



FRCA
FLORIDA REGIONAL
COUNCILS ASSOCIATION



2018 - 2019
ANNUAL REPORT

LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE

REGIONAL
SOLUTIONS

STATEWIDE
IMPACT

2018-2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT

Councilwoman Roxanne Horvath
Northeast Florida RC



1st VICE-PRESIDENT

Ms. Sandra Walters
South Florida RPC



2nd VICE-PRESIDENT

Commissioner Peter O'Bryan
Treasure Coast RPC



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd
Tampa Bay RPC

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In a year where environmental concerns, storm recovery, and changing politics brought new challenges and opportunities, we forged plans to take on the rapidly changing needs of Florida. The ten regional planning councils connected by the Florida Regional Councils Association lead initiatives to make all regions more resilient.

There has been a great deal of success in working on statewide and multi-regional projects in the past year. Our association includes a broad range of expertise, and together the RPCs take on significant local, regional, and statewide challenges. From finding effective treatments to reduce the blue-green algae blooms, to planning for the complex transportation needs of people and goods, the RPCs built consensus and worked together.

We know our environmental resources are strained and we are working with statewide and local partners to plan for the issues facing Florida, such as the lack of water for the growing population, cultivating sustainable agriculture, and building a robust economy. With rising sea levels, degradation of coral reefs, and stress of diseases on agriculture, we have never needed the collaboration of the private sector, government, and our citizens more.

Many critical issues have not changed in the past year. With up to 1,000 people continuing to move to Florida each day and the loss of housing after storms, we have an enduring need for affordable workforce and low-income housing in every region of the state. As we work together, we will share best practices and innovative solutions, forging plans to take on the rapidly changing needs and challenges of our communities.

Using local knowledge to develop regional solutions makes our communities more safe, vibrant, and healthier places to live and raise our families. We look forward to continuing to have a statewide impact as our leadership in these efforts strives to improve the lives of all Floridians.

ROXANNE HORVATH

Roxanne Horvath, President
Florida Regional Councils Association



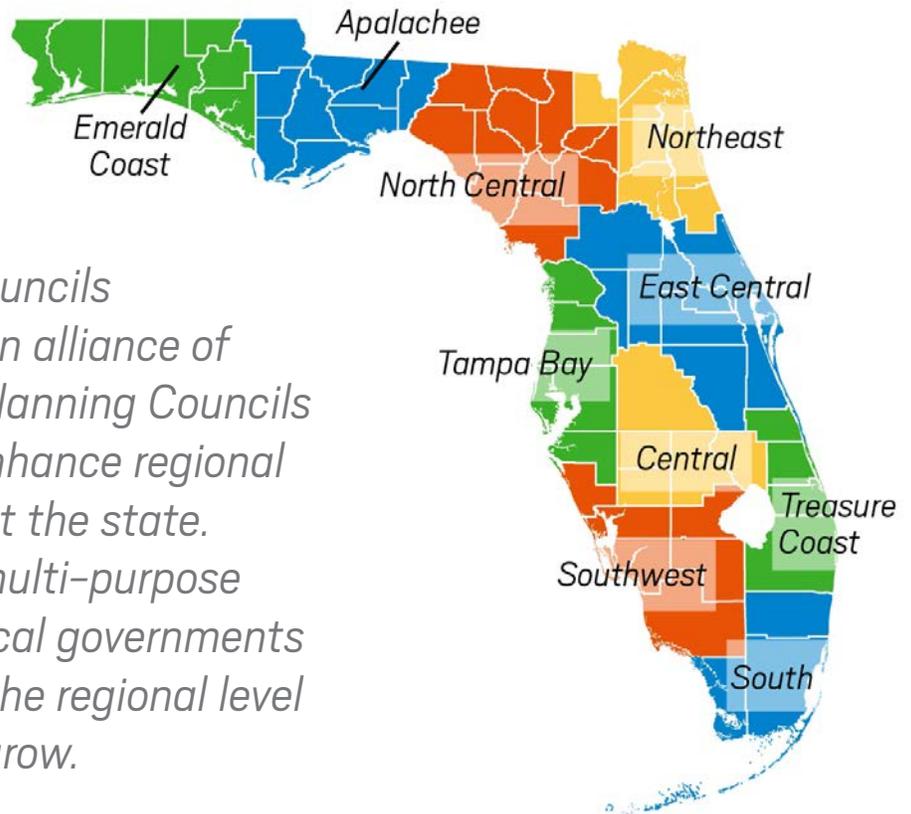
*Leveraging partnerships to build a strong economy and improve the lives all of Floridians... **THAT** is the mission of FRCA.*



**LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE**

**REGIONAL
SOLUTIONS**

**STATEWIDE
IMPACT**



The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) is an alliance of Florida's ten Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) and serves to enhance regional collaboration throughout the state. Planning Councils are multi-purpose entities comprised of local governments that solve problems at the regional level and help communities grow.

Through its RPCs, FRCA creates partnerships statewide to support economic growth, improve infrastructure and enhance the quality of life for all Floridians.

5

METROPOLITAN/
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
ORGANIZATIONS STAFFED

12

NUMBER OF REVOLVING LOAN FUND
APPLICATIONS REVIEWED

79

ECONOMIC ANALYSES
COMPLETED (REMI)

406

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES
PROVIDED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

569

PLANNING ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

775

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INSPECTIONS OF
SMALL QUANTITY GENERATORS (SQG)

665,516

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED
TRIPS PLANNED

REGIONAL CONVENING



RPCs lead community and regional vision efforts, engage the public in a variety of plans and programs, and maintain Strategic Regional Policy Plans.

