



# WE ARE READY

*We are a resilient and safe coastal community.*

Who we are is inherently and forever linked to our environment and, specifically, to the water that surrounds us. Water has been part of Fort Lauderdale's culture since its inception. In 1921, the City was appropriately nicknamed "The Venice of America" by developer and visionary Charles G. Rodes, who pioneered a massive finger-island dredging project in the present-day Las Olas Isles neighborhood. From the time the area now called Fort Lauderdale was part of the River of Grass, providing sustenance to the indigenous peoples, to the 20th century when the term "Venice of America" first became synonymous with the City, through today, water has profoundly affected us. Water is the most vital ingredient for all life on earth, and provides for transportation, recreation, dispersal of vital elements, and countless other uses. Its ample supply, quality and delivery is essential to our health, our growth, and our progress.

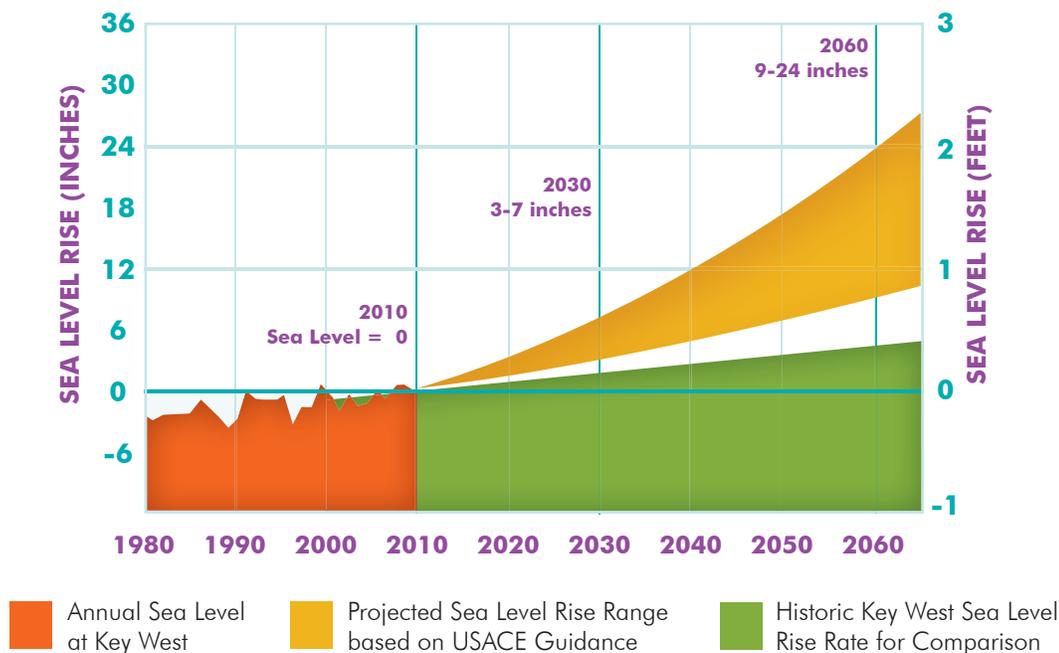
Now, in 2035, **water continues to be Fort Lauderdale's lifeblood.** From our world-class beaches, to our robust marine industry, to the world's largest boat show and Winterfest Boat Parade, water is the bond that connects our community and shapes our future. The City boasts seven miles of public beach and 165 miles of canals and waterways, equating to 337 miles of shoreline. The picturesque New River is the focal point of our main City Center. It winds through the heart of downtown Fort Lauderdale, banked by our lively Riverwalk and continues east to the Intracoastal Waterway, where it meets our award-winning, internationally renowned beach and offers breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean.

Years ago, when the science of **climate change, extreme weather, and global warming** were catalysts for debate, the City of Fort Lauderdale joined with Broward County and numerous **regional partners** to take a comprehensive look at this important issue. After reviewing the available data, the City concluded, without reservation, that the time was right to factor the **projected climate change impacts** into all of our functions and, most importantly, implement programs and projects to respond to those anticipated impacts. At the time, Fort Lauderdale was a leader in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, which was the largest collaborative effort in the United States undertaken to respond to the impacts of climate change. The Compact developed the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan, which outlined recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to regional and local impacts of **climate change** to protect the region’s unique quality of life and economy, guide future infrastructure investments, and foster livable, sustainable, and resilient communities.

## “Where will sea levels be in 20-30 years? What do we do to prepare?” - Open House, 2011

Through proactive and informed decision-making, the City was able to turn the most severe forces of nature from a threat into an opportunity. Now, Fort Lauderdale is the most **resilient** community in the United States. The City continues to maintain a malleable decision-making model in order to respond to new data so we can be ready for what lies ahead and, ultimately, become the most resilient city on Earth.

