

# Floodplain Management Plan Annual Progress Report

# 2024

Annual report on evaluating progress toward implementing the Floodplain Management Plan's objectives and/or the recommendations for the City of St. Augustine. The evaluation report must be submitted to the governing body, released to the media, made available to the public and included as part of the community's annual Community Rating System (CRS) recertification. This report was presented to the City Commission on July 28, 2025 and as such, approved as part of the City Commission agenda accessible here:  
<https://www.citystaug.com/1071/Agendas-Minutes>



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## Introduction

The St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) serves as the City's Floodplain Management Plan under the Community Rating System (CRS) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Under CRS Activity 510, the City is required to complete a Floodplain Management Plan Annual Progress Report that includes:

1. A description of how the evaluation report was prepared and how it is submitted to the governing body, released to the media and made available to the public.
2. How the reader can obtain a copy of the original plan or area analysis report.
3. A review of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how much was accomplished during the previous year.
4. A discussion of why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule.
5. Recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations.

This document serves as that report. The report was prepared by City staff and will be placed on the July 28, 2025 City Commission Meeting Agenda for information and discussion. A hardcopy of the report is available to the public at the Utilities and Public Works Department and a PDF of the report is available for viewing and/or downloading at the City's website.

## Adoption of the LMS

The St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) was adopted by *Resolution No. 2005-14* by the City Commission on July 11, 2005. The LMS is required to be updated every five years. The most recently revised LMS was adopted by *Resolution 2025-16* by the City Commission on May 12, 2025. The updated LMS plan for the next five-year cycle was approved by FEMA on June 2, 2025. A copy of the LMS document is made available at the Northeast Florida Regional Council offices and the St. Johns County Emergency Management office and website.

## Purpose and Goals of the LMS

The purpose of the LMS is to provide guidance to the County and municipal governments in building a safer and more resilient community by identifying and dealing with hazards and hazard management problems, including flooding, in the St. Johns County area. The following goals are provided in ranked order, where the first goal is paramount:

1. Protect the lives of the residents of St. Johns County and its Municipalities.
2. Protect property to ensure that its intrinsic value is preserved.
3. Protect infrastructure so that it is available during and after a disaster.
4. Protect business activities so that they continue to provide economic strength to the community.
5. Protect the natural environment to ensure that quality of life and economic wellbeing are preserved.

These goals are used as part of the project prioritization methodology. Projects recommended by this Strategy must first meet one of the goals to be considered, then will receive points based on which goals they will routinely further.

### **LMS Working Group**

A working group has been established to review and make recommendations concerning the LMS. The task force consists of representatives of the City of St. Augustine's Utilities and Public Works, Planning & Building and Fire Departments, other local municipalities, local organizations and County departments, and is coordinated by staff of the St. Johns County Emergency Management Division. The working group has nine (9) official voting positions that are referenced as an executive committee. The Executive Committee members are nominated and voted in their positions annually. Each municipality and the school district is required to have a member on the Executive Committee. The current positions serving the Executive Committee are outlined in the updated LMS plan. The working group meets on a quarterly basis and is responsible for developing and implementing new mitigation initiatives. The working group also looks for possible federal and/or state funding (i.e. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), etc.) to implement the mitigation initiatives.

### **St. Johns County LMS Inventory of Ranked Projects**

The LMS task force has established a list of ranked projects or mitigation initiatives that are given priority based on the goals stated above. The list contains projects that are eligible for HMGP, FMA and other federal and state funding. The majority of the projects focus on the mitigation of known or potential flood hazards. Specifically, the City of St. Augustine is involved with the following mitigation initiatives through various projects (future, current and completed) that are listed in more detail in Appendix A (St. Johns County LMS Inventory of Ranked Projects). A few of those projects have been highlighted below:

- 1) Education and Training – this is an on-going effort to educate the community about floodplains, flood disaster preparation etc. The City accomplishes this through a variety of outlets (newsletter, social media, letters mailed, brochures distributed, website information etc.). Material and content are updated as appropriate.
- 2) Expand/Enhance/Improve Utilities - various projects were identified to address aging utility infrastructure to make it more resilient.
  - a) Flood Mitigation Improvements to St. Augustine Sanitary Sewer Pumping Stations – Completed. This project is also known as the FEMA 13 Sanitary Sewer Lift (or Pump) Stations. This project included the design and rehabilitation, hardening and/or floodproofing of 13 sanitary sewer lift (or pump) stations that were damaged in Hurricane Matthew. This was funded through FEMA's Public Assistance program and completed in 2022.
- 3) Flood/Repetitive Loss Mitigation
  - a) Flood Mitigation at Avenida Menendez Seawall Connectivity Project – Reinforce and elevate approximately 180 linear feet of the south section of the seawall to match higher existing seawall elevations of 7 feet NAVD88.
    - i) Project Status – ongoing. This project was awarded a contract by the State (FDEM) to initiate Phase 1 design in 2020. This is funded through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Phase 1 design was completed in 2022. Phase 2 construction is expected to be completed in 2026.
  - b) COSA Davis Shores Residential Elevations 2022 – this includes almost 60 properties that were identified as either of severe, repetitive, or non-flood loss properties. The City has submitted to FEMA's FMA program each year. For 2022, the properties have been “selected for further review” and are moving through the final stages of FEMA's review process before we receive official notification of award. The intent of the program is to share the cost of mitigation of flood prone structures, such as lifting, demolition with reconstruction and/or acquisition.
  - c) COSA Davis Shores Residential Elevations 2023 - this includes approximately 10 properties that were identified as either of severe, repetitive, or non-flood loss properties. The City has submitted to FEMA's FMA program each year. For 2023, the properties have been “selected for further review” and are moving through the final stages of FEMA's review process before we receive official notification of award. The intent of the program is to share the cost of mitigation of flood prone structures, such as lifting, demolition with reconstruction and/or acquisition.
  - d) Flood Mitigation on South Whitney and West King Street project is ongoing. It is currently funded through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Phase 1 design is completed. Phase 2 for construction has been approved by FEMA. The project is scheduled to begin construction in 2025, contingent upon finalizing easements. The

project also has an interlocal agreement with St. Johns County, where the County is helping with the local cost share match to FEMA.

- e) Elevation of a Repetitive Flood Loss Property at 4\*\* Arricola Avenue. This project is ongoing. It is funded through FEMA's FMA program and was one of the first properties the City piloted for that program, with the initial application in 2020. FEMA awarded the funding, the property is a demolition reconstruction project that is under way.
- f) Drainage Improvements for South Davis Shores is ongoing. The project has been funded for design and permitting through the FDEP Resilient Florida Program. Design is underway to determine potential drainage improvements in and around Coquina Ditch that will potentially improve drainage due to rainfall driven events on Coquina and Arricola Avenue. The design will be completed in 2026.

4) Infrastructure and Structure Improvements

- a) Flood Mitigation and Resiliency Improvements at Inlet Drive is ongoing. The project has been funded for design, permitting and construction through the FDEP Resilient Florida Program. Design is underway, permitting is pending and construction is expected to begin in 2025 with project completion in 2026. The project is looking to stabilize the existing shoreline through a retaining wall, replace and upgrade the existing stormwater drainage with installation of a one-way tide check valve, and installation of a living shoreline to help with sediment accretion and dissipation of wave energy to bolster the existing living shoreline.