TRANSPORTATION



Many RPCs serve as the Designated Official Planning Agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program. Several RPCs serve as staff to their local Metropolitan or Transportation Planning Organizations, known as MPOs or TPOs. Planning services of RPCs also include Complete Streets, Safe Routes to Schools, Greenways and Trails, and transit planning.

QUALITY OF LIFE



Through visioning and community planning efforts, RPCs assist local communities as they set goals to implement a vision and strategy for their communities and regions.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



As partners and staff to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) they support first responders. Identifying hazardous materials and security threats, the RPCs organize, plan, conduct exercises, and then prepare post-exercise reports.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



RPCs complete regional economic impact analyses using the nationally-recognized Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) software, facilitate post-disaster and redevelopment planning, and administer revolving loan funds for small business loans and brownfields redevelopment.



2018-2019 Policy Board

APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Kristin Dozier, Leon County
 Ms. Lisa Miller, Gubernatorial Appointee
 Honorable Gene Wright, Town of Malone

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Nathaniel Birdsong, City of Winter Haven
 Honorable Juril "Buddy" Mansfield, DeSoto County
 Ms. Jacqueline Tucker, Gubernatorial Appointee

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Lee Constantine, Seminole County
 Mr. John Lesman, Gubernatorial Appointee
 Honorable Sean Parks, Lake County Commissioner

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Kasey Cuchens, City of Freeport
 Honorable Tray Hawkins, Washington County Commissioner
 Mr. J.D. Smith, Gubernatorial Appointee

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County Commissioner
 Ms. Lorene Thomas, Gubernatorial Appointee
 Honorable Robert Wilford, City of Alachua

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable John Drew, Nassau County
 Honorable Roxanne Horvath, City of St. Augustine
 Mr. Darryl Register, Gubernatorial Appointee

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Mr. Mario Bailey, Gubernatorial Appointee
 Ms. Sandra Walters, Gubernatorial Appointee

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Mr. Tommy Perry, Gubernatorial Appointee
 Honorable Gary Wein, Councilman City of Punta Gorda
 Honorable Michael Atkinson, City of Clewiston Vice Mayor

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Scott Black, City of Dade City
 Honorable Ronald Kitchen, Citrus County
 Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Gubernatorial Appointee

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Peter O'Bryan, Indian River County
 Mr. Reece Parrish, Gubernatorial Appointee
 Honorable Doug Smith, Martin County

Advisory Committee & Staff

2018-2019 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chris N. Rietow
 Chair
 Apalachee RPC

Sean T. Sullivan
 Vice Chair
 Tampa Bay RPC

Patricia M. Steed
 Immediate Past Chair & Treasurer
 Central Florida RPC

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Regional Planning Councils

	Date Established	2019 Regional Population ¹	Governing Board Size	Staff Size (FTE) ²	Square Miles ³	Budget (in millions)
 Apalachee Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla	Aug. 23, 1977	485,691	27	11	6,757	\$1.0
 Central Florida DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Polk	July 1, 1974	899,298	18	19	5,287	\$3.9
 East Central Florida Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia	Feb. 22, 1962	4,207,900	35	15	9,244	\$2.0
 Emerald Coast Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington	Oct. 1, 1964	984,492	33	36	6,509	\$5.9
 North Central Florida Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union	May 7, 1969	568,224	44	8	8,660	\$2.1
 Northeast Florida Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns	April 14, 1977	1,737,552	35	11	5,097	\$2.1
 South Florida Broward, Dade, Monroe	July 1, 1974	4,807,986	19	11	7,492	\$2.2
 Southwest Florida Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota	Nov. 8, 1973	1,773,140	36	4	7,278	\$1.8
 Tampa Bay Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas	Feb. 16, 1962	3,673,553	44	10	4,998	\$2.2
 Treasure Coast Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie	Aug. 19, 1976	2,070,753	28	9	4,441	\$2.3

¹Source: Florida Estimates of Population, 2019, Table 1, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, 2019.

²FTE means Full-Time Equivalent.

³Total land and water area. Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida

REGIONAL CONVENERS

RPCs serve as regional conveners. They lead community and regional vision efforts, engage the public in a variety of plans and programs, and maintain Strategic Regional Policy Plans.



North Central Florida RPC Forms Withlacoochee River Task Force

The North Central Florida RPC established the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force to address the issue of raw sewage spills in the waterways.

Comprised of county commissioners from 12 counties, the Task Force developed a strategic action plan to address the raw sewage spills and restore the reputation of the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River as a tourist destination.

The Task Force held its first meeting on December 12, 2018, in Madison, Florida. Also in attendance were representatives of the Suwannee River Water Management District; Florida Department of Health; Madison County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism; Our Santa Fe River; Suwannee and St. Johns Sierra Club; Withlacoochee, Alapaha, Little and Suwannee River Watershed Coalition; and citizens. The Task Force received a presentation from North Central Florida RPC staff concerning the issue and identified public health, environmental, economic development, and tourism as negative impacts of the spills and discussed several strategies to address the issue.

