RESILIENT
MOBILE

Suggested Citation

Letter from Mayor Stimpson

Dear citizens, stakeholders, and partners,

As a 322 year-old coastal community, Mobile has weathered countless changes over the last three centuries. Through economic upheaval, wars, natural disasters and political and social change, Mobilians have always found a way to overcome obstacles and meet the challenges of the day. That is Resilience.

Since 2021, the City of Mobile has defined Resilience as "the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and thrive no matter what kinds of acute shocks or chronic stressors they experience." Shocks are sudden changes, like a hurricane, a pandemic or a sudden economic downturn. Stressors are chronic challenges, like aging infrastructure, economic inequality or a lack of access to quality healthcare services, that persist over time.

For two years, the City of Mobile's Office of Resilience and Sustainability has worked with an incredible team of partners and stakeholders across the community to create a Resilience Assessment and Plan. The result of those efforts is the document in your hands today. *Resilient Mobile* is a roadmap that identifies ways our historic community can continue to adapt and thrive regardless of any changes the future brings.

This plan highlights *Resilience Actions* the City of Mobile and its local partners can take as well as existing efforts the city can build upon, so that all Mobilians are poised to thrive in the face of increasing changes in the environment, climate and economy. It also identifies and highlights community-driven *Physical Resilience Projects* to help city leaders prioritize future investments and needs.
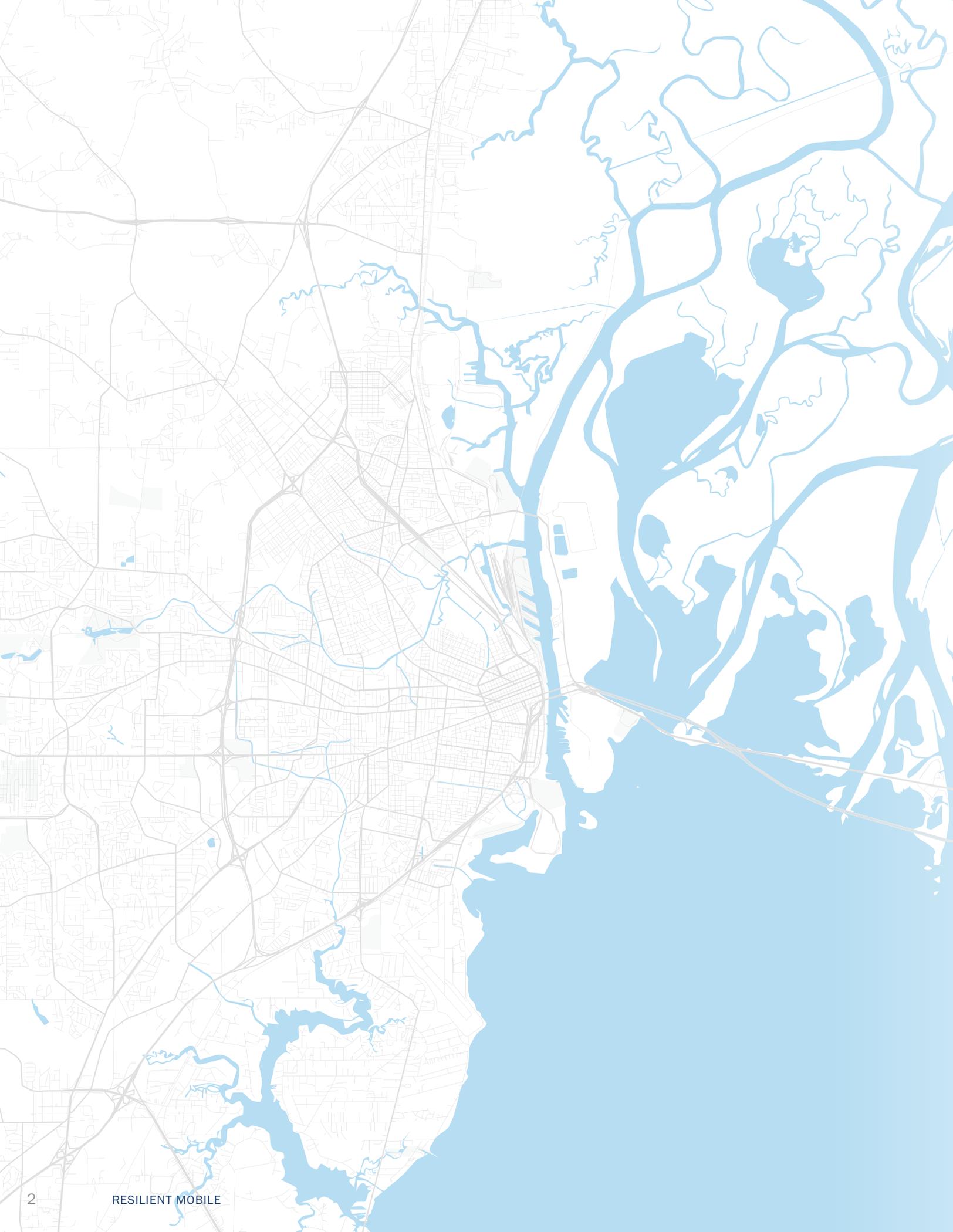
Prioritizing Resilience Initiatives is proactive governance. Preparing for the future and investing in risk reduction before a major disruption can save lives, reduce damage, help safeguard the local economy and save taxpayer dollars during subsequent recovery efforts. By having identifiable resilience goals and a defined plan to implement them, we also put the city in a better position to secure outside funding for future resilience projects and to build partnerships with local, state, and national collaborators.
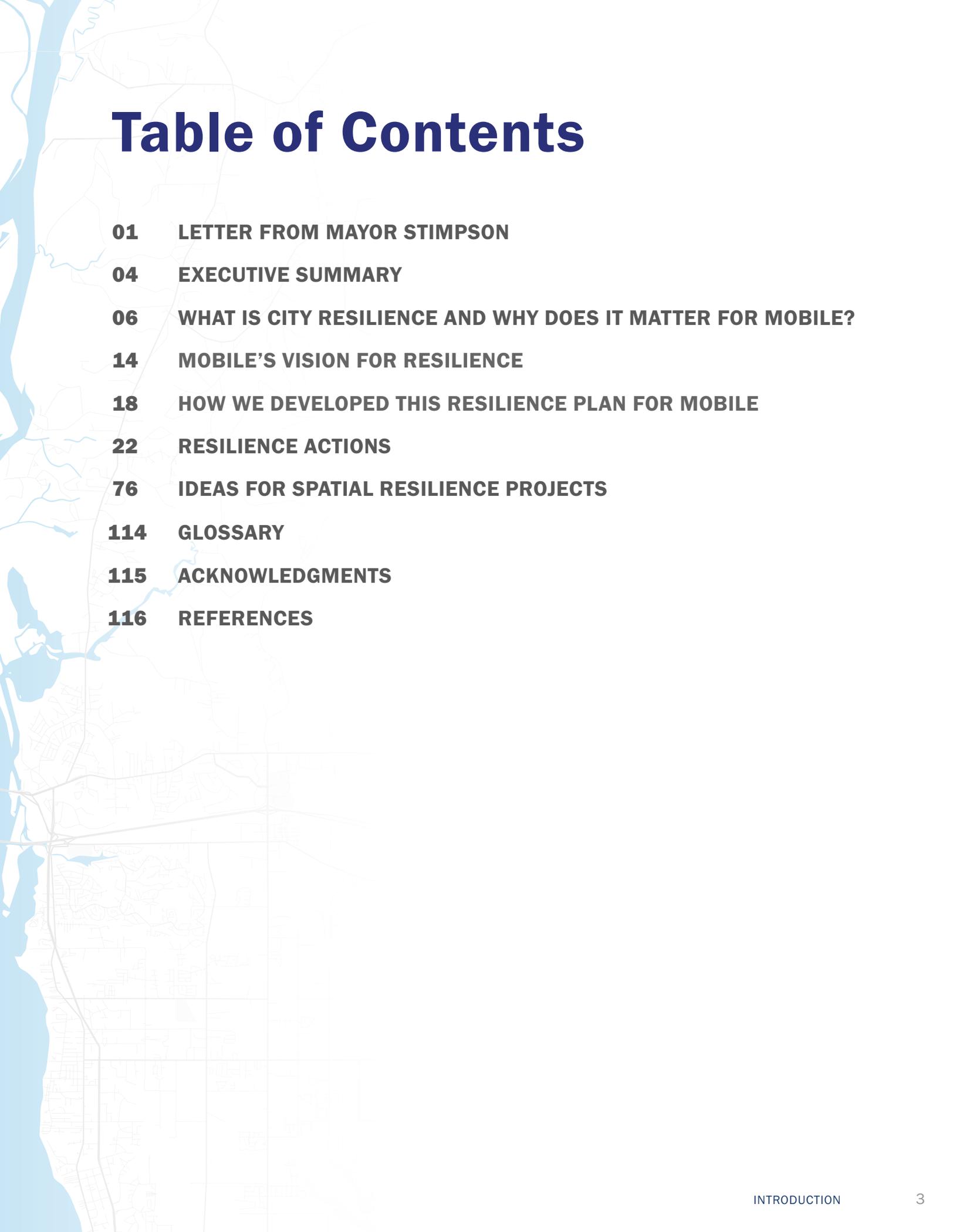
Resilient Mobile is the result of input from countless community members and local organizations and the hard work of staff members across multiple City departments. I would also like to thank the Water Institute, Waggonner & Ball, the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant, and local partners like Volkert, Ephriam Environmental, and Moffatt & Nichol — all of whom contributed to this effort.

Finally, I want to encourage Mobilians to stay engaged and informed about the challenges and opportunities our community will face in the coming decades and beyond. Together, we can build a more resilient city for ourselves and future generations of Mobilians.

William S. Stimpson
108th Mayor of Mobile

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Executive Summary

Resilient Mobile is a plan that highlights actions the City and partners can take—and existing efforts the City can build upon—so that all Mobilians are poised to thrive in the face of increasing changes in the environment, climate, and economy. As a 300+ year old coastal city that has experienced its share of disruptive events, Mobile and its residents know what it takes to respond to the types of challenges that can shift a city's trajectory. From flooding, storms, and other extreme weather to the inevitable economic and infrastructural boom and bust cycles, Mobile has always been capable of adapting.

Recent events like hurricanes Sally and Zeta and record high temperatures in 2023 have led the City to consider how Mobile can more strategically prepare for an uncertain future. Through new, proactive approaches to problem solving and decision making, Mobile can position itself as a city that is risk-aware in its decision making, holistic and inclusive in its planning processes, and that prioritizes tailored solutions to the unique conditions of different communities.

The opportunities presented in this plan are organized into two sections. The first section includes **Resilience Actions**, which comprise policies, projects, and programs that can help Mobile achieve its vision for resilience. There are 25 Resilience Actions included in this plan, each of which identifies specific and implementable measures that will strengthen Mobile's resilience and are rooted in a thorough understanding of Mobile's most critical vulnerabilities now and into the future. Actions are presented as city-wide opportunities, though certain actions may be more critical in specific areas of the city. Each Action identifies the shocks and stressors it addresses, timeframes for implementation, related Actions in the Resilience Plan, and Sub-Actions that provide more detail on how the Action will be implemented.

Photo by Visit Mobile | Mobilians dancing at Saturdays a the Coop, a free monthly concert series that brings together a variety of bands and other live entertainment

The second section contains **Ideas for Physical Resilience Projects**, which were produced during a March 2024 spatial planning resilience workshop. This 2-day workshop brought together multidisciplinary professionals, including planners, urban designers, landscape architects, coastal scientists and engineers, municipal staff, and other local stakeholders to develop visionary ideas that translate Mobile's resilience priorities into actionable, place-based projects. The Physical Resilience Projects follow a layered planning method—an approach to resilience and adaptation planning where the land, water, infrastructure, and inhabitation are one integrated whole. Structured around watersheds (specifically the Three Mile Creek Watershed and Dog River Watershed) and priority areas (Downtown Mobile and Bayfront Area), stakeholders in Mobile were able to identify opportunities for resilience projects that cross neighborhoods and political boundaries.

Both the Resilience Actions and the Ideas for Physical Resilience Projects are guided by the **seven pillars** that organize the City's strategic initiatives—protect, prepare, grow, connect, educate, enjoy, and engage. While these seven pillars drive short-term actions across City departments, Resilient Mobile expands their application to include the longer-term goals of building city resilience.

As the second largest city in Alabama with a population of over 200,000 people, Mobile can **PROTECT** the city and its residents by supporting the long-term health, safety, and adaptability of communities, critical facilities, infrastructure, and ecosystems.
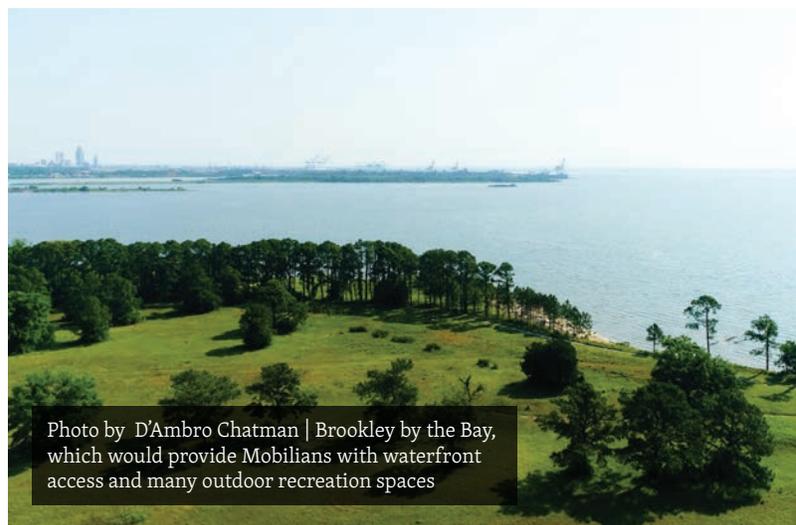

Photo by D'Ambro Chatman | Brookley by the Bay, which would provide Mobilians with waterfront access and many outdoor recreation spaces

To do this, the City can **PREPARE** by supporting proactive modes of response, accounting for all hazards. By expanding urban development and the economy in a way that is resilient in the long-term, Mobile can **GROW** and expand prosperity for all Mobilians, and **CONNECT** the city by reducing barriers that have kept communities disconnected from services, resources, and opportunities.

Finally, the City can **EDUCATE** Mobile's residents to support economic resilience, improve quality of life for Mobilians so that all residents may **ENJOY** the city, and **ENGAGE** more communities to implement and operationalize resilience through strengthened collaboration.

Resilient Mobile is not a stand-alone effort. Implementation will require coordination across City departments and with partner agencies and organizations for the effort to be successful. This plan provides a framework by which resilience can be integrated into the City's day-to-day practices, existing plans and policies, and long-term investments.

What is city resilience and why does it matter for Mobile?

CITY RESILIENCE *is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to* **survive***,* **adapt***, and* **thrive** *no matter what kinds of* **acute shocks** *or* **chronic stressors** *they experience.*

Acute shocks and chronic stressors are challenges that test a city's resilience. **Shocks** *are sudden, extreme events that threaten a community. Shocks are acute, meaning that the event may take place over a short period of time, but its impacts can be severe and long-lasting.* **Stressors** *are long-term pressures that weaken the fabric of a community over time. Stressors are chronic, meaning they persist over a long period of time or recur regularly.*

Individual shocks and stressors rarely operate independently. Long-term stressors, like aging infrastructure and social and wealth inequality, may make a community more vulnerable to the impacts of a shock like an extreme weather event. And two shocks happening simultaneously can compound their effects—as other communities along the Gulf Coast experienced with hurricanes occurring during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Not all communities experience shocks and stressors the same way. Some may have the resources and support systems to better withstand a shock, recover more quickly, and possibly even transform and grow after a shock. Other communities, especially those that are under-resourced and more vulnerable, may experience a greater initial shock, take longer to recover, and never get back to the same level of function as before.

A resilient city works to provide all communities, neighborhoods, and residents with the resources and ability to return to the same or a greater capacity following a shock or stressor.

Shocks and stressors can:

- Directly harm individuals and the community.
- Disrupt access to and availability of critical services.
- Interrupt economies and impact financial livelihoods.
- Exacerbate existing societal and economic inequalities.

Shocks

Hurricane
Flooding from Intense Rainfall
Water Quality Contamination
Hazardous Materials Incident
Tornado
Public Health Emergency
Infrastructure or Building
Failure
Extreme Temperatures
Terrorism
High Winds

Stressors

Aging Infrastructure
Crime and Violence
Education Quality or Access
Social Inequality
Drug Addiction
Lack of Safe and Obtainable
Housing
Racial Tension
Climate Change
Health Care Access/Chronic
Disease
Limited Public Transportation
Chronic Stormwater Flooding
Lack of Economic Vibrancy
Water Quality Contamination
Land Use and Urban Sprawl
Food Insecurity/Food Deserts
Environmental Injustice
Energy Access/Affordability
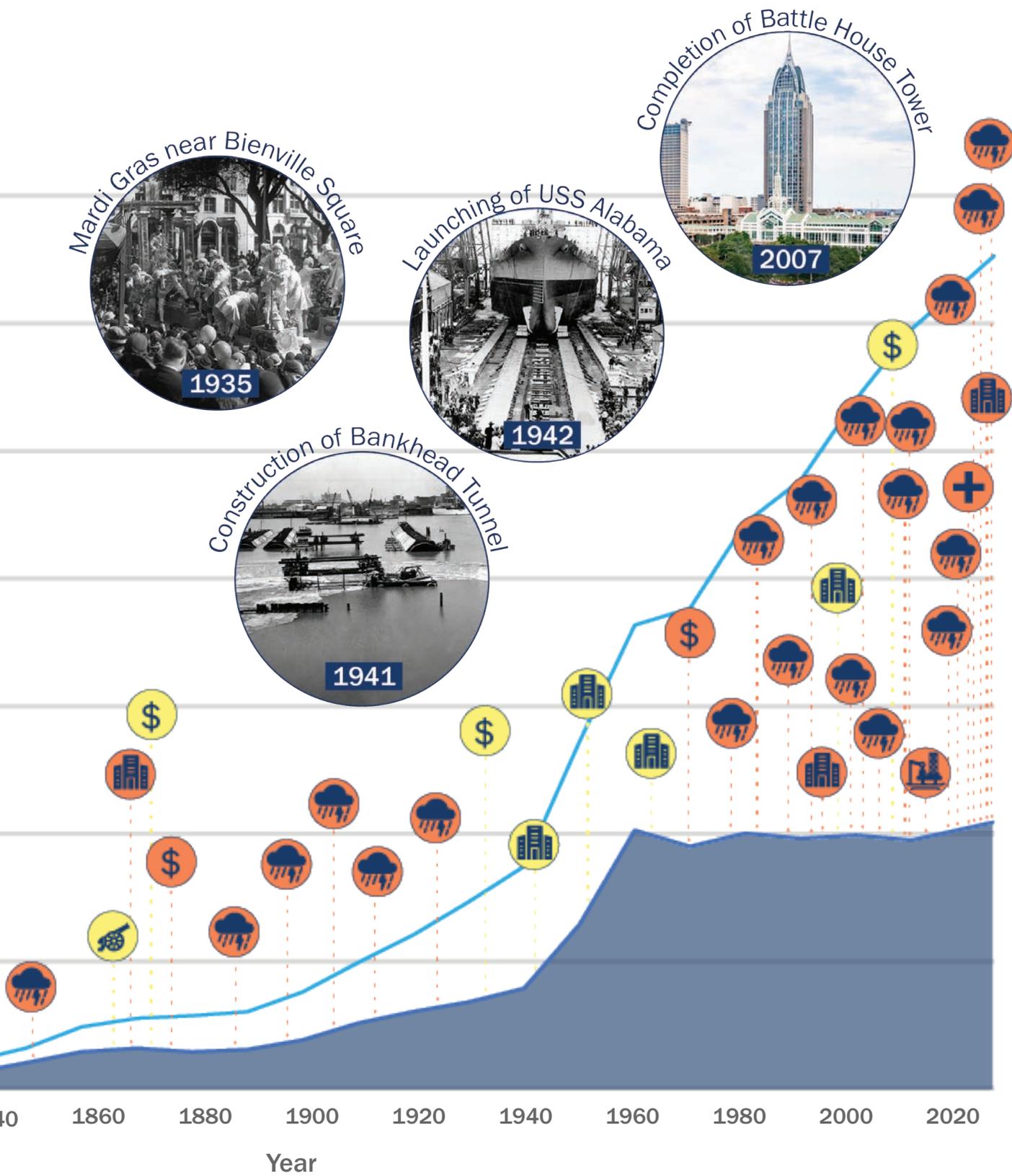Sea-Level Rise
Air Quality Contamination

Resilience is woven into Mobile's 300+ year history.

Throughout Mobile's 300+ year history, Mobilians have experienced how unanticipated disruptions can change the trajectory of the city's future—from flooding, storms, and other extreme weather events; to economic booms and busts; to infrastructural innovations and failures. The following timeline highlights over 40 shocks and stressors that have shaped Mobile throughout its history. For more detail on these shocks and stressors, see *Mobile's City-Wide Resilience Assessment.*[1]

Mobile has often weathered these challenges by adapting its infrastructure, economy, and society. For example, in response to a series of heavy rainfall events in the 1980s that caused Three Mile Creek to rise quickly and flood nearby homes and cars, Mobile worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to widen the creek and make other improvements to minimize future flood risk. More recently, Mobile was able to maintain greater economic stability through the COVID-19 pandemic than most U.S. cities in part thanks to ongoing efforts to strengthen and expand the number and types of industries doing business in Mobile. These are just a couple examples of how resilience is woven into the fabric of Mobile.

Like other coastal cities, Mobile is facing a future of unprecedented change in technology, economy, climate, and more. At the same time, the city's aging infrastructure struggles to keep up with the increasing demands on it. To thrive for the next 300 years, Mobile must adapt to new and even greater challenges.

Cotton Trade in Mobile
1890s

700,000
600,000
500,000
400,000
300,000
200,000
100,000

Population Size

1700   1820   184

——— City of Mobile Population

——— Mobile & Baldwin Counties Population

Mardi Gras near Bienville Square
1935

Construction of Bankhead Tunnel
1941

Launching of USS Alabama
1942

Completion of Battle House Tower
2007

Year

40	1860	1880	1900	1920	1940	1960	1980	2000	2020

Shocks Extreme Weather $ Economy Social Unrest

Stressors Infrastructure + Health Natural Resources

Planning for an Uncertain Future

Resilient Mobile is focused on the **near-term actions** we can take today that will shape a safe and thriving future for the next generation of Mobilians.

There is no universal approach when planning **for the next 30 years** because the future is inherently uncertain. Planners and decision makers must rely on the best available information that anticipates a range of potential impacts and the specific needs of their community.
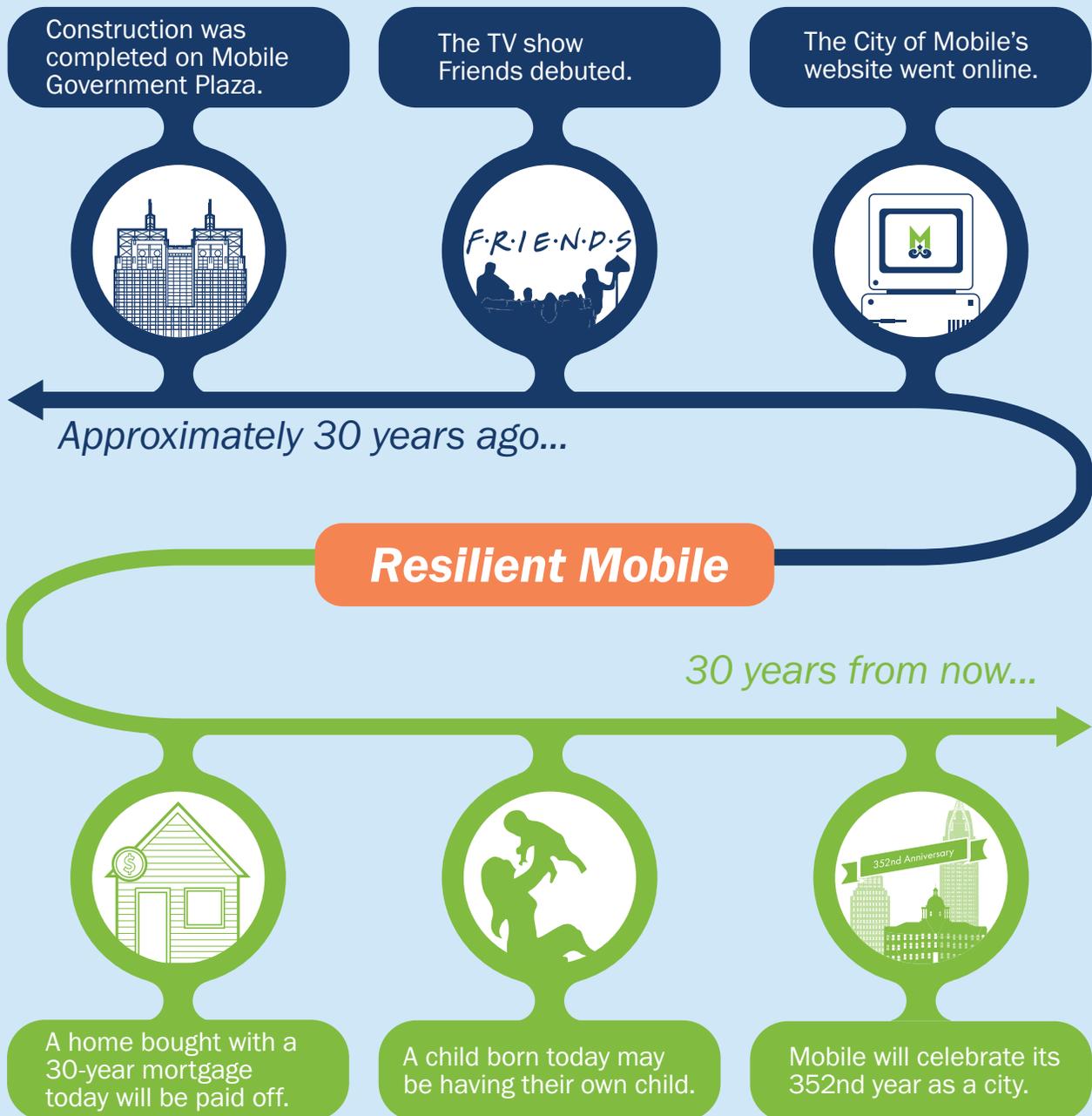
It is important to consider what the world might look like in terms of issues such as economic opportunities, environmental conditions, population needs, and potential hazards. We are fortune to have scientists and other experts who can help explain and bound the range of what could happen. *Mobile's City-Wide Resilience Assessment*[1] explored anticipated changes in rainfall, temperature, sea level, population, social factors, and economic drivers as well as their potential impacts on Mobile's resilience.

This *Resilience Plan* takes into consideration the range of potential scenarios so that the City can make informed decisions today that prepare Mobile for the future. Because it is not always possible or practical to consider every potential future condition, the City selected a range based on what makes sense for the place, the people, and the specific planning objective at hand. This range of potential future conditions was informed by the City's goal of getting ahead of most impacts while still striking a practical position of not trying to plan for the very worst case. This charts a fiscally sound path of being prepared for highly and moderately likely changes and events, but not overspending for very unlikely scenarios.

Photo by Visit Mobile | Community Event in Downtown Mobile

30 years may feel far away, but it's helpful to put this timeframe into context.

Construction was completed on Mobile Government Plaza.

The TV show Friends debuted.

The City of Mobile's website went online.

Approximately 30 years ago...

Resilient Mobile

30 years from now...

A home bought with a 30-year mortgage today will be paid off.

A child born today may be having their own child.

Mobile will celebrate its 352nd year as a city.

Resilience is good leadership.

Investing in resilience is critical to ensure that Mobile can be a safer, more business and family-friendly city for ALL Mobilians for generations to come, no matter the challenges ahead.

Investing in resilience:

Saves the City money.

Future shocks and evolving challenges are inevitable. Investing in risk reduction and resilience measures before a disruption occurs can save lives, reduce damage to homes and businesses, safeguard critical facilities and infrastructure, and limit impacts to economic activity. Investing in hazard mitigation measures is shown to save approximately $6 for every $1 spent.[2] Resilience makes fiscal sense.

Supports proactive day-to-day functions of the City.

Investing in resilience places Mobile in a forward-looking position for making sound fiscal and planning decisions. Rather than constantly responding to challenges as they come, resilience shifts the focus to proactive planning so that Mobile can make sure the investments and decisions made today last into the future.

Unlocks additional resources, funding, and partnerships.

A resilience plan articulates to partners and funders how specific actions fit into the bigger picture of supporting a thriving Mobile. Other cities that have invested in resilience planning have been able to strategically leverage external public and private funding to support implementation. Additionally, investing in resilience fosters coordination and collaboration across city government and with community partners. These partnerships can help maximize the benefit of resources we already have in Mobile.

Supports a safe and thriving future for Mobile and its residents.

Ultimately, investing in resilience is about investing in our city's future—so that Mobile continues to be a place for families and businesses to thrive for the long-term.

Photo by Visit Mobile | Mobilians enjoy LODA Art-walk, a free monthly event that showcases Mobile's visual, performing, and culinary arts community

Resilience is an ongoing practice.