5) Master Drainage Improvements

- a) Drainage Improvement and Flood Mitigation of Court Theophelia Neighborhood is ongoing. The project has been funded for design, permitting and construction through the FDEP Resilient Florida Program. Design is finalized, permitting is completed and construction is expected to begin in 2025 with project completion in 2026. This project will provide for utility upgrades, added stormwater drainage, incorporation of the first pilot green infrastructure component, reconstruction of existing roads, sidewalks and curbing to provide a higher level of service for the flood prone Neighborhood.
- b) Drainage Improvements by Retrofitting Stormwater Outfalls Citywide – the City has completed a number of retrofits of the City's existing outfalls with one way inline tidal backflow prevention valves. The City currently has over 100 city-owned outfalls and has completed retrofit of approximately 43 of them. This has been achieved throughout the City, but prioritized in particularly more flood prone Neighborhoods, such as North and South Davis Shores, Fullerwood Neighborhood, Oyster Creek and the Historic Downtown Peninsula. A majority of the retrofits were grant funded as part of a cost share program with the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Florida Resilient Coastlines Program. Concurrent with these efforts, the City has completed a Stormwater Outfall Resiliency Retrofit Master Plan

in 2022. This will is being used to help prioritize the remaining outfalls within the City. This work will be ongoing and accomplished through the City's Capital Improvement Plan and Stormwater Operations programs.

- c) Lake Maria Sanchez Flood Mitigation and Drainage Improvements— will serve 200 acres of the City's downtown core. This project is currently in design. The project was initially funded through FEMA's HMGP grant funding that was awarded in 2017. The project is being phased into two phases to expedite design, permitting and construction. Design and permitting for Phase 1 is currently underway and expected to be completed in 2026. Phase 2 design and permitting is underway but contingent upon the City securing the necessary easements for the project. Additional grant funding was awarded for the project in 2022 through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida program. This funding will be used in lieu of FEMA HMGP funding to complete the project.

## 6) Planning

- a) Adapting to Sea Level Rise: Planning Process Development
  - i) Two reports were released in 2017, (1) Florida Community Resiliency Initiative Pilot Project: Adaptation Plan for St. Augustine, and (2) Coastal Vulnerability Assessment: City of St. Augustine.
  - ii) Two (2) additional studies were completed in 2021: "Vulnerability Assessment of Onsite Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS or septic systems) to Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge to Develop Adaptation Plans in St. Augustine" and "South Davis Shores Resiliency Study".
  - iii) In 2024, the "Fullerwood Drainage Study" was completed that identified several potential options for drainage improvements to the Neighborhood.
- b) Water Level Sensor to monitor in real time water level data at the St. Augustine Municipal Marina. This is scheduled to be installed in 2025.
- c) Develop a Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment. The City completed its updated Vulnerability Assessment (VA) in 2024 that meets current criteria outlined in Section 380.093 of the Florida Statutes, making the City eligible for future cost-share for implementation projects. This study was granted funding in 2022 through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida program.
- d) Adaptation Plan. This will build upon the recently completed VA, where the City will be updating its Adaptation Plan to meet the requirements of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The City received grant funding through Resilient Florida's Planning Grant program to complete the study which is scheduled to be finished in 2026.
- e) The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Back Bay Feasibility Study is ongoing. Initial project funding was awarded in 2022 to start the study. Official execution of a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement was on January 9, 2023. The study is a 6-year, \$7.3 M

study cost shared between the City (\$1.5M, ARPA) and USACE (\$5.8M) to evaluate coastal storm risks and identify strategies to mitigate for those risks. A final report will be submitted in May 2028, where it would be signed and approved by the USACE's Chief of Engineers in September of 2028. Strategies identified in the final report are then eligible for cost share with USACE for the implementation of those strategies.

- 7) City of St. Augustine Stormwater Master Plan was completed in 1995 then updated in 2012. Three pilot projects were identified as part of the plan, which includes:
  - a) Sidney Street Pilot Project is completed.
  - b) South Dixie Pilot Project has started. Phase 1 is the box culvert replacement which is completed. Phase 2 involves completing the design and then construction which is contingent upon additional funding (State and/or Federal) that can be secured. The City has opted to pursue a sidewalk project to help with connectivity along this corridor. That project is currently in design.
  - c) Lake Maria Sanchez project is in progress.