Central Florida RPC Hosts Heartland 2060 Summit

Citizens, elected officials, and other regional stakeholders gathered at the Heartland 2060 – Building a Resilient Region Summit in Polk County on September 20, 2019. The event featured a welcome message from the Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Kevin Thibault, and presentations from FDOT District One Secretary L.K. Nandam; Dr. Tom Hctor, University of Florida; Tony Carvajal, Florida Chamber Foundation; John Kaliski, Cambridge Systematics; and Central Florida RPC Executive Director Pat Steed. Speakers discussed the future of Florida’s economy, as well as population, transportation, and environmental trends in the Heartland Region. Summit attendees participated in interactive polling and a town hall discussion, which yielded valuable input from attendees.

The event concluded with a roundtable discussion with key stakeholders to further explore the opportunities and challenges facing the region in the areas of the economy, the environment, and transportation. The data collected from both the Heartland 2060 Summit and roundtable discussion will be used to help shape the vision for making the region more resilient in the future. The event was the first of a series that will be held to convene regional leaders as the Heartland 2060 vision is updated.



Apalachee RPC organized summits on the potential for hemp cultivation in their region impacted by Hurricane Michael.



TRANSPORTATION

Emerald Coast RC Hosts Fifth Annual Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium

Nearly 200 people gathered on the Emerald Coast in Navarre, Florida to hear from Alabama and Florida state transportation leaders and connect with transportation industry experts at the fifth annual Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium. Held in February 2019, the event featured both the Florida Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Kevin J. Thibault, and the Alabama Secretary of the Department of Transportation, John Cooper.

Keynote speaker, John Mica, shared transportation milestones from his years of serving the state of Florida in Congress, while founder and co-owner of Nspiregreen, Veronica O. Davis, shared current trends in overcoming transportation challenges from a national perspective.

Industry experts facilitated panels on Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), Complete Streets, Bicycle/Pedestrian User perspective, Technology and Tourism, Transportation Funding, and Environmental Protection. A final session was dedicated to the regional impacts of Hurricane Michael, focusing on recovery and guidance on moving forward.

The inaugural Emerald Award, presented for outstanding or innovative programs or services, was awarded to Bay Town Trolley by the Emerald Coast Regional Council during the symposium for their efforts to provide critical assistance to the overworked emergency service workers while delivering supplies to shelters and working to re-establish service to their routes after the impacts of Hurricane Michael.



Treasure Coast RPC and South Florida RPC Partners to Create Award-winning Transit-Oriented Development Study

The Treasure Coast RPC, the South Florida RPC, and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) concluded the Southeast Florida Transit-Oriented Development (SFTOD) Study in June 2019. The study, through a grant from the Federal Transit Administration, utilized transit oriented design (TOD) principles for the Tri-Rail Coastal Link in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. Using the principles of TOD, the study's goal was to increase ridership and produce station area plans for seven new stations by creating compact, walkable, pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use communities.



An extensive outreach program educated local governments and stakeholder agencies on TOD, and a regional Idea Exchange Network was developed to facilitate the adoption of TOD policies and zoning codes. Through the study, a collaborative relationship was established between local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, the Florida Department of Transportation, and regional planning councils, and the SFRTA is now positioned as a resource and development partner for station-area land development and infrastructure investments.

The outreach program for the study received a 2019 Regional Leadership and Excellence Award from the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) on June 11, 2019, at NARC's 53rd Annual Conference and Exhibition in Omaha, Nebraska.

Resiliency

The ability to “bounce back” from uncontrollable events.

Resilient communities can quickly respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations such as hurricanes, wildfires, or economic downturns. From a long-term perspective, resilient communities find ways to adapt to changing conditions so that future losses are minimized and continuing stresses are successfully managed. Regional Planning Councils promoted a more resilient Florida by focusing on the following challenges.

Biosolids

Continued threats to our water quality

Passed resolutions of support to partner with State agencies, water management districts, and local governments to find solutions

Sea Level Rise

Periodic and sustained flooding of coastal communities and infrastructure

Assisted local governments with identifying strategies that reduce flood risks in coastal areas and forming regional resiliency compacts with impacted communities

