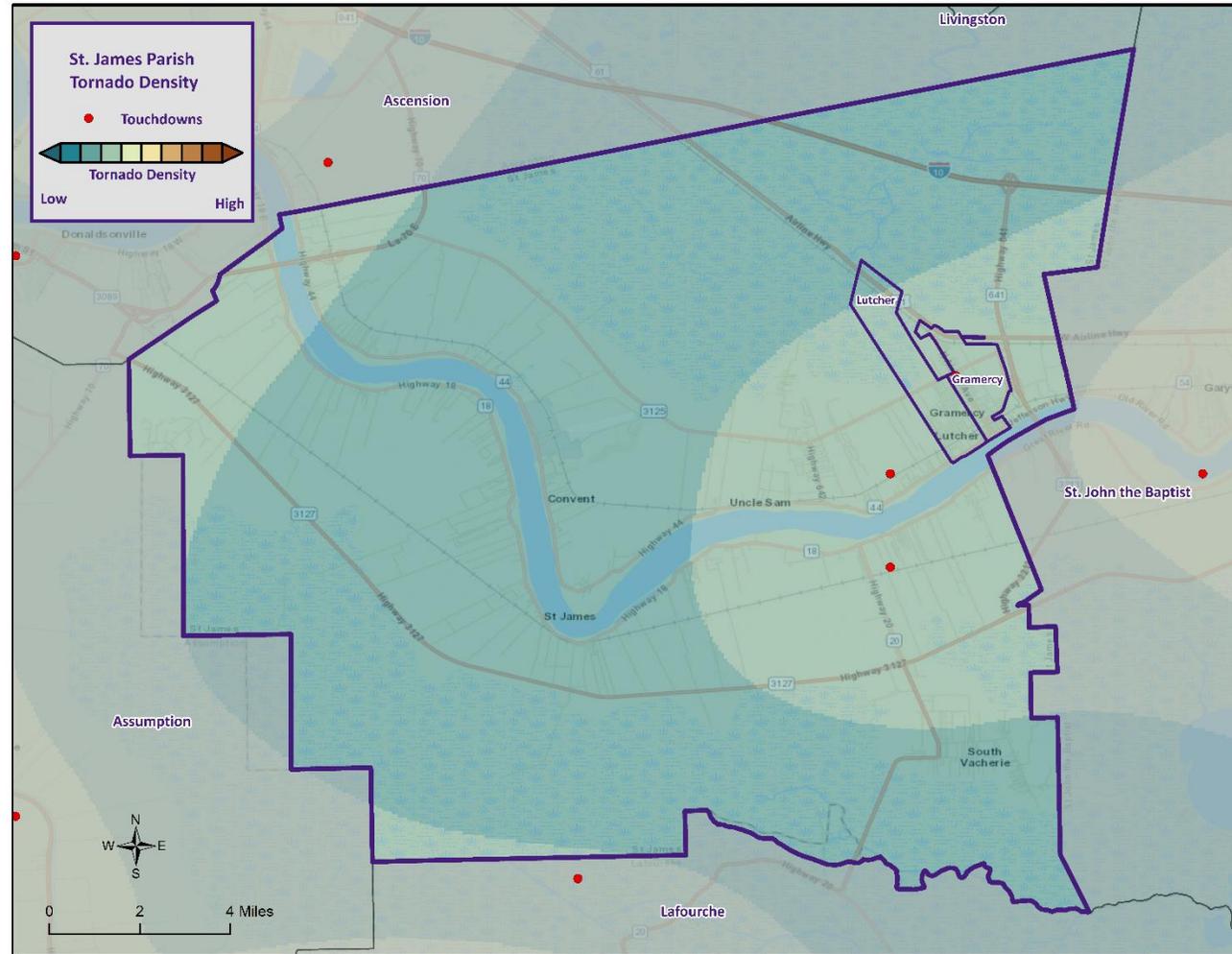


LSU