A resilience approach plans holistically for a safe and thriving future for the city's people, infrastructure, environment, and economy. Improving Mobile's resilience will require new approaches to problem solving and decision making. Business-as-usual approaches that are reactionary and siloed are not sufficient in preparing to meet the diversity of challenges Mobile may face in the future.

The practice of building city resilience is not a stand-alone endeavor that can be achieved by one person or department alone—it calls for coordinated action across City departments and with partner agencies and organizations for Mobile to be successful. This Resilience Plan must work alongside and be woven into the suite of other plans that guide investments in infrastructure, the economy, public services, communities, and the natural environment. As Mobile continues to devote resources to making the city a great place to live, work, and raise a family, this Resilience Plan will help provide that these investments withstand and adapt to the challenges of the future.

Resilience in practice means being:

Risk-Aware

Understanding the multiple threats Mobile may face and incorporating the best-available data on risk into planning and decision making.

Forward-Looking

Planning for an uncertain future over the next 10–30 years—understanding how environmental, climate, and economic changes may shift risk over time while also setting an aspirational vision for Mobile's future.

Holistic

Breaking down silos to build connections across issues and sectors to address challenges in an integrated way.

Photo by D'Ambro Chatman, City of Mobile | Resilient Mobile Action development workshop with Advisory Group members and city staff.

Inclusive

Including all community perspectives in planning and decision making, particularly those historically underserved and most vulnerable to hazards.

Place-Based

Tailoring solutions to the unique conditions on-the-ground in specific communities in Mobile.

Mobile's Vision for Resilience

*A **Resilient Mobile** will ensure **all** Mobilians are poised to thrive in the face of increasing challenges and changes in the environment, climate, and economy.*

Strengthening the resilience of Mobile does not mean asking residents to do more with less. Rather, Mobile will continue to strengthen and adapt the underlying systems that support its community—every day and in times of crisis. Mobile cannot meet the challenges of the future or propel forward after a sudden shock until everyone starts with real access to the same basic resources and opportunities.

Systems Critical to Mobile's Resilience

The following five systems are foundational to a resilient and thriving Mobile. Each system is interconnected, meaning efforts to enhance resilience in one may benefit the others, while shocks and stressors can create cascading challenges for the city. A holistic approach is required.

For a more detailed assessment of these systems critical to Mobile's Resilience, please see the *City-Wide Resilience Assessment.*

*A **Resilient Mobile is ONE Mobile:** focused on strengthening the links in the chain that connect and coordinate across all of these systems.*

INFRASTRUCTURE

Reliable infrastructure is the connective tissue of a thriving city—supporting commerce, enabling access to essential services and resources, protecting from and aiding recovery after catastrophic events, and sustaining healthy communities. Infrastructure that protects residents and connects the city raises quality of life and has the potential to attract new businesses, workers, and residents. Aging and outdated infrastructure is a widespread issue across the nation, but in older cities like Mobile, it is particularly important to address. Upgrading and maintaining infrastructure is the foundation for improving Mobile's resilience, allowing it to thrive now and into the future.

ECONOMY

Mobile has a strong and growing economy that has weathered several booms and busts over the city's long history. Mobile continues to leverage its vital role in global commerce as a major port city, while also attracting new industries, expanding into emerging sectors, and cultivating local small businesses. A resilient economy is one that fosters prosperity for all. Therefore, improving jobs and providing wealth-building opportunities for all residents will ensure that the benefits of Mobile's growing economy reach the entire community. Anchor industries such as education, healthcare, and small businesses continue to grow alongside manufacturing new ships and airplanes.

Photo by Mobile Public Works | Department of Public Works employees install new traffic lights and pedestrian crosswalk lights

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Planning for the future is nearly impossible if you are struggling to reach a baseline today. Improving the health and wellbeing of all Mobilians is essential to Mobile's resilience and requires focusing on the fundamentals—safe and obtainable housing, clean and healthy environments, safe communities, food access, quality education, a stable income, and accessible physical and mental health resources. Supporting all individuals in meeting their basic day-to-day needs strengthens the entire community's ability to survive and thrive when Mobile experiences its next acute shock.

COMMUNITIES

Mobile is a racially and culturally diverse city with a rich and unique heritage. The traditions and community events Mobilians celebrate together are part of what makes Mobile such a great place to live. Mobile still has much work ahead to ensure community cohesion and equitable opportunities exist for all residents, and City leaders are committed to both strengthening existing programs as well as creating new ones. Strong and connected communities are vital to the city's resilience.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Mobilians engage with the natural world in many ways, all of which rely on the quality of the environment including air, water, and green and blue spaces as well as access to those spaces. Maintaining and improving the health of the city's natural resources is central to Mobile's identity as a coastal city and necessary to sustain the region's bustling economy. Access to Mobile's natural spaces, parks, and waterways is highly valued for recreation and is essential for the health and wellbeing of residents.

How we developed this resilience plan for Mobile

*City resilience planning starts by building a **picture of today** and then creating a pathway to a **resilient tomorrow.***

This type of planning is not a static process with a defined end point, but instead represents a long-term vision that is adaptable to the needs of the community over time. Most importantly, city resilience planning is guided by those invested in the city's future, including its businesses, utility companies, community leaders, educators, residents, and City departments.

The City of Mobile worked with a **Planning Team** led by The Water Institute and supported by Sea Grant, Mississippi State University, Volkert, Ephriam and Associates LLC, Waggonner & Ball, and Moffatt & Nichol to develop a Resilience Assessment.[1] This assessment was completed in December 2023 and served as the foundation for developing this actionable Resilience Plan. The goal of the Resilience Assessment was to determine **where we are**. It sets a baseline understanding of the resilience of Mobile's systems, institutions, cultural and historic resources, and businesses to chronic stressors and acute shocks today and into the future.

This Resilience Plan defines **where we want to go**. It investigates options and identifies actionable steps the City can take to withstand, adapt, and thrive in the face of future challenges so that Mobile remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family for generations to come.

The Resilience Assessment and Plan were developed in consultation and collaboration with a **Steering Committee** of City leaders, an **Internal Planning & Review Team** of subject matter experts across selected City departments, four external **Advisory Groups** of technical experts and community stakeholders (Infrastructure & the Built Environment, Economy, Community Health & Quality of Life, and Environment), as well as the public so that the Assessment and Plan reflect the priorities and perspectives of Mobile's diverse people and institutions. The process for developing the Resilience Assessment and Plan is described in more detail on the following pages.

Phase 1: Resilience Assessment

August 2022–December 2023

Establish a Vision for a Resilient Mobile

Summarized the collective values and goals shared during multiple meetings and discussions with City leadership, staff, and Advisory Group members.

Synthesize Data on Changing Conditions

Reviewed and summarized localized projections on changing climate, sea-level rise, economic, and social factors.

Define Priority Chronic Stressors and Acute Shocks

Assessed public perceptions of the most important threats facing Mobile and the City's capacity to address them through a public survey and direct community outreach.

Review Assets

Summarized the holistic set of systems (Infrastructure, Economy, Health and Wellbeing, Community, and Natural Resources) critical to Mobile's resilience, assessing the potential vulnerabilities and risks to each posed by the exposure of key assets to shocks and stressors, and opportunities to build on existing efforts to strengthen those systems.

Research Existing Plans

Identified opportunities to incorporate resilience goals into existing plans, policies, and programs.

Resilience Assessment workshops with City of Mobile leaders

Timeline of Phase 1 Engagement

- August 21, 2022: Internal Planning Team
- September 1, 2022: Steering Committee
- November 16, 2022: Environment Advisory Group, Infrastructure & Built Environment Advisory Group
- November 17, 2022: Economy Advisory Group
- December 8, 2022: Community Health & Quality of Life Advisory Group
- December 14, 2022: Steering Committee
- September–December 2022: 17 one-on-one and small group discussions with City staff and other stakeholders
- March 21–April 21, 2023: Public Outreach and Survey (458 responses)
- October 2, 2023: Internal Planning Team
- October 3, 2023: Advisory Groups (all)
- October 4, 2023: Steering Committee

Phase 2: Resilience Plan

December 2023–October 2024

Identify Opportunities to Increase Mobile's Resilience

Built on findings from the Resilience Assessment to identify an initial suite of potential Resilience actions, advanced ideas with City leadership, staff, and Advisory Group members during a day-long Action Planning Workshop and with members of the community during a Public Open House.

Develop Concepts for Resilience Projects in Mobile Neighborhoods

Hosted spatial planning workshops with stakeholders and the public to explore initial ideas for physical projects that can reduce flood and other hazard risks while strengthening community resilience across Mobile's neighborhoods and watersheds.

Refine Actions and Identify Implementation Pathways

Refined actions and their implementation details and developed the Resilience Plan in consultation with City leadership and staff.

Timeline of Phase 2 Engagement

- December 13, 2023: Advisory Groups, Internal Planning Team, and Steering Committee Action Planning Workshop
- January 30, 2024: Public Open House
- March 5–6, 2024: Spatial Planning Workshop
- March 6, 2024: Public Open House

Photos by D'Ambro Chatman and The Water Institute | December 2023 Action Planning Workshop

Resilience Actions
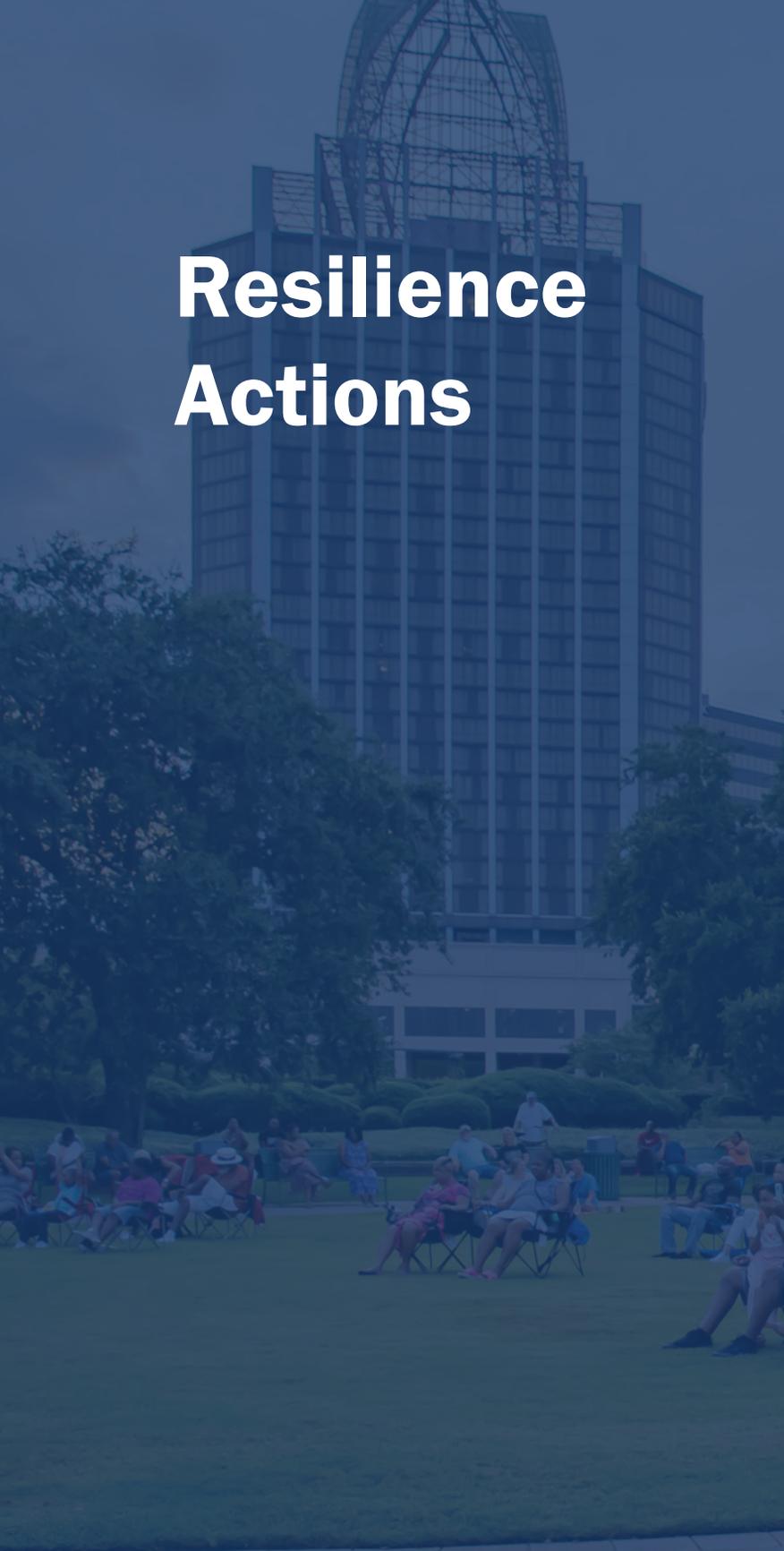
Organization of Pillars and Actions

Mobile has made great strides in becoming a more resilient city. Nevertheless, resilience requires a long-term vision for Mobile's future in the face of increasing and uncertain challenges combined with actionable steps that can start today to make the community safer, stronger, and more adaptable. This approach will support Mobile in remaining a family-friendly and business-friendly city for years to come.

With 25 Actions and 74 Sub-Actions, Resilient Mobile provides a coordinated and layered approach to strengthening the city's resilience in the face of its unique shocks and stressors.

The development of actions for the Resilience Plan are guided by the following seven pillars that organize the City's strategic initiatives. This consistent framing provides that opportunities identified through Mobile's resilience planning process are embedded in the day-to-day work and existing plans of the City and its partners so that Mobile is building resilience in everything it does.

Mobile's Seven Pillars

PROTECT

Secure the long-term health, safety, and adaptability of communities, critical facilities, infrastructure, and ecosystems.

PREPARE

Promote a proactive response mode, accounting for all hazards.

GROW

Expand urban development and the economy in a way that is resilient in the long-term and expands prosperity for all Mobilians.

CONNECT

Remove barriers that have kept communities disconnected from services, resources, and opportunities.

EDUCATE

Support individual economic resilience.

ENJOY

Improve quality of life for all Mobilians.

ENGAGE

Strengthen collaboration to implement and operationalize resilience.

How to Read an Action

Collectively, the Actions included in this Resilience Plan position the City of Mobile to support a safe and thriving future for all Mobilians. The 25 Actions are formatted to communicate key features (detailed below):

Action Description & Resilience Value

The first paragraph under each Action provides key details about the Action, describes how the Action advances resilience in Mobile, and explains how the Action will provide benefits to communities.

Shocks & Stressors Addressed

Each Action includes the most relevant shocks and stressors it aims to address.

Resilience Systems

Each Action identifies in bold the system critical to Mobile's resilience—infrastructure, economy, health and wellbeing, community, or natural resources—most relevant to that particular Action, as well as the other interconnected systems that also benefit from the Action.

Timeframe

Each Action contains an implementation timeframe for when the City anticipates the Action will be significantly advanced or fully completed. Implementation timeframes include: Immediate (2025), Short-term (2030), Medium-term (2035), and Long-term (2050).

Related Actions

Most of the Actions in this plan relate to each in some way. For example, protecting and restoring natural resources (Action 3) should be done in coordination with increasing public access to them (Action 19). To guide coordinated implementation, each Action identifies a list of other Actions in the plan that are connected in some way to it.

Sub-Actions

Each Action contains multiple Sub-Actions that provide greater detail on how the Action can be implemented. Sub-Actions discuss the specific programs, projects, or policies that the City and its partners can advance to strengthen Mobile's resilience.

Photo by Mobile Public Works | Parks and Recreation Department employees install new landscaping in a median

Resilience Pillar: PROTECT

Secure the long-term health, safety, and adaptability of communities, critical facilities, infrastructure, and ecosystems.

1 | Assess and incorporate future conditions as part of infrastructure planning, maintenance, and replacement investments.

Mobile has been prioritizing the assessment and integration of future conditions into its infrastructure planning, maintenance, and replacement investments. This proactive approach aims to enhance the city's resilience by anticipating and preparing for the impacts of elements such as climate change, population growth, and technological advancements. By systematically evaluating future scenarios and incorporating adaptive strategies into infrastructure projects, Mobile's facilities and assets will be able to withstand evolving challenges and continue to efficiently provide essential services. This resilience-building effort not only safeguards public safety and minimizes disruptions, but also promotes sustainable development and long-term economic stability in the face of uncertain future conditions.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Hurricanes | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Infrastructure or Building Failure | Extreme Temperatures | Sea-Level Rise | Climate Change | Aging Infrastructure | Heat Island Effects | Chronic Stormwater Flooding | Impervious Surfaces

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
INFRASTRUCTURE | Economy | Health and Wellbeing

TIMEFRAME
Immediate (2025)

RELATED ACTIONS
Connects to all actions

SUB-ACTIONS

1.1 Establish regularly updated assessments of projected changes in urban development, climate, sea levels, and the economy, and their impacts on Mobile's infrastructure and facilities.

The City has the opportunity to consider infrastructure capacity and design life when evaluating stormwater management, roadways, buildings, and other assets to strengthen resilience against evolving environmental and economic factors. By staying proactive and well-informed through ongoing evaluations, the City can adapt infrastructure planning and development strategies to mitigate risks and capitalize on opportunities. Regular updates align decisions with long-term sustainability goals, enhancing Mobile's capacity to thrive amidst changing conditions.

1.2 Integrate future conditions into the development of a Stormwater Master Plan.

The City will develop a comprehensive Stormwater Master Plan with a complete map of the existing drainage structures located throughout Mobile. This Master Plan will identify unknown drainage infrastructure, critical infrastructure in need of repair, undersized infrastructure in need of upgrades, and gaps where more stormwater infrastructure or study is needed. The City's current stormwater ordinance imposes moderate requirements on new developments to properly manage the additional stormwater generated from the development. To prepare for future conditions, enhanced requirements for detaining and treating stormwater may be implemented, such as setting defined tailwater requirements and accounting for increased intensities in rainfall.

1.3 Incorporate resilient design measures into new and upgraded streets and roadways.

Implementing resilient design measures in new and upgraded streets and roadways involves integrating multifunctional strategies. The City can continue to incorporate "complete streets" features, green infrastructure, and heat mitigation strategies where feasible and cost-effective. The complete streets approach moves beyond traditional vehicular standards to embrace complete streets principles, which enhance safety and accessibility with features like expanded crosswalks, curb extensions, and dedicated spaces for bicycles and transit, such as in the recent redevelopment of Broad Street. Green infrastructure, which includes features such as bioretention planters (planted depressions designed to collect and absorb stormwater runoff) and permeable paving (hard surfacing that allows water to seep into the ground), enhances stormwater management, while shade trees and light-colored pavements help mitigate urban heat. Updating street design standards supports sustainability and resilience, benefiting both public works and private developments. In 2023 the City released a *Low Impact Development (LID) Design Stormwater Manual*[3] that provides recommendations for implementing resilient design measures in new and upgraded street projects.

2 | Strengthen the resilience and operability of critical facilities and assets.

Photo by Mobile Public Works | Equipment Maintentence Department welding infrastructure to provide safe, reliable equipment

By prioritizing the resilience of its critical facilities and assets through infrastructure improvements and operational strategies, the City of Mobile can mitigate disruptions from natural disasters, technological failures, and emergencies. By fortifying City-owned property and assets that provide access to critical facilities such as hospitals, emergency response centers, and utility infrastructure, the City can better prepare to maintain continuity of operations, safeguard public health, and enhance community wellbeing before, during, and after extreme events. This proactive approach will allow the City to minimize potential economic losses, and will also strengthen Mobile's overall resilience—supporting a thriving city for residents and businesses in the face of future challenges.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Hurricanes | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Hazardous Materials Incident | Infrastructure or Building Failure | High Winds | Climate Change | Sea-level Rise | Aging Infrastructure | Heat Island Effects | Chronic Stormwater Flooding | Tornadoes

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
INFRASTRUCTURE | Economy | Health and Wellbeing

TIMEFRAME
Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS
Connects to all actions

SUB-ACTIONS

2.1 Regularly assess the vulnerability of City facilities to flood, wind, and other hazards, and prioritize facilities for upgrades.

To enhance resilience, the City can regularly assess its facilities' vulnerability to flooding, wind, and other hazards, and prioritize facilities for upgrades and retrofits based on their design life and anticipated future conditions. Critical to this process is integrating resilience retrofits into the *Capital Improvement Plan*[4] and, aligning investments with long-term sustainability goals. The City can evaluate opportunities for incorporating energy efficiency upgrades alongside resilience measures to produce co-benefits of enhanced facility performance and reduced environmental impact. Further, the City has the opportunity to consider relocating facilities to safer areas if necessary. This comprehensive approach prepares City facilities to withstand future conditions while fostering sustainability and efficiency.

2.2 Establish design standards for critical facilities and assets that account for increasing hazard risks.

The City aims to establish robust design standards for critical facilities and assets that incorporate increasing hazard risks. This includes updating existing facilities and designing new ones with future conditions in mind by considering design life and replacement timelines. Strategic planning involves identifying locations for redundancy and decentralized power sources to support operational continuity during emergencies. Collaboration with utilities is essential for assessing capacity and adapting to regional growth, sea-level rise, and climate change within established frameworks. These efforts expand upon Federal Emergency Management Agency and City code regulations, aiming to fortify infrastructure while fostering sustainable development and protecting community assets.

2.3 Strengthen cybersecurity measures to support the security of City information and infrastructure.

The City is working to enhance cybersecurity and safeguard information and infrastructure. Many successful strategies are already in place, including data encryption and regular system audits, storage of digital assets and critical systems in off-site locations, and installing redundant fiber underground to expand future capacity. By leveraging these successful strategies, the City aims to protect against threats like theft and connectivity loss. As technology rapidly evolves, the City has the opportunity to strengthen its resilience against evolving cyber threats while strengthening the continuity and security of vital services and data. This can be achieved by aligning with industry standards, leveraging external expertise where necessary, and implementing comprehensive security measures tailored to city-specific needs, including threat detection systems and employee training on cybersecurity best practices.

2.4 Work with federal, state, and other partners charged with implementing major infrastructure projects in Mobile to support alignment with City resilience efforts.

Major infrastructure projects such as the commercial airport relocation to Brookley Field and Mobile River Bridge project are underway. The City seeks to continue collaboration with federal, state, and other partners leading these and future infrastructure projects to support alignment with the City's resilience efforts. This collaboration may involve the City's active participation in design standard discussions to advocate for the consideration of future conditions and incorporating resilient design measures where suitable. The City also has the opportunity to assess the resilience of City-managed infrastructure, such as roads to the airport, to maintain alignment with appropriate standards. These collaborative endeavors integrate best practices and resilience principles so that infrastructure projects contribute to a sustainable and resilient future for Mobile.

3 | Protect and restore natural habitats to increase ecosystem functions and provide shoreline protection.

Photo by D'Ambro Chatman | Brookley by the Bay, a site planned for gathering places in addition to providing dynamic ecosystems
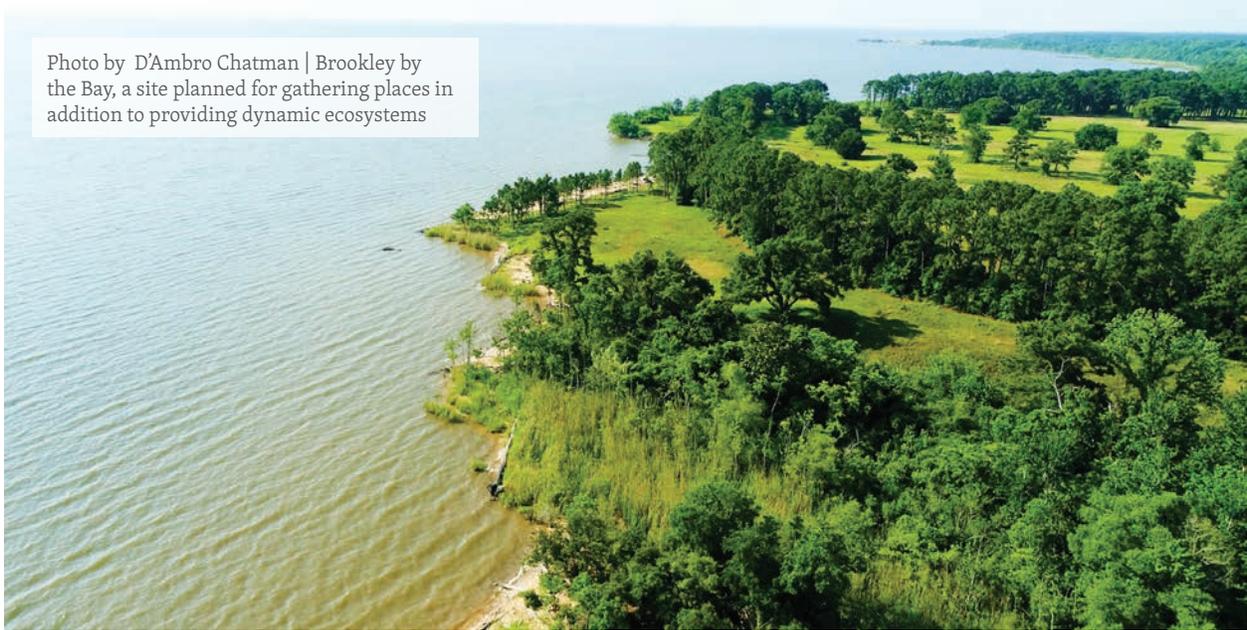
Coastal ecosystems and natural habitats provide numerous benefits for the residents of Mobile, and continued investment into protecting these resources is critical. As a coastal city, Mobile's wetlands and coastal habitats provide significant ecological benefits; these habitats help to clean water by removing contaminants, reduce flood risk associated with heavy rain and storms, and buffer the effects of extreme heat. Protection of natural resources and habitats also translates into improved social and economic benefits by creating recreational spaces for residents, providing opportunities for environmental education, supporting jobs in commercial fisheries, and enhancing tourism opportunities for visitors.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Hurricanes | Water Quality Contamination | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Climate Change | Sea-Level Rise | Chronic Stormwater Flooding | Heat Island Effects | Environmental Injustice | Air Quality Contamination | Impervious Surfaces

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
NATURAL RESOURCES | Health and Wellbeing | Infrastructure | Economy

TIMEFRAME
Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS
Action 1: Assess and incorporate future conditions as part of infrastructure planning, maintenance, and replacement investments.

Action 4: Improve water and soil quality.

Action 11: Incorporate a resilience lens into land use planning and building regulations.

Action 13: Continue to implement the greenway trail system program for habitat and community connectivity.

Action 18: Increase public access to parks.

Action 19: Increase public access to natural resources, waterfronts, and waterways.

SUB-ACTIONS

3.1 Explore mechanisms for expanding wetland habitat protections.

Urban wetlands provide important ecological services and hazard mitigation to Mobile communities and offer long-term protections for both residents and built infrastructure. The City can continue efforts to expand wetland protections and identify areas for future preservation. By working with the appropriate agencies and organizations to establish balanced policies and protections, the City can support the conservation of wetland habitats while also continuing to provide opportunities for urban growth and development.

3.2 Restore natural floodplains, floodways, and stormwater conveyance, where feasible and beneficial.

As a coastal city, Mobile is exposed to numerous shocks and stressors that contribute to increased flood risk including hurricanes, storm surge, riverine flooding, and extreme rainfall events. By continuing to restore, conserve, and improve natural floodplains which buffer storm surge and excessive runoff, the City can reduce exposure to coastal hazards and flooding throughout Mobile. This can be achieved by leveraging existing partnerships with local, private, state, and federal entities to pursue funding opportunities for projects with multiple social and ecological co-benefits. Projects that incorporate new stormwater storage and conveyance infrastructure in strategic locations may be prioritized.

3.3 Strategically protect and restore coastal shorelines.

Mobile has unique and diverse coastal habitats and shoreline features that face long-term challenges from erosion, sea-level rise, and hurricanes. The City has the opportunity to work with partners to invest in restoring and protecting coastal shorelines through continued implementation of living shorelines and other nature-based solutions that are able to adapt over time as shoreline conditions change (e.g., projects such as Brookley by the Bay). The City can also continue supporting monitoring and research efforts with partner organizations and agencies. These types of efforts can provide critical datapoints for scientific projections, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of different restoration strategies, and increase awareness of ongoing coastal protection efforts and shoreline restorations projects.

4 | Improve water and soil quality.

Photo by D'Ambro Chatman | Mobilians enjoy Helen Wood Park, one of the public access points to Mobile Bay

Improving water and soil quality is an important action that the City of Mobile can take to protect the health of residents and natural ecosystems. By enhancing water and soil quality through infrastructure upgrades, community involvement, and comprehensive management plans (such as the development of a comprehensive stormwater infrastructure plan and the integration of wastewater considerations into stormwater management efforts), Mobile can support a cleaner and safer city.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED

Water Quality Contamination | Abandoned/Contaminated Properties | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Chronic Stormwater Flooding | Public Health Emergencies | Aging Infrastructure | Environmental Injustice | Climate Change | Sea-Level Rise | Air Quality Contamination

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS

NATURAL RESOURCES | Infrastructure | Economy | Health and Wellbeing | Communities

TIMEFRAME

Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 3: Protect and restore natural habitats to increase ecosystem functions and provide shoreline protection.

Action 21: Strengthen Litter-Free Mobile plan of education, prevention, collection, and enforcement.

Action 14: Continue to implement the greenway trail system program for habitat and community connectivity.