Water

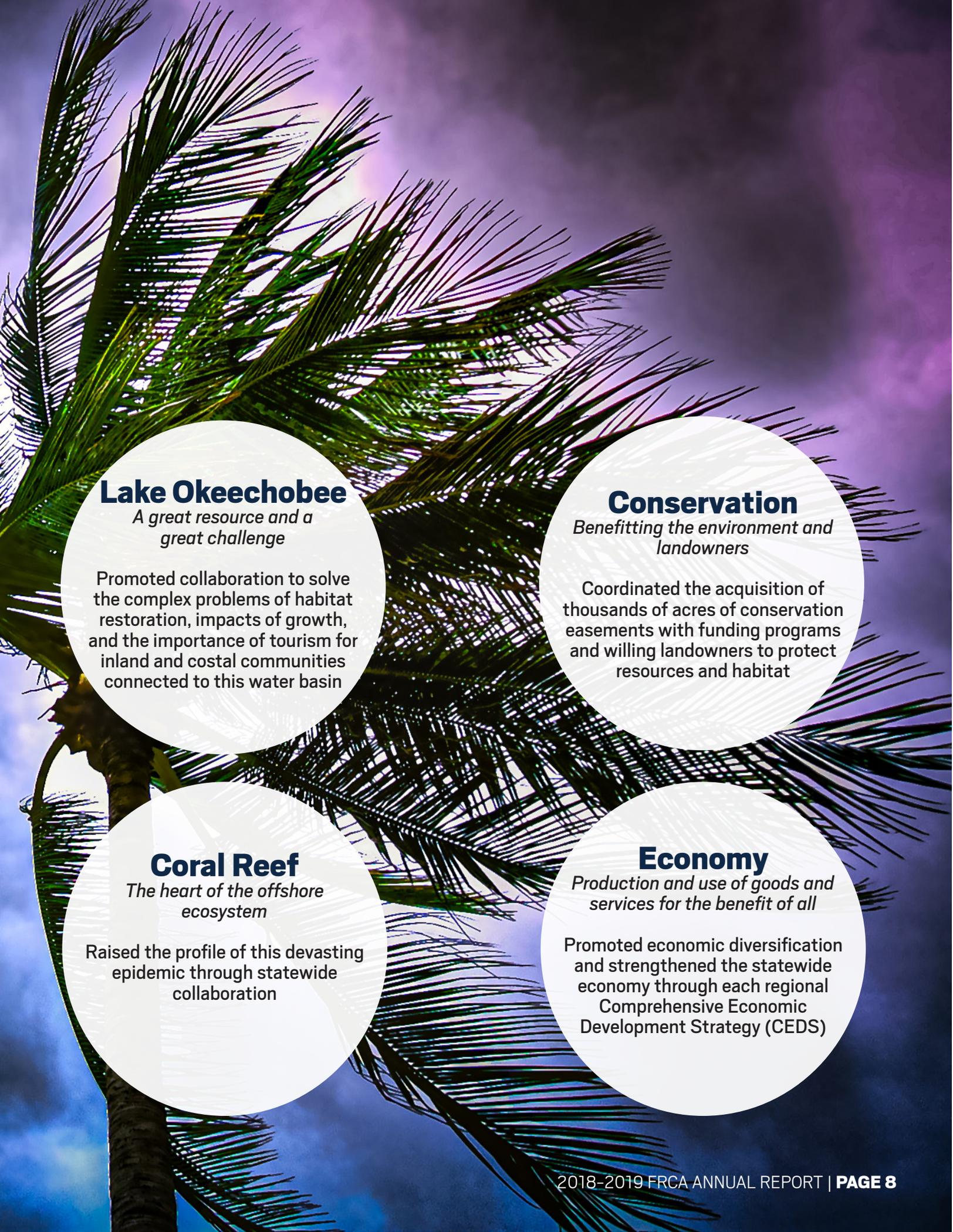
For people, environment, agriculture and recreation

Worked with Federal, State and local governments, and water management districts to address water quality and quantity issues across the state

Red Tide

Reoccurring misery for marine life and beach commerce

Evaluated the economic impacts to coastal communities using regional economic forecasting software



Lake Okeechobee

A great resource and a great challenge

Promoted collaboration to solve the complex problems of habitat restoration, impacts of growth, and the importance of tourism for inland and coastal communities connected to this water basin

Conservation

Benefitting the environment and landowners

Coordinated the acquisition of thousands of acres of conservation easements with funding programs and willing landowners to protect resources and habitat

Coral Reef

The heart of the offshore ecosystem

Raised the profile of this devastating epidemic through statewide collaboration

Economy

Production and use of goods and services for the benefit of all

Promoted economic diversification and strengthened the statewide economy through each regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Northeast Florida RC Builds a Resilient Healthcare System

Through a partnership with the Florida Department of Health, the Northeast Florida RC manages three Regional Healthcare Coalitions, including 18 counties in north Florida. The goal of each coalition is to bring together public and private healthcare providers to build a resilient healthcare system following natural and public health disasters. Coalition members participate in planning activities, workshops, and exercises designed by the Northeast Florida RC as they learn about the hazards and vulnerabilities to the healthcare system and develop strategies to meet these challenges.

Training scenarios have included:

- Development of a sinkhole at the entrance of a 500-bed hospital
- Active assailant scenario resulting in severe injuries to multiple victims
- Natural disaster with numerous healthcare facilities evacuating
- Pandemic influenza impacting 40 percent of the workforce at a facility

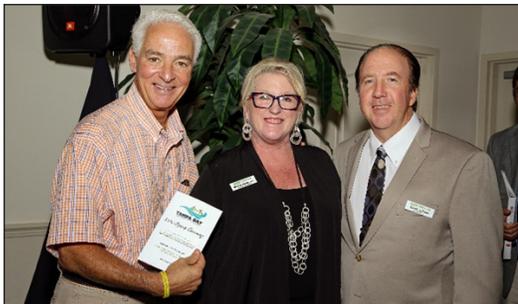
This program has seen many successes, including the initiation of a Stop the Bleed program in local schools supported by U.S. Congressman and former Jacksonville Sheriff, John Rutherford. Another initiative included speakers from Las Vegas to discuss the healthcare challenges following the October 2017 active shooter event. Member projects have also been funded to address identified gaps in the healthcare system.

Visit the healthcare coalition websites to learn more about coalition activities:

North Central HealthCare Coalition
www.ncfhcc.org

Northeast Florida Healthcare Coalition
www.neflhcc.org

Coalition for Health and Medical Preparedness - CHAMP
www.marionCHAMP.org



Congressman Charlie Crist with Tampa Bay RPC Deputy Executive Director Wren Krahl and Tampa Bay RPC Executive Director Sean Sullivan.