The Master Plan is available for download on the City's website. The City intends to expand upon the current master plan through a future update. The update will take into consideration results from multiple other studies that have been completed or are in progress. The City intends to submit for future grant funding to support this effort.

- 8) Watershed Management Plan. The City is considering completing a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) to enable the City to achieve a Class 4 rating through the CRS program. The WMP would:
  - a) Future conditions and long-duration storms
  - b) Evaluate the impact of sea level rise and climate change
  - c) Identify wetlands and natural areas
  - d) Address the protection of natural channels
  - e) Provide a dedicated funding source for implementing the plan.

The City intends to pursue grant funding to support this effort in 2026. Many of the current and recently completed studies can be used to support the WMP.

- 9) Wildfire Mitigation – This is being looked at comprehensively by the LMS; this includes creating defendable space around structures. As St. Johns County and its jurisdictions continue to be built out, extra effort should be made to maintain uncontrolled ground cover in forested areas to reduce the risk of wildfire.

The full list of St. Johns County LMS Inventory of Ranked Projects can be found in **Appendix A**.

## CRS Program Participation

The CRS provides a flood insurance discount incentive to the City for undertaking flood protection measures beyond the minimum requirements of the NFIP. In 2019 the City's Community Rating System (CRS) was increased from a Class 7 rating to a Class 5 rating, resulting in up to a 25% discount in flood insurance premium. The City has maintained that current Class 5 Rating. The program's goal is to create an overall comprehensive outreach strategy focused on flood information that encourages flood protection and raises awareness of the City's unique environment.

The following table lists all of the CRS activities that the City is credited under the current certification:

CRS Activity No.	Activity Description	Departments
310	Elevation Certificates	Planning & Building
320	Map Information Service	Planning & Building
330	Outreach Projects	City/Local Representatives
350	Flood Protection Information	Planning & Building
420	Open Space Preservation	Planning & Building
430	Higher Regulatory Standards	Planning & Building/ Utilities & Public Works
450	Stormwater Management	Utilities & Public Works
502	Repetitive Loss Category	Planning & Building
510	Floodplain Management Planning	St. Johns County/ Planning & Building/ Utilities & Public Works/Fire
540	Drainage System Maintenance	Utilities & Public Works
610	Flood Warning Program	St. Johns County/ Fire

## **Certified Floodplain Manager Program**

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has established a national program for professional certification of floodplain managers. The program recognizes continuing education and professional development that enhances the knowledge and performance of local, state, federal and private-sector floodplain managers. There are currently two (2) members of City staff that have achieved the status of Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), which reflects the City's commitment to professional services in implementing the City's Floodplain Management Plan.

## **Ordinance Revisions Improve Building Resiliency**

In 2017, the City adopted higher standards for development that will provide greater flood protection. Ordinances 2017-08 and 2017-09 adopted new standards that are in keeping with the updated Florida Building Code, effective December 31, 2017. The ordinance requires additional freeboard for finished floors above the base flood elevation and engineered and sealed foundation plans designed to resist flood loads. On November 9, 2020, the City Commission appointed a task force to explore ways to protect existing, older homes from the drainage and flooding impacts of new infill development. The Commission approved the following goals as guidance for this task force:

Goal #1 – Protect older homes from the flooding impacts of new homes that are required to be constructed at higher elevations.

Goal #2 – Provide incentives for property owners to use building techniques which do not require land filling for new home construction.

Goal #3 – Limit the amount of impervious surface that is allowed on residential lots. There is currently no limit to the amount of paving a homeowner can do on their property.