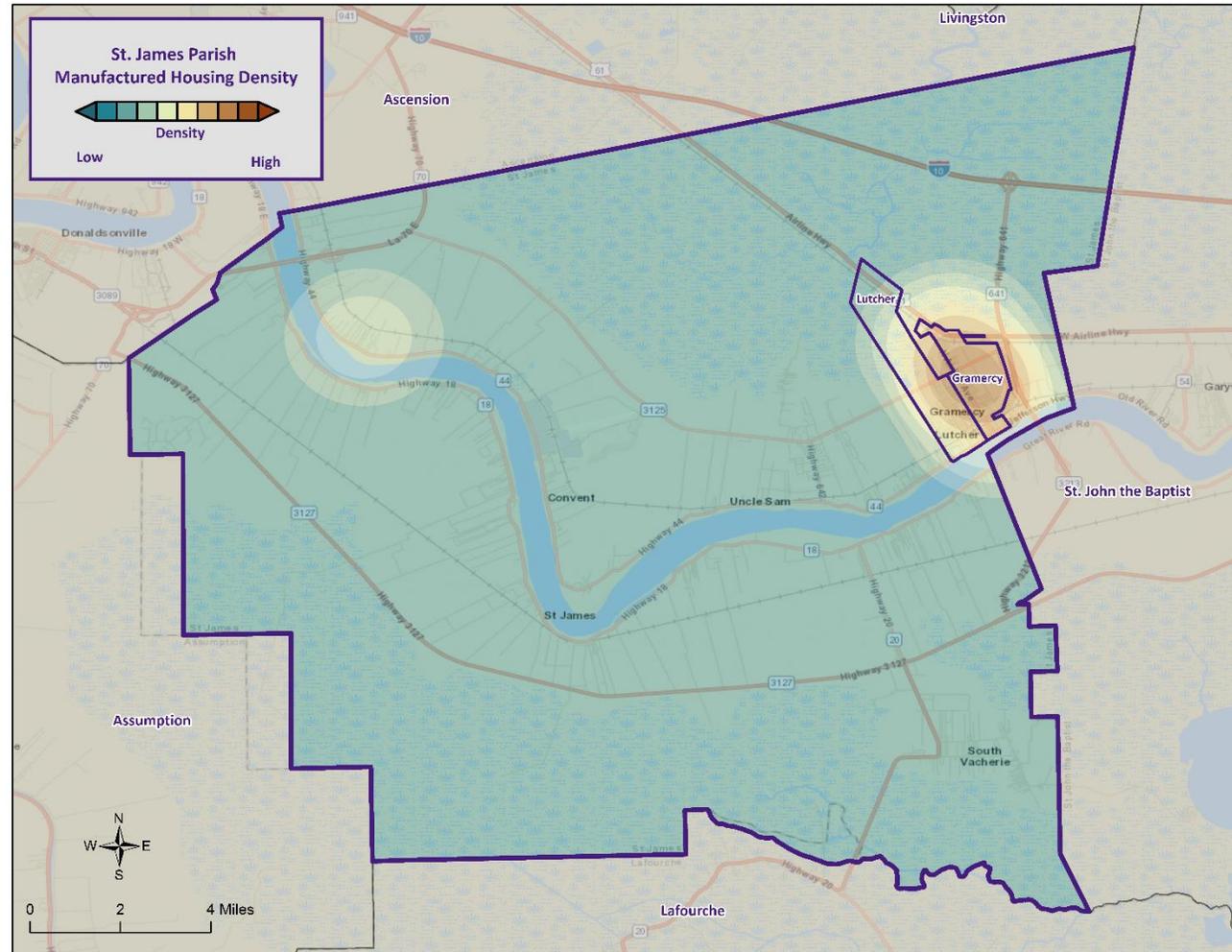
Stephenson Disaster
Management Institute