Tampa Bay RPC Creates Regional Resiliency Coalition

On October 8, 2018, local governments from the Tampa Bay area came together to sign a historic Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing to address the economic and environmental impacts of climate change.

Created by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition is a natural outgrowth, according to Regional Planning Council Executive Director Sean Sullivan: "As one of our members from the City of Clearwater told us, 'preparing for sea-level rise is a no-brainer.'" Charter

members of the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition include Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Pinellas, and the Cities of Clearwater, Dunedin, Gulfport, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Largo, Madeira Beach, New Port Richey, Oldsmar, Palmetto, Redington Beach, Safety Harbor, Sarasota, Seminole, South Pasadena, St. Pete Beach, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Tarpon Springs, and Treasure Island.

The future efforts of the Coalition will be based on scientific data and led by a technical advisory committee, which includes some of the nation's most respected researchers and local experts. These efforts are further fueled by the collective realization that a regional coalition could accomplish far more than an individual local government or initiative. Congressman Charlie Crist, whose Pinellas district encompasses many beach communities, attended the ceremony where 24 governments signed the Memorandum of Understanding. Along with counties and municipalities, the Coalition includes a remarkable group of stakeholders from local and state colleges and cities, business leaders, and church groups concerned about leaving a livable environment for their children.



South Florida RPC Hosts “Open for Solar Business” Program



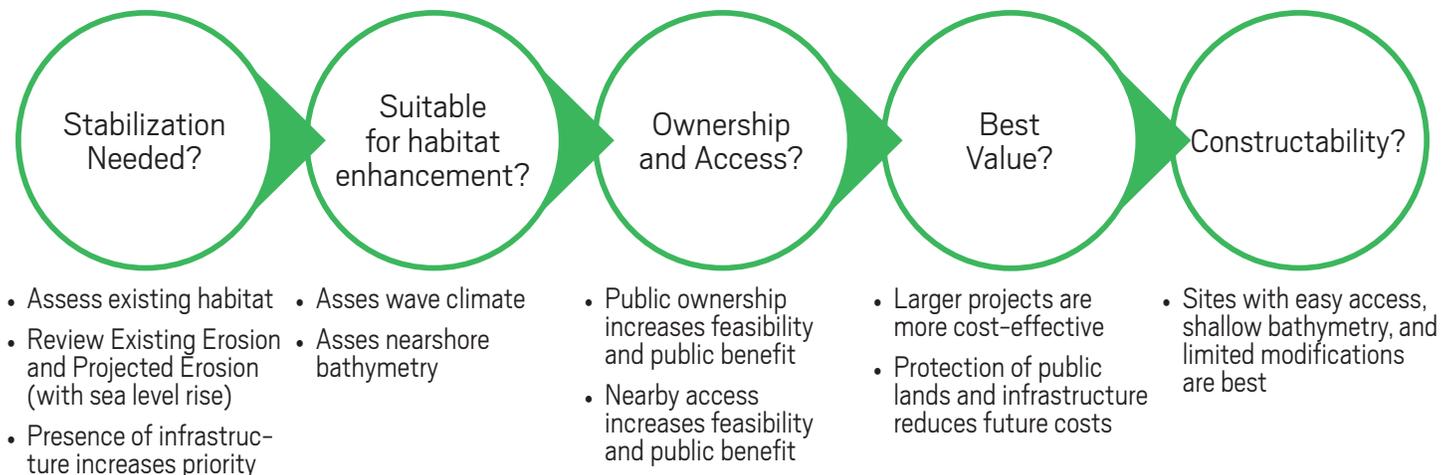
In 2018-19, the South Florida RPC hosted the SolSmart technical assistance and designation program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technology Office. The program assists local governments in making it faster, easier, and more affordable for residents and businesses to use solar. As a host for the SolSmart program, the South Florida RPC provided technical assistance at no cost to municipalities and counties to assist them in becoming “open for solar business.”

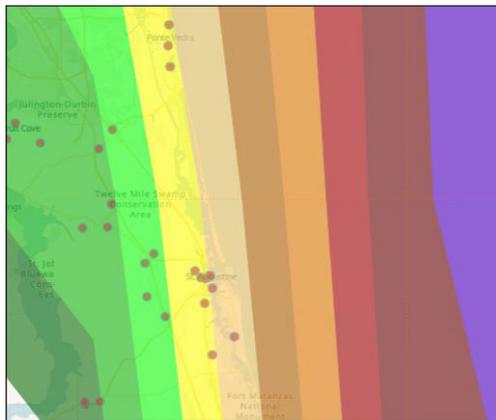
The SolSmart program was available to approximately 15 cities and counties in the South Florida RPC region. These communities received information and best practices on incorporating efficiencies like simplified permitting and inspection and solar-friendly ordinances to make it easier for homeowners and businesses to go solar. The adviser consulted with planners, building services, sustainability managers, inspectors, and plan examiners to evaluate existing local government policies and processes and apply industry-leading best practices to help these communities achieve designation.

Apalachee RPC Assists with Shoreline Habitats Study

The Shoreline Habitats and Resilient Coasts (SHaRC) project was developed by the Apalachee RPC, in partnership with Ecology and Environment, Inc., to help inform future restoration efforts of the 250 miles of shoreline along the Apalachicola Bay. Using a customized geographic information system (GIS), an analysis was completed to identify needs and priorities for future shoreline restoration or stabilization. Measures may include marsh planting and low-profile reefs and will focus on shoreline segments that protect critical infrastructure, such as roadways, police stations, fuel storage tanks, and fire stations.