In 2021, a Building Code Task Force for Existing Properties met throughout the year to address the outlined goals. At the conclusion of the Task Force, based on its Final Report and associated recommendations, the City Commission adopted Ordinance 2021-26. This ordinance adopted an impervious surface ration (ISR) for single-family residential dwellings not within master planned communities. Additionally, a formal “Residential Lot Grading Criteria” was developed and completed in 2022. This took effect in 2024. In 2024, building upon the work previously completed, The City Commission has directed staff to work with the city's Citizen Boards to examine concerns related to development in low-lying and/or flood prone areas. This issue has become more of a concern recently with more frequent development applications proposing significant amounts of fill, higher than minimum finished floor elevations, and building

techniques or design, such as on slab construction that minimizes the options to control drainage, runoff and water for residential development. This work was initiated in 2024 and is expected to have potential ordinances or guidance developed in 2025. The City is also working on implementing a Resilient Shorelines Ordinance to help combat sea level rise and coastal storm surge threats to the city. A Resilient Shoreline Ordinance will help promote nature-based designs that create/protect habitat & improve water quality. With the adoption of these new ordinances and policies the city has improved its resiliency.

## **Stormwater Master Plan**

The City completed Phase 1 of the Stormwater Master Plan (SMP) in 2012. The master plan at that time proposed solutions to three large projects and smaller neighborhood projects that experience flooding and other stormwater issues. A hard copy is available to view at the City's Public Works Department and an electronic copy of the master plan is available for download at the City's website. Sidney Street, one of the master plan pilot projects, is completed. The other two pilot projects identified, South Dixie Highway and Lake Maria Sanchez, are under way. The City intends to expand upon the current master plan through a future update. The update will take into consideration results from the multiple studies that have been recently completed or are currently underway. The plan will also take into consideration factors such as: changes in climatic patterns, ground water levels, rainfall, sea level rise projections, water quality, saltwater intrusion, storm surge, land use, resilient natural and built coastal features and infrastructure, current and future regulatory environments, desired levels of service. The City intends to apply for future grant funding to support this initiative. Furthermore, the City is considering completing a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) to enable the City to achieve a Class 4 rating through the CRS program. The WMP would consider:

- a) Future conditions and long-duration storms
- b) Evaluate the impact of sea level rise and climate change
- c) Identify wetlands and natural areas
- d) Address the protection of natural channels
- e) Provide a dedicated funding source for implementing the plan.

The objective of the WMP is to provide the community with a tool it can use to make decisions that will reduce the increased flooding from future conditions that include new development, redevelopment and the impact of climate change and sea level rise throughout a watershed or community. The City intends to pursue grant funding to support this effort in 2026. Many of the current and recently completed studies can be used to support the WMP. This would also be incorporated into the future updated SMP.

## **Adapting to Sea Level Rise (SLR)**

The City is keenly aware of the challenges posed by climate change and as a low-lying coastal community especially sensitive to the effects of future sea level rise. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Community Resiliency Initiative selected the City of St. Augustine to participate as one of three pilot communities to study the city's vulnerability to coastal flooding and to assist the city in identifying steps that can be taken to help the city adapt to those

vulnerabilities. The project began in 2016 with a series of meetings and workshops with the DEO consultant, Dewberry. With a majority of the city being located in a flood plain, the city is proactively identifying areas of risks, as presented in the two papers that were published in 2017, (1) Florida Community Resiliency Initiative Pilot Project: Adaptation Plan for St. Augustine, and (2) Coastal Vulnerability Assessment: City of St. Augustine. Additionally, a grant funded study through FDEP's Florida Resilient Coastlines Program to conduct a "Vulnerability Assessment of Onsite Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS or septic systems) to Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge to Develop Adaptation Plans in St. Augustine" was completed in 2021. Given the vulnerability of the City with respect to sea level rise and changing coastal conditions, it is expected that projects to protect and maintain infrastructure subject to adverse conditions created by SLR to be very costly and will require the assistance of state and federal programs to provide supplemental funding to implement. As such the City has also recently completed its updated Vulnerability Assessment of critical infrastructure and assets to be in compliance with criteria outlined in Section 380.093 of the Florida Statutes, making the City eligible for future cost-share for implementation projects. Additionally, the City is building upon the recently completed VA, where the City will be updating its Adaptation Plan to meet the requirements of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The City received grant funding through Resilient Florida's Planning Grant program to complete the Adaptation Plan, which is scheduled to be finished in 2026. Finally, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Back Bay Feasibility Study is another comprehensive and major study that is underway. Once completed, the strategies identified in the final report to mitigate coastal storm risk and damages will be eligible for cost share with the USACE for implementation. With these various studies completed and underway, it will position the City for future funding opportunities through State and/or Federal programs.