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

Tornadoes



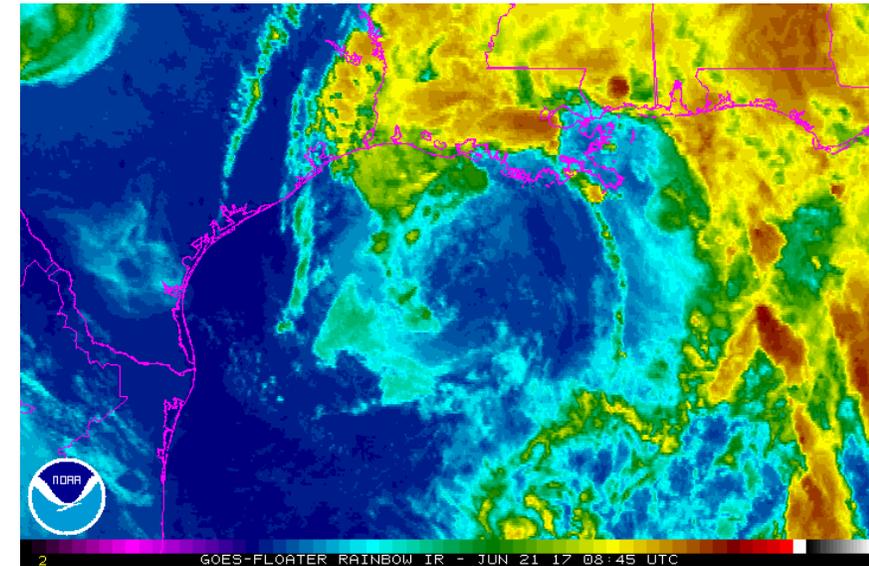
Manufactured Homes Density

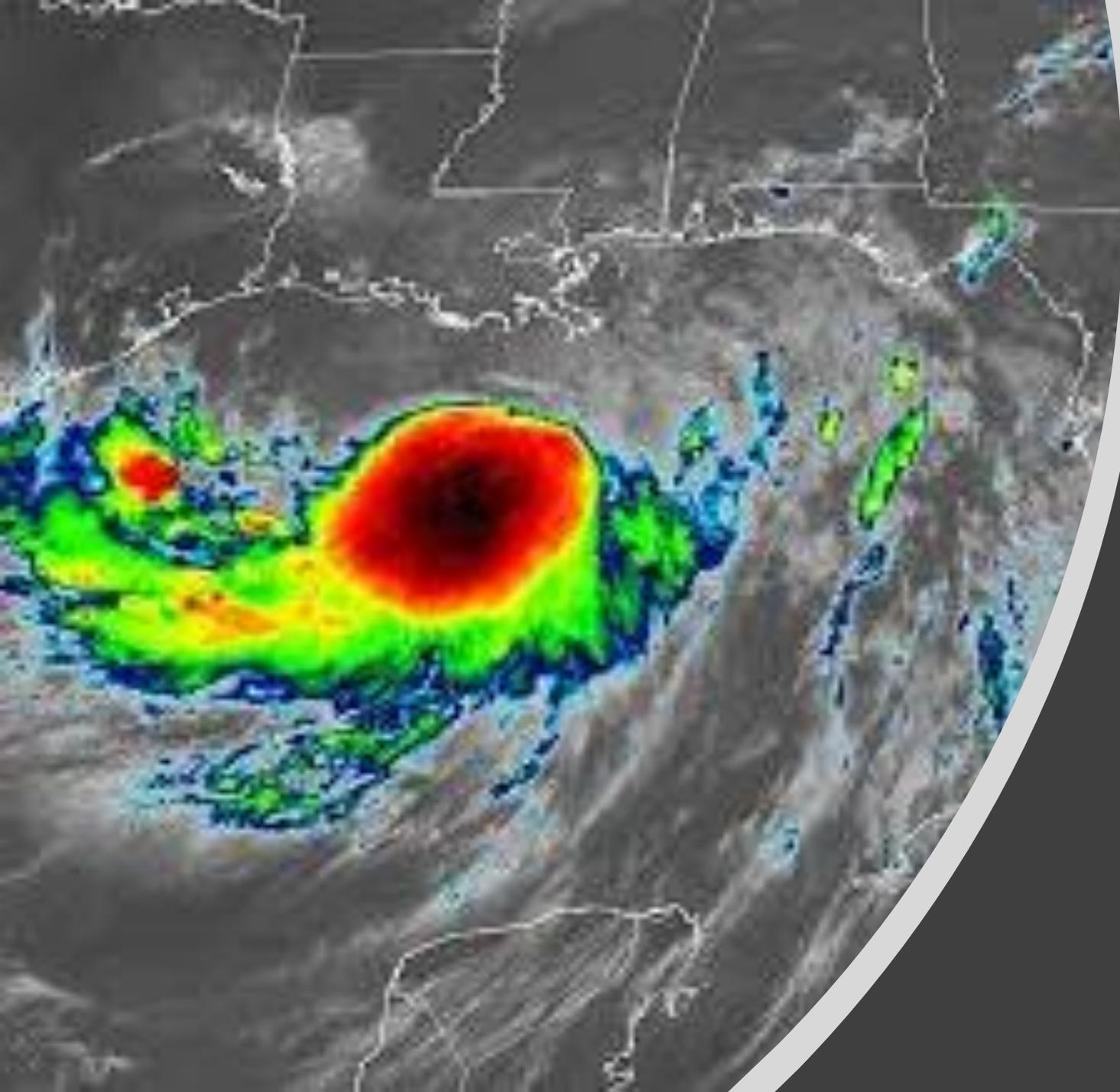


Tropical Cyclones

