

APPENDIX D: RECOVERY TOOLKIT

While our residents can count on many levels of assistance, community wide disaster responses are not as fine grained as residents want and can have. After the initial response efforts are over, communities may feel that government is not adequately focusing on their situation, that outside supports are not considering their priorities. In these circumstances, communities may struggle for years to recover to something near pre-disaster conditions – if ever.

The County has an established Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP) that will be activated when necessary. It is a plan that has been tested, considered one of the best in Florida, and a model for other communities.

The PDRP provides a coordinated, county-wide response framework for a broad range of potential threats the county may experience. In the event of a major disaster it is possible that areas ranging from isolated neighborhoods to large geographic swaths will be severely affected.

In recognition of this possibility, the following neighborhood planning process has been established to guide and empower the individual neighborhoods and commercial areas in charting their future.

It is also recognized that in a post disaster environment, county staff resources will be limited to assist in the neighborhood planning process. To that end, this guiding document has been established so that citizens can become “Neighborhood Planners” providing much needed support to their neighborhoods and to their local government.

Following the guiding principles and methods will allow for the most efficient use of available resources and ensure integration of the individual Neighborhood Recovery Plans into the larger County Wide Recovery Plan.

To ensure valid Neighborhood Recovery Plans, adherence to the guiding principles and methods of neighborhood planning in Manatee County shall be followed.

Timing and extent of need

There are three overlapping periods of recovery:

- **Immediate Emergency Period**
- **Short-Range Restoration Period**
- **Long-Range Reconstruction Period**

The length of time required for each period will vary, depending on the severity of the disaster and the local capability to recover quickly. There is no generally accepted, pre-determined length of each phase.

The Immediate Emergency Period begins directly after the crisis. With a hurricane strike, for example, it begins when the sustained winds drop below tropical storm force (39mph) and stretches through the first few days after landfall. This phase may extend up to one week for many activities, depending upon the severity of the damage. During the immediate recovery period, emergency recovery operation is the responsibility of each County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The major activities of emergency response personnel during this period are intra-county recovery operations, damage assessment and inter-governmental resource distribution.

The Short-Range Restoration Period begins a few days after a disaster and stretches several weeks, depending on the extent of the damage. Restoration activities focus on repair to slightly and moderately damaged structures. In general, they return the area to a relatively normal and economically viable state as services and utilities are restored and debris removal continues. More detailed surveys of damage continue. State and Federal disaster relief resources are distributed to victims needing assistance, such as temporary housing, loans, grants, food coupons, and legal / crisis counseling. Restoration of all public utilities takes place and reconstruction of damaged housing, commercial, industrial and public facilities begins.

The Long-Range Reconstruction Period may stretch over many months after a disaster, until all physical property, social and economic processes return to a stable and acceptable pre-disaster level. The visible activities are demolition of partially devastated structures and complete major reconstruction. Victims return to repaired/rebuilt structures from temporary housing and preventative mitigation measures are formulated and implemented.

The long range period is the main focus of this information. Depending on the nature of the damage experienced, your neighborhood may be considered for rebuilding, redeveloping or renewing.

Rebuilding Target Areas:

These are neighborhoods or areas with extreme devastation and in need of significant resources for recovery.

Redevelop Target Areas:

These are neighborhoods or areas with moderate devastation and need moderate resources

Renewal Target Areas:

These are neighborhoods or areas with minimal devastation and need little resources for recovery

Need for coordination

The creation of a neighborhood recovery strategy will provide important means to focus County-wide / large scale disaster recovery efforts on the local neighborhood level. Following emergency response and initial recovery efforts it will become necessary to calibrate the next steps needed for specific hard hit areas as soon as possible after the immediate response is completed.

Your neighborhood may/should want to play an important role in this effort and chart a future course by planning a neighborhood recovery strategy. Timely, concerted and proactive steps will provide critically important local leadership to assist and direct area recovery.

This may be best accomplished by establishing a neighborhood recovery strategy by drawing on the many interested parties that want your community to stabilize, recover and prosper.

This process provides latitude and flexibility to address a wide range of issues that normally would be difficult or cost prohibitive to pursue.

What's at Stake?

In the absence of timely recovery efforts there can be many negative outcomes. These can include loss of time waiting for attention to your neighborhood; loss of population, businesses, employers, community facilities, infrastructure; decisions made by outsiders that do not consider your community needs and hopes; deterioration / blight; and others.

While the specifics will vary by disaster type and neighborhood circumstances, there are general goals for post disaster redevelopment. The planning process will play a critical role in ascertaining needs and defining how these goals are made achievable at the local neighborhood level.

- Restoration of Historical and Cultural Assets
- Restoration of Community Health
- Restoration of Social Services
- Restoration of the Natural Environment
- Restoration of Critical Infrastructure and Schools
- Restoration of Government Operations
- Restoration of the Economy

What your neighborhood strategy will need to accomplish

In general, the overall process will consist of these steps:

Define and organize your neighborhood to prepare the plan

- Organize representative group, ensuring that the identified neighborhood is fully represented, and include selecting a location for public meetings and conducting the work
- Identify, delineate and characterize your neighborhood
- Ongoing stakeholder participation and consensus-building to create sense of ownership

Understand and describe what happened

- Describe your neighborhood - before and after
- Collect and understand information about the neighborhood
- Identify scope of damage and circumstances that contributed to the disaster
- How vulnerable to hazards? What happened / how to avoid / minimize next time?
- Identify other problems that your neighborhood needs to solve

Identify and evaluate your options

- What do you like / want to keep?
- What do you want to come / have here?
- What problems do you want to resolve or remove from your community?
- What are existing plans for the planning area?