SUB-ACTIONS

4.1 Leverage available water quality monitoring data to inform decisions.

The City continues to use water monitoring data collected throughout Mobile and local watersheds to make recommendations aimed at preventing potential threats to residents' health and safety and to help safeguard natural ecosystems from contamination. The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program takes an annual inventory of any identified impacts of the municipal storm sewer system on the City's water to support communication of identified issues to residents. The City's Brownfield program has identified contaminated areas in need of rehabilitation and can provide locations that can be used for beneficial projects such as stormwater parks and other public infrastructure to mitigate and perhaps remedy the potential contamination. The City has also been supporting the efforts of local environmental research entities (i.e., Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, MBNEP) that promote increased environmental conservation, preservation, and sustainability practices pursuant to current and pending Watershed Management Plans of the Dog River[5], Three Mile Creek[6], Western Shore[7], Western Delta, and Upper Tensaw-Tombigbee. Lastly, to address the need for capital improvements that repair, rehabilitate, and install infrastructure and advance floodplain management initiatives, the City is actively seeking to develop a Comprehensive Stormwater Infrastructure Plan. These management programs and associated environmental monitoring data inform strategic water management decisions for the City of Mobile.

4.2 Clean up and revitalize vacant properties.

Strategic redevelopment of vacant properties is an action that many cities have taken to meet multiple resilience goals. The City of Mobile is actively identifying properties targeted for "highest and best use" for ecotourism, commercial, light industrial, and retail uses through City programming, and is fostering a collaborative effort with partners throughout the state to revitalize low to moderate income communities through "smart growth" redevelopment planning. Finally, the City's Office of Neighborhood Development is working to apply progressive planning tools that remediate blighted and abandoned properties and support their revitalization through infill development. These efforts would support reduction of residual soil and water contamination that may be present at these sites to benefit residents and increase ecosystem health.

4.3 Support MAWSS implementation of *MAWSS Vision 2026*.

As the City of Mobile expands its spatial footprint, Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS) is preparing to meet capacity needs for water and wastewater systems of these growing communities. To further support the implementation of the MAWSS strategic plan, *MAWSS Vision 2026*[8,] the City can support expanding education, outreach, and two-way communication efforts between MAWSS, residents, and businesses.

5 | Pursue a holistic approach to public health and safety.

Providence Hospital in Mobile

A city with healthy, safe residents is a more resilient city. When residents are healthy and safe, they are better able to prepare for, persist through, and recover from acute shocks and chronic stressors. Strengthening public health and safety involves advancing access to health care resources and increasing public awareness of these resources, but also requires proactive, innovative approaches to crime prevention that prioritize the wellbeing of all Mobile residents. Strengthened coordination between the City and local partners that provide these critical services can support improved access to health care resources and resource-focused public health education, including the expansion of mental health services. Additionally, investment in evidence-based crime prevention measures will be most effective if strategies address potential crime or misconduct comprehensively and from multiple angles. Collectively, these integrated approaches to public health and safety can support a stronger Mobile, and help the City achieve its vision for resilience.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED

Public Health Emergencies | Crime and Violence | Extreme Temperature | Heat Island Effects | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Hurricane | Racial Tension | Climate Change | Social Inequality | Drug Addiction | Health Care Access / Chronic Disease | Air Quality Contamination

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS

HEALTH AND WELLBEING | Communities | Infrastructure | Economy

TIMEFRAME

Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 2: Assess and incorporate future conditions as part of infrastructure planning, maintenance, and replacement investments.

Action 6: Operationalize emergency response plans.

Action 20: Continue and expand public events and programs that build social cohesion and sense of community.

Action 22: Increase community awareness, information, and participation in Resilience Actions.

Action 23: Strengthen collaboration among City departments and across the County, agencies, and utility partners.

Action 24: Coordinate resources and service delivery between government, non-profit, and civic partners.

SUB-ACTIONS

5.1 Invest in established crime prevention measures.

A holistic approach to crime prevention can both improve public safety and preserve the limited time and resources of Mobile's Police (MPD) and Fire and Rescue (MFRD) departments. Prioritizing infrastructure investments like improved street lighting in shared public spaces and programmatic investments like outcomes-based wraparound services for at-risk populations are interventions that address crime prevention in the short term, but also tackle the source of crime risk to both mitigate crime and yield multiple resilience benefits.

5.2 Expand mental health support plans and increase public awareness of available services.

Establishing mental health support plans and increasing residents' access to and awareness of the services available to them can both reduce the number of mental health-related crises and support safe outcomes for residents experiencing these types of crises. Working with State legislators and local nonprofit organizations, the City can support and promote the expansion of the 2-1-1 and/or 988 hotlines to connect residents in need of mental health services to personnel trained to respond to mental health crises. This measure can both support people in crisis receiving the correct resources and prevent the overextension of MPD and MFRD.

5.3 Improve access to health care, especially during extreme weather.

Hospitals and emergency healthcare clinics are places that residents need to be able to access regardless of the weather. Because many of Mobile's emergency health providers are located close to Three Mile Creek, the surrounding streets that may usually provide residents with public transit or vehicle access to these providers may face the risk of flooding during tropical storms or other heavy rainfall events. The City can analyze existing road networks to plan and invest strategically in constructing green infrastructure and "gray"/structural measures (e.g., structures such as dams, seawalls, roads, pipes) for addressing flood risk around buildings containing emergency health care services. This will support Mobilians in accessing the emergency care that they might need before, during, or after an extreme weather event.

5.4 Expand public knowledge and understanding of health care measures and resources.

Residents that are well-informed about their health care options are more likely to experience improved health outcomes. Providing clear and targeted messaging to residents about the healthcare resources available to them in Mobile can increase the number of residents seeking proactive and preventative healthcare while reducing the number of medical emergencies. Working with Mobile County Health Department (MCHD) to improve and expand healthcare education, the City can support residents' health outcomes by providing them with the tools and information needed to make better personal healthcare decisions.

Resilience Pillar: **PREPARE**

Promote a proactive response mode, accounting for all hazards.

6 | Operationalize emergency response plans.

City-wide planning for emergency response management and mitigating against future hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities are critical for the future of Mobile. While not all emergencies and economic disruptions can be predicted, the City can invest in operationalizing cohesive emergency response planning within all departments and through partnerships to prepare for various emergency scenarios including environmental, economic, and health-related emergencies. The City can also improve communications, alerts, and preparation planning with vulnerable populations and communities to prepare residents for emergency situations.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED

Hurricanes | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Water Quality Contamination | Hazardous Materials Incident | Tornadoes | Public Health Emergencies | Infrastructure or Building Failure | Extreme Temperatures | Terrorism | High Winds | Social Inequity | Racial Tension | Heat Island Impacts | Climate Change | Sea-Level Rise

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS

HEALTH AND WELLBEING | Infrastructure | Communities | Economy

TIMEFRAME

Immediate (2025)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 5: Pursue a holistic approach to public health and safety.

Action 23: Strengthen collaboration among City departments, as well as with the County and utility partners.

Action 24: Coordinate resources and service delivery between government, non-profit, and civic partners.

Action 25: Strengthen regional, state, and federal partnerships to advance resilience.

SUB-ACTIONS

6.1 Create a unified City-wide plan for emergency response.

Emergency response preparation requires coordination, planning, and resources across multiple departments, agencies, businesses, and organizations. A unified emergency response plan can bring together existing operational procedures between different departments into a standardized plan for responding to different types of emergencies. The City also has the opportunity to create guidelines for when to initiate emergency planning procedures, including determining when and how to respond to extreme temperatures, as well as for communicating emergency guidance to the public (e.g., transportation planning and shelter information to move residents out of harm's way). All City response planning can benefit from routine reviews and updates so that each City department is prepared for every emergency response scenario.

6.2 Coordinate emergency planning with utility companies.

Utility companies play a critical role in supporting the preparation and planning for emergency response. Before an emergency occurs, the City can facilitate coordination with utility companies to share information, data, and maps of existing utility infrastructure and the residents that those utilities serve to support coordinated emergency planning. The City can also work with utility companies to incorporate utility infrastructure planning, protocols, and procedures into existing City emergency response planning (see Sub-Action 6.1).

6.3 Improve preparedness for pandemics, vector-borne diseases, and other public health emergencies.

The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the importance of planning for pandemics and other public health-related emergencies at the local level. Climate change is anticipated to not only exacerbate existing public health issues, but also increase the possibility of new public health emergencies, such as vector-borne diseases that may emerge from a warmer climate. The City can develop operating procedures to provide support to the MCHD and local hospitals in responding to various public health-related emergencies, including identifying key departments for support in emergency response, assigning roles and responsibilities, coordinating logistics and resources, improving the continuity of City services, providing health guidelines for City staff, and communicating response planning and health recommendations to the public.

6.4 Connect with vulnerable populations before and during emergencies.

Communicating with residents is a critical component of emergency response, but reaching vulnerable populations within Mobile requires additional consideration. By working with community partners and organizations, the City can identify and better understand the needs of vulnerable populations within Mobile—including elderly populations, populations in which English is a second language, residents with disabilities, and residents identifying as medically fragile. By prioritizing education, outreach, and planning within all of Mobile's communities, the City can help more residents prepare for various types of emergencies. The City can also collaborate with partner organizations and businesses during emergencies to account for vulnerable populations and distribute necessary information and resources. Finally, the City can enhance communications with all Mobilians through improved alerts that provide information regarding extreme heat and freezing events, driving/road conditions, and cooling/heating center locations and hours of operation.

7 | Prepare for extreme heat and cold events.

Photo by D'Ambro Chatman | Green spaces and trees like those in Bienville Square reduce heat island effect

Extreme heat and cold events can pose severe health-related, economic, and infrastructural challenges and have the potential to impact every community in Mobile. These events disproportionately impact vulnerable individuals and communities and coordinated planning and training is required to prepare appropriately. The City can identify and assess communities and populations that are most vulnerable to the impacts of both extreme heat and cold, and can provide education and awareness on the impacts, severity, and timing of these events along with guidelines on how to prepare. The City can also prioritize incorporating the use of trees, vegetation, green spaces, and building design features that can help reduce the negative effects of high temperatures. These efforts can help mitigate the dangers of extreme heat and cold events by educating Mobilians on how to prepare and by providing resources to assist them.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Public Health Emergencies | Extreme Temperatures | Climate Change | Social Inequality | Heat Island Impacts | Health Care Access/Chronic Disease | Environmental Injustice

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
HEALTH AND WELLBEING | Infrastructure | Communities | Natural Resources

TIMEFRAME
Immediate (2025)

RELATED ACTIONS
Action 5: Pursue a holistic approach to public health and safety.

Action 6: Operationalize emergency response plans.

Action 8: Develop resilience hubs that can support communities day-to-day and during emergencies.

Action 16: Increase resilience and environmental education opportunities for Mobilians of all ages.

Action 22: Increase community awareness, information, and participation in Resilience Actions.

SUB-ACTIONS

7.1 Create standard operating procedures that define when shelters and community centers open during extreme weather events.

Community centers and shelters equipped with air conditioning and heating can help Mobile residents during extreme heat and cold weather events. By developing partnerships with businesses, the City can access additional facilities that can become available during emergenciess or extreme weather conditions; the City can help provide shelter and resources for more residents in need. Creating standard operating procedures can support shelters and similar partner facilities in opening prior to extreme weather events and maintaining extended availability during periods of prolonged, extreme conditions. Establishing clear parameters that define an extreme event for the City of Mobile can cut wasted time, ensure tools and resources are ready when they are needed, and allow time to communicate across all platforms in order to reach those most in need. Parameters should include what temperature is deemed extreme, the duration a shelter will be opened, and the resources provided at a given shelter.

7.2 Reduce urban heat islands through strategic investment in shade structures, cooling features, and trees.

Urban heat islands are areas of open urbanized development, with minimal shade or tree canopy that experience higher temperatures than surrounding natural areas. Urban areas typically experience higher temperatures because buildings, roads, parking lots and other structures and paved surfaces absorb more heat than green spaces. To reduce the effects of urban heat islands, the City can work with partners to identify and prioritize locations to incorporate shade structures (e.g., at bus stops). The City can also support reducing temperatures in areas identified as urban heat islands by integrating shade and cooling features into design standards for new development, park improvements, planned projects, and existing policies and procedures.

7.3 Educate residents of all ages on the dangers of outdoor activities during extreme heat events and ways to mitigate them.

Extreme heat poses serious health risks to all Mobile residents participating in outdoor events and activities, but especially to children involved in youth sports, the elderly, and outdoor workers. The City can work with partners to develop training materials and share best practice recommendations on avoiding extreme heat as well as how to recognize and respond to the signs of heat-related illness with schools, youth sports organizations, employers of outdoor workers, and groups that conduct outdoor events and activities.

8 | Develop Resilience Hubs that can support communities day-to-day and during emergencies.

Resilience hubs can provide services during or between emergencies, such as food and supply distribution
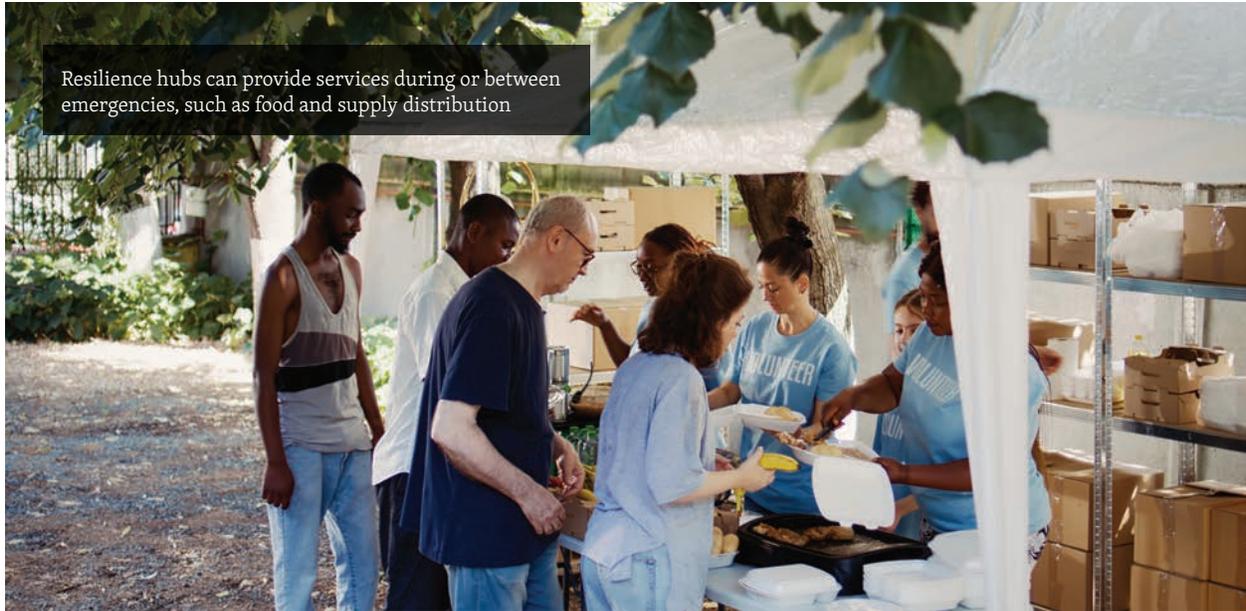
Resilience Hubs are facilities within the community that can provide needed resources to residents during emergencies and typical day-to-day "blue-sky" conditions. Resilience Hubs are often established within a trusted community presence, like a community center or church, or non-governmental organization (NGOs) and can serve a variety of purposes including distributing resources (e.g., food, water, supplies), serving as a power and communications hub, providing shelter to residents during emergencies, and offering other programmatic support such as medical care, educational activities, workforce training, and community/cultural events throughout the year.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED

Hurricanes | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Extreme Temperatures | Tornadoes | Public Health Emergency | Infrastructure or Building Failure | Crime and Violence | Education Quality or Access | Social Inequality | Drug Addiction | Climate Change | Heat Island Impacts | Health Care Access / Chronic Disease | Economic Instability | Food Insecurity / Food Deserts | Environmental Injustice | Energy Access / Affordability

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS

COMMUNITIES | Health and Wellbeing | Infrastructure | Economy

TIMEFRAME

Immediate (2025)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 5: Pursue a holistic approach to public health and safety.

Action 6: Operationalize emergency response plans.

Action 7: Prepare for extreme heat and cold events.

Action 12: Increase reliable transportation options, particularly for underserved communities.

Action 14: Increase access, adaptability, and resilience of power and internet utilities.

Action 22: Increase community awareness, information, and participation in Resilience Actions.

Action 24: Coordinate resources and service-delivery between government, non-profit, and civic partners.

SUB-ACTIONS

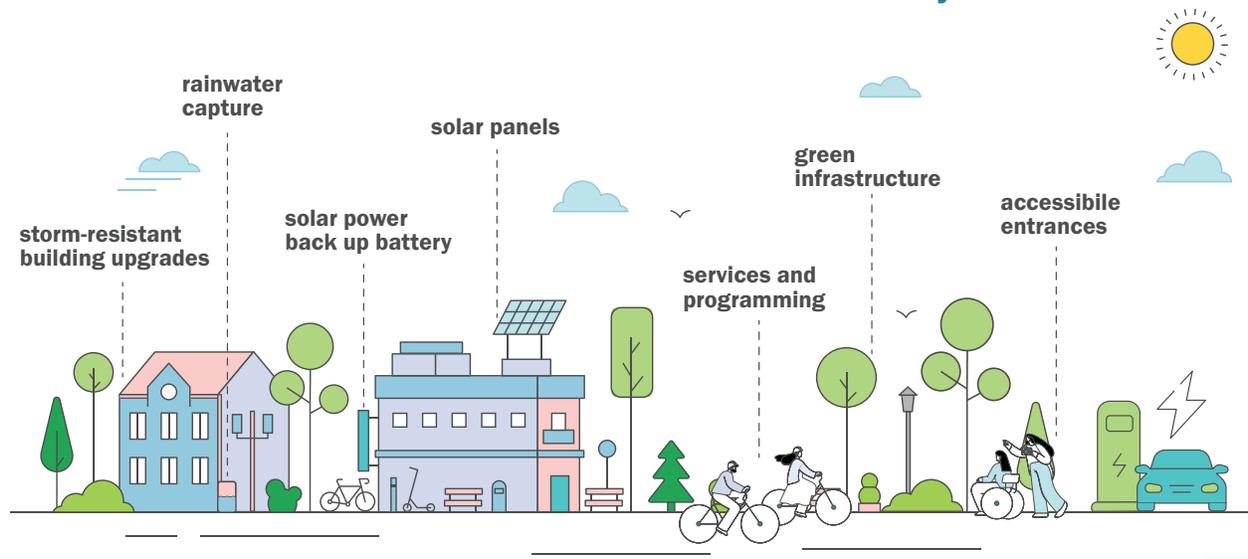### 8.1 Identify suitable Resilience Hub locations and opportunities to strengthen those facilities.

The City has the opportunity to identify existing facilities that already have a strong community presence within Mobile that could serve as Resilience Hubs and enhance their capacity to serve residents. This may include potential upgrades and retrofits, supporting redundant power supply, and expanding hours of operation and services. Existing City facilities such as community centers and shelters can be prioritized for suitability as Resilience Hubs, as well as additional non-City facilities such as churches and non-profits.

8.2 Develop partnerships with service providers who can support Resilience Hubs and provide assistance during emergencies.

Resilience Hubs depend on partnerships within the community to provide support to residents during times of need. Housing First currently hosts Project Homeless Connect, an annual event that connects those experiencing homelessness with critical free services and supplies. In addition to increasing the frequency of events like this, the City can coordinate partnerships with service providers that can support the day-to-day and emergency operations of Resilience Hubs. Service support could include transportation support to and from hubs, access to internet and Wi-Fi, backup utilities and power supplies, and access to food, water, and healthcare services. The City also has the opportunity to coordinate with community organizations that are already working to provide emergency support to residents and identify areas of opportunity for future collaboration.

Resilience Hubs can be scaled to fit within the community.

storm-resistant building upgrades

rainwater capture

solar power back up battery

solar panels

services and programming

green infrastructure

accessibile entrances

Resilience Pillar: GROW

Expand urban development and the economy in a way that is resilient in the long-term and expands prosperity for all Mobilians.

9 | Leverage Mobile's diverse industries and sectors to strengthen economic resilience.

Strengthening economic resilience throughout Mobile requires multiple connected efforts that will support economic diversification and target revitalization. Increasing the number of jobs, attracting capital investment, supporting local entrepreneurs, investing in the revitalization of Mobile's Downtown, and protecting important cultural and historical resources are all strategies that the City, local economic development agencies, and other Mobile-based organizations can employ to make Mobile more economically resilient in the face of acute shocks and chronic stressors. The success of this action will be most effective and cost-efficient if City agencies and local organizations work in partnership to ensure that new investments and programming are not siloed in their development.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Lack of Economic Diversity and Vibrancy | Crime and Violence | Social Inequity | Economic Instability

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
ECONOMY | Infrastructure | Communities | Natural Resources | Health and Wellbeing

TIMEFRAME
Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS
Action 15. Develop a ready and skilled local workforce to support continued economic growth and diversification.

Action 20: Continue and expand public events and programs that build social cohesion and sense of community.

Action 21. Strengthen the Litter-Free Mobile plan of education, prevention, collection, and enforcement.

Action 24. Coordinate resources and service delivery between government, non-profit, and civic partners.

SUB-ACTIONS

9.1 Continue to recruit diversified industries and sectors.

Continuing to diversify the number and types of industries and businesses in Mobile is important for the health and resilience of the city's economy and the jobs it supports. As we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic, a diversified economy helped Mobile maintain economic stability through a global downturn better than most U.S. cities. Prioritizing meeting or exceeding the 5-year Partners for Growth (PFG) goals is one way the City can support the Mobile Chamber in achieving economic diversification and improving Mobile's economic resilience. These goals include the addition of 2,500 new jobs, $1.5 billion of capital investment, and increasing average salaries across the city to $62,500.[9]

9.2 Support early and emerging-stage businesses and entrepreneurs.

Supporting Mobile's entrepreneurs during the early and emerging stages of their businesses can create a more robust and resilient local economy while increasing the vibrancy and mutual support of Mobile's business community. Providing programmatic support that is focused on three core pillars: capacity building, access to capital, and access to networks that target socially and economically disadvantaged residents, women, people of color, and veteran business owners can diversify and expand the number of successful businesses throughout Mobile. This will also create a network of connected entrepreneurs that can provide support to one another—in everyday operations and in the context of preparedness for and recovery from extreme weather events.

9.3 Support the creation of a Downtown Revitalization Master Plan for entertainment and recreation.

A Downtown Revitalization Master Plan that provides incentives for retail, a strategy for increasing the amount of quality housing that is obtainable for residents, and targeted actions to improve park spaces and recreation options throughout Mobile's Downtown can strengthen both economic resilience and quality of life for Mobilians. Local economic development organizations can begin coordinating and identifying actions to qualify for funding options that support this type of master plan. Once funded, a Downtown Revitalization Master Plan can support well-coordinated Downtown revitalization efforts that position the City to strategically use capital funds for projects that are cohesive and guaranteed to produce multiple resilience benefits.

9.4 Increase tourism opportunities that showcase Mobile's history and natural beauty to boost the economy and provide long-term protection for important cultural resources.

History and natural beauty are at the heart of Mobile's identity as a city. Natural waterways and water-adjacent destinations like Mobile Bay, Three Mile Creek, the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, and Dog River Watershed and Blueway as well as renowned attractions like Africatown Heritage House, the Mobile History Museum, and the Museum of Art all contribute to Mobile's uniqueness and character. Providing long-term protection for these cultural sites is important for preserving the heritage of the people who live and work in Mobile, but also for strengthening the city's economy through increased tourism opportunities. Local economic development organizations and historical preservation institutions can play key, collaborative roles in protecting these sites and promoting tourism so that Mobile's residents and local economy are better positioned to prepare for, withstand, and recover from relevant shocks and stressors.

Expand the supply of obtainable and resilient housing.

Apartments in downtown Mobile that provide walkability for Mobilians

Finding ways to increase the supply of obtainable and resilient housing is important not only for the wellbeing of Mobile's residents, but also for the city's economic health. Mobile is invested in a future that includes diverse industries and jobs, and a thriving, sustainable economy. This requires a larger supply of obtainable housing that allows existing residents to remain in the city as well as attracts new residents, bringing diverse talent and skills to the City. To both safeguard and expand obtainable housing throughout Mobile, the City can support resilient development and retrofits, minimize the burden of insurance costs on homeowners, and reduce barriers to housing associated with vouchers so that more Mobilians have access to safe and adequate housing.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED

Lack of Safe and Obtainable Housing | Economic Instability | Energy Access/Affordability | Hurricanes | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Tornadoes | High Winds | Extreme Temperatures | Infrastructure of Building Failure | Social Inequality | Racial Tension | Climate Change | Sea-Level Rise | Heat Island Effects | Chronic Stormwater Flooding | Land Use and Urban Sprawl

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS

HEALTH AND WELLBEING | Infrastructure | Economy | Communities

TIMEFRAME

Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 5: Pursue a holistic approach to public health and safety.

Action 9: Leverage Mobile's diverse industries and sectors to strengthen economic resilience.

Action 11: Incorporate a resilience lens into land use planning and building regulations.

Action 12: Increase reliable transportation options, particularly for underserved communities.

Action 15: Develop a ready and skilled local workforce to support continued economic growth and diversification.

Action 25: Strengthen regional, state, and federal partnerships to advance resilience.

SUB-ACTIONS

10.1 Support the development of more housing to provide a range of single- and multi-family options to Mobile communities.

A resilient city is a city where residents have somewhere safe to call home for the long-term. In recent years, Mobile has started tackling many challenges related to the quality and amount of housing available. In Mobile, 72% of housing units are more than 35 years old, and the city needs a greater supply of housing to support both new and existing residents. Some neighborhoods have abandoned and blighted homes which could be targeted for re-development to revitalize these areas. Looking to the Choice Neighborhoods planning process as an example of resilient, connected development, the City can prioritize the development of housing that addresses opportunity gaps in underserved neighborhoods and connects residents to education, jobs, and other services throughout Mobile.[10] The City can also work with public housing agencies to expand the Homeownership Provides Equity (HoPE) program to minimize barriers to obtaining safe, more permanent housing and increase homeownership and affordability throughout Mobile.[11]

10.2 Explore mechanisms to lessen the burden of insurance costs on homeowners.

Home insurance costs, which have become increasingly more expensive, are creating major burdens for many households in Mobile and across the nation. Homeowners deserve insurance policies that are both affordable and fair. Lessening the burden of insurance costs on homeowners has the potential to yield multiple resilience benefits for residents and the City. It will be important to connect community and individual wind and flood risk reduction measures to clear, standardized, and substantial decreases in insurance premiums. For example, the investments by the City in risk reduction projects such as improved stormwater drainage - or individual investments by homeowners who voluntarily uptake standards such as those outlined in the FORTIFIED program - should be reflected in flood and wind insurance prices. This will require coordination with state, federal, and private (e.g., reinsurance partners) entities so that that these benefits are realized and reach all Mobile neighborhoods as well as the many Mobilians who are renters.

10.3 Leverage and support expansion of existing home retrofit programs that mitigate flood and wind damage and increase energy efficiency.

Mobile has established programs for retrofitting and rehabilitating homes throughout the city that mitigate flood and wind damage and increase energy efficiency. To more effectively leverage these existing programs, the City will identify gaps in service to better understand the specific roles of each locally based program, then take strategic action to connect existing programs and increase accessibility for Mobile's residents. The City will also increase communications to share information from private and public entities who provide incentives for making homes more efficient.

11 | Incorporate a resilience lens into land use planning and building regulations.

Photo by Mobile Public Works | Thoughtful landscape design can mitigate environmental stressors such as flooding

Local planning and building practices that contain integrated resilience concepts can help Mobile establish a new standard for development that prioritizes the safety of all Mobilians and Mobile's assets. The City has already made substantial progress in updating codes, guidance, and programming that will set Mobile up for more resilient land use planning and development for years to come—like updates to the Unified Development Code and new guidance around low-impact design measures. Additionally, the City can support hazard mitigation planning that accounts for future risks and pursue more robust procedures for siting, planting, and maintaining trees. By incorporating a resilience lens into local planning and codes, the City can improve resilience on a large, systemic scale that will have lasting impacts.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED

Land Use and Urban Sprawl | Hurricanes | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Water Quality Contamination | Tornadoes | Infrastructure or Building Failure | Extreme Temperatures | Non-Tropical Storm High Winds | Aging Infrastructure | Lack of Safe and Obtainable Housing | Climate Change | Heat Island Effects | Chronic Stormwater Nuisance Flooding | Impervious | Energy Acces/Affordability | Sea-Level Rise

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS

INFRASTRUCTURE | Health and Wellbeing | Economy Communities | Natural Resources

TIMEFRAME

Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 1: Assess and incorporate future conditions as part of infrastructure planning, maintenance, and replacement investments.

Action 2: Strengthen the resilience and operability of critical facilities and assets.

Action 10: Expand the supply of obtainable and resilient housing.

Action 24: Coordinate resources and service delivery between government, non-profit, and civic partners.

Action 25: Strengthen regional, state, and federal partnerships to advance resilience.