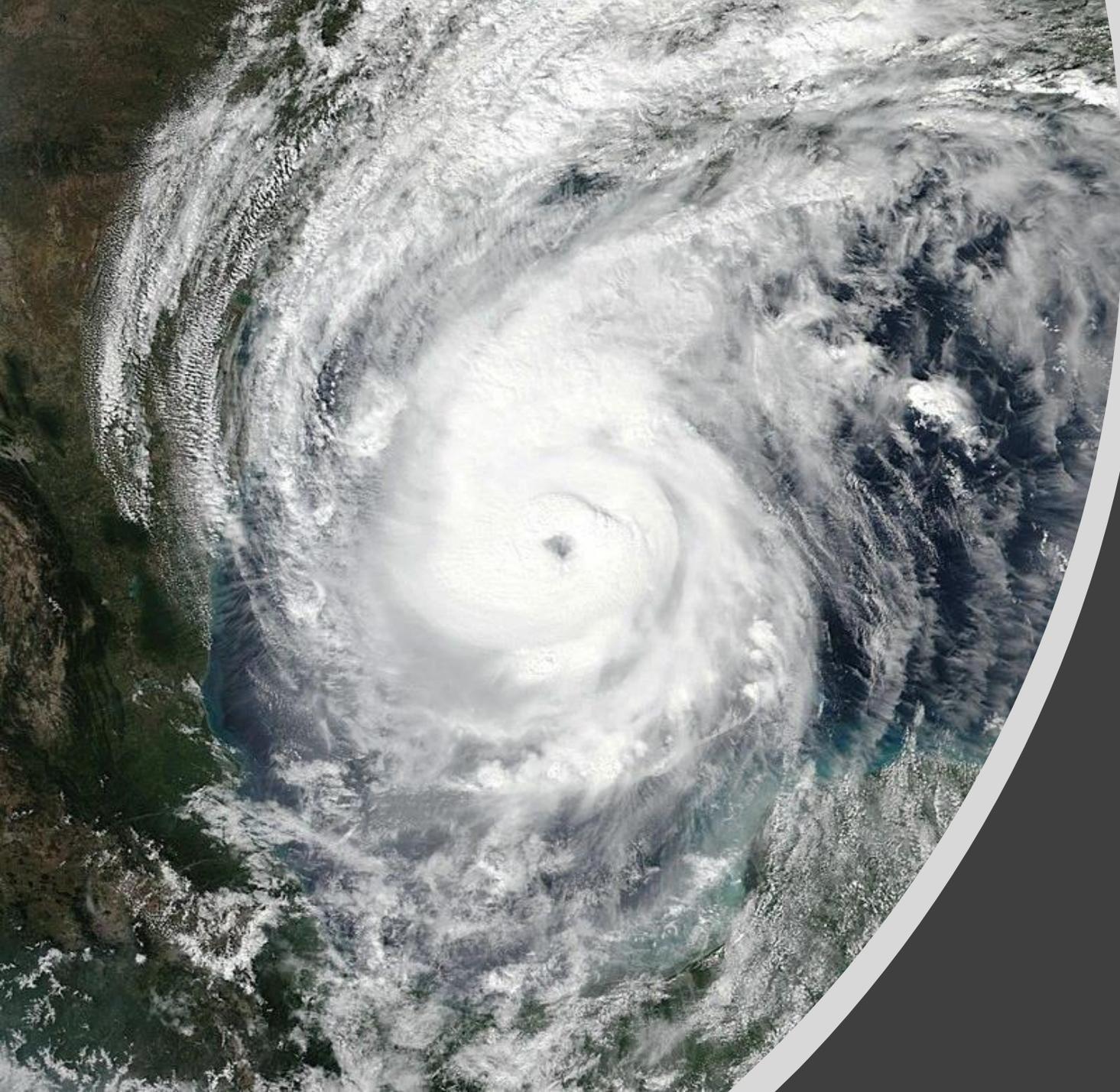
- Tropical cyclones are defined spinning, low-pressure air masses that draw surface air into their centers and attain strength ranging from weak tropical waves to the most intense hurricanes