## Capital Improvement Projects

The City of St. Augustine has also undertaken Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) included in and also outside of the LMS that provide stormwater improvements in the form of water quality treatment and localized flood reduction, in addition to other infrastructure improvements. The complete CIP plan is available for download at the City's website and a hard copy can be made available upon request. The following is a list of highlighted CIPs that the City is currently working on:

- Downtown Improvements District – Phase 1 (Hypolita, Treasury & Spanish).
  - Project Status – Completed in February 2015.
- Downtown Improvements District – Phase 2 (Spanish, Cuna and Tolomato).
  - Project status – Completed in 2024.
- South Dixie Highway Corridor Improvements
  - Project Status – Preliminary evaluation complete. Box culvert replacement was completed in 2018. The roadway design and associated construction is contingent upon additional funding (State and/or Federal) that can be secured. However, the City is moving forward with a sidewalk project to provide for connectivity along the corridor. That project is in design.
- Sidney Street Stormwater Improvements
  - Project Status – Completed in 2016.
- Coquina Ditch Drainage Improvements
  - Project Status – Completed in 2016.
- Hermosa Outfall Study
  - Project Status – Study completed.
- Isla Drive Drainage Improvements
  - Project Status – Completed in 2016.
- Lake Maria Sanchez Flood Mitigation and Drainage Improvement Project
  - Project Status – Started. Design and permitting for Phase 1 is currently underway and expected to be completed in 2026. Phase 2 construction will be determined by pending easements needed to complete the design and permitting. Additional grant funding was awarded for the project in 2022 through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida program.
- Lincolnville Storm Sewer and Collection Expansion
  - Project Status – Phase 1 (Duero Street) completed in 2019. Phase 2 (South and DeHaven Streets) construction completed in 2020. Phase 3 (Duero and Cerro) design completed in 2022.
- Prawn Street Drainage Improvements
  - Project Status –Completed 2021.

- Court Theophelia/Edna Neighborhood Drainage Improvements
  - Project Status –ongoing. Grant funding was awarded for the project in 2022 through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Resilient Florida program. Design and permitting is completed, the project will be under construction and completed in 2026 as part of the grant requirements.
- Atlantic/Fern/Althea/Seminole Neighborhood Drainage Improvements
  - Project Status – Study completed in 2024. Some minor drainage improvements identified in the study were also completed in 2024 to alleviate rainfall driven flooding at the end of Seminole Drive.
- Outfall Backflow Prevention
  - Project Status – Ongoing. A total of 43 valves have been installed city wide. The City will use its completed Stormwater Outfall Resiliency Master Plan to prioritize the remaining outfalls for retrofitting.
- South Whitney and West King Flood Mitigation
  - Project Status – Started. It is currently funded through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Phase 1 design is completed. Phase 2 for construction has been approved by FEMA. The project will begin construction in 2025.
- Coquina Park
  - Project Status – completed. The City purchased property in South Davis Shores in 2019 to serve as a park and flood protection project. The construction for the project was completed in 2020.
- Sevilla Street Brick, Roadway and Utility Improvements
  - Project Status – started. This project will include the complete rehabilitation of the existing utilities (water, sewer), stormwater improvements, brick and roadway reconstruction. Design for this project was completed in 2022.
- West Augustine Conversion of Septic to Sewer
  - Project status –ongoing. The City has completed West 5<sup>th</sup> Street Sewer Extension (Phase 1). This was a state grant (FDEP) funded project that installed new gravity sewer (mains, manholes and services) on West 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Duval and Nassau Streets and connected area residents to the new sewer system. A total of 12 existing septic systems were abandoned. Phase 2 completed construction in 2021 to abandon an additional 13 septic systems and connections. Previous septic to sewer connections were completed by the City for a total of 57 existing septic systems abandoned and connecting those residents to the existing sewer system. Pearl Street Gravity Sewer project was completed in 2024. Future areas are being evaluated to determine feasibility of connections. This will be accomplished through the development of the West Augustine Sewer Master

Plan. Initial scope development for the master plan began in 2021 and is currently underway.

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Headworks Rehabilitation
  - Project status – Completed in 2023.
- Flood Mitigation on King Street
  - Project Status (FDOT) – Completed in 2024. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has constructed a drainage improvement project at the intersection of State Road 5A (King Street) and State Road A1A (Avenida Menendez) in downtown St. Augustine. This will enable the future King Street Streetscape project to tie into that drainage outfall and provide improved drainage within that project scope.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood Proofing –
  - Project status – Completed in 2020. Efforts are completed to provide dry and wet flood proofing of critical equipment and/or processes up to elevation 12 feet NAVD88.
- South Davis Shores
  - Project status - started. Grant funding was awarded for the project (design and permitting) in 2022 through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida program. The project would need to be completed by 2026 as part of the grant requirements.
- Inlet Drive Shoreline Stabilization
  - Project status - started. Grant funding was awarded for the project in 2022 through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida program. The project would need to be completed by 2026 as part of the grant requirements.

## Drainage System Maintenance

The City utilizes detailed inspection and maintenance forms for storm drains, manholes and outfalls as a supplemental report to support the *Drainage Structure Inspection and Maintenance Program* document that is currently on record with the CRS and used by the CRS to rate the City's drainage system. The forms were designed to collect more detailed information during the routine inspections and maintenance of the existing drainage system. This information gets captured in CityWorks. The City has recently engaged Black and Veatch to complete an inventory of permitted stormwater infrastructure within the City to update its current GIS database. The inventory will be completed in 2026. This information will be utilized to update the current inventory that is regulated through the City's MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit to meet the National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) requirements implemented by FDEP. The City currently inspects and maintains its existing drainage system (which includes ditches, canals, open channel conveyances, natural conveyances, swales etc.). The City also contracts out for routine maintenance of its ditch system. In addition, the City has a dedicated stormwater maintenance crew that conducts the inspection and maintenance for the entire City's stormwater system. This includes the cleaning of thirteen (13) stormwater vaults located throughout the City that capture sediment and pollutants preventing them from reaching receiving waterbodies. The City is currently in the renewal process with FDEP for its next 5-year cycle for its NPDES MS4 permit that will take effect in 2025. A recent audit was conducted in 2024 as part of the permit renewal process by FDEP and the City received outstanding remarks regarding implementation of its NPDES MS4 program. The City continues with its dedication in maintaining current stormwater and drainage system components.

## **Conclusion**

In 2024, the City of St. Augustine has implemented its Floodplain Management Plan through participation in the St. Johns County LMS as an active task force member and by continuing to meet the requirements of the CRS for all of the activities listed in this report. The City continues its compliance and implementation of its NPDES MS4 permit. In addition to the above, the City has also pursued and implemented CIPs that provide quality stormwater improvements for its citizens.

## **Recommendation**

The City will remain an active member of the LMS task force and continue to pursue federal and/or state funding for future flood mitigation projects. CIPs identified in the Stormwater Master Plan Update and other various studies will follow the scheduled implementation proposed in the plan. The City will also pursue backflow improvements for the major stormwater outfalls and implement smaller neighborhood projects to address local/nuisance flooding issues reported by residents. In the long term, the City must plan for and create adaptive management policies and strategies for sea level rise including seeking assistance from state and federal programs.

# APPENDIX A