



NEWS

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Importance of Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Planning

GLYNN COUNTY, Ga. – Hurricane Matthew was a timely reminder of the importance of pre-disaster recovery planning in Brunswick-Glynn County. In many ways Matthew revealed the complexity of recovering from a disaster. Lessons learned in debris clearance, infrastructure repair, and public information needs are all reminders of how effective plans, coordination, and communication can aid in a successful recovery. To address these challenges and others, diverse stakeholders across the county have been coordinating on a countywide Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plan.

Although the county had officially kicked off the planning process before Hurricane Matthew made landfall, the storm provided valuable insight to the plans developed, and underscored the importance of planning for disaster recovery. The Recovery and Redevelopment Plan describes processes for communication, resource and information sharing, integration with local, state, federal, and private sector partners, and identifies potential challenges and solutions—all to improve the county’s ability to swiftly recover from disasters. As Captain Jay Wiggins, the Director of Glynn County’s Emergency Management Agency, states, “If we end up having to rebuild, we need to rebuild better. We don’t want to make the same mistakes twice, and this plan helps us identify what we can improve.” In other words, the Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plan is critical component of Brunswick-Glynn County’s disaster resilience.

The Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plan was developed and implemented through technical support and grant funding from the Georgia Coastal Management Program, funded by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Brunswick-Glynn County was the third county in the state to engage in recovery planning as part of a statewide initiative to improve coastal resilience. Director Wiggins summarized the plan's value: "It's an all-hazards plan for not only right after the disaster, but in the years to come to rebuild the communities. The Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plan is critical to Glynn County's resilience. It's a road map for the county to recover and rebuild as quickly, and smartly as possible."

With this year's hurricane season underway, Director Wiggins reminds us "The whole community has a role in personal and community resilience. We all need to be involved and aware if we want the community to recover swiftly." While we cannot prevent disasters, we can all commit to preparing for future events to improve the resilience of the county. To find out how you can best prepare for and recover from coastal storm events, review the county's recommendations for hurricane preparedness at www.glynncounty.org/644/Hurricane-Preparedness.

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