11.1 Encourage broader use of Low-Impact Design (LID) measures.

The City of Mobile has already made great progress in addressing shocks like water quality contamination and stressors like chronic stormwater nuisance flooding through the development of the City's *Low Impact Development Design Manual*.[3] This document, which exists as the first volume of the City's *Stormwater Manual*, includes design feasibility criteria, standards, specifications, requirements, policies, and guidance for LID Water Quality Practices within the city. Focused on facilitating land design methods that prevent or reduce pollutant discharge into stormwater, conveyance systems, and receiving waters within city limits, the manual is aligned with Mobile's stormwater ordinance, land development codes, and construction processes. In addition to utilizing the contents of this manual when planning City projects, the City will promote and encourage broader use of this manual in the private sector through LID-focused trainings that communicate its benefits, best practices, and associated maintenance considerations.

11.2 Identify opportunities for land use planning to accommodate future shocks and stressors.

The City of Mobile has laid much of the groundwork needed to accomplish more resilient land use planning and building construction through efforts such as the adoption of 2021 International Building Code Standards, enforcement of FEMA floodplain management requirements, and recent updates to the City's stormwater management and flood control ordinance.[13] In addition to promoting and enforcing these foundational efforts, there are opportunities to accommodate future shocks and stressors through land use planning and implementation.

11.3 Update hazard mitigation planning to account for future risks and regional changes.

In preparation for the update of the Regional Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, there is an opportunity for the City to support SARPC (the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission) in developing hazard mitigation planning efforts that are specific to Mobile and meet the city's needs related to population and economic expansion. The next plan update provides an opportunity to explore the need for dam safety measures and incorporate future conditions to address flood risk and to integrate more comprehensive drought and extreme heat projections throughout Mobile County, which can aid in identifying mitigation actions and increase eligibility for funding opportunities to implement them.

11.4 Pursue stronger "Right Tree, Right Place" procedures to mitigate future infrastructure impacts.

Mobile's trees have both environmental and cultural significance. Though these trees play important roles within the city's diverse ecosystems and contribute to Mobile's identity, many of these trees contain large roots that are disrupting the city's stormwater infrastructure—causing cracked pipes and complicated maintenance issues. Trees in Mobile will always require varying levels of management to protect pedestrians and motorists from hazards, but it is also important for future trees to be planted strategically—with consideration for both the species of tree and the location in which it is being planted. Aligning city tree siting, planting, and maintenance procedures with existing programmatic guidance from *Right Tree, Right Place*[14] and revising current plans to reflect updated best practices can help Mobile achieve heat mitigation goals and other resilience co-benefits while keeping residents out of harm's way.

Resilience Pillar: CONNECT

Remove barriers that have kept communities disconnected from services, resources, and opportunities

12 | Increase reliable transportation options, particularly for underserved communities.

By prioritizing transportation reliability and accessibility, Mobile can strengthen community resilience by providing essential connections to jobs, education, healthcare, and other services crucial for daily life. Expanding and improving transportation options also supports social equity, economic mobility, and environmental sustainability by reducing traffic congestion and emissions, fostering community wellbeing, and preparing for future challenges effectively. Through enhancing transportation options such as improving access to public transit, expanding infrastructure for walking and cycling, and supporting equitable access to transportation services throughout Mobile, the City can better meet the transportation needs of all Mobilians, particularly underserved communities.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Limited Public Transport | Aging Infrastructure | Infrastructure or Building Failure | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Social Inequality | Economic Instability | Racial Tension | Air Quality Contamination

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
INFRASTRUCTURE | Health and Wellbeing | Economy | Communities

TIMEFRAME
Medium-term (2035)

RELATED ACTIONS
Action 10: Expand the supply of obtainable and resilient housing.
Action 19: Increase public access to parks.

SUB-ACTIONS

12.1 Expand bicycle and pedestrian access with a focus on connecting where people live to where they work.

To enhance bicycle and pedestrian access, it is crucial that key initiatives in Mobile are prioritized. Implementing bike-sharing programs, including electric bicycles, offers convenient and sustainable transportation options that reduce traffic congestion. Developing dedicated bicycle paths, parking facilities, and clear signage promotes safe cycling routes between residential and work areas. In addition, maintaining well-lit paths enhances safety and usability. Education programs for cyclists and drivers are also essential, as they improve road safety and etiquette, reducing conflicts and fostering mutual respect. Workshops, community events, and school-based programs can raise awareness and provide practical skills for safe cycling and driving. At the same time, improving sidewalk infrastructure supports safe pedestrian routes. By strategically integrating these efforts, the City can foster a more connected and accessible urban environment, encouraging healthier and more sustainable commuting choices for residents.

12.2 Expand public transportation use and accessibility.

Expanding accessible transportation options includes providing free routes to training and workforce opportunities, as well as establishing fixed-rate routes in underserved areas lacking current public transportation options. This sub-action includes configuring bus routes to directly connect communities and neighborhoods to major employers, enhancing accessibility through these micro-transit options. Collaborating with organizations like the Wave Transit System (which specializes in accessible transportation solutions) can further optimize these efforts, supporting inclusivity and convenience for all residents. By strategically implementing these measures, the City can enhance public transportation use and accessibility, facilitating easier access to employment opportunities and fostering economic mobility within communities.

12.3 Promote better walkability, accessibility, and parking in Mobile neighborhoods.

To enhance walkability, accessibility, and neighborhood parking, the City can look to some of the successful approaches from the Downtown Street Optimization Project and how they may be strategically applied in other appropriate areas throughout Mobile. Key strategies in this initiative include improving pedestrian infrastructure, implementing traffic calming measures, enhancing public spaces, optimizing parking solutions, and engaging the community. This process can be adapted for other areas by conducting assessments, designing customized solutions, and implementing pilot projects to foster continuous improvement. By applying these principles, other neighborhoods in Mobile can achieve a more connected and livable environment.

13 | Continue to implement the Greenway Trail system program for habitat and community connectivity.

Photo by D'Ambro Chatman | Mobilians enjoy the Greenway Trail system as a form of recreation

Expanding and maintaining Mobile's Greenway Trail system is a pivotal step towards connecting communities with nature. By prioritizing green infrastructure and offering accessible outdoor recreational opportunities, the City and partners can help support biodiversity, enhance air quality, reduce the City's environmental impact, and foster social cohesion among residents all at once. Emphasizing sustainable development principles, such as preserving natural spaces, enables Mobile to become a more resilient, vibrant city while supporting lasting benefits for both current and future generations.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Climate Change | Limted Public Transportation | Land Use and Urban Sprawl | Environmental Injustice | Air Quality Contamination

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
NATURAL RESOURCES | Infrastructure | Health and Wellbeing | Communities | Economy

TIMEFRAME
Medium-term (2035)

RELATED ACTIONS
Action 3: Protect and restore natural habitats to increase ecosystem functions and provide shoreline protection.

Action 4: Improve water and soil quality.

Action 12: Increase reliable transportation options, particularly for underserved communities.

Action 19: Increase public access to parks.

Action 21: Increase public access to natural resources, waterfronts, and waterways.

13.1 Complete the Mobile Greenway Trail system and review opportunities to expand it.

Completion of the currently defined Mobile Greenway trail system will allow the City to review and identify opportunities to expand the trail network to create seamless paths between neighborhoods and the main trail. This may include connecting the University of South Alabama to downtown Mobile and extending the trail south to Dog River.[15] To successfully complete and expand this trail system, the City can engage private partners to secure funding to enhance the trail system with amenities such as park benches, gym equipment, and safety features. Additional collaborations with non-profits and educational institutions will further enrich the trail with educational opportunities and programs. Finally, the City can effectively communicate plans and progress towards Mobile Greenway Trail system expansion by sharing designs and renderings with residents; this can offer a tangible glimpse into the trail system's future. By collaborating with various stakeholders, the City of Mobile can create a vibrant, accessible, and publicly supported trail network that benefits the entire community.

13.2 Establish and enhance wayfinding between parks, trails, and destination areas.

To enhance wayfinding between parks, trails, and other destination areas throughout Mobile, the City continues to establish connections across key areas such as Africatown, the Dog River Blueway, Downtown, and The Village of Springhill. By installing well-designed signage, maps, and markers, the City is creating clear, accessible pathways that guide residents and visitors through Mobile's diverse and significant features. This approach will not only improve navigation but will also encourage exploration of the City's unique natural and urban landscapes. By facilitating the overall accessibility and enjoyment of these public spaces, the City of Mobile can help foster a greater sense of community connectivity and engagement—key elements of a Resilient Mobile.

Photo by D'Ambro Chatman | The Greenway Trail connects communities in Mobile
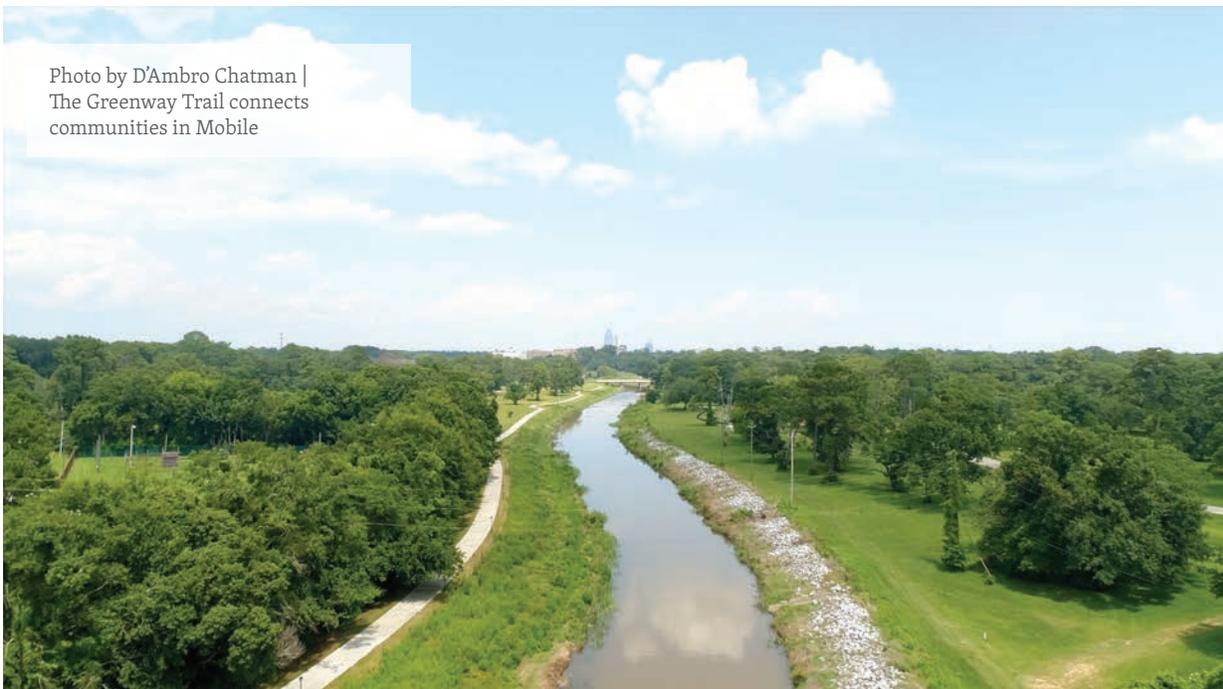
14 | Increase access, adaptability, and resilience of power and internet utilities.

The City of Mobile understands the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to strengthening the resilience of the city's power and internet utilities. By upgrading infrastructure for improved reliability and capacity, expanding broadband coverage to underserved areas, and integrating resilient design principles, the City can help mitigate the impacts of service disruptions from severe weather and technological failures—supporting uninterrupted access to essential services for all residents. This effort will support economic growth by attracting and retaining businesses while enhancing community wellbeing through improved connectivity and access to information. Ultimately, resilient power and internet systems will serve as the foundation for more resilient and sustainable city infrastructure that is better suited to effectively navigate future challenges and growth.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Energy Access/Affordability | Hurricanes | Tornadoes | High Winds | Extreme Temperatures | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Hazardous Materials Incident | Infrastructure or Building Failure | Aging Infrastructure | Social Inequality | Climate Change

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
INFRASTRUCTURE | Health and Wellbeing | Economy | Communities

TIMEFRAME
Medium-term (2035)

RELATED ACTIONS
Action 2: Strengthen the resilience and operability of critical facilities and assets.

Action 24: Strengthen collaboration among City departments and across the County, agencies, and utility partners.

Action 25: Coordinate resources and service delivery between government, non-profit, and civic partners.

SUB-ACTIONS

14.1 Support expansion of resilient energy distribution through power backups, line protection, and diversified sources.

To support the expansion of resilient energy distribution, the City can work with partners to implement backup and distributed power generation systems. By replacing vulnerable overhead power lines with underground alternatives wherever feasible and practical, service providers can improve the reliability and sustainability of Mobile's energy infrastructure—mitigating risks from disruptions and improving overall system resilience. By fostering resilient infrastructure, Mobile can support communities through any challenges that future energy transitions may bring.

14.2 Increase access to high-speed internet.

Reliable internet fosters community resilience by enabling access to vital resources and fostering economic growth. To increase access to high-speed internet, the City and partners can provide connectivity to communities currently lacking reliable access. This includes providing Wi-Fi in parks and City facilities, as well as working with service providers to extend connectivity to targeted neighborhoods. By bridging the digital divide, Mobile can enhance social resilience and empower residents with critical online access for education, employment opportunities, telemedicine, and communication. This comprehensive approach will not only support digital inclusion, but also strengthen community cohesion and preparedness for neighborhoods throughout the city.
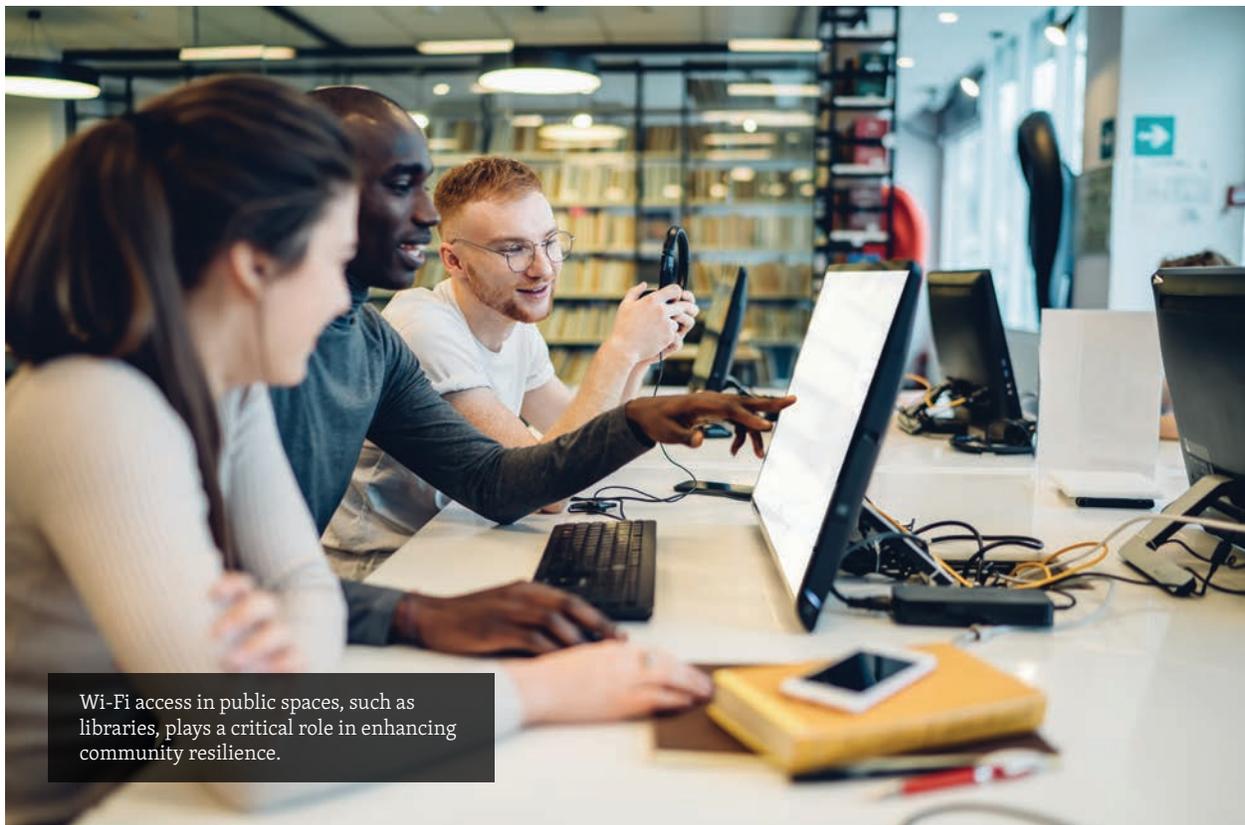
Wi-Fi access in public spaces, such as libraries, plays a critical role in enhancing community resilience.

Resilience Pillar: **EDUCATE**

Support individual economic resilience.

15 | Develop a ready and skilled local workforce to support continued economic growth and diversification.

As Mobile continues to prioritize economic growth, investing in skill building for the local workforce will help create a well-prepared, adaptable labor pool capable of meeting the diverse demands of a growing economy. By dedicating resources to both local and state workforce development programs and apprenticeships, strengthening partnerships with local industries and programs serving students, and expanding programming around financial literacy, the City and partners can help reduce unemployment rates, provide equitable job opportunities for residents, and support sustainable economic growth opportunities for all Mobilians. Additionally, Mobilians are already making the commitment to building resilience into their workplace, families, and decision-making. Utilizing existing resources and leveraging partnerships, the City of Mobile will support education on best practices about resilience and sustainability across multiple sectors.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Education Quality or Access | Social Inequality | Economic Instability | Crime and Violence | Drug Addiction | Racial Tension | Food Insecurity/Food Deserts

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
ECONOMY | Health and Wellbeing | Communities

TIMEFRAME
Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS
Action 2: Strengthen the resilience and operability of critical facilities and assets.

Action 9: Leverage Mobiles diverse industries and sectors to strengthen economic resilience.

Action 16: Increase resilience and environmental education opportunities for Mobilians of all ages.

Action 22: Increase community awareness, information, and participation in Resilience Actions.

Action 23: Strengthen collaboration among City departments and with County and utility partners.

Action 24: Coordinate resources and service delivery among government, non-profit, and civic partners.

Action 25: Strengthen regional, state, and federal partnerships to advance resilience.

SUB-ACTIONS

15.1 Support the implementation of the Mobile Area Workforce Alliance program.

When connected to job opportunities, vocational training programs can have significant positive impacts on a city's residents and local economy. In collaboration with the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the City can help to advance the Chamber's education and marketing plan to promote vocational training programs, coordinate with the private sector to recruit and advertise businesses with competitive benefits, and support the Chamber's 5-year Partners for Growth (PFG) goals of (1) increasing the labor participation rate to meet or exceed the national average and (2) increasing the population of working age people in the city.[9] Additionally, the City and economic development partners can strengthen support of small and minority-owned business development by matching local entrepreneurships with mid- and large-sized companies to increase joint partnering and mentor protégé opportunities. Holistically, these practices will promote economic security, sustainability, and prosperity required for a resilient Mobile.

15.2 Support on-the-job training programs to acclimate and train students going into the workforce.

On-the-job training is one way that Mobile can effectively strengthen its workforce. On-the-job training is mutually beneficial—it can provide a new employee with valuable, contextual experience while simultaneously improving efficiency and productivity within a company. To further expand its relationship with leading regional workforce development entities, the City of Mobile can support targeted recruitment efforts within low- and moderate-income communities, local universities, trade schools, and technical colleges focusing on specialized labor skills that fit within Mobile's growing economic sectors.

15.3 Support workforce expansion opportunities that retain jobs, economic growth, and competitiveness.

The Mobile Chamber has been working to achieve a set of 5-year goals that track progress towards strategic economic objectives.[9] These goals include 2,500 new primary jobs with average annual wages of $62,500, a median household income of $52,500 in Mobile County, an increased population for the 18–65 age range, $1.5 billion in new capital investment, and an increased labor participation rate that meets or exceeds the national average. To support the Chamber in achieving their employment and income-related PFG goals, the City of Mobile can identify green job opportunities across economic sectors and prioritize connecting Mobilians with these jobs.

15.4 Expand financial education and literacy.

Improving financial literacy is an important piece of strengthening a local economy. Financial literacy can help people manage debt, make informed decisions around saving and investing, and reduce financial stress. The City can work with service provider partners to deliver financial planning educational courses through the Community Activities program. Trainings can include tax education, credit counseling, and budgeting skills.

16 | Increase resilience and environmental education opportunities for Mobilians of all ages.

Photo by PLACE:SLR | Community events can provide important educational touchpoints

Fostering a culture of environmental responsibility can help Mobile achieve its resilience vision for the future. In order to strengthen public understanding of resilience concepts, environmental awareness, and environmental stewardship across all age groups, the City can continue to foster partnerships that will support the integration of environmental education and resilience concepts into curricula and community programs for kindergarten students all the way through to senior citizens. The City also has the opportunity to invest in targeted public outreach and messaging that will support residents in learning about their individual roles in helping to strengthen Mobile's resilience.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED

Education Quality or Access | Hurricanes | Water Quality Contamination | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Tornadoes | Public Health Emergencies | Extreme Temperatures | Non-Tropical Storm High Winds | Social Inequality | Environmental Injustice | Climate Change | Heat Island Effects | Chronic Stormwater Flooding | Land Use and Urban Sprawl | Energy Access/Affordability | Sea-Level Rise | Air Quality Contamination

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS

HEALTH AND WELLBEING | Natural Resources | Communities

TIMEFRAME

Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 3: Protect and restore natural habitats to increase ecosystem functions and provide shoreline protection.

Action 4: Improve water and soil quality.

Action 13: Continue to implement the greenway trail system program for habitat and community connectivity.

Action 21: Strengthen Litter-Free Mobile plan of education, prevention, collection, and enforcement.

Action 22: Increase community awareness, information, and participation in Resilience Actions.

SUB-ACTIONS

16.1 Instill early education on environmental protection through partnerships with existing youth programs that provide lesson plans and hands-on learning.

Many opportunities are available to support environmental education throughout Mobile. By supporting the development of curricula relevant to litter abatement and investing in community gardens at schools, the City can continue to expand environmental and resilience literacy in local classrooms. In partnership with the Osprey Initiative, the City of Mobile is working to address the issue of litter in Mobile's waterways while educating local students about the impacts of litter on local water quality and wildlife;[16] "litter gitters" implemented in various waterways work to trap litter before it enters the stormwater system.[17] Additionally, through development of cooperative partnerships that engage all levels of community through concerted media outreach, public service announcements, and webinars that are flexible to accommodate audiences from diverse backgrounds, the City can fulfill its role as the centralized entity that can connect residents to these types of learning experiences.

16.2 Expand community understanding of key shocks, stressors, and resilience practices.

Building a culture of resilience requires residents who are informed and invested in the City's future. To increase wider awareness and understanding of Mobile's key shocks, stressors, and resilience practices, it is critical to engage residents and provide concise, targeted information that empowers everyone. In addition to hosting or tabling at singular events to inform residents about the information laid out in this Resilience Plan, the City has the opportunity to implement more frequent community experiences that invite residents into the implementation of specific Resilience Actions that matter to them and their communities.

Photo by The Water Institute | Community festivals can provide important educational touchpoints

17 | Expand childcare and early childhood education access.

After-school programs can bridge gaps for working caretakers

By supporting access for all children to quality care and early learning opportunities, Mobile can promote better educational outcomes, support working families, and contribute to long-term social and economic resilience. To increase access to quality childcare and early childhood education, the City can connect working parents to childcare resources, invest in the licensing and training of more childcare providers, and dedicate more resources to critical after-school programs that working parents and caregivers can rely.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED

Education Quality or Access | Social Inequality | Racial Tension | Environmental Injustice | Crime and Violence | Drug Addiction | Lack of Safe and Obtainable Housing | Limited Public Transportation | Air Quality Contamination

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS

HEALTH AND WELLBEING | Economy | Communities

TIMEFRAME

Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 9: Leverage Mobile's diverse industries and sectors to strengthen economic resilience.

Action 15: Develop a ready and skilled local workforce to support continued economic growth and diversification.

Action 22: Increase community awareness, information, and participation in Resilience Actions.

Action 24: Coordinate resources and service delivery among government, non-profit, and civic partners.

SUB-ACTIONS

17.1 Connect working parents to available childcare resources.

Just like the rest of the U.S., childcare providers are critically important to the wellbeing of Mobile's children and the capacity of its workforce. To support working parents and Mobile's children in receiving quality care, the City can connect families with childcare programs through tools like 2-1-1, provide information on funding sources for parents in vocational training or university programs, and create and distribute local asset maps of existing resources relevant to childcare facilities, schools, libraries, and employers. Additionally, the City has the opportunity to invest in expanded licensing programs that train more childcare providers while supporting the opening of more high-quality childcare centers with strategic grant funding.

17.2 Develop more after-school care programs that can bridge the gap between school and home for working parents.

After-school care programs can help working families secure employment, keep students safe, and provide jobs for local after-care workers. To support more after-school care programs, the City can advocate for an early childhood education (ECE) school improvement planning process which would improve access to and the quality of ECE programs in high-need communities. A community-wide, data-informed planning process such as this can increase access to high-quality early childhood settings for more Mobilians, especially in low-income communities and communities of color. Expanding after-school care programs in the communities that need it most will help to support a resilient future for all residents.

Photo by D'Ambro Chatman | After-school programs like the Mobile Parks and Recreation Department's flag football can bridge gaps for working caretakers
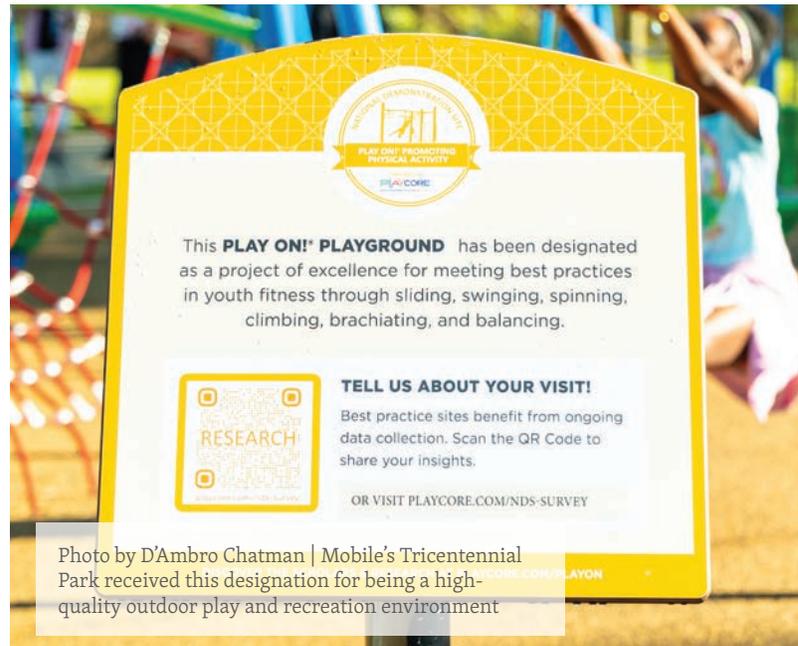
Resilience Pillar: ENJOY

Improve quality of life for all Mobilians.

18 | Increase public access to parks.

Parks and recreation play a critical role in the physical wellbeing, social cohesion, and sense of community for residents. Mobile currently has more than 100 parks, community centers, and public athletic fields that residents of any age can enjoy. The City can continue working to maintain existing parks and public spaces and can promote activities which encourage residents to visit city parks and participate in public programming and events. The City can also pursue partnerships with community organizations so that that all residents are able to safely get to and enjoy parks in their neighborhoods and throughout the city.

Photo by D'Ambro Chatman | Mobile's Tricentennial Park received this designation for being a high-quality outdoor play and recreation environment

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED

Crime and Violence | Education Quality or Access | Social Inequality | Heat Island Effects | Chronic Stormwater Flooding | Impervious Surfaces | Land Use and Urban Sprawl | Limited Public Transportation | Environmental Injustice

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS

HEALTH AND WELLBEING | Communities | Natural Resources | Infrastructure

TIMEFRAME

Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 3: Protect and restore natural habitats to increase ecosystem functions and provide shoreline protection.

Action 12: Increase reliable transportation options, particularly for underserved communities.

Action 13: Continue to implement the greenway trail system program for habitat and community connectivity.

Action 19: Increase public access to natural resources, waterfronts, and waterways.

Action 20: Continue and expand public events and programs that build social cohesion and sense of community.

SUB-ACTIONS

18.1 Increase connectivity to and accessibility within parks.

Mobile has a rich network of park spaces throughout the city, but not all residents are able to easily get to and enjoy these resources. The City can work to improve outreach and education about establishing new public trails and amenities that can improve connectivity between parks and communities to benefit Mobile residents from all areas of the city. The City also has the opportunity to improve programming that increases accessibility for all Mobile residents, such as coordinating with the Wave Transit System to establish free or reduced rides to parks.

18.2 Identify opportunities to increase park access, amenities, and programming in underserved areas through ongoing implementation of and updates to the *Parks and Recreation System Improvement Plan*.