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

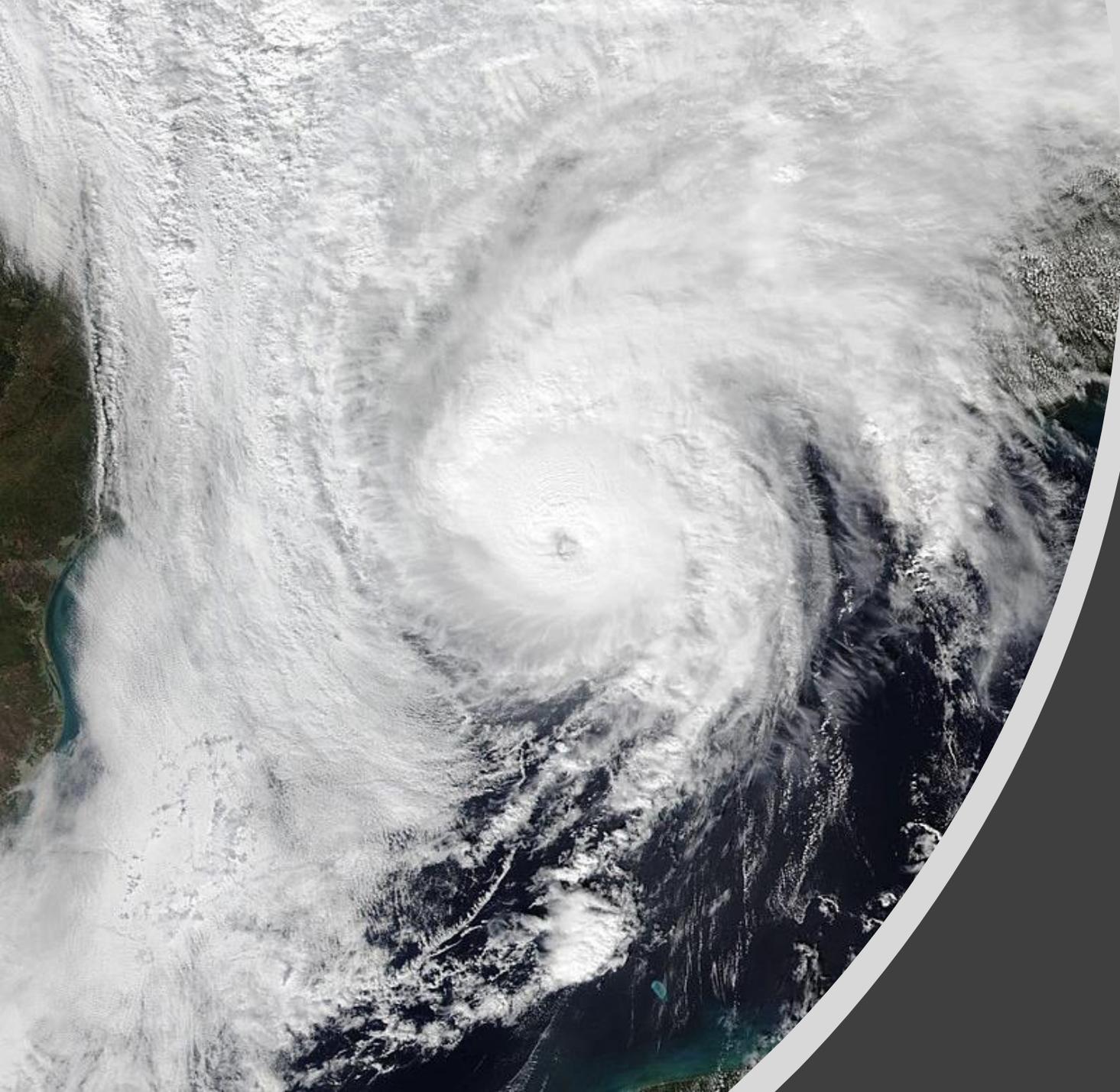




Hurricane Barry

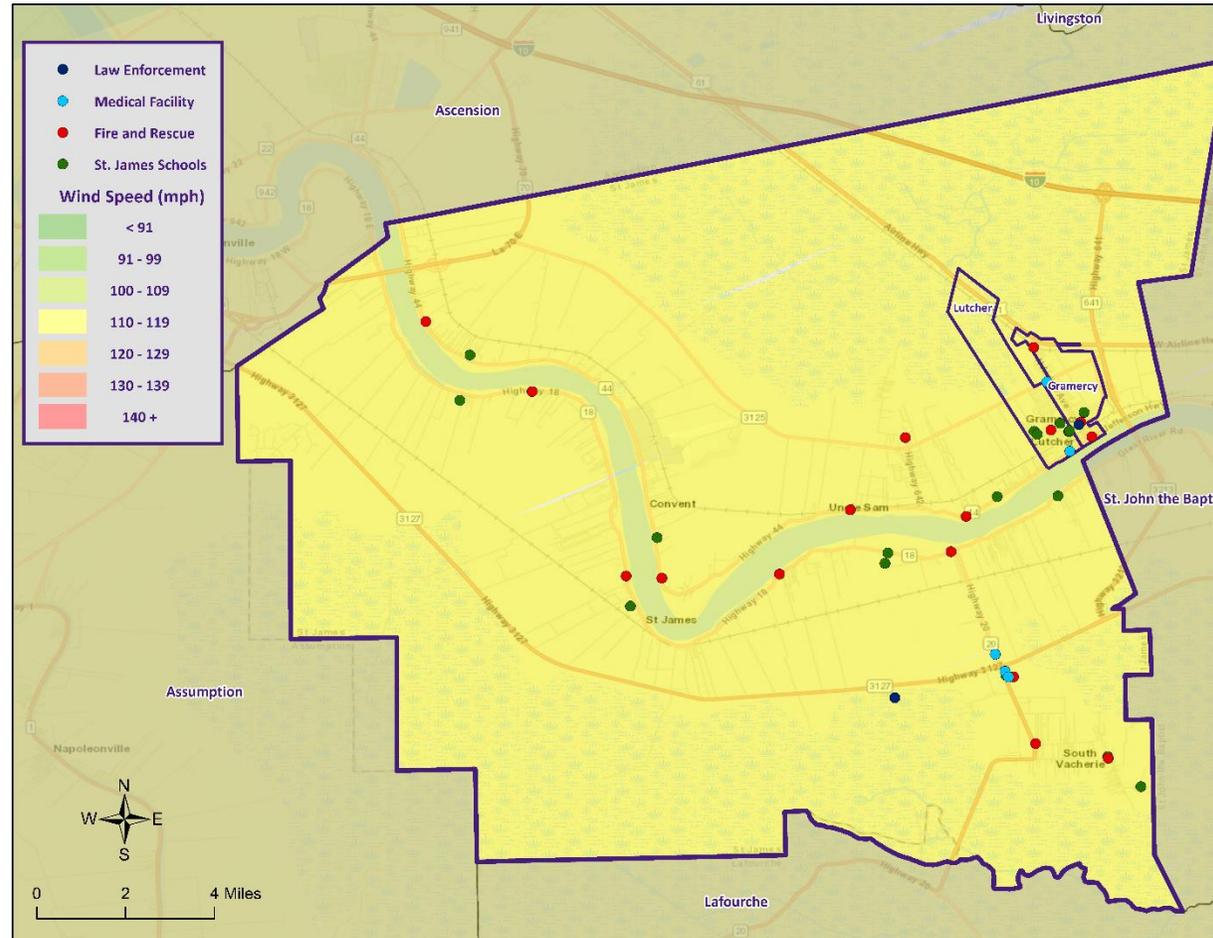


Hurricane Delta



Hurricane Zeta

Wind Speed Impacts on Critical Infrastructure

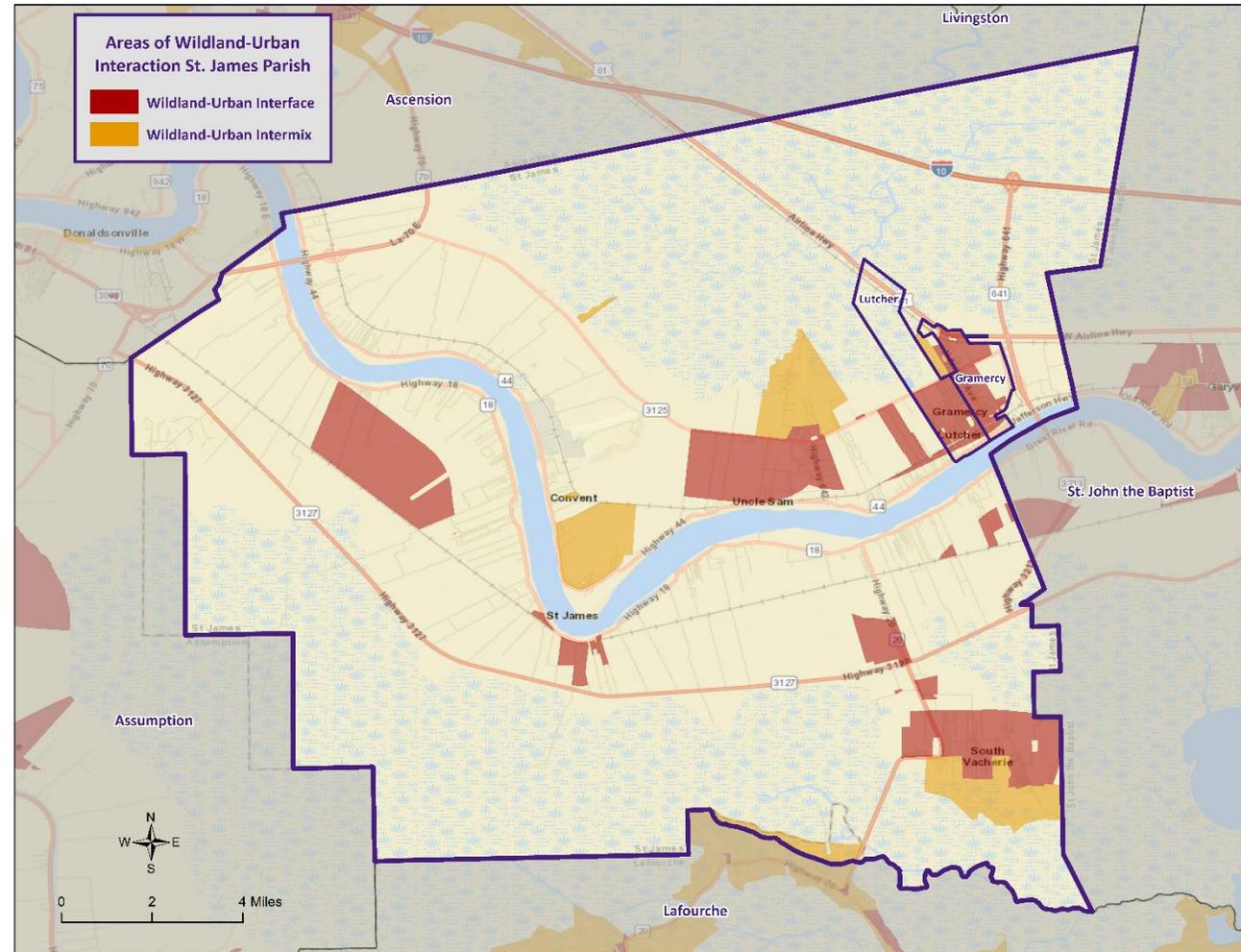




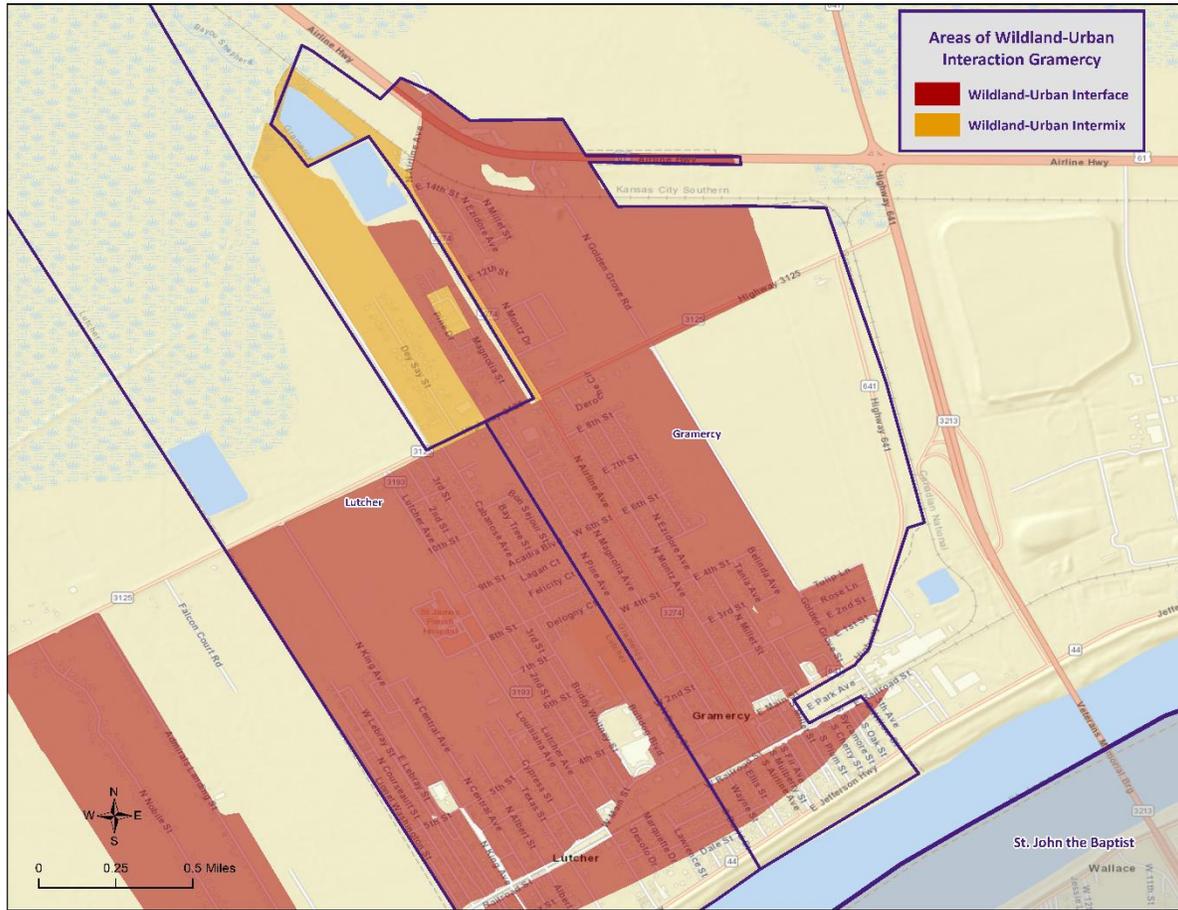
Wildfires

- 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
- While loss of timber is a problem, the real hazard is when wildfires threaten developed areas. As more development moves into and next to forested areas, the hazards to people and property increases.

Wildland-Urban Interaction



WUI: Gramercy



WUI: Lutcher



Winter Storms