Funded through a Florida Coastal Management Program grant by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Coastal Office, this foundational approach will target the areas of greatest need. The study promotes more comprehensive and connected infrastructure resulting in a more cost-effective restoration. It is expected to serve as a model for planning shoreline restoration across the Gulf Coast and beyond.





Northeast Florida RC Identifies Hazardous Sites in Hurricane Planning

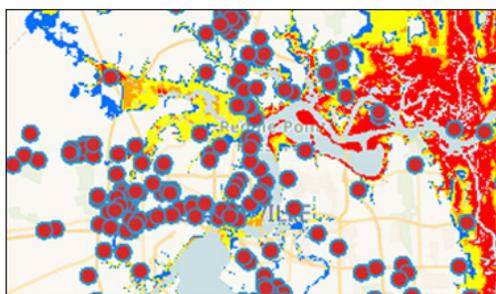


In preparation for the 2019 Hurricane Season, the Northeast Florida RC in partnership with the Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) utilized HURREVAC, a decision support tool of the National Hurricane Program, administered by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Hurricane Center. The

team took an innovative approach and integrated the Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) hazardous materials facility locations for each county in Northeast Florida from the state reporting system, E-PLAN, as Points of Interest.

Identification of the Points of Interest allows emergency managers in Northeast Florida the ability to see all of the facilities storing EHSs, along with the hurricane forecast and information in one system.

The LEPC is continuing to work with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to make this data accessible statewide so that other regions may identify facilities at risk.



Southwest Florida RPC Assists Lee County with Master Wetland Mitigation Strategy

The Southwest Florida RPC partnered with the Lee County Public Works Department and the Florida Department of Transportation to produce a strategy for wetland acquisition, protection, restoration, and mitigation opportunities. This effort built on the success of the 2005 Lee County Mitigation Plan which had many positive impacts including improved water quality, protected and restored wetland habitats, linkages in a regional wildlife habitat system, the offsetting of unavoidable wetland impacts of infrastructure projects, and minimized permitting time for regulatory agencies.

The Master Wetland Mitigation Strategy used data and studies from regional capacity-building projects, including the Southwest Florida Watershed Study framework for Lee County, the Coastal Conservation Corridor Plan, the Southwest Florida Regional Restoration Coordination Team Plan, and restoration goals of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. The Master Wetland Mitigation Plan has three main purposes:

- to provide a master strategy to preserve critical wetland environmental features;
- to provide “safe harbor” approaches for wetland mitigation projects that are needed to accommodate growth, which in turn will enable the local government budgeting process to be reliable; and
- to restore degraded wetland resources that are important for the health, safety, and welfare of the public.



East Central Florida RPC Hosts 7th Annual Florida Hazardous Materials Symposium

The East Central Florida RPC in partnership with the East Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) grew the annual Florida Hazardous Materials Symposium this year to over 590 attendees from 12 states and Argentina. Held in Daytona Beach on January 22-25, 2019, the success of the event was due in part to the support of the nine other LEPC Coordinators and Chairs who sponsored the attendance of 349 first responder students.

Through a U.S. Department of Transportation grant, the event offered 57 sessions and 190 training hours to participants. The annual HazMat Team competition was also held with 12 teams participating in the competition. Delray Beach Fire Rescue was awarded first place.



Emerald Coast RC Assists in Hurricane Recovery

Hurricane Michael was the most devastating storm to hit Florida's Panhandle leaving previously unknown destruction in a large portion of the Emerald Coast Regional Council's region.

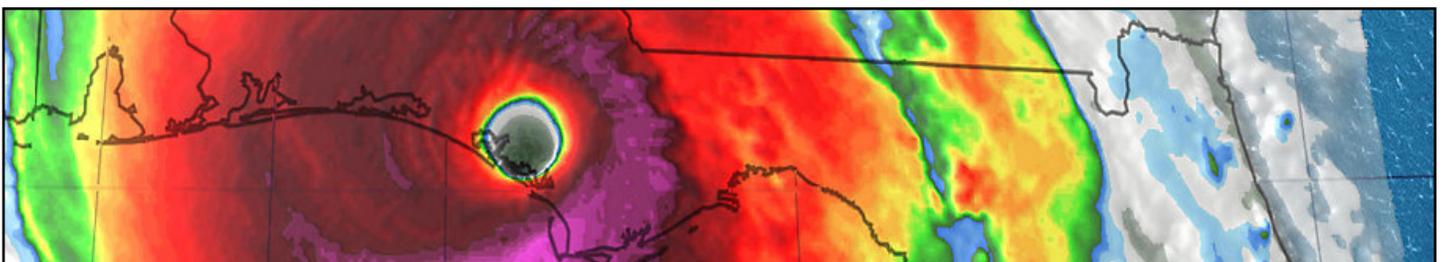


Initial assessment of transit stops revealed moderate to extensive damage at most locations along many of the eight routes.

The Emerald Coast RC has been active in the hurricane recovery efforts, finding many ways to help those who are hurting in the region. Staff assisted in establishing and managing operations of a host shelter in Okaloosa County, serving as a point of contact for the dissemination of updated information online while arranging and facilitating meals and sorting incoming donations.

The Emerald Coasts RC's State Housing Initiative Program's (SHIP) staff initiated enacting revisions in Holmes and Washington counties' disaster strategies within their respective Local Housing Assistance Plans (LHAP) to assist communities affected by the storm. Emerald Coast RC staff also provided relief staffing support at the Bay County Emergency Operations Center. Additionally, members of the transportation, Geographic Information System (GIS), economic development, and public involvement staff conducted an initial assessment of the Bay Town Trolley transit routes. They provided an interactive status report for the trolley program which helped to determine a feasible plan for route reinstatement in the early stages of the recovery process.

Staff continues to reach out and respond to requests for assistance as this part of the region struggles to rebuild, restore, and return to normalcy.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RPCs complete regional economic impact analysis using the nationally recognized REMI software, facilitate Post Disaster, Redevelopment Planning, and administer revolving loan funds for small business loans and brownfields redevelopment.

Competitive Florida Partnership Benefits Small and Rural Communities

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Competitive Florida Partnership Program helps communities set goals to advance economic development visions. The partnership establishes a network of vibrant communities and passionate leaders who gain ideas on how to reach their goals through the successes and lessons learned from their peers.

Regional Planning Councils across the State have taken an active role in this partnership and assisted local communities in the application and development of strategic action plans.

Grants of \$40,000 each have been awarded to the following rural communities with the assistance of their regional planning council in recent years. The communities will use the funds to create a strategic economic plan that promotes community design, economic diversity, economic viability, and disaster resiliency. The program also offers a committed partnership with DEO to provide long-term technical assistance.



- Fort Meade in Polk County (2019)
- Midway in Gadsden County (2019)
- City of Okeechobee in Okeechobee County (2019)
- Panacea in Wakulla County (2019)
- Highlands County (2018)
- Polk City in Polk County (2018)
- Sopchoppy in Wakulla County (2018)

For more information or to apply for the Competitive Florida Partnership Program, visit FloridaJobs.org/CompetitiveFlorida.

Emerald Coast RC Assists Communities in Securing Federal Funds

The Emerald Coast RC identified available funding and provided proposal submission services for two grants that brought over \$22 million to the region from the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the City of Pensacola and the Panama City Port Authority.

The City of Pensacola was awarded \$12.2 million for the construction of a 173,000 square foot maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) hangar at the Pensacola International Airport. Construction costs for this project are an estimated \$49 million. When fully operational, 400 new high paying jobs in the aviation and aerospace industry will be created.

The Panama City Port Authority was awarded \$10 million for the construction of a biomass storage facility. Once constructed, the facility will have the capacity to store 20,000 tons of biomass products. The additional capacity will allow Enviva Partners, LP to increase its bulk cargo exporting capabilities and generate an estimated \$50 million in new export activity per year. The project serves to diversify the employment base in Bay and Jackson Counties by creating 172 new high paying jobs.

The Emerald Coast RC will continue to provide grant management services and ongoing project support.



On July 18, 2019, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the Economic Development Administration, Dr. John Fleming, joined the Emerald Coast Regional Council, the City of Pensacola, and Port Panama City to announce the award of more than \$22 million in federal funding for the region.

Central Florida RPC Engages Community in New Redevelopment Plan

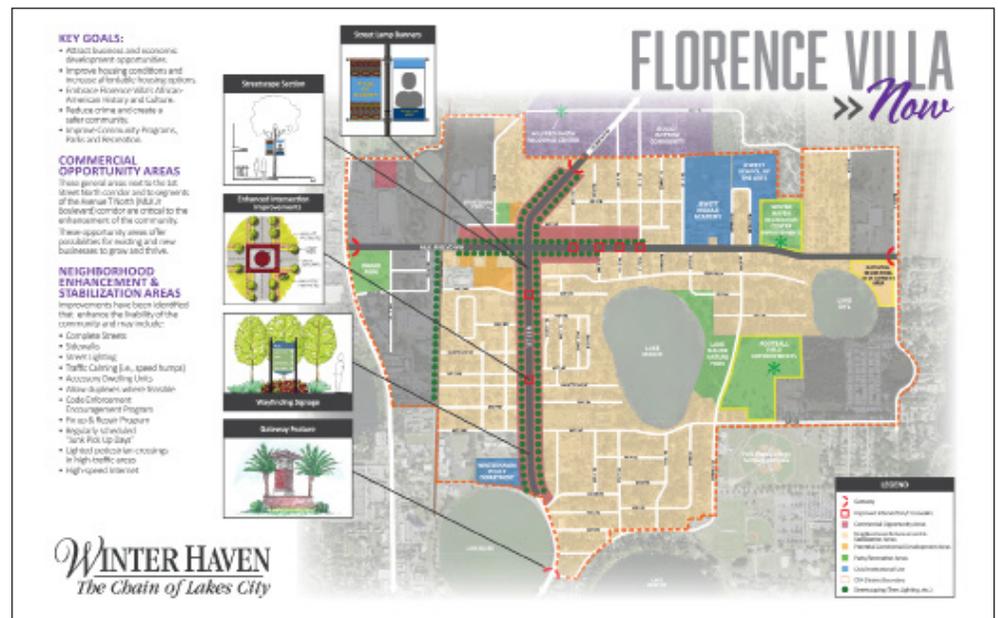
Established in 2000, the Florence Villa Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) in the City of Winter Haven in Polk County is a small historic community that is near the City's downtown area but has maintained its own cultural identity.