Increasing public access and connection to parks and recreation requires understanding the recreational needs and priorities of Mobile residents. Mobile has established a *Parks and Recreation System Improvement Plan*[18] that assesses the recreational needs and considerations of communities throughout the city and how to accommodate those needs. Relying on recommendations in the plan, the City can prioritize investment in creating parks where green space is minimal and where the nearest park is more than a 10-minute walking distance away. The City can also continue to engage with the public to understand community interest and opportunities for providing space for reactional activities, creating and improving parks and facilities, and delivering public programming and events.
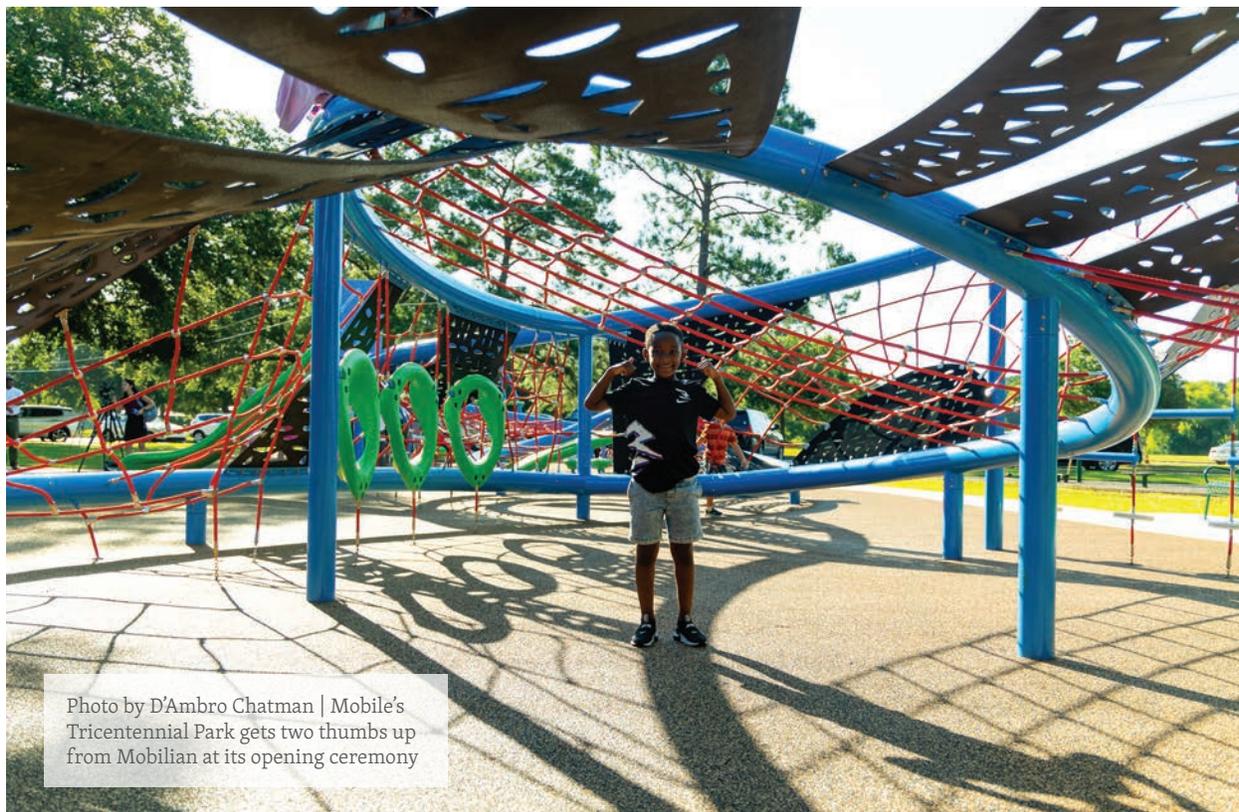

Photo by D'Ambro Chatman | Mobile's Tricentennial Park gets two thumbs up from Mobilian at its opening ceremony

19 | Increase public access to natural resources, waterfronts, and waterways.

Photo by D'Ambro Chatman | Mobile's McNally Park provides access to Mobile Bay

Working waterfronts and waterways are crucial environmental, economic, and cultural resources that facilitate connecting Mobile residents with the water and other natural resources. By investing in the expansion, preservation, and maintenance of existing waterfronts and waterways as well as designing and implementing new waterfront projects, the City can provide recreational opportunities and increase access to natural resources. Additionally, by leveraging established partnerships with local agencies, organizations, and businesses, the City can identify opportunities for inclusive access and designs in communities which have been historically separated from accessing Mobile's water resources.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED

Abandoned/Contaminated Properties | Crime and Violence | Social Inequality | Heat Island Impacts | Economic Instability | Sea-Level Rise | Climate Change | Land Use and Urban Sprawl | Limited Public Transportation | Environmental Injustice

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS

HEALTH AND WELLBEING | Natural Resources | Communities | Infrastructure | Economy

TIMEFRAME

Medium-term (2035)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 3: Protect and restore natural habitats to increase ecosystem functions and provide shoreline protection.

Action 12: Increase reliable transportation options, particularly for underserved communities.

Action 13: Continue to implement greenway trail system program for habitat and community connectivity.

Action 18: Increase public access to parks.

SUB-ACTIONS

19.1 Design, fund, implement, open, and expand waterfront parks.

Mobile is actively increasing access to waterfront parks through the creation of Brookley by the Bay, McNally Park, and the Perch Creek Master Plan. Building on these successes, the City can continue to invest in creating new waterfront parks and improve and expand upon existing waterfront parks throughout Mobile. The City also has the opportunity to pursue partnerships with local agencies and organizations to identify and apply for construction funding through resilience grants and other funding opportunities that support increasing equitable waterfront access, connectivity, and education for all Mobile residents.

19.2 Identify priority properties that facilitate improved public waterway access.

Expanding waterfront access will require investments into existing properties and recognizing new areas of future opportunity and investment. In coordination with community partners and organizations, the City can identify new properties and areas for future protection, as well as investments that would improve waterfront access and opportunities for residents. For future investments and planning for expanding waterfront access, the City will consider equitable access for communities that have historically been disconnected from accessing the benefits of Mobile's waterways and natural resources.

Rendering by SCAPE | Plans for Brookley by the Bay would provide Mobilians with waterfront access and many outdoor recreation spaces

20 | Continue and expand public events and programs that build social cohesion and sense of community.

Resilient communities are ones where neighbors know and can rely on one another when faced with acute shocks and chronic stressors. Expanding and continuing public events and programs that foster social cohesion is crucial for creating these strong, connected, resilient communities. Public activities that encourage residents to engage with one another, celebrate local culture, and build a collective sense of belonging can improve mental health, reduce social isolation, and create a more supportive and inclusive environment.

Photo by Visit Mobile | Community events bring together Mobilians

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED

Crime and Violence | Social Inequality | Drug Addiction | Limited Public Transportation | Racial Tension | Health Care Access/Chronic Disease | Economic Instability | Food Insecurity/Food Deserts | Environment Injustice

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS

COMMUNITIES | Health and Wellbeing | Economy

TIMEFRAME

Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 12: Increase reliable transportation options, particularly for underserved communities.

Action 13: Continue to implement the Greenway trail system program for habitat and community connectivity.

Action 14: Increase access, adaptability, and resilience of power and internet utilities.

Action 22: Increase community awareness, information, and participation in Resilience Actions.

SUB-ACTIONS

20.1 Continue to build on city-wide events as well as more neighborhood specific events.

Mobile has a strong network of City departments, local nonprofits and other partner organizations that support residents in many ways. Under One Mobile, the Mayor's vision for Mobile to become a safer, more business and family friendly city, the City of Mobile has prioritized serving residents through quality public services, programs, outreach, and events. Mobile Parks and Recreation provides community events for Mobilians of all ages such as kids fishing clinics, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Fest, tree pruning events, and community clean-ups. Because Mobile Parks Department events have been such successful community-building opportunities, the City of Mobile can continue to work with the Parks Department to build on these existing events, strengthen connections within individual neighborhoods, and ultimately support resilience in more communities throughout the City.

20.2 Build greater awareness of upcoming City events through existing communication channels.

There are many existing channels of communication the City can use to keep residents informed about City events. Coordinated sharing of content between departments and City leadership can support clear and consistent messaging across different media platforms and other communication channels. Consistently updating the City calendar, providing templates for elected officials to push out event-specific emails to their constituents, promoting City events on individual departments' social media accounts, and announcing City events within public facilities like libraries are all actions the City can take to continue to improve public engagement and strengthen resilience. The Office of Community Affairs will also further strategic efforts to build awareness through advocacy, information sharing, and resource mobilization. When appropriate, the City can also take advantage of the 311 municipal call system to alert residents about upcoming City events.

Photo by City of Mobile | Community events bring together Mobilians

Strengthen Litter-Free Mobile plan of education, prevention, collection, and enforcement.

Photo by Umi Mills | Community-led clean up events can reduce litter and strengthen community pride

By addressing the issue of litter comprehensively, Mobile can improve public health and safety, preserve natural environments, and cultivate a cleaner and more appealing urban landscape. The Litter-Free Mobile initiative involves enhancing education, prevention, collection, and enforcement efforts, and aims to significantly reduce litter across the city. By increasing public awareness of litter's environmental and community impacts, implementing preventive measures through targeted campaigns and infrastructure improvements, supporting efficient and regular litter collection services, and enforcing strict ordinances to discourage littering, the City can help reduce litter pollution, strengthen community pride and engagement, and establish sustainable practices that support Mobile's long-term environmental and social resilience.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED

Hazardous Materials Incident | Flooding from Intense Rainfall | Public Health Emergency | Aging Infrastructure | Environmental Injustice | Climate Change | Sea-Level Rise | Air Quality Contamination | Water Quality Contamination

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS

HEALTH AND WELLBEING | Communities | Natural Resources | Economy | Infrastructure

TIMEFRAME

Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 3: Protect and restore natural habitats to increase ecosystem functions and provide shoreline protection.

Action 4: Improve water and soil quality.

Action 16: Increase resilience and environmental education opportunities for Mobilians of all ages.

Action 21: Continue and expand public events and programs that build social cohesion and sense of community.

Action 23: Increase community awareness and participation in Resilience Actions.

Action 25: Strengthen collaboration among City departments and across the County, agencies, and utility partners.

SUB-ACTIONS

21.1 Promote household hazardous waste drop-off events by improving public notice.

Enhancing public awareness of hazardous waste drop-off events can yield significant resilience benefits. By effectively getting the word out about opportunities for safe disposal of hazardous materials, the City of Mobile can help reduce pollution risks and improve environmental protection. In addition to creating a cleaner city, these types of events can have multiple resilience benefits. When planned well, drop-off events can help foster community cohesion and civic engagement among residents through shared environmental stewardship. To maximize effectiveness, the City can host these types of events at centrally located venues such as community centers, municipal facilities, or local parks. Further, the City is committed to providing effective public notice through local media, social platforms, and community newsletters to inform residents about drop-off event details and proper disposal guidelines.

21.2 Host and promote city-wide community cleanup days twice a year.

To increase community awareness about the connections between local environmental health and city resilience, the City and its partners can promote city-wide community cleanup days that are both effective and fun. Partnering with Community Affairs to promote these events and engage community members through social media outlets, the City can encourage and incentivize residents and their communities to meaningfully participate on a quarterly basis. By leveraging social media platforms effectively, offering giveaways for those who collect and dispose of trash, sharing community efforts and successes online with a designated hashtag, and utilizing other incentive-based tools so that these events are engaging and collaborative, this campaign can reach a wider audience. These activities will inspire greater community involvement and support ongoing efforts to keep the City of Mobile clean and vibrant. This effort positions the City to achieve multiple resilience benefits: increased environmental cleanliness, strengthened community bonds, and civic pride.

21.3 Host scrap tire amnesty days twice a year.

Minimizing the amount of illegal dumping throughout Mobile can enhance public health, improve aesthetics for residents and visitors, and demonstrate proactive waste management practices for a cleaner Mobile. To prevent illegal dumping and promote environmental responsibility, the City of Mobile can host scrap tire amnesty days two times per year in which residents can safely dispose of old tires. By encouraging participation through local outreach and media while partnering with waste management services, the City can support proper disposal and recycling of collected tires and foster community involvement in maintaining a cleaner and litter-free Mobile—contributing to a more resilient and sustainable city.

Resilience Pillar: ENGAGE

Strengthen collaboration to implement and operationalize resilience.

22 | Increase community awareness, information, and participation in Resilience Actions.

Strengthening city resilience is most effective when communities are both aware and involved in resilience efforts. In order to encourage participation in these efforts, residents first need to be aware of what the City is prioritizing and which types of efforts residents are able to support. To increase community awareness and participation in Resilience Actions, there is a lot that the City of Mobile can build upon without overwhelming residents or standing up new initiatives. By building and maintaining productive partnerships with service providers that already have trusted relationships with Mobile's communities, the City can reach more residents with the information they are offering.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Connects to all shocks and stressors

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
COMMUNITIES | Health and Wellbeing | Economy | Infrastructure | Natural Resources

TIMEFRAME
Immediate (2025)

RELATED ACTIONS
Action 15. Develop a ready and skilled local workforce to support continued economic growth and diversification.

Action 16. Increase resilience and environmental education opportunities for Mobilians of all ages.

Action 21. Continue and expand public events and programs that build social cohesion and sense of community.

Action 22: Strengthen Litter-Free Mobile plan of education, prevention, collection, and enforcement.

SUB-ACTIONS

22.1 Add resilience measures and education to the existing Neighborhood Planning Toolkit to support community-led resilience efforts.

Mobile has already invested significant resources into community engagement and planning through the development of the Neighborhood Planning Toolkit.[19] Used by City departments and neighborhood organizations to help guide engagement with Mobile's communities, the Toolkit is a trusted resource that can be expanded to include resilience topics and support communities in resilience planning endeavors.

22.2 Add resilience topics to existing events and services.

Much of the infrastructure for connecting residents to local events and services already exists, and it is often more effective to build upon what already works instead of starting from scratch. Where it makes sense, the City of Mobile can coordinate with other departments and service providers to integrate resilience concepts into ongoing public events and work with NGOs providing services with City funds to incorporate resilience education into their services.

22.3 Leverage sustainable and resilient practices of local anchor industries to support wider implementation.

Many of Mobile's major industries are already incorporating sustainable and resilient practices into their day-to-day operations. In order to highlight these efforts and support more businesses across the City in understanding how to strengthen their own resilience, the City has the opportunity to partner with local industries to share their best practices and resources in a variety of ways (i.e., through social media, at city-sponsored events, etc.).
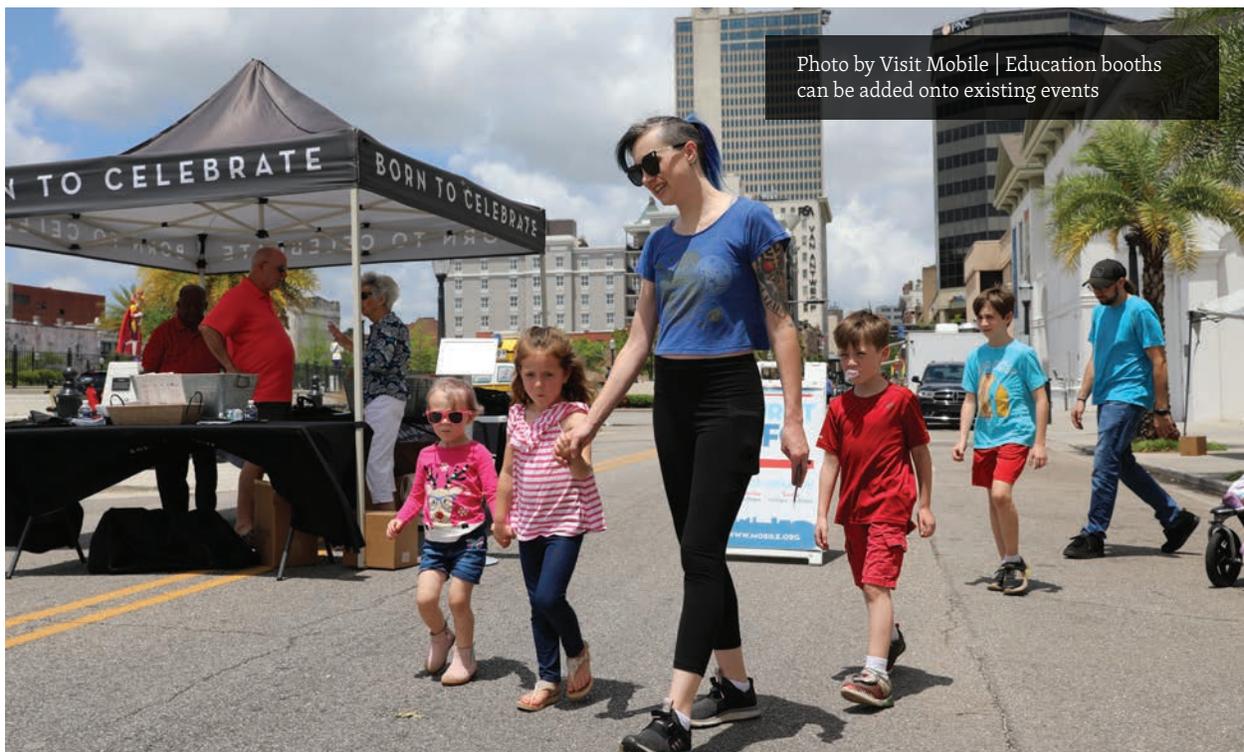
Photo by Visit Mobile | Education booths can be added onto existing events

23 | Strengthen collaboration among City departments and with County and utility partners.

The City will be better positioned to maximize its resilience potential if different efforts throughout Mobile are truly collaborative and consider plans that already exist, projects that are currently being implemented, and any related future efforts. It is often unnecessary to start a City-led effort completely from scratch—especially in a place like Mobile where so much work has already been done. By initiating and maintaining intentional communication among City departments and supporting planning and implementation alignment for all resilience efforts, the City of Mobile can leverage and expand upon the work that has already been done to strengthen Mobile's resilience.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Connects to all shocks and stressors

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
COMMUNITIES | Infrastructure | Economy | Health and Wellbeing | Natural Resources

TIMEFRAME
Immediate (2025)

RELATED ACTIONS
Connects to all actions.

SUB-ACTIONS

23.1 Facilitate cross-departmental coordination and collaboration around the implementation of Resilience Actions.

City of Mobile department staff are critical in both the initiation and maintenance of strong communication between different departments. The successful implementation of this Resilience Plan will depend on staff from different departments participating and leading the planning and execution of Resilience Actions. Furthermore, maintaining connections to relevant partners and collaborators in taking resilience action is also critical for success. By coordinating intentional, cross-departmental conversations, the City can help foster understanding about ongoing efforts, facilitate strategic and cost-efficient implementation, and effectively move Resilience Actions into relevant City plans and processes.

23.2 Align planning and implementation of Resilience Actions with County and utility partner efforts.

As Mobile utilizes data projections of future conditions for infrastructure planning, maintenance, and replacement investments and prioritizes operability of critical facilities and assets, it will be critical for the City to maintain close coordination with partners that build, maintain, own, and/or manage the various types of infrastructure and assets throughout Mobile. Bringing County and utility partners to the table before decisions are made is critical, and close coordination between the City and its partners will result in more resilient city systems and cost savings.

Photo by Mobile Public Works | Infrastructure planning, maintenance, and replacement investments and prioritizes operability of critical facilities and assets

24 | Coordinate resources and service delivery among government, non-profit, and civic partners.

Government, non-profit, and civic partners all have important roles to play in strengthening city resilience. The City of Mobile has already made great strides in investing in programs led by non-profit and civic organizations that significantly benefit residents and the city. To fully realize the positive potential of these, the City will coordinate with service providers and internal departments on alignment with the City's vision for resilience, create a culture of collaboration and transparency among organizations that implement programs with City funding, reach more residents to communicate the benefits of the resources that are available to them, and provide residents with the information needed to access these resources.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Connects to all shocks and stressors

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
COMMUNITIES | Health and Wellbeing

TIMEFRAME
Short-term (2030)

RELATED ACTIONS

Action 5: Pursue a holistic approach to public health and safety.

Action 6: Operationalize emergency response plans.

Action 7: Prepare for extreme heat and cold events.

Action 8: Develop Resilience Hubs that can support communities day-to-day and during emergencies.

Action 10: Expand the supply of obtainable and resilient housing.

Action 20: Continue and expand public events and programs that build social cohesion and sense of community.

Action 21: Strengthen Litter-Free Mobile plan of education, prevention, collection, and enforcement.

Action 22: Increase community awareness, information, and participation in Resilience Actions.

Action 23: Strengthen collaboration among City departments and with County and utility partners.

SUB-ACTIONS

24.1 Encourage service providers and programs that receive City funds to foster collaboration and support resilience outcomes.

The work of service providers that receive City funding is a huge asset to Mobilians and critical in supporting the City's vision for resilience. The City is well positioned to create a culture of collaboration and transparency so that service providers and programs are aligned with the Resilience Actions identified in this plan. By identifying tangible strategies that can be implemented to strengthen program efficacy—like amending performance contracts with resilience in mind or requiring reporting on resilience-based metrics as a requirement to receive funding—the City can help make sure that public funds are spent to align with the City's vision for resilience and can intentionally track outcomes to make the case for future funding needs.

24.2 Support city-wide efforts to engage residents and increase their awareness of City and partner resources and projects.

Mobile has already invested in programs that have the potential to benefit residents and strengthen the city's resilience. For these programs to reach their full potential, residents must understand what is available to them and how to access different resources based on their individual needs. Additionally, the City can facilitate collaboration and information sharing among local service providers to strategically increase their effectiveness. Educating Mobilians about the role city government can play in their life is a critical next step in supporting the full utilization of City-funded programs and initiatives. The City's Office of Community Affairs seeks to enhance the delivery of services to all citizens in the City of Mobile through coordination, program development, advocacy, and resource mobilization. It is committed to supporting key community initiatives like the Homeownership Provides Equity (HoPE) program, facilitation of services provided (311, C251 Citizen Academy) and conducting outreach that benefits the residents of Mobile. Through targeted outreach and messaging, including broadband, the City can also increase awareness and utilization of these programs.

25 | Strengthen regional, state, and federal partnerships to advance resilience.

Strong regional, state, and federal partnerships are important for knowledge sharing, networking, and funding actions to advance resilience. To expand the resilience efforts that Mobile has already started and to share in successes of resilience projects, the City of Mobile has the opportunity to formalize their position in regional and national networks and approach external funding tactically and with care. Working with partners at the local, state, and federal levels, Mobile can continue to leverage the work that has already been done and strategically identify where and how additional resources and initiatives can provide multiple resilience benefits throughout the city.

SHOCKS & STRESSORS ADDRESSED
Connects to all shocks and stressors

RESILIENCE SYSTEMS
COMMUNITIES | Infrastructure | Economy | Health and Wellbeing | Natural Resources

TIMEFRAME
Immediate (2025)

RELATED ACTIONS
Action 2: Strengthen the resilience and operability of critical facilities and assets.

Action 24: Coordinate resources and service delivery among government, non-profit, and civic partners.

SUB-ACTIONS

25.1 Share resilience best practices through participation in regional and national networks.

Through the various resilience efforts that Mobile has already initiated (including this Resilience Plan), Mobile has demonstrated a commitment to planning and implementing best practices that will benefit residents now and in the long-term. To effectively build on current resilience efforts, share successes, and learn about new practices, Mobile can continue to participate in regional and national networks that promote knowledge sharing and exchange of lessons learned in resilience planning and implementation.

25.2 Work with local, state, and federal partners to strategically leverage external funding for resilience improvements.

Managing a diverse set of funding streams within city government requires significant capacity but can yield many benefits when internal processes are organized and strategic. Federal grants can serve as an important resource for programs and projects of various sizes, but external funding also includes philanthropic funds, state funds, public-private partnerships, and other diverse funding streams. To avoid unintended burdens that may come with specific funding sources, the City of Mobile can work cautiously and strategically to leverage external funding for resilience improvements.

Photo by PLACE:SLR | External partnerships can promote knowledge sharing and exchange of lessons learned

Ideas for Spatial Resilience Projects

Summary from the March 5–6 Spatial Planning Resilience Workshop

Workshop Goals Included:

- *Review Resilience Assessment inputs.*
- *Ask big questions.*
- *Build on previously completed watershed management plans, reports, studies and capital improvement projects.*
- *Define potential projects.*
- *Draw and imagine.*

In early March 2024, the project team hosted a 2-day spatial planning workshop utilizing a layered approach to resilience and adaptation. The workshop convened a team of multidisciplinary professionals, including planners, urban designers, landscape architects, coastal scientists and engineers, along with local stakeholders and community members. Workshop participants developed visionary project ideas that translate the Resilience Plan Pillars and Actions a set of concepts for physical resilience improvements in Mobile neighborhoods that can be further advanced into implementable projects.

Workshop Framing

The workshop opened with a review of the *Resilience Assessment* and a presentation of the background material to frame the time spent working together. This framing enabled participants to identify visionary projects and avoid being stuck in the "why nots" of the present. The concepts identified in this document are to spark further thinking and direction for continued action.

Layered Planning

The layered planning approach is an approach to resilience and adaptation, where ground, water, infrastructure, and inhabitation are one integrated whole. A first priority is to understand how systems interact. As the true foundation, soils and water are the basis for planning and designing infrastructure and networks, which then shape human activity, from urban to industrial to rural. Human intervention and policy change the shape of the land and the flow of water and nutrients across the landscape. These interactions create a complex, delicate balance; it is critical to understand and coordinate these systems and rely on nature's fundamentals for future stability.
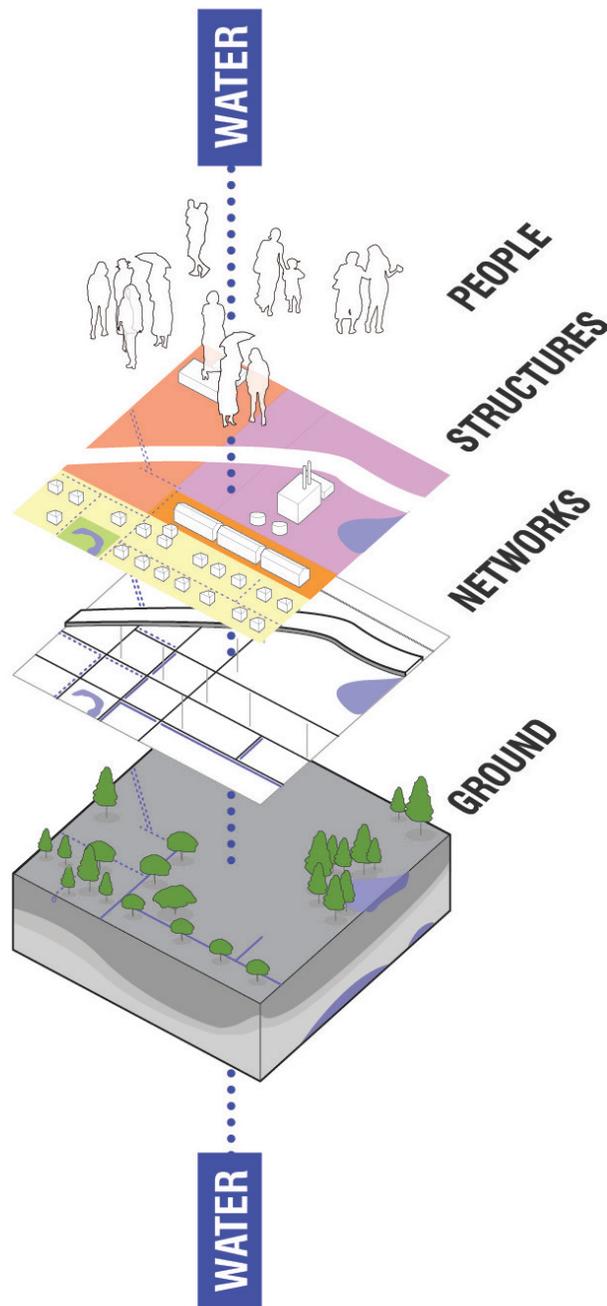
Visualization of the layered planning approach which was adopted throughout the workshop. (Waggonner & Ball)

Collaborative Drawing in a Workshop Setting

The workshop groups were organized around specific watersheds in Mobile, focusing geographically on related issues. Time was spent drawing collaboratively to capture existing local knowledge and ideas while building consensus for emerging project concepts. The results of those discussions were captured on paper maps.

For each key watershed, maps were digitized and discussion topics with emerging project ideas were summarized, linking ideas to the seven pillars shown below. A banner has been placed next to an exemplary project representative of each pillar.

PROTECT   PREPARE   GROW   CONNECT   EDUCATE   ENJOY   ENGAGE

What is a Spatial Planning Workshop?

Process

- Participatory planning process
- Interdisciplinary team
- Creative and design-based
- Fast and iterative
- Useful for problem definition and idea generation

Goals

- Demonstrate new forms of collaboration.
- Iterate and advance existing project ideas.
- Develop design concepts ready for funding application/allocation.
- Identify replicable opportunities.

*Collaborative drawing enables adjacencies and ideas to be drawn with in-time discussions*

Visuals and collective brainstorming work to materialize project ideas and how they work as a system

Watersheds

By framing areas around watersheds, we can identify opportunities for resilience projects that cross neighborhoods and political boundaries.
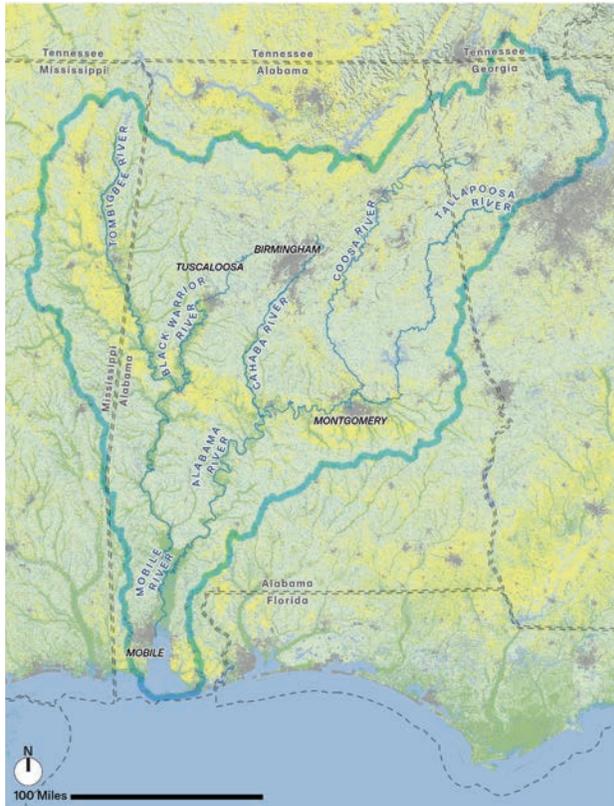
Mobile Bay regional watershed
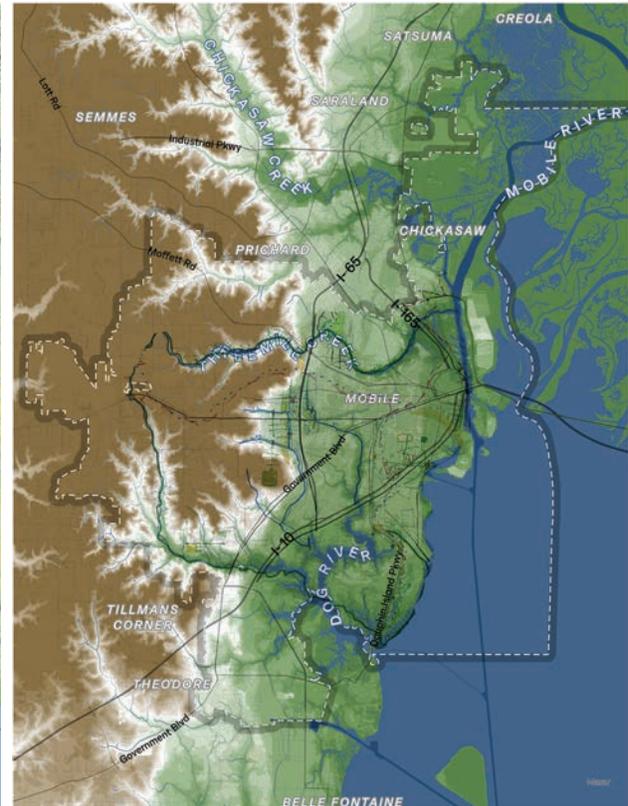
Mobile County elevation

Starting with the layer of land and water, watersheds are just the way into understanding the study area. Analyzing other layers helps identify and shape physical project approaches and address multiple actions included in the Resilience Plan, such as expanding access to parks or decreasing urban heat.
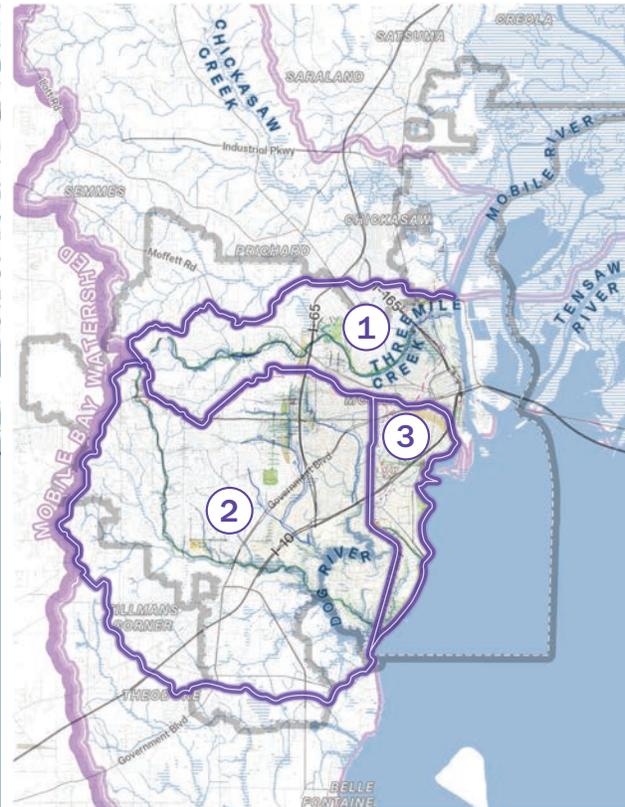
Watershed

An area of land where all water flows to the same creek, river, or mouth of a bay.

Mobile Watersheds

Watersheds in Mobile include: (1) Three Mile Creek, (2) Dog River, and (3) Downtown Mobile and Bayfront.
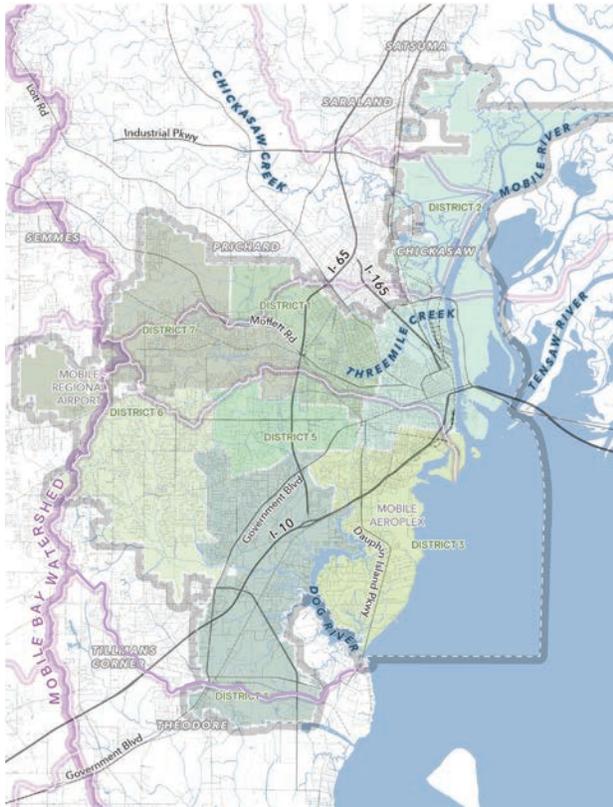
Mobile Bay regional districts and watersheds

Watersheds in Mobile include the Three Mile Creek, Dog River, and the Bayfront

In keeping with the layered planning approach, the workshop was structured around watersheds. These areas cross political boundaries but are interconnected by the physical traits of the land and water.

Mitigating Risk Through Planning and Design

Resilience strategies must do more than mitigate risk: they are opportunities to further other City goals and community priorities.

The physical project ideas generated during the spatial planning workshop are meant to be a first step in this process. They are ambitious with actionable steps towards a visionary future for Mobile.

Many of the ideas City Council district sized projects, but they can be broken down into individually funded projects and implemented in phases.

Timeline

Site Visits & Workshop Scoping	Action Development Workshop	Spatial Workshops & Public Open House	Plan Completion
November 2023	December 2023	March 2024	October 2024

Project Ideas

The following sections include project ideas and a summary of discussions relevant to each main watershed in Mobile:

1 │ Three Mile Creek Watershed

- A Africatown
- B Trinity Gardens – Upper Wragg Swamp
- C Three Mile Creek

2 │ Dog River Watershed

- A Eslava Creek/Former Wragg Swamp/Bel Air Mall
- B Lower Dog River
- C Western Mobile
- D Peninsula

3 │ Downtown Mobile & Bayfront Area

- A Downtown Mobile & Bayfront
- B Old Water Street
- C Greater Mobile Downtown Airport Area

4 │ ONE Mobile Loop Trail

Public Open House on March 6, 2024 at the James Seals Park & Community Center

The Public Open House shared discussions from community stakeholder workshops and gathered community member feedback

1 | Three Mile Creek Watershed

Three Mile Creek Watershed extends from the creek to the north and south. It includes schools, industries, critical facilities, Mobile Infirmary, Children's & Women's Hospital, University Hospital, and several historic neighborhoods, including Africatown.

The overarching theme of this watershed is <u>connecting</u> people to water and nature for cultural, recreational, and environmental opportunities.
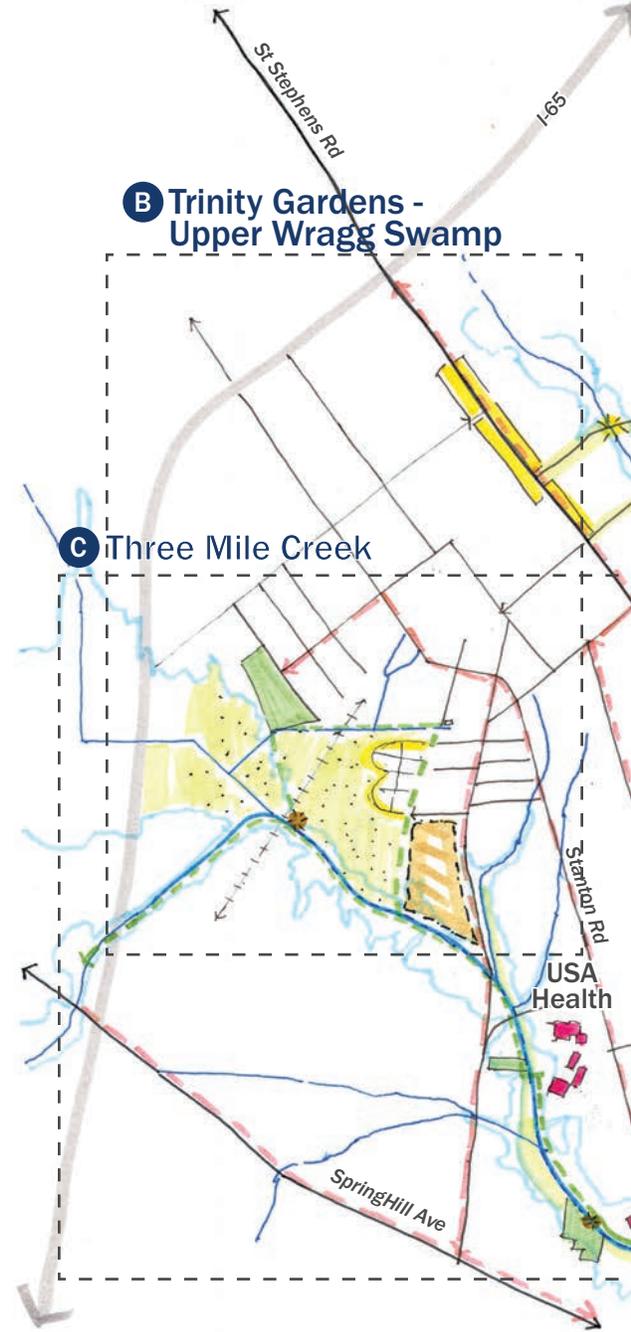
Workshop Conversations

Participants discussed various topics related to increasing connections to water and nature in Africatown. Specifically, participants were interested in access to water for recreational and cultural purposes and to parks and greenspace through improved pedestrian and bicycle access (e.g., across Bay Bridge Road).

Participants also recognized the protective value of environmental buffers against threats such as storms and sea-level rise. Furthermore, expanding nature-based connections could be implemented along commercial corridors which would keep tax dollars in the local area to fund park and trail improvements over time and provide infrastructure necessary to support the anticipated uptick in cultural tourism to this district.

Concerns were raised about site contamination from industrial usage along the creek and river as well as growing disconnections between communities and important cultural sites.

Participants identified a need to leverage and promote prior planning efforts to implement their ideas.

Legend

- - - Blueway/Kayak Trail
▦ Culture/Critical Infrastructure

A Africatown

Chicksaw Creek

Mobile River

N Wilson Ave

I-165

Telegraph Rd

Old Plateau Cemetery

One Mile Creek

Summerville St

Dr Martin Luther King Jr Ave

I-45

Tricentennial Park

Mobile Infirmary

Legend

- - - Multimodal Trail
○ Existing Access to Water
※ Proposed Access to Water

Proposed Park
Development

- - - Proposed Greenway
Existing Greenway
Existing Park

Creeks/Drainage
Open Water
Roads
Highways

A | Africatown

A.1 | Africatown Connections
Grow | Connect | Protect | Prepare | Educate | Engage | Enjoy

Building on existing planning done by the community, this concept leverages multiple ongoing efforts to build a cohesive district that focuses on connecting people to water. Multimodal trails connect sites of cultural significance to neighborhood amenities and the wider trail network within Mobile. Access to water is prioritized under existing transportation corridors and bridges, preserving remaining natural creek frontage.

These new points of access leverage the work underway to create the Africatown Connections Blueway, ultimately connecting the district by land and water for recreational, educational, and cultural functions.

Components

- Develop a multimodal cultural trail system connecting people to water for recreation and cultural events.
- Create cultural and recreational means to access water.
- Utilize existing infrastructure zones to limit disturbance to existing natural edges of creek, e.g. under Africatown Bridge.
- Support access to the Africatown Connections Blueway and currently inaccessible Three Mile Creek reaches with a kayak and boat launch.

Grow
Creating more options for connecting people to commercial and cultural spaces can catalyze additional neighborhood redevelopment.

A.2 | Old Plateau Cemetery Stormwater Management
Protect | Prepare | Enjoy

This project would work to protect history by shifting stormwater discharged from Bay Bridge Road by increasing storage on adjacent land. Better stormwater management would slow erosion around cultural sites such as Old Plateau Cemetery.

Greenway Connections to Cultural Assets

Access to Creek

Components

- Modify wetlands on underutilized industrial sites between the historic cemetery and Three Mile Creek for additional stormwater detention.
- Improve drainage infrastructure to move water from Bay Bridge Road past the historic cemetery to newly created detention and treatment wetlands.
- Grant additional pedestrian access to parks.

Legend
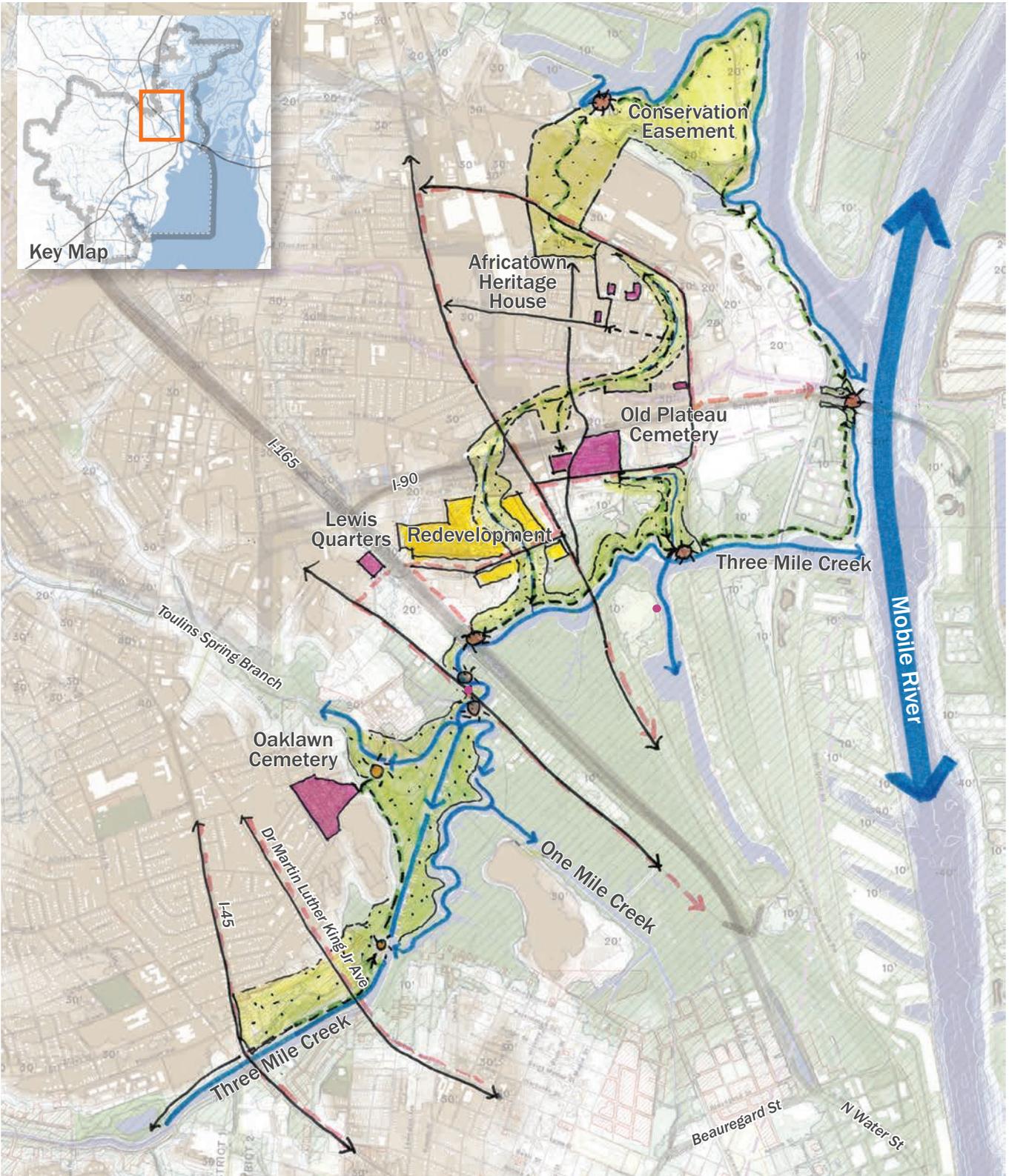
Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description
••••	Blueway/Kayak Trail	⊙	Existing Access to Water	‑ ‑ ‑	Proposed Greenway	——	Creeks/Drainage
▨	Culture/Critical Infra	☀	Proposed Access to Water	——	Existing Greenway	▉	Open Water
‑ ‑ ‑	Multimodal Trail	▨	Proposed Park/Greenway	▨	Existing Park	——	Roads
		▨	Development			▨	Highways

A.3 | Redevelopment of Former Happy Hills Development

Grow | Connect | Educate | Engage | Enjoy
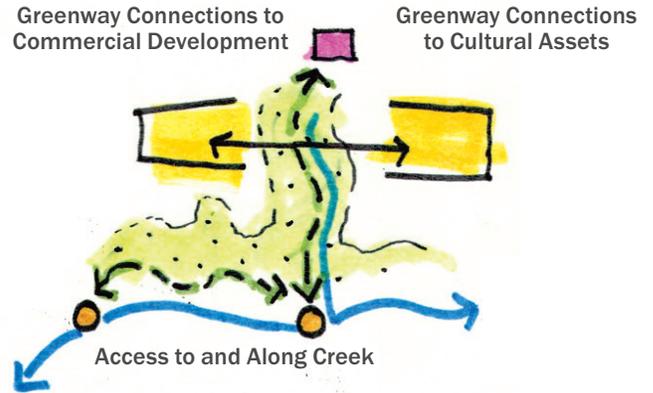
GROW

This idea focuses on the former Happy Hills development site, eyeing future redevelopment to support this community as a culture tourism destination. The site concept centers around making space for the historic creek to allow for flooding in a native landscape park.

Components

- Invigorate a new economic corridor with a cultural welcome center.
- Implement a stormwater park within the historic floodplain to protect current and future development.
- New access to extension of Three Mile Creek trail and boat launch.
- Access to multiple historic sites along the creek.

Vacant land of former Happy Hills housing

Greenway Connections to Commercial Development

Greenway Connections to Cultural Assets

Access to and Along Creek

Restored Ecology · Wetland Benches · New Cultural Development · Stimrad Rd Multimodal Trail · Commercial Redevelopment · Historic Creek Stormwater Park

Participants discussed some key issues relevant to this geography, including its isolation from water (land-locked area) and participants described the area as a food desert. Sources of contamination were also discussed, such as railroad spraying and brownfield sites. Lastly, participants expressed concerns about encroachment of natural habitat and potential threats of bears and snakes in the neighborhood.

B.1 | Trinity Gardens Stormwater Park
Connect | Protect | Grow | Enjoy

This stormwater park both leverages the proximity to the proposed greenway and would create new recreational opportunities and access points to water along Three Mile Creek. The proposed stormwater park creates a new neighborhood anchor on a former brownfield site, decreasing localized flooding from rainfall events and drawing economic energy from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Project Components

- Anchor neighborhood adjacent to Three Mile Creek with Stormwater Park and nature preserve.
- Increase stormwater capacity for the creek, decrease localized rainfall flooding, and improve water quality with prefiltration through native plantings.
- Create a new economic corridor for surrounding neighborhoods on a brownfield remediation site.
- Connects proposed legs of regional greenway trail system and neighboring Trinity Gardens Park and Joseph Dotch Park Community Center.

Stormwater Park/
Nature Preserve

Redevelopment + Brownfield
Remediation

Trinity Gardens to Greenway
Connection

B.2 | Blue/Green Access Network

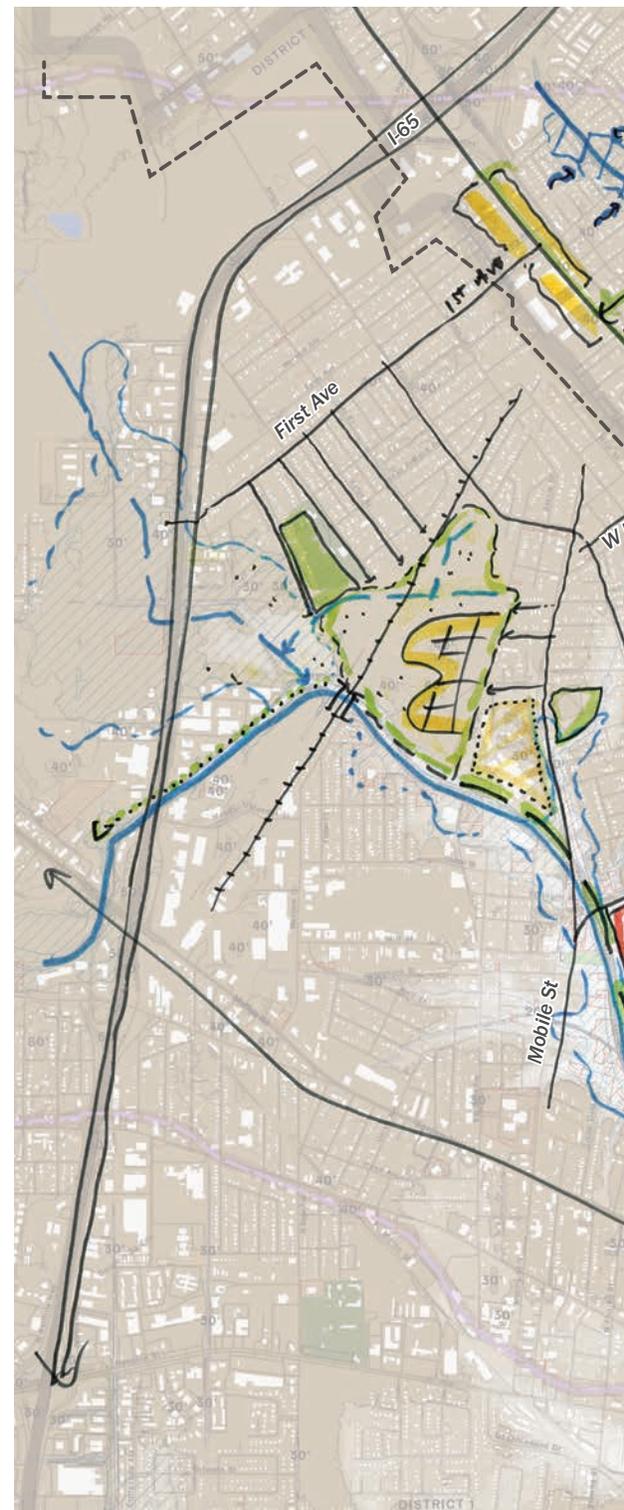**Engage** | Connect | Protect | Grow | Educate | Enjoy

ENGAGE

The Blue/Green Access Network leverages additional efforts proposed across the city boundary to build a cohesive green stormwater management and creek access strategy for the Trinity Gardens community.

Components

- Green streets and multimodal access to tributaries of Three Mile Creek.
- Additional economic corridors connected by green streets that straddle the creeks.
- New points of access to the creeks at intersections with green streets.
- Educational signage with topics including water quality, litter, and stormwater.

Limited current access along Three Mile Creek

Legend

- - - - **Blueway/Kayak Trail**
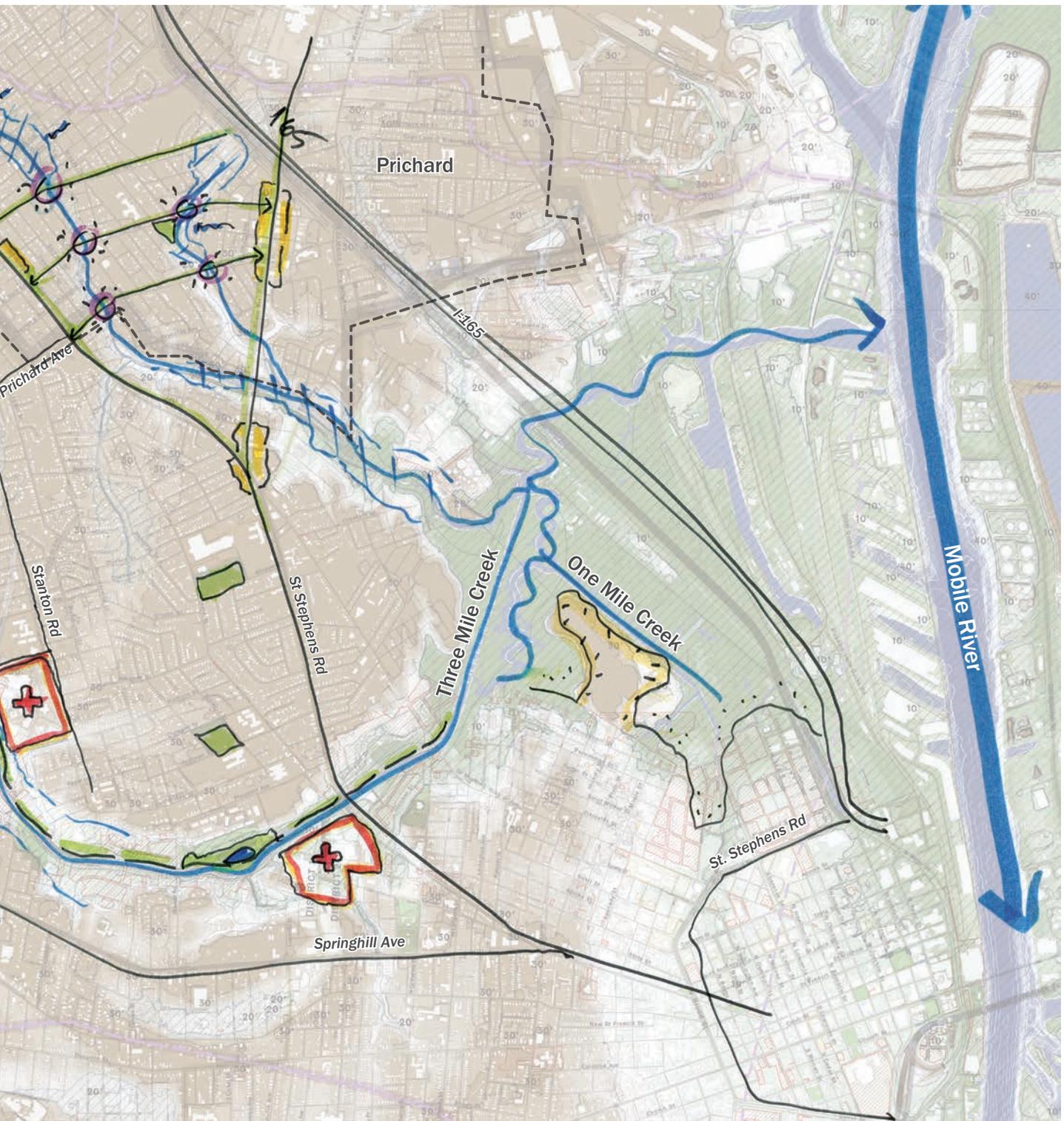
▰▰ **Culture/Critical Infrastructure**

Prichard

I-165

Prichard Ave

Stanton Rd

St Stephens Rd

Three Mile Creek

One Mile Creek

Mobile River

St. Stephens Rd

Springhill Ave

- - - Multimodal Trail
Existing Access to Water
Proposed Access to Water

Proposed Park
Development
Existing Park

- - - Proposed Greenway
Existing Greenway

Creeks/Drainage
Open Water

Roads
Highways

Workshop participants focused on identifying additional opportunities for communities to connect with water, including increased access to the creek for recreation as well as developing creek-front parks that can promote connectivity between the community and water. Other benefits from increased connectivity between residents and water were discussed, with an emphasis on improved public health. Participants also discussed water-related issues in this area, including neighborhood flooding and degrading creek bank conditions.

Workshop Conversations

Participants discussed various topics related to increasing connections to water and nature in Africatown. Specifically, participants were interested in access to water for recreational and cultural purposes and to parks and greenspace through improved pedestrian and bicycle access (e.g., across Bay Bridge Road).