### Unified Sea Level Rise Projection

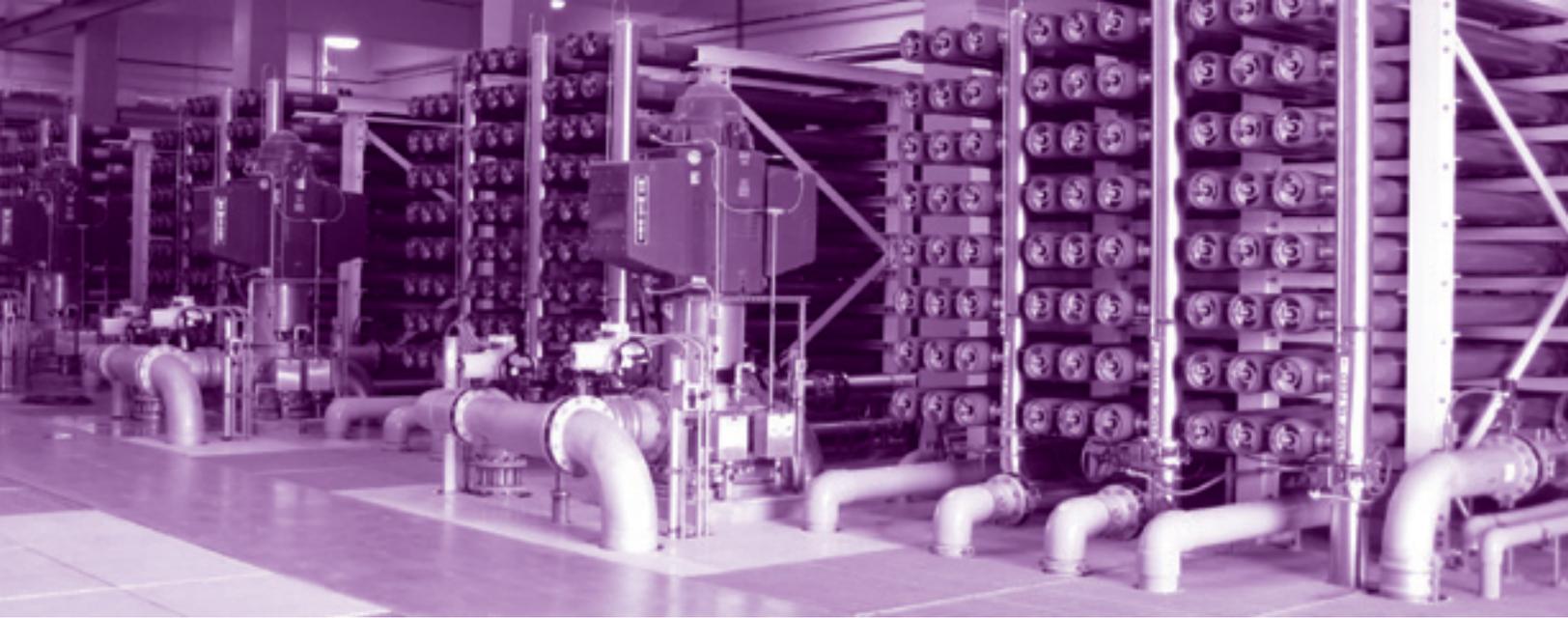


*Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact*

The year 2012 had some of the most unusual weather patterns and events in the history of the United States. More record temperatures were broken in that single year than ever before. Superstorm Sandy (created by an extremely rare weather event in which a hurricane merged with a frontal system) came ashore in New Jersey, battered the coastline from Maryland to Massachusetts, and caused an estimated \$50 billion in damage. This event flooded New York City for the first time in history and created \$7.5 billion in infrastructure damage in the State of New York alone. During the same time period, Fort Lauderdale suffered extensive damage when seasonal high tides collided with the effects of Sandy as the storm passed over our coast. National news covered the destruction of a four-block stretch of State Road A1A, which prompted the City to close two lanes of traffic and a bicycle lane to make emergency repairs. Newspaper and social media headlines such as “A1A mess may be wave of our future” and “Floods linger after Sandy” sounded the alarm to act. It is important to note that the City’s damage was caused not by a direct weather event, but by an indirect weather event and an ever-emerging pattern.



Following these events, Fort Lauderdale implemented adaptive measures to ensure the sustainability of the City’s infrastructure, from utility distribution systems to bridges and roadways. Fort Lauderdale is now recognized worldwide as a City that successfully adapted and proved our resiliency. We have become the international City you never have to leave because we are ready and will be ready for what the future holds. Today, Fort Lauderdale is the global model of resiliency and flexibility, with a never-ending thirst for scientific data and the wherewithal to take action in order to preserve and advance confidently toward the future.