The Florence Villa CRA Plan had not been updated since it was adopted in 2000. The City of Winter Haven in partnership with the Central Florida RPC initiated a process to update the Florence Villa CRA Plan in 2018, which would allow the City and community to evaluate successes of the CRA, current conditions, and prioritize new short-term and long-term goals.

The CRA Plan update process consisted of extensive research and analysis of current market conditions and development and residential opportunities. The initial step was to create an overview of the existing land parcels in the area and examine the existing land use, future land use, zoning, and lot sizes through geographic information system (GIS) mapping. Then, an analysis of the current socio-economic and demographic conditions of the area took place. Esri – U.S. Census was utilized to determine population, local economy, and housing characteristics in the Florence Villa CRA area in comparison to the City of Winter Haven and Polk County.

Through many avenues including community conversations and fieldwork, an analysis of residential and commercial opportunities was developed. Residents also identified critical needs and opportunities.

Central Florida RPC conducted surveys and attended neighborhood meetings in the Florence Villa area to gather information on critical issues like affordable housing, transportation, crime, business needs, and quality of life. Key issues that were regularly identified at the various constituent meetings and workshops were considered in the redevelopment effort.



North Central Florida RPC Celebrates 50th Anniversary



The North Central Florida RPC, created on May 7, 1969, celebrated its 50th anniversary during 2018-19. For the past 50 years, the Council has partnered with 12 counties and 40 incorporated municipalities to advance its mission to improve the quality of life of the Region's citizens by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments. During the past five decades, the Council has engaged in strategic regional planning, comprehensive economic development strategy planning and emergency preparedness planning for the future of the north central Florida region. By bringing together local governments and

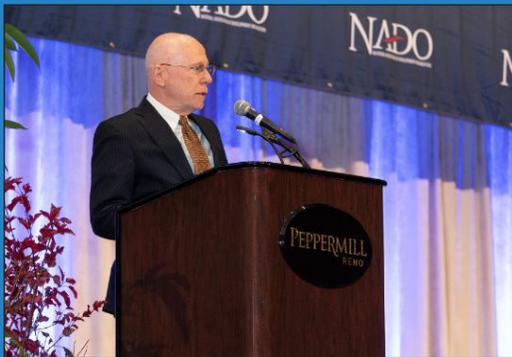
gubernatorial appointees to provide a venue for analyzing issues, resolving problems and sharing solutions, the Council has contributed to the enhancement of the north central Florida region.



North Central Florida RPC Director Scott Koons Serves as President of the National Association of Development Organizations

Scott Koons, Executive Director of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, served as the 51st President of the National Association of Organizations (NADO) during 2018-19. NADO serves as the leading voice for rural and small metropolitan regional development organizations throughout the nation, sharing best practices for urban and rural planning and programs, as well as advocacy. Scott served as the presiding officer on the Executive Committee guiding an organization, whose mission is to promote regional strategies, partnerships and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life across America's local communities.

Under Scott's leadership, NADO adopted its first five-year strategic action plan, adjusted its membership dues for the first time in nearly two decades, and secured new office space for its national headquarters in Washington, D.C.



He previously served as Chair of the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee, Chair of the Florida Community Development Block Grant Program Advisory Council, Chair of the American Planning Association Florida, San Felasco Section and Vice-President of the SouthEast Regional Directors Institute, Inc. He currently serves a member of the Florida Chamber Foundation Board of Trustees and as Chair of the University of Florida Urban and Regional Planning Graduate Program Advisory Council.

West Florida RPC is now Emerald Coast Regional Council

To better align with and represent the true personality of the region and more closely identify with the world renowned beauty of the Emerald Coast, the West Florida RPC changed its name to Emerald Coast Regional Council in May 2019. ECRC Chief Executive Officer, Austin Mount, said, "We had a rich history as WFRPC, but we have long surpassed the traditional roles of a regional planning council and we wanted our brand to communicate that. The challenges faced by communities across our region have become more numerous and complex. Regional councils must evolve to effectively partner with municipalities and counties to create innovative solutions to current and future problems. Our evolution is evident with our partners as we continue to build strong relationships and relevancy across the region."



AWARDS



2019 NADO Impact Awards

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

- *Apalachee Online*

Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- *Florence Villa Community Plan*
- *Landowner Assistance Expo (LAX 2019)*

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- *Visit Natural North Florida Travel Show Program*

Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council

- *Public/Private Regional Resiliency Committee*

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

- *Suncoast Parkway 2-Transportation Corridor Land Use Study*
- *Assisting Small Businesses When Disaster Strikes*

2019 NADO Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards

Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- *A Public Participation Plan for Heartland of Florida*

Emerald Coast Regional Council

- *Florida-Alabama Freight Advisory Working Group*
- *Bay Town Trolley Post-Hurricane Transit Stop Inventory*

Northeast Florida Regional Council

- *Northeast Florida Regional Transit Working Group*

2019 Medium Metro Achievement Award, National Association of Regional Councils

Treasure Coast and South Florida Regional Planning Councils
Transit Oriented Development Education and Outreach Program

The South Florida RPC was recognized by the Minority Builders Coalition, Inc. as an Affordable Housing Champion.



The Central Florida RPC was recognized as an Employer of Distinction by CareerSource Polk after three consecutive years of being named a Best Place to Work in Polk County.

The Florida Housing Coalition recognized the Emerald Coast Regional Council, "As a model for leveraging SHIP in support of developing affordable housing for Florida's most vulnerable residents." Home Matters 2019

STATEWIDE PARTNERS



American Planning Association
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