Participants also recognized the protective value of environmental buffers against threats such as storms and sea-level rise. Furthermore, expanding nature-based connections could be implemented along commercial corridors which would keep tax dollars in the local area to fund park and trail improvements over time and provide infrastructure necessary to support the anticipated uptick in cultural tourism to this district.

Concerns were raised about site contamination from industrial usage along the creek and river as well as growing disconnections between communities and important cultural sites.

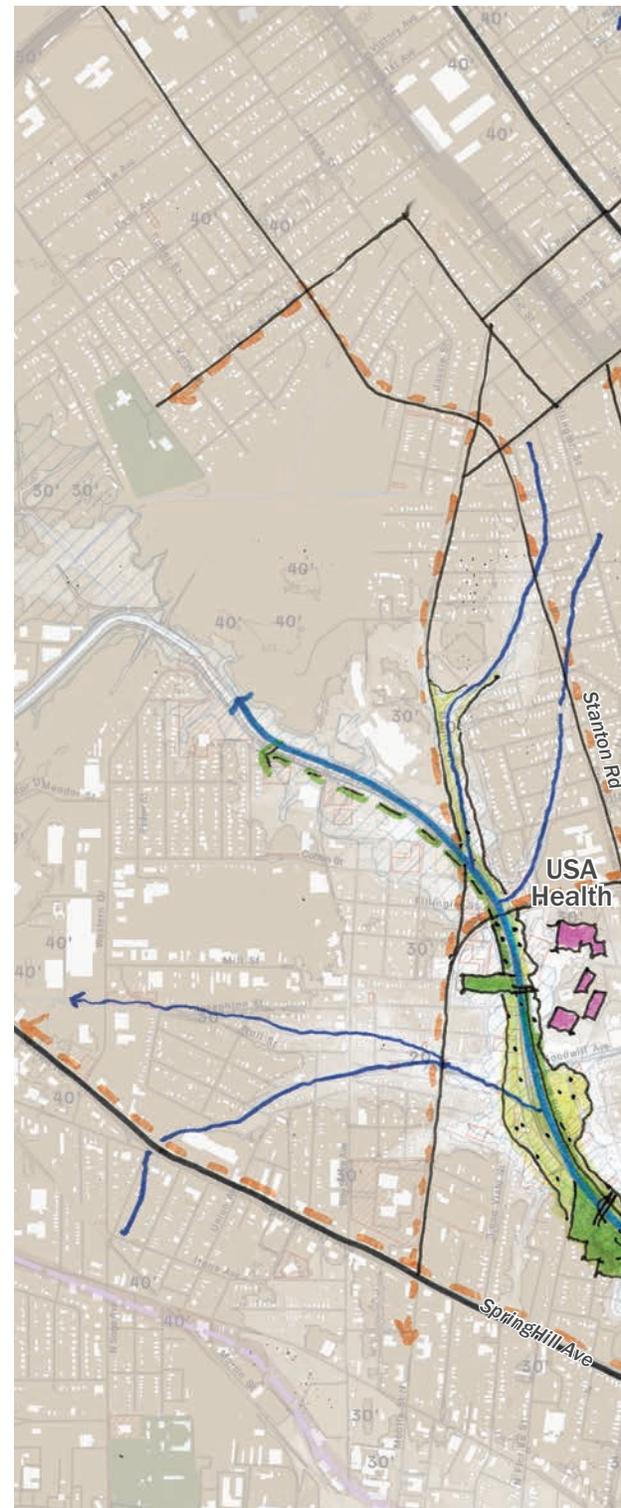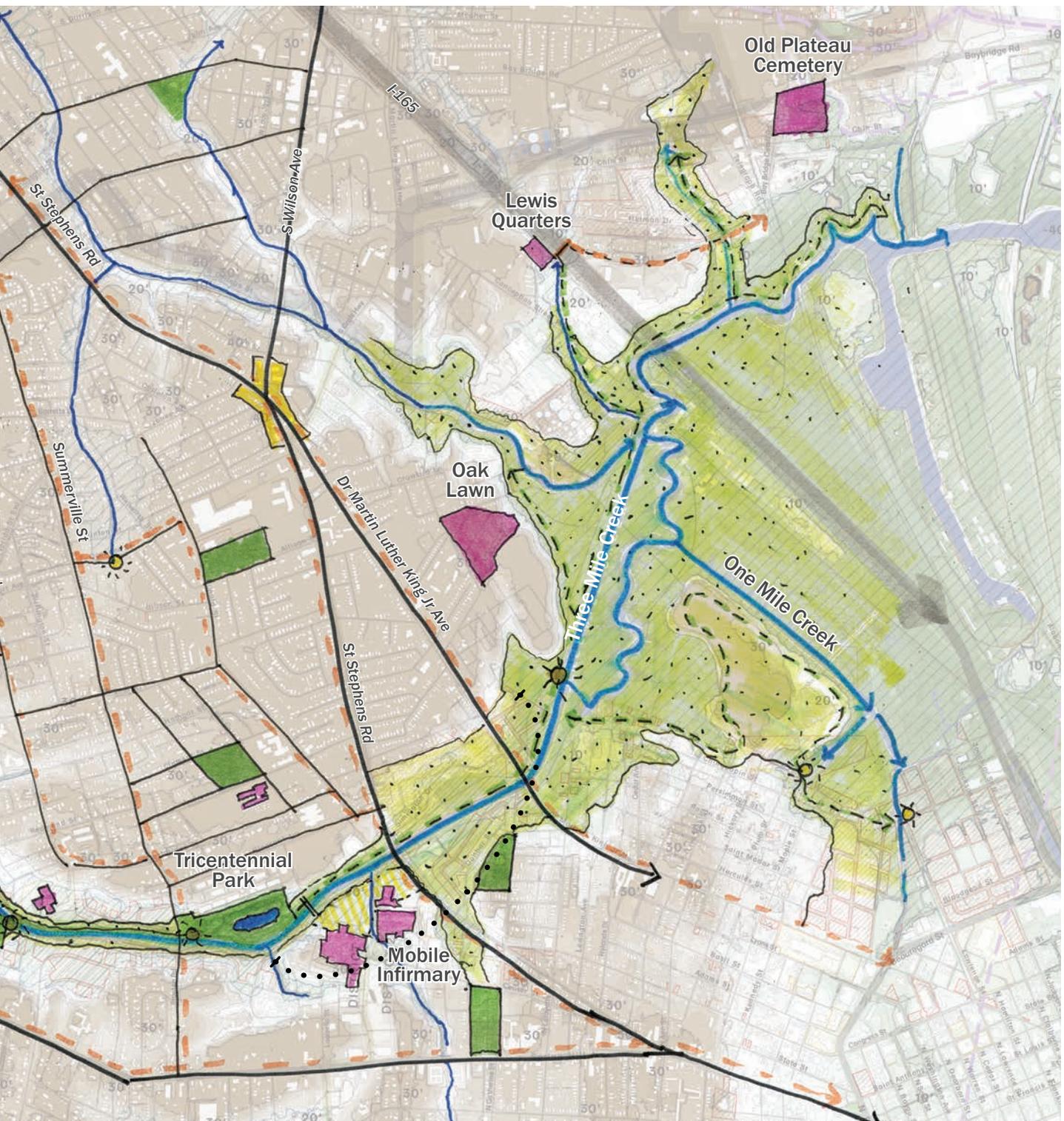Participants identified a need to leverage and promote prior planning efforts to implement their ideas.

Legend

- ● ● ● Blueway/Kayak Trail
- ▨ Culture/Critical Infrastructure

Legend

- - - Multimodal Trail
- Existing Access to Water
- Proposed Access to Water

Proposed Park
Development
Existing Park

- - - Proposed Greenway
Existing Greenway

Creeks/Drainage
Open Water

Roads
Highways

Map Labels:

Old Plateau Cemetery

Lewis Quarters

Oak Lawn

Three Mile Creek

One Mile Creek

Tricentennial Park

Mobile Infirmary

St Stephens Rd

S Wilson Ave

I-165

Summerville St

Dr Martin Luther King Jr Ave

St Stephens Rd

C | Three Mile Creek

C.1 | Greenway Expansion
Connect | Protect | Grow | Educate | Enjoy

Capitalizing on the success and neighborhood support for the Three Mile Creek Greenway, this project proposes continuing to build and expand the trail while identifying areas for increased stormwater retention.

City-owned parcels along the creek can be used to expand space for stormwater and linear creek-adjacent park space. Banks could be modified to become more natural and wider to accommodate recreation and increased water volumes. This project could increase multimodal connections for adjacent neighborhoods to easily access the creek, such as kayak, canoe, and bike stands.

Project Components

- Connect Mobile Infirmary and University Hospital to the Greenway Trail while creating space for stormwater.
- Naturalize the banks of the creek to facilitate greater recreational opportunities.
- Create a Three Mile Creek Blueway consisting of a kayak path to the river connecting to the Africatown Connections Blue.
- Modify bridges that inhibit passage.
- Create launches at all existing and planned Greenway Trail heads.
- Modify weirs to allow people to port their kayaks upstream.
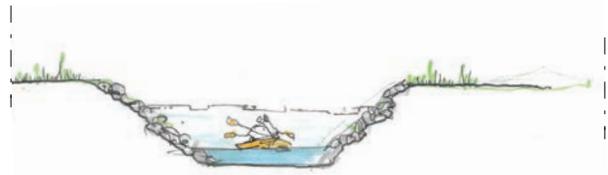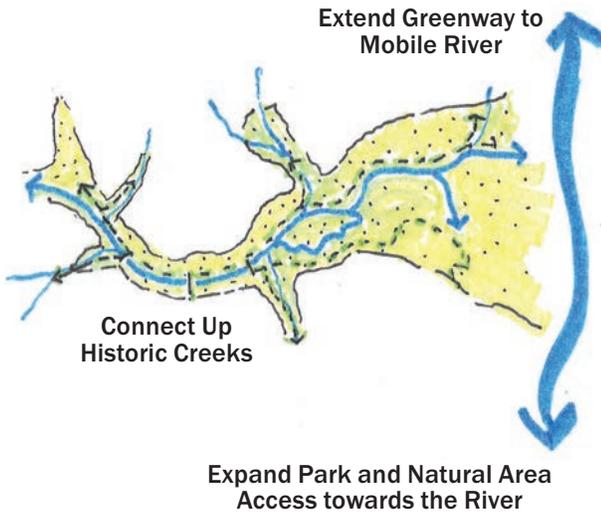- Consider other historic sites, including Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery.

C.2 | One Mile Creek Nature Preserve/Park on Former Landfill
Enjoy | Connect | Grow | Educate | Engage

A new nature preserve and park created on the capped former city landfill can serve as a new community asset. This long-term visionary project creates a regional park on a brownfield site and surrounding City-owned property within the floodplain. This large area could include many recreational amenities, ball fields, walking trails, kayak access, as well as landscaped areas to improve water quality and decrease localized flooding.

Project Components

- Increase access to water by creating connections between Africatown Connections Blueway and Three Mile Creek.
- Use of City-owned parcels to expand park's footprint to include flood-able recreation facilities, near the existing YMCA.
- Improve water quality through remediation wetland planting.
- Add new recreational facilities.

Extend Greenway to
Mobile River

Connect Up
Historic Creeks

Expand Park and Natural Area
Access towards the River

Existing Creek Section

Proposed Creek Section

I-165

Landfill Nature
Park

Beneficial Use of
Dredge Material

Dr. MLK Jr Ave

Beauregard St

Bishop State
Community College

Downtown
Stormwater
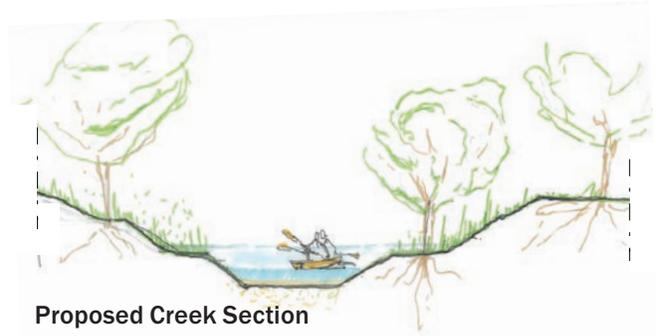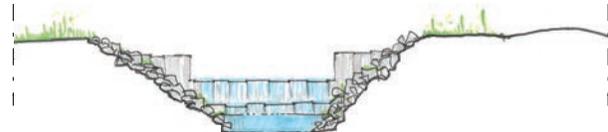
Existing Creek Section
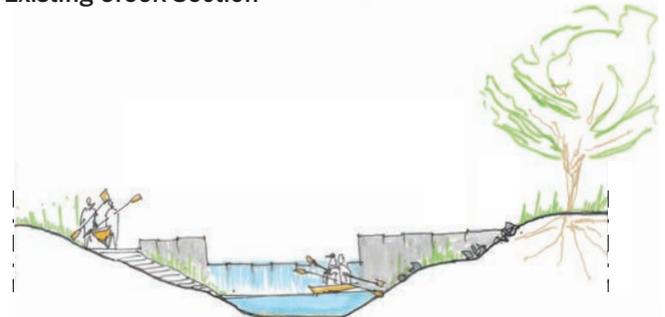
Proposed Kayak Access

The Dog River Watershed is the largest watershed in Mobile, encompassing all seven council districts and including a diverse range of rural and urban communities. The watershed features dozens of tributaries, both natural and channelized, that feed into the winding Dog River, eventually leading out to Mobile Bay.

Consisting of predominately sprawling single family housing and suburban development, the watershed is dotted with existing parks, industrial facilities, schools, hospitals, and shopping centers—each posing their own opportunities and services to Mobile residents.

C **Western Mobile**

Medal of
Honor Park

Hillcrest Rd

Legend

- - - Blueway/Kayak Trail

Culture/Critical Infrastructure

Key Map

A — Eslava Creek

Airport Blvd.

Cottage Hill Road

Eslava Creek

Halls Mill Rd

I-65

D — Peninsula

B — Dog River

Government Blvd

Mobile County
Soccer Complex

Dog River
Park

Doyle Park

Brookley by
the Bay

Gillard Elementary
School

I-10

Halls Mill Creek

Dauphin Island Parkway

Rangeline Rd

McNally Park

Dog River

Hellen
Wood Park
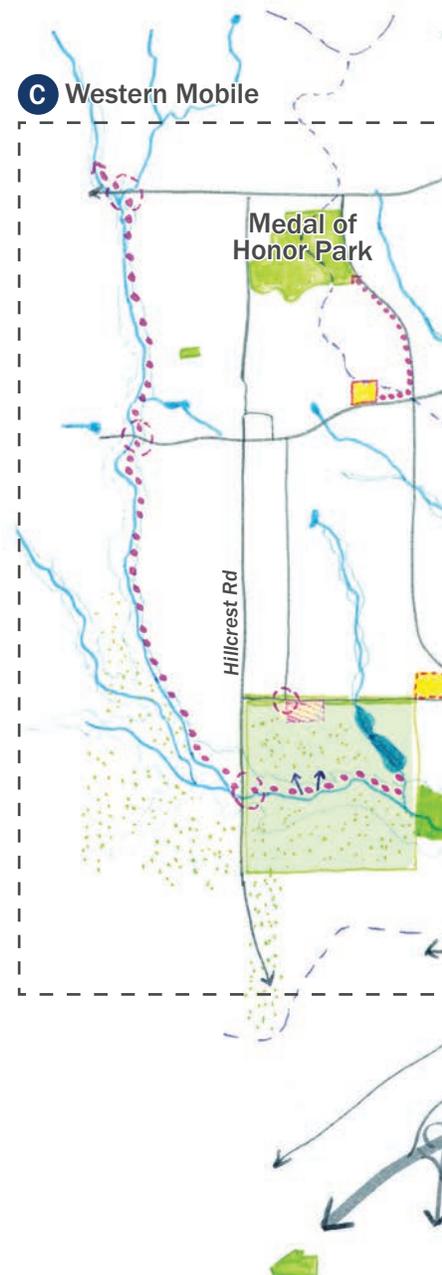
▬ ▬ ▬ Multimodal Trail	▬▬ Proposed Greenway	▬▬ Creeks/Drainage	▬▬ Roads
☀ Proposed Access to Water	▬ Existing Park	▬ Open Water	▦ Highways
▪ Public Amenity			

The landscape surrounding the interchange of I-65 and Airport Boulevard once was a vast swamp known as Wragg Swamp. The swamp was drained and filled, and meandering creeks were transformed into straight rip rap and earthen channels to make room for a shopping center in the early 1950s.

Today, this area is heavily urbanized with large swaths of parking lots, causing water quality degradation and flooding downstream. Many residents in and around this area are unaware of their proximity to Eslava Creek because the creek has been channelized with steep concrete banks that are not accessible.

Workshop Conversations

Participants of the Workshop discussed four main topics: safety, impervious surfaces (e.g., paved roads, parking lots, streets, etc.), access, and abandoned buildings. Pedestrian and cyclist safety was top-of-mind for most participants.

Residents highlighted difficulties accessing resources (grocery stores, shops, and amenities) without a motorized vehicle due to limited routes, sidewalk access, and bike lanes, citing places with unsafe crossings without crosswalks.

Impervious surfaces were also highlighted, with participants discussing the abundance of large parking lots that are under-utilized and the resulting prevalence of heat islands.

Additional discussion was centered around the lack of access to (and the lack of public knowledge about) Eslava Creek and multiple abandoned and vacant buildings in the area.

Existing pedestrian bridge along Montilmar Creek Fitness Trail
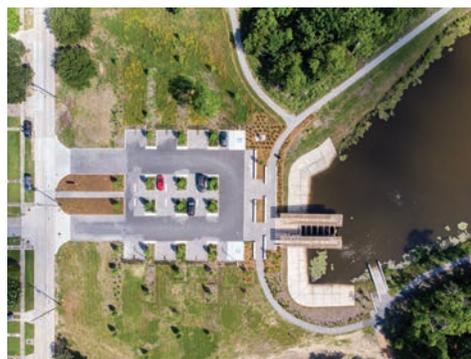
Gretna City Park parking by Waggonner & Ball

Channelized portion of Eslava Creek

Legend

- ---- Blueway/Kayak Trail
- ▨ Culture/Critical Infrastructure
- - - - Multimodal Trail
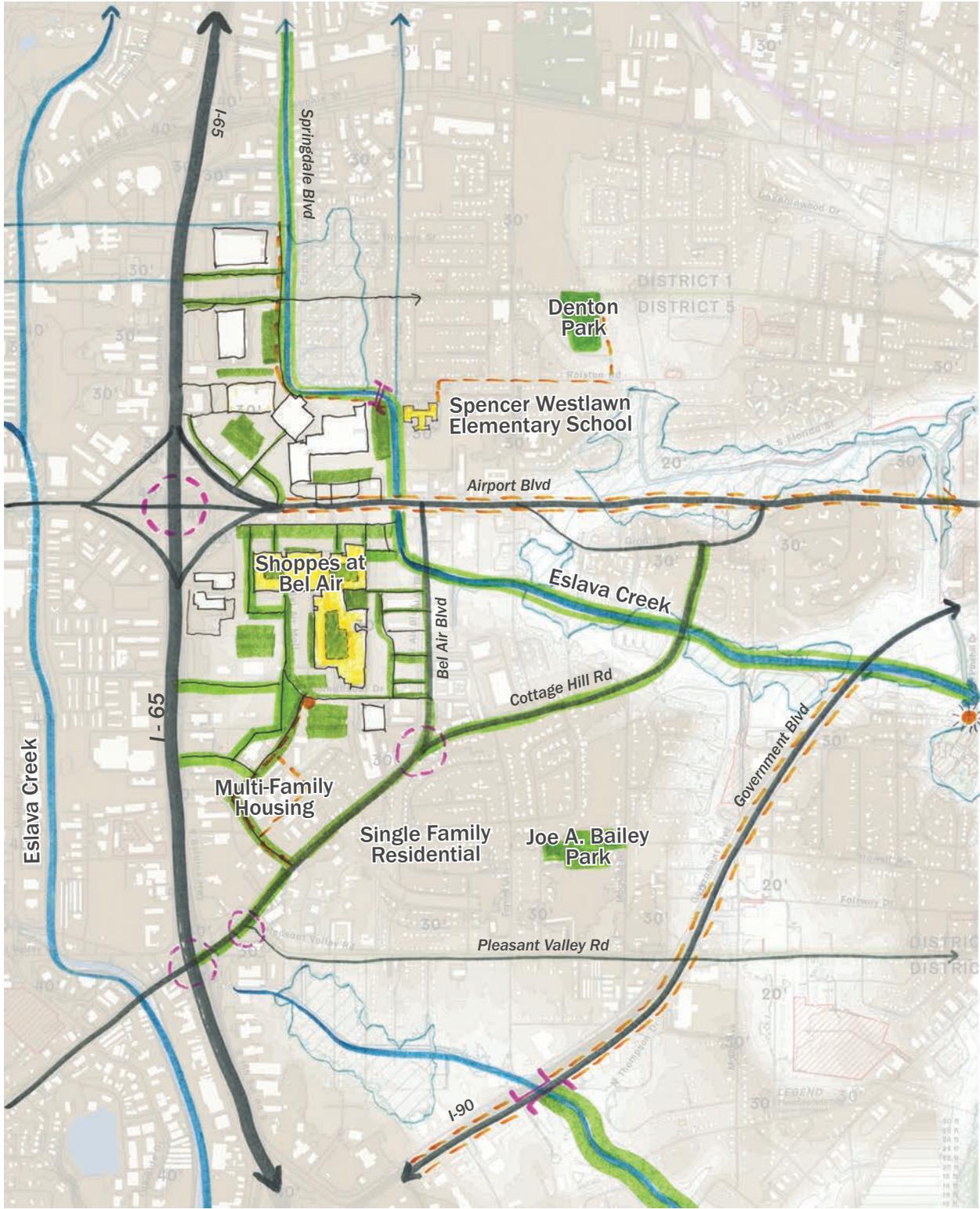- ✳ Proposed Water Access
- ▨ Public Amenity
- ▨ Existing Park
- ━━━ Green Paths/Trails
- ━━━ Existing Creek
- ━━━ Roads
- ▨ Highways

A.1 | Pedestrian and Cyclist Access Network
Connect | Protect | Grow | Educate | Enjoy

Increasing pedestrian and cyclist connections from adjoining residential neighborhoods to the commercial corridor along Airport Boulevard and Bel Air Boulevard can improve safety and encourage alternate uses of transportation.

Eslava Creek cyclist access

Project Components

- Identify key streets that can handle bike and pedestrian access and crosswalks.
- Add bike lanes and sidewalks to Interstate Service Road.
- Reduce lane widths and number of lanes where possible.
- Use easements or right-of-way along Eslava Creek.
- Incorporate tree canopy and shade structures to create more comfortable walking conditions to key destinations.

A.2 | Shopping Center Improvements: Environmental
Enjoy | Educate

Identifying areas of impervious paving that are no longer in use and converting the paving into usable or productive greenspace can provide aesthetic benefits as well as positive environmental impacts for the surrounding area.

Bel Air Mall aerial

Project Components

- Remove edges of paving and aisles of existing parking lots to create more inviting connections for residents in abutting neighborhoods.
- Create rain gardens and bioswales in parking lots where grading and general conditions allow.
- Increase tree canopy to reduce heat island, slow and clean stormwater runoff, and improve air quality.
- Educate through a signage campaign geared towards residents and mall visitors on topics of stormwater and heat island effect.
- Create green corridors to connect residential areas to commercial destinations.

A.3 | Shopping Center Improvements: Community
Grow| Engage | Enjoy

Infill and adaptive reuse can bring new life to the existing, but mostly vacant, shopping area. Careful incorporation of smart growth principles and low impact development can improve the existing commercial district's quality.

Existing Shoppes at Bel Air impervious surfaces

Project Components

- Create connections to residential areas and prioritize commercial development that will benefit the local community, e.g., grocery stores, childcare, senior living, and entertainment.
- Perform a traffic and parking study to identify what parking is needed.
- Infill existing parking lots with new buildings, housing, parks, playgrounds, or other features that would be useful to the community.
- Provide prime location for apartments, senior living, entertainment district.

A.4 | Eslava Creek Restoration
Enjoy | Educate | Engage | Protect

Restoring Eslava Creek to its natural, historic banks or flow may not be possible. However, there are opportunities to restore portions of the creek's natural beauty and give community members access.

Eslava Creek access

Project Components

- Plant native vegetation, remove invasive species, and restore habitats.
- Provide comfortable access points or lookouts with seating and shade.
- Slow stormwater runoff from parking lots and roadways before it runs into the creek.
- Day-light creek where parking lots and roadways are no longer needed.
- Identify areas for parks to connect residential areas to the creek.
- Initiate a signage campaign to educate residents and mall visitors on stormwater management and local flora and fauna.
- Remove unsightly and polluting litter.

B | Lower Dog River

For this exercise, Lower Dog River encompasses the areas south of Government Boulevard to the western shore of Dog River. This area consists of large undeveloped land, suburban sprawl with residential communities, small commercial nodes, and major transportation corridors including I-10, Government Boulevard, and the railroad leading towards downtown.

Workshop Conversations

As in the other watershed discussions, participants cited limited connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians. Participants want connection and access to existing parks along Dog River and tributaries and increased access to water, citing limited water access due to private ownership and periods of high traffic. Contamination of the river was a key theme of discussion, including threats from litter and sanitary sewer overflow events. Lastly, connectivity issues related to the river itself were

Dog River water edge

discussed, including locations where water is unable to flow properly into the river and locations that may require dredging to remove accumulated silt upstream that prevents water flowing downstream.

B.1 | Increase Public Access to Water
Connect | Protect | Grow | Educate | Enjoy

Throughout the Lower Dog River area, there are few ways for the public to reach the water, creating disproportionate access between private waterfront landowners and others. This potential project explores access from Crestview Park to Moore Creek/Dog River as a prototype that can be replicated to provide access for residential neighborhoods to the water.

Project Components

- Comprehensively restore natural flow in creeks and Dog River.
- Create trail access to the water from the existing park.
- Identify location for look-out or kayak/canoe launch.
- Restore and naturalize areas with native vegetation; habitat restoration.

B.2 | Public Outreach and Litter Education Campaign
Educate | Protect

EDUCATE

Educating the public on the proper ways to discard trash can reduce this form of pollution at its source. Public outreach and a litter education campaign can inform residents on the importance of properly bagging and discarding their rubbish. Loose trash in trash cans or overflowing bins often ends up blown out or knocked over and is carried downstream, ultimately polluting waterways.

Project Components

- Develop signage campaign to educate residents.
- Install additional litter catchment areas.
- Coordinate educational program with local schools and students.
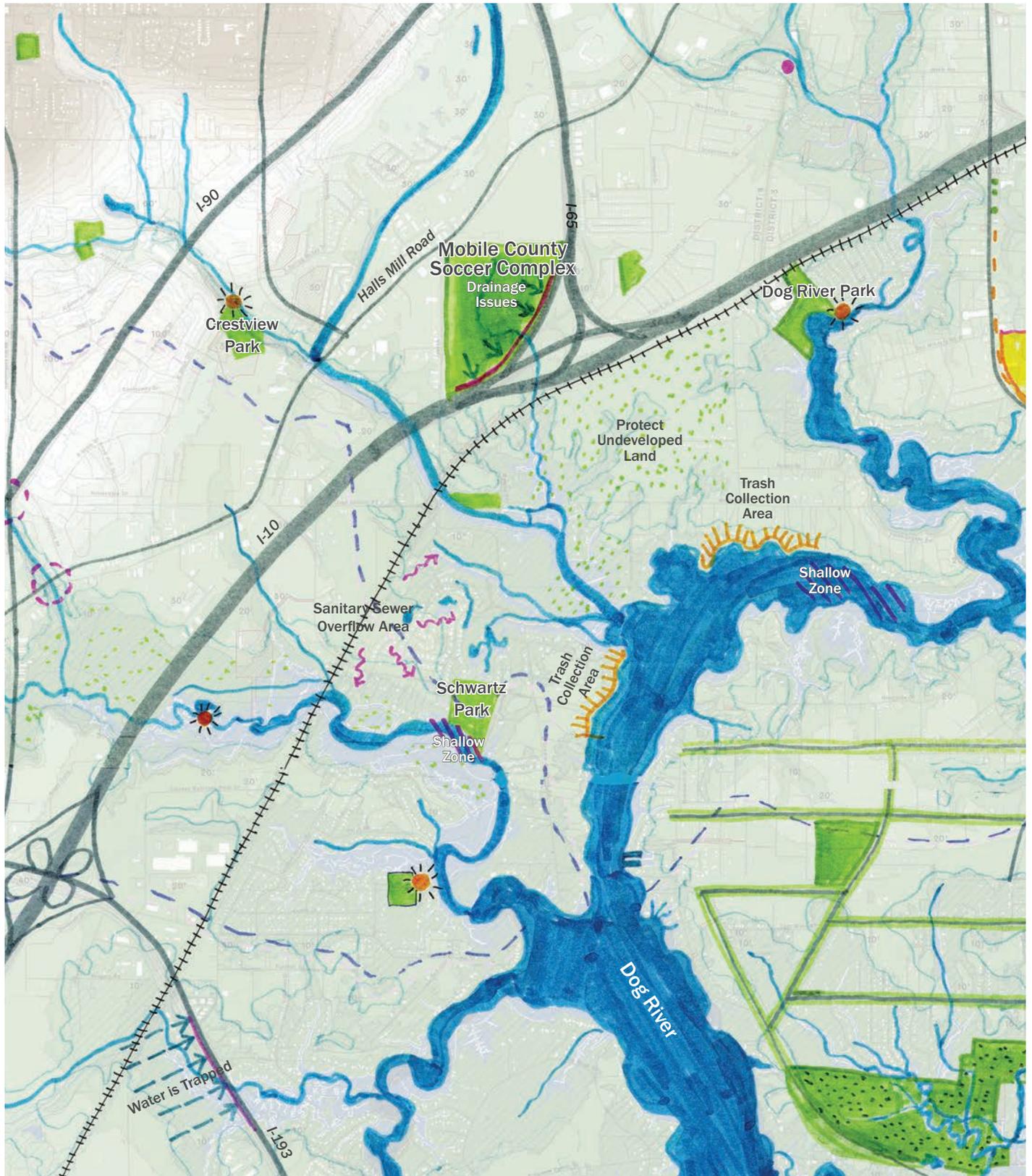
Legend

- **Blueway/Kayak Trail**
- **Culture/Critical Infrastructure**
- **Multimodal Trail**
- **Proposed Access to Water**
- **Public Amenity**
- **Existing Park**
- **Green Path/Trail**
- **Creeks/Drainage**
- **Open Water**
- **Roads**
- **Highways**

For this exploration, Western Mobile includes the area west of Government Boulevard within the Dog River Watershed. The area is primarily sprawling suburban single-family neighborhoods with few recreational spaces such as Medal of Honor Park and the Environmental Studies Center. Several of Dog River's tributaries meander throughout the urban landscape, creating opportunities to connect residents to their natural environment. However, similar to the Lower Dog River area, few residents have access to waterways and trails.

Workshop Conversations

Workshop participants discussed two main themes related to West Mobile: limited access to green and blue spaces and lack of critical medical facilities. Participants flagged that residents lack information about local waterways and potential access points despite the abundance of waterways in the area. Participants highlighted a strong desire to increase public access to recreational opportunities (including waterways and trails), and also cited a lack of connectivity amongst the streets themselves. In terms of emergency preparedness, participants discussed the limitations posed by having only one emergency medical facility in Mobile County which reduces the ability of the community to be prepared to handle a major disaster. Furthermore, residents noted that there is insufficient space for patients needing medical devices.

C.1 | Increase Public Access to Water

Prepare | Connect | Protect | Grow | Educate | Enjoy

PREPARE

Like the Lower Dog River area, most of Western Mobile is located close to water; however, residents are unable to physically access and enjoy the benefits. MAWSS has access trails adjacent to the Halls Mill Creek and Milkhouse Creek. These trails are not currently accessible to the general public but could provide a gateway to the waterways in the future in a coordinated effort with MAWSS.

Project Components

- Encourage new developments to include public access to the water.
- Improve existing facilities to increase awareness and use.
- Increase awareness of existing public access points.
- Develop partnership with MAWSS for access to existing trails.
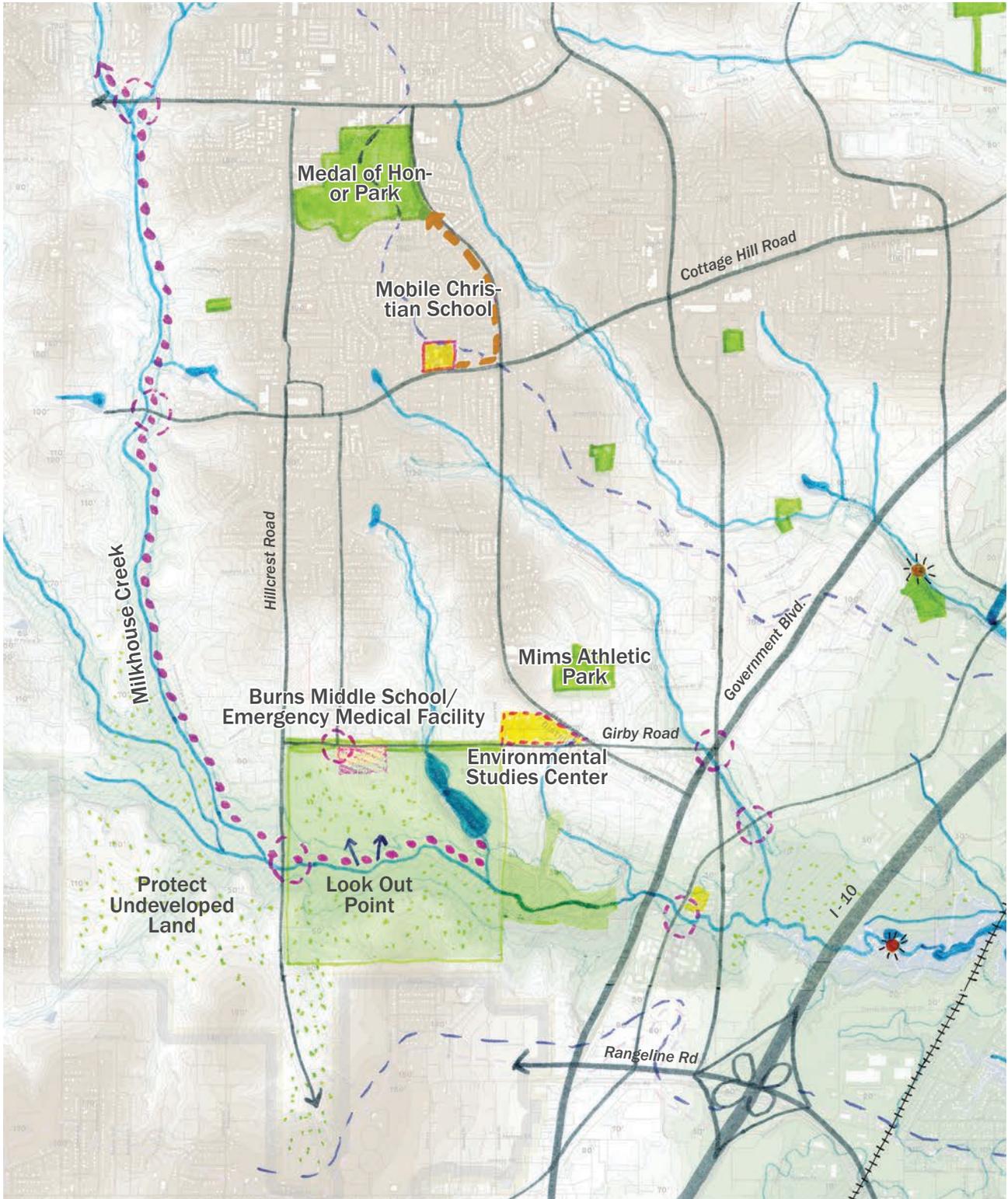
Legend

● ● ● Blueway/Kayak Trail	☀ Proposed Access to Water	─ ─ ─ Proposed Greenway
▬ Culture/Critical Infrastructure	▮ Public Amenity	─ Creeks/Drainage
─ ─ ─ Multimodal Trail	▬ Existing Park	▬ Open Water

── Roads	
▒ Highways	

Map labels:
- Medal of Honor Park
- Mobile Christian School
- Cottage Hill Road
- Milkhouse Creek
- Hillcrest Road
- Government Blvd.
- Mims Athletic Park
- Burns Middle School/Emergency Medical Facility
- Girby Road
- Environmental Studies Center
- Protect Undeveloped Land
- Look Out Point
- I-10
- Rangeline Rd

Located at the southeastern end of the Dog River Watershed, this region is specifically prone to drainage and flooding issues as significant surface runoff from rainstorms results in constant flooding of a number of homes and roads. Its geography is ideal as an area for the public to have access to Mobile Bay and Dog River.

Workshop Conversations

Issues and opportunities related to access, drainage, flooding, connectivity, and threats to natural habitats were discussed. As with the Lower Dog River, access to the water is limited due to private land ownership, resulting in few public access points (boat/kayak launches), long wait times from heavy traffic at limited access points, and overall lack of connectivity amongst existing parks and tributaries. There is also limited connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians, resulting in potentially hazardous traveling conditions for pedestrians who must walk on roads due to a lack of sidewalks, lack of protected and interconnected bicycle lanes, etc. Lastly, workshop participants discussed concerns about habitat loss due to erosion and sea-level rise and potential solutions such as shoreline protection measures.

D.1 | Increase Public Access to Water

Enjoy | Connect | Protect | Grow | Educate

ENJOY

The Peninsula faces many of the same challenges that the overall watershed faces: few public access points to the water, which create disproportionate access between wealthy private waterfront landowners and the general population in the surrounding area. This potential project examines a few selected potential access locations identified in the workshop. Some of the access locations exist and need repair, expansion, or improvements.

Project Components

- Create trail access to the water from existing parks or publicly owned property.
- Identify location for look-out or kayak/canoe launch.
- Restore and naturalize areas with native vegetation; habitat restoration.
- Identify existing facilities that can be improved, expanded, or repaired.

D.2 | Pedestrian and Cyclist Access Network

Connect | Protect | Grow | Educate | Enjoy

Increasing pedestrian and cyclist connections from adjoining residential neighborhoods to local schools and the commercial corridor along Dauphin Island Parkway can improve safety and encourage alternate uses of transportation throughout the area.

Project Components

- Identify key streets that can handle bike and pedestrian access (crosswalks, bike lanes, etc.).
- Convert road or creek easements (right of way).
- Incorporate tree canopy and shade structures for more comfortable walking conditions to key destinations.

Dog River	Dauphin Island Parkway	Peach Creek	Bayfront Rd	Mobile Bay
	Elevate & Consolidate	Restore & Buffer	Residential Raising	Shoreline Restoration & Protection
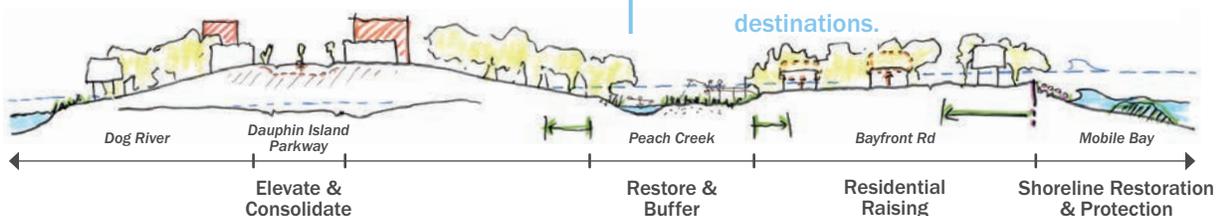
Legend

·-·-·- Blueway/Kayak Trail	☀ Proposed Access to Water	— Green Path/Trail	— Roads
Culture/Critical Infrastructure	Public Amenity	Creeks/Drainage	Highways
- - - Multimodal Trail	Existing Park	Open Water	

Map Labels:

Dog River Park · Undeveloped Land · Trash Collection Area · Shallow Zone · Pillans Middle School · Airport · Brookley By the Bay · Doyle Park · Gillard Elementary School · Rain High School · Gill Rd · Club House Rd · Trimmier Park · Dauphin Island Parkway · Boykin Blvd · Hannon Rd · Staples Rd · Perch Creek Conservation · Perch Creek Conservation · McNally Park · Dog River · Hellen Wood Park · Shoreline Protection · Mobile Bay

Mobile is a city with strong, historic ties to its waterways. The city continues to serve as an economic hub in the region with waterfront ports dating back to the 18th century. Today, the waterfront is home to active industry, with few locations for residents and visitors to experience the biodiverse ecosystems of greater Mobile.

The Downtown and Bayfront area already features many resilient assets like walkable commercial areas along Dauphin Street, existing and planned public greenspace, and robust cultural programming that fosters strong relationships between Mobilians. **Yet, improved access to natural resources is important and plays a central role in resilience for the Downtown and Bayfront area.**

Shoreline protection is key to resilience for the Bayfront. Beneficial reuse of dredge material from the shipping channel deepening presents opportunities to protect areas from future storm surge and ship wake. Further study is recommended for how to protect the vulnerable eastern portions of the historic Downtown, which flooded during Hurricane Katrina.

Workshop Conversations

In relation to the Downtown and Bayfront areas, workshop participants mainly discussed opportunities to increase recreational access to parks and waterways, infrastructure development opportunities (particularly a new bridge and adjacent developments), flood protection strategies, and efforts to improve water quality. Participants highlighted a desire to increase recreational access to the waterfront, especially for pedestrians and cyclists. Some key locations discussed were Water Street and associated East/West connections, the Crepe Myrtle Trail, and existing and future waterfront parks. Improving access was also discussed in terms of blueways and kayak launches.
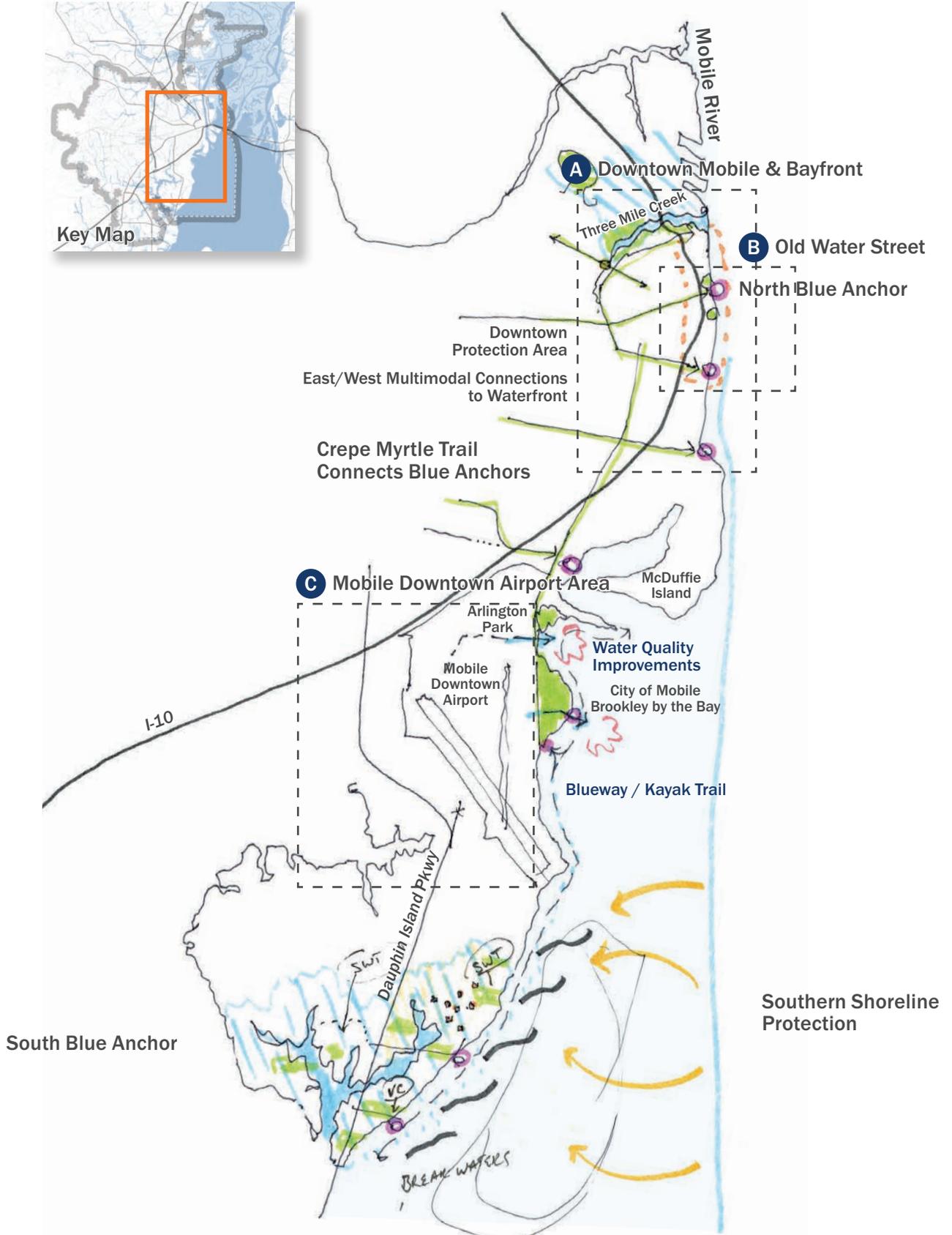

Bayfront impervious surfaces

Downtown impervious surfaces

Mobile Train Station

ADA Kayak Launch at Arlington Park

Key Map

A — Downtown Mobile & Bayfront

Mobile River

Three Mile Creek

B — Old Water Street

North Blue Anchor

Downtown Protection Area

East/West Multimodal Connections to Waterfront

Crepe Myrtle Trail Connects Blue Anchors

C — Mobile Downtown Airport Area

McDuffie Island

Arlington Park

Water Quality Improvements

Mobile Downtown Airport

City of Mobile Brookley by the Bay

I-10

Blueway / Kayak Trail

Dauphin Island Pkwy

Southern Shoreline Protection

South Blue Anchor

BREAK WATERS

Legend

Blueway/Kayak Trail	Proposed Access to Water	Proposed Greenway	Open Water
Culture/Critical Infrastructure	Development	Existing Greenway	Roads
Multimodal Trail	Existing Park	Creeks/Drainage	Highways

A.1 | Blue Anchors and Connectivity Improvements

Connect | Grow | Protect | Prepare | Educate | Engage | Enjoy

The Downtown and Bayfront encompasses the waterfront areas between two "blue anchors"– Three Mile Creek to the north and Dog River to the south. These two anchors are opportunities to showcase resilient growth by investing in shared natural resources, giving back space to wetlands and bio-diverse waterways, and creating more absorbent stormwater parks along their banks, all while bolstering recreational opportunities and eco-tourism.

Project Components

- Bolster two "blue anchors" — Three Mile Creek to the north and Dog River to the south.
- Grow multimodal trail systems for recreational opportunities and eco-tourism including the Crepe Myrtle Trail and proposed East-West Connections.
- Improve waterfront access for the public.
- Preserve wildlife through wetland restoration.
- Build stormwater parks to mitigate flooding and utilize low-impact development.

A.2 | Bayfront Shoreline Protection

Protect | Connect | Grow | Prepare | Educate | Engage | Enjoy

Shoreline protection is also key to resilience for the Bayfront. Beneficial reuse of dredge material from the shipping channel deepening presents an opportunity to protect from future storm surge and ship wake. Homeowners along the Bayfront have seen their properties shrink from erosion. Adding topographic complexity along the southern Bayfront would slow erosive forces, while creating critical habitat for migrating shoreline birds and other keystone species. Unlike Gailliard Island, these new islands and wetlands could be safely accessible via small watercraft, providing prime opportunities for eco-tourism by extending the birding trail for kayakers along the proposed Blueway.

Project Components

- Beneficial reuse of dredge material to better protect areas from storm surge and wake.
- Slow erosion through habitat creation.
- Bolster shoreline protection.
- Create blueway kayak trails.

Bayfront impervious surfaces
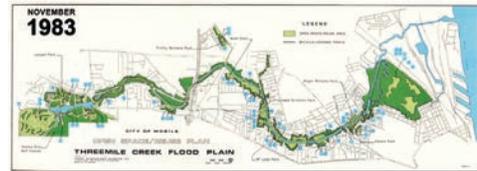
4 | ONE Mobile Loop Trail

Building on Mobile's existing and planned trail system, ONE Mobile is a concept for a loop trail that connects the missing links and encircles Mobile in an accessible recreational trail network. The trail system incorporates existing and proposed blueways to provide a variety of recreational opportunities for Mobilians.

This ambitious trail network could provide over 75 miles of continuous trails, improving accessibility to Mobile's exceptional natural environment, promoting health and wellbeing for residents, and increasing a citywide sense of community and civic pride.

The proposed trail utilizes the existing Three Mile Creek Greenway and expands upon the trail heading east to Downtown and then south to connect to the existing and proposed parks on the western shore of Mobile Bay. Crossing the Dog River Bridge, the proposed trail could head south across Dog River, then turn north to follow Rangeline Road. The trail then connects to the Environmental Studies Center by paralleling Halls Mill Creek and Milkhouse Creek. Connecting to the large Medal of Honor Park increases access to the existing park and the proposed trail network. The proposed trail continues up Milkhouse Creek, eventually finding University of South Alabama and the Glen Sebastian Nature Preserve. Much of this area is in the floodplain and undevelopable. It also contains an maintenance pathway along Milk House Creek through wetlands and cypress forests.
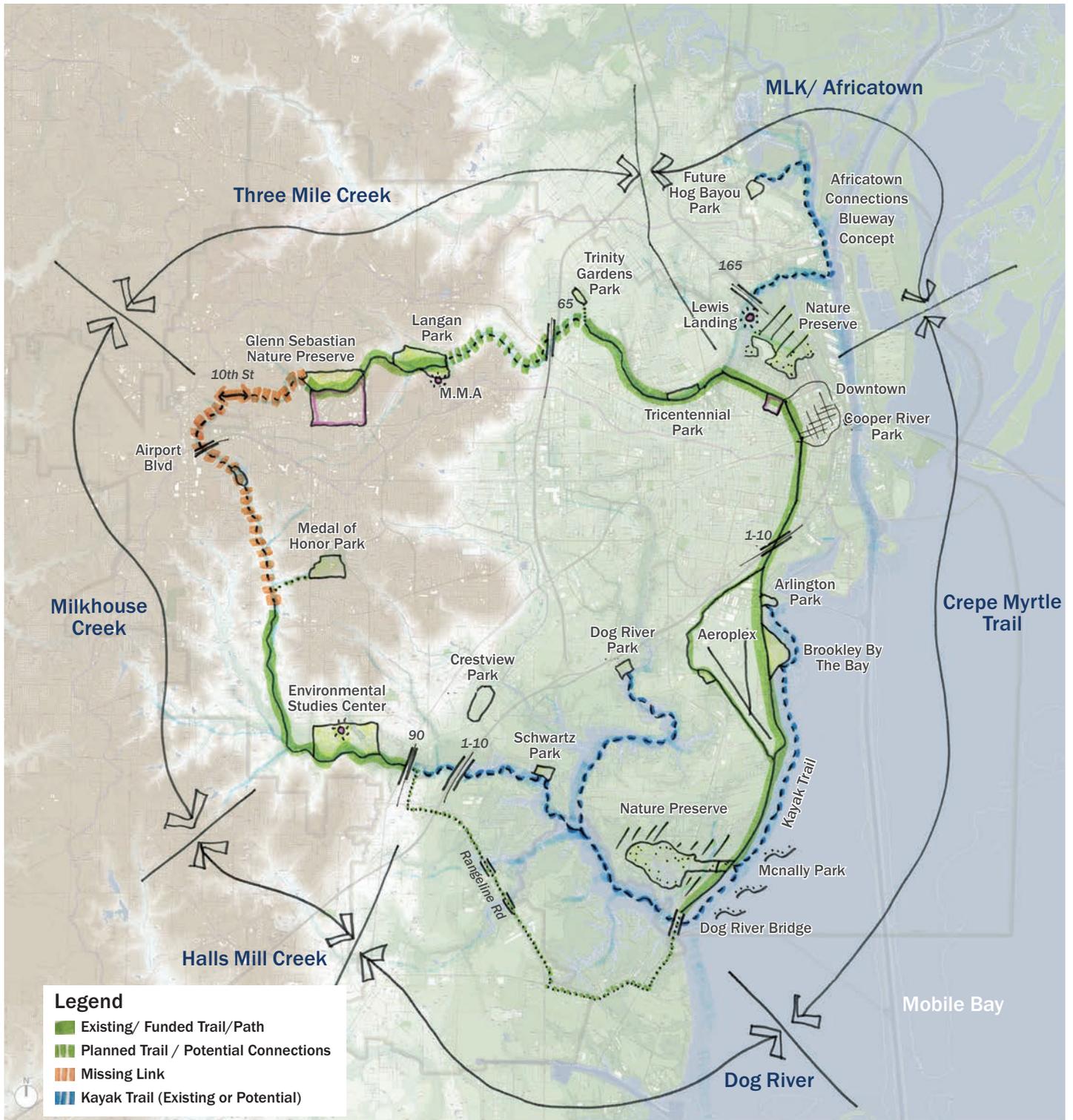
Existing or Planned Trail Networks

1983 Three Mile Creek Flood Plain

Africatown Connections Blueway

Legend

- Existing/ Funded Trail/Path
- Planned Trail / Potential Connections
- Missing Link
- Kayak Trail (Existing or Potential)

Three Mile Creek

MLK/ Africatown

Future Hog Bayou Park

Africatown Connections Blueway Concept

Trinity Gardens Park

165

Lewis Landing

Nature Preserve

Langan Park

65

Glenn Sebastian Nature Preserve

10th St

M.M.A

Downtown

Cooper River Park

Tricentennial Park

Airport Blvd

Medal of Honor Park

Milkhouse Creek

1-10

Arlington Park

Crepe Myrtle Trail

Dog River Park

Aeroplex

Brookley By The Bay

Crestview Park

Environmental Studies Center

90

1-10

Schwartz Park

Kayak Trail

Nature Preserve

Mcnally Park

Rangeline Rd

Halls Mill Creek

Dog River Bridge

Mobile Bay

Dog River

Glossary

ECE	Early Childhood Education		**MFRD**	Mobile Fire and Rescue Department
HoPE	Homeownership Provides Equity		**MPD**	Mobile Police Department
LID	Low Impact Development		**MS4**	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MAWSS	Mobile Area Water & Sewer System		**NGO**	Non-Governmental Organization
MBNEP	Mobile Bay National Estuary Program		**PFG**	Partners for Growth
MCHD	Mobile County Health Department			

Photo by D'Ambro Chatman | Bienville Square

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PLANNING TEAM

City of Mobile
Lance Slater / Casi Callaway

The Water Institute
Colleen McHugh / Erin Kiskaddon / Renee Collini / Allison Haertling / Abby Littman / Brooke Mehney / Christy Craig / Charley Cameron / Dexter Ellis / Alyssa Dausman

Waggonner & Ball / Moffatt & Nichol
Andy Sternad / Cassie Nichols / Kelli Reinhardt / Sophie Riedel / Courtney Klee / Don Blancher / Meg Goeker

Volkert
Jordan Stringfellow / George Talbot

Sea Grant / Mississippi State University
Andrew Medhurst

Ephriam and Associates, LLC
Troy Ephriam / Kiara Brown / Michelle Johnson / Shemika Brown

STEERING COMMITTEE

Mayor Sandy Stimpson / Matthew Anderson / James Barber / Lawrence Battiste / Keysha Brown / Candace Cooksey / Jayson D'Alessandro / Jim DeLapp / Robert Holt / Robert Lasky / Richard Moore / Cory Penn / Benjamin Reynolds / Celia Sapp / Shonnda Smith / Joseph Snowden / Ricardo Woods

INTERNAL PLANNING/ REVIEW TEAM

Nick Amberger / Kina Andrews / Laura Angle / Cassie Boatwright / Cheri Boucher / Emma Cochran / Michael Curtis / Jayson D'Alessandro / Jim DeLapp / Rosemary Ginn / Jennifer Greene / Bert Hoffman / Jason Johnson / Shayla Beaco / Scott Kearney / Tiffany Levy / Brian Mabry / Christopher McGadney / Dan Otto / Jamey Roberts / Don Rose / Shonnda Smith / Charles Sumrall / Kelsi Tippery / Grace Toledo / Marc Vassallo / Jasmine Washington

ADVISORY GROUPS

Infrastructure & the Built Environment
Glyn Agnew / Matthew Barclift / Gretchen Barrera / Doug Cooper / Courtney Coward / Scott Fenn / Laticia Fultz / Graham Green / Hannah Hart / Samantha Islam / Clinton Johnson / Bryan Kegley / Charlotte Kopf / Mike Manning / Bud McCrory / Justin McDonald / Kelly McGriff / Jacob Moore / Chastity Piper / Tom Piper / Catherine Reeves / Daryl Russel / Matthew Sellers / Sarah Wraight

Economy
Ryan Allenbach / Wiley Blankenship / Jason Brasfield / Bradley Byrne / Lynn Chronister / David Clark / Jennifer Denson / Emily Gonzales / Steve Gordon / Todd Greer / Clinton Johnson / Ronald McCants / Jeremy Milling / Shannon Preston / Catherine Reaves / David Rodgers / Mel Washington / Matt White / Michelle Wilson

Community
Tara Armbruster / Jim Backes / Jill Chenoweth / Melissa Gillis / Jill Godard / Megan Griggs / Andrea Hearn / Mary Howard / Josh Jones / Michael Ledger / Melissa McKnight / Kevin Michaels / Judy Mitchell / Theresa Montgomery / Edmond Naman / Kenishia Pritchett / Cary Quint / Felicia Ramos-Lett / Lesley Walker / Kelly Warren / Danita Washington

Environment
Lisa Adams / Katie Baltzer / Scott Bannon / Mark Berte / Mary Kate Brown / Ruth Carmichael / Tim Connole / Walter Ernest / Robert Gasior / Judy Janer / Vickii Howell / Cade Kistler / Lella Lowe / Christian Miller / Valerie Morrow / David Newell / Steven Scyphers / Ramsey Sprague / Christian Swann / Roberta Swann / Teresa Taylor / Rhoda Vanderhart

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Photo by D'Ambro Chatman | Biking in Mobile

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