- Occurs when humid air from the Gulf of Mexico meets a cold air mass from the north.
- As the temperature falls, 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.





Parish Mitigation Goals

- Identify and pursue preventative measures that will reduce future damages from hazards.
- Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness.
- Reduce repetitive flood losses in the parish.
- Facilitate sound development in the parish to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards.
- Maintain and continue to improve Community Rating System (CRS) ratings throughout the parish



Parish Hazard Mitigation Project Update



St. James Parish OHSEP/St. James Parish Government Discussion

Public Outreach Activity #1

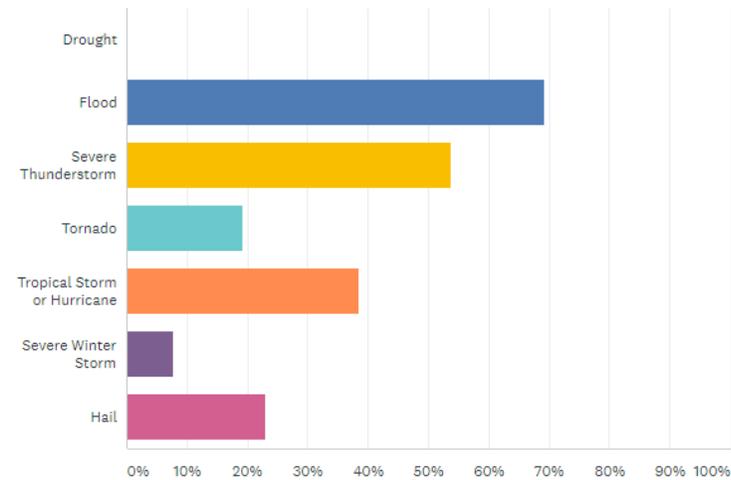
Hazard Mitigation Public Opinion Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StJamesHM2021>



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

Answered: 26 Skipped: 1



Public Outreach Activity #2

Please fill out an incident questionnaire!



ST. JAMES PARISH PUBLIC MEETING	
PUBLIC ACTIVITY: INCIDENT/ISSUE QUESTIONNAIRE	
1. HAZARD TYPE(S):	4. INTENSITY:
A. FLOODING I. RIVERINE II. STORM SURGE III. STREET IV. OTHER (DESCRIBE): B. HIGH WINDS (NOT TROPICAL) C. COASTAL I. SALTWATER INTRUSION II. EROSION III. OTHER (DESCRIBE): D. TROPICAL SYSTEMS E. WINTER WEATHER	A. DEPTH (FLOODING) OR SIZE (HAIL, ETC): B. WIND STRENGTH
F. OTHER:	5. RE-OCCURRING OR ONE-TIME
	A. IF RE-OCCURRING, HOW OFTEN?
2. DESCRIBE INCIDENT OR ISSUE:	6. WHAT TYPE OF INTERRUPTIONS DOES/DID THE INCIDENT OR ISSUE CAUSE? (BUSINESS CLOSURE, DAMAGE, EVACUATION, ETC.)
3. LOCATION:	7. HOW LONG WAS THE INTERRUPTION (HOURS, DAYS, WEEKS, ETC.)?
A. CITY:	
B. ADDRESS OR AREA:	8. HOW COULD THIS PROBLEM OR IMPACT BE PREVENTED, FIXED OR ALLEVIATED?
C. LOCALIZED OR DISPERSED:	



Contact Us

Brant Mitchell, SDMI Director, MPA, CEM, CISSP

Lauren Stevens, Associate Director, MEPP

lstevens@lsu.edu

Chris Rippetoe, HM Program Manager, CFM

crippe2@lsu.edu

Anna Daigle, Emergency Management Specialist

adaig35@lsu.edu