Plan your future

- Create a vision for your neighborhood in the future
- Set goals that are positive and achievable
- Preliminary Plan / Strategy / vision of community needs for improvement
- Immediate needs / short term fixes
- Long term recovery
- Hazard Mitigation
- Evaluate and refine

Implementation

- Gain public understanding and acceptance, build support
- Plan adoption by Board of County Commissioners
- Implement and revise as needed over time

Staff will assist your neighborhood with determining the types of information, level of detail, and format that you will need to document your neighborhood recovery strategy.

Consistency with County Principles and Methods

Keep in mind that many neighborhoods may be pursuing similar actions. For this reason, your information needs to follow a basic formatting style that ensures that information needed by the County for implementation will be provided, and it can be readily incorporated into a consolidated plan for expedient enactment.

County staff resources will be limited and demands for their time and attention will be intense, and disruptions and slowdowns in the provision of local government services can be expected. Very often,

it becomes necessary to place increased reliance on outside support services. These services will assist with neighborhood recovery and need to mesh with local government procedures.

It is important to provide certain necessary details in a consistent format that other neighborhoods also will use. This will help to ensure that needs of many diverse neighborhoods, as well as the community as a whole, can be organized for equitable and efficient consideration and implementation. This will help to smoothly fit your needs with the comprehensive plan, budget process, and community character.

This information will need to be developed in the context of the existing County planning principles and policies. The Manatee County Local Mitigation Strategy section titled *Community Guiding Principles and Implementation* determined that the goals, objective, and policies of the adopted local government comprehensive plan and land development regulations from the participating governments of Manatee County represented the ideal source from which to identify the community guiding principles.

The use of a standardized format will help to make a strong foundation for development and implementation of your Neighborhood Recovery Plan. It will help to ensure that important principles of Manatee County are maintained.

Principles

- Inclusion of all neighborhood stakeholders in open and transparent process
- Ample opportunity for public participation at well advertised public meetings
- Participation is documented with sign-in sheets recording contact information
- Discussion topics are introduced to the larger group, and discussed in small groups
- Input is recorded and validated by the participant
- All participants are treated equally
- All participants will be given fair opportunities to provide input
- All participants will be provided multiple input methods
- Results are reported back with opportunity for prioritization
- Information and input are posted and disseminated via the internet so it can act as the central resource for information
- Allow for input to continue after public meetings once material has been posted to the internet.
- Standard map symbols and colors shall be used for ease of understanding and consistency

- Staff will help define boundaries, existing regulations, including the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Code.

Expectations

- Input will be analyzed against the existing Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Regulation.
- New construction will conform with current standards
- Individual neighborhoods will be partners in the implementation of their Neighborhood Recovery Plan
- Recovery strategies will be multi-faceted and will put in place means to avoid / minimize future disasters

Roles of neighborhoods, staff, outside supports

Neighborhoods

- Organize and provide inclusive representation of all stakeholders
- Provide information to fully document damage assessments to understand the extent and significance of the impacts
- Provide information to fully document residents needs in the neighborhood
- Actively participate throughout the neighborhood planning process
- Participate in the implementation of the Neighborhood Recovery Plan and provide guidance to other neighborhoods in need

County Planning Staff

- Provide package of technical support documents (maps / data / meeting materials)
- Act as point of contact and liaison between departments
- Provide for Internet information exchange on County Website
- Define procedures for the planning process
- Evaluate Neighborhood Recovery Plan for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, and any existing area plans
- Consider changes and implement revisions to the existing Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, and Area Plans as appropriate to advance the Neighborhood Recovery Plan

- Help identify resources to achieve neighborhood goals
- Coordinate / Integrate with other Neighborhood Recovery Plans
- Move Neighborhood Recovery Plans forward for recognition / adoption by the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners.

Outside supports

- Coordinate with county staff when providing planning and technical expertise to assigned neighborhood(s)
- Follow county planning principles and methods
- Follow standardized map keys and notation
- Provide county staff with finished materials in editable digital media

Outcome:

County staff will provide support and coordination intended to help you define your strategies, fit them within the planning /policy framework, and identify the tools that may best achieve your neighborhood goals, and make other refinements when needed.

Once this is done, your neighborhood strategy will be presented before the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners for public hearings, review and potential adoption.

Upon adoption, your neighborhood strategy will become a key blueprint for guiding:

- County Services and Capital Improvements
- Future Development and Redevelopment
- Civic Involvement

Although the need for this overall process has been the result of catastrophic events your neighborhood has had to endure, it is important to keep in mind that this process could provide a rare opportunity to gain desired neighborhood improvements not imagined before the disaster.

“A crisis is a terrible thing to waste.”

Stanford economist Paul Romer

Contact Information Manatee County

Planning Department

Comprehensive Planning Division
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.mymanatee.org
PH: (941) 749-3070
FAX: (941) 708-6154

Neighborhood Services Department

1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.mymanatee.org
PH: (941) 749-3029
FAX: (941) 749-3027

Public Safety Department

2101 47th Terrace East
Bradenton, Florida 34206
PH: (941) 749-3500
FAX: (941) 749-3576

**Manatee County Sheriff's Office
Operations Center**

600 US Highway 301 Boulevard West
Bradenton, FL 34205
Public Information Office
PH: (941) 747-3011 Ext. 2278

Other useful disaster response information may be available from these organizations:

State Level

www.myflorida.org

www.floridadisaster.org

Regional Level

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council www.TBRPC.org

Federal Level

Federal Emergency Management Agency www.fema.gov