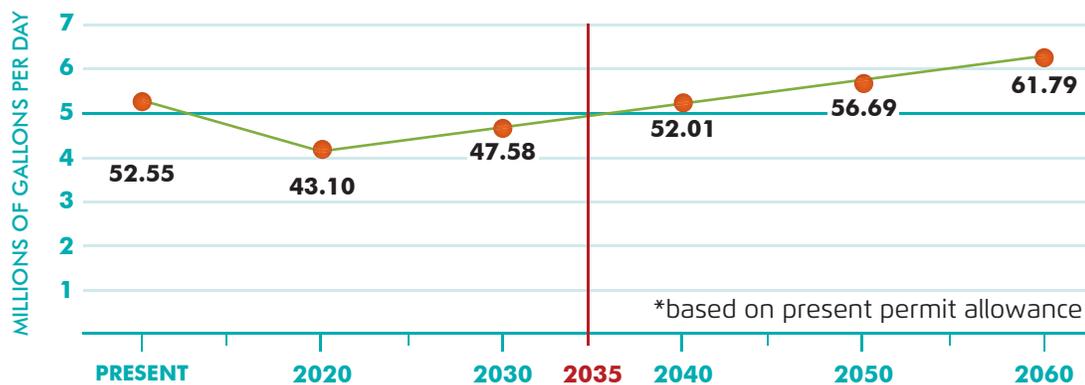


Today, in 2035, it is hard to imagine the issues Fort Lauderdale faced in 2012. During the City’s Visioning initiative, citizens consistently expressed concern over the **sustainability of our long-term water supply**. A concept evolved to **recycle our water**, then known as **gray water reuse**, or **purple piping**. That idea led to the development of the comprehensive and advanced water sustainability program that is currently in place. Thanks to these measures, our long-term water supply is no longer

*“Build a sustainable infrastructure; underground wiring and purple (reclaimed) water piping; encourage ecotourism celebrating our reefs and water life.” - OurVisionFTL.com, 2012*

an area of concern, but instead, a topic of pride. We now harvest 100% of all precipitation (including condensate, like dew and fog) that falls within our City limits and export surplus water to countries in need, including the Bahamas and Cuba. In the past, Fort Lauderdale received regional accolades for its water distribution. Now, we regularly win national water distribution and exportation awards. Our advanced hydrological leadership is attributable to a complex mixture of science and engineering processes that allow us to train and provide guidance to other cities and agencies.

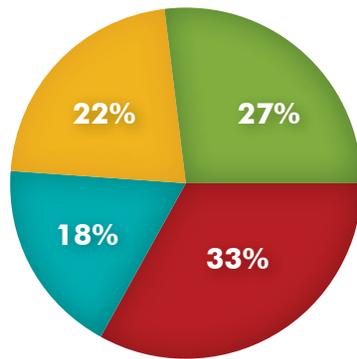
### Future Water Demands\*



City of Fort Lauderdale Public Works Department

The 2012 Fort Lauderdale Neighbor Survey found that 41% of respondents were dissatisfied with the City's **prevention of tidal-related flooding**, which reflected a shift from traditional concerns that had been focused more on water quality. In addition, at least 71% agreed that they had observed coastal water-level increases or increased flooding. These results, coupled with other climate change concerns, served as notice that something needed to be done. Today, due in large part to the forward thinking of Fort Lauderdale leaders who spearheaded the City's advanced water **sustainability** program, our **beaches are self-nourishing**. An innovative technique captures the southward natural coastal movement of sand and conveys every grain back to our beaches. This **self-nourishing system** has fortified our natural armoring system and has made severe erosion a thing of the past. In 2014, all of our systems were seeded in order to eventually model Florida's ancient coastline. Our visionary thought leaders fostered the implementation of the now **vegetated and aesthetic sand dunes** that tourists and locals flock to observe.

## What do you think is the most critical infrastructure need in the City?



- Maintaining our water and sewer infrastructure
- Maintaining and improving the drainage system
- Maintaining and improving our roadways
- Preserving and enhancing open space

*Telephone Town Hall Meeting with Commissioner Roberts, August 1, 2012*

Fort Lauderdale was the first City in the world to employ this now-common **beach renourishment** and seeding program that, today, is utilized by thousands of coastal communities around the globe. It is a true recycling system, through which no new sand is ever required, thereby preserving and enhancing Fort Lauderdale's near-shore ecological system for eco-tourists and our residents who revel in outdoor living. In fact, many other near-shore ecological systems have deteriorated or have ceased to exist over the past 20 years, making **Fort Lauderdale's reef system** the healthiest in the Northern Hemisphere.

***“By 2035, our beaches are sustainable (self-sustaining) and protected through sand dunes that are vegetated and aesthetic, through mitigation, through benchmarking.” - Neighbor Summit, 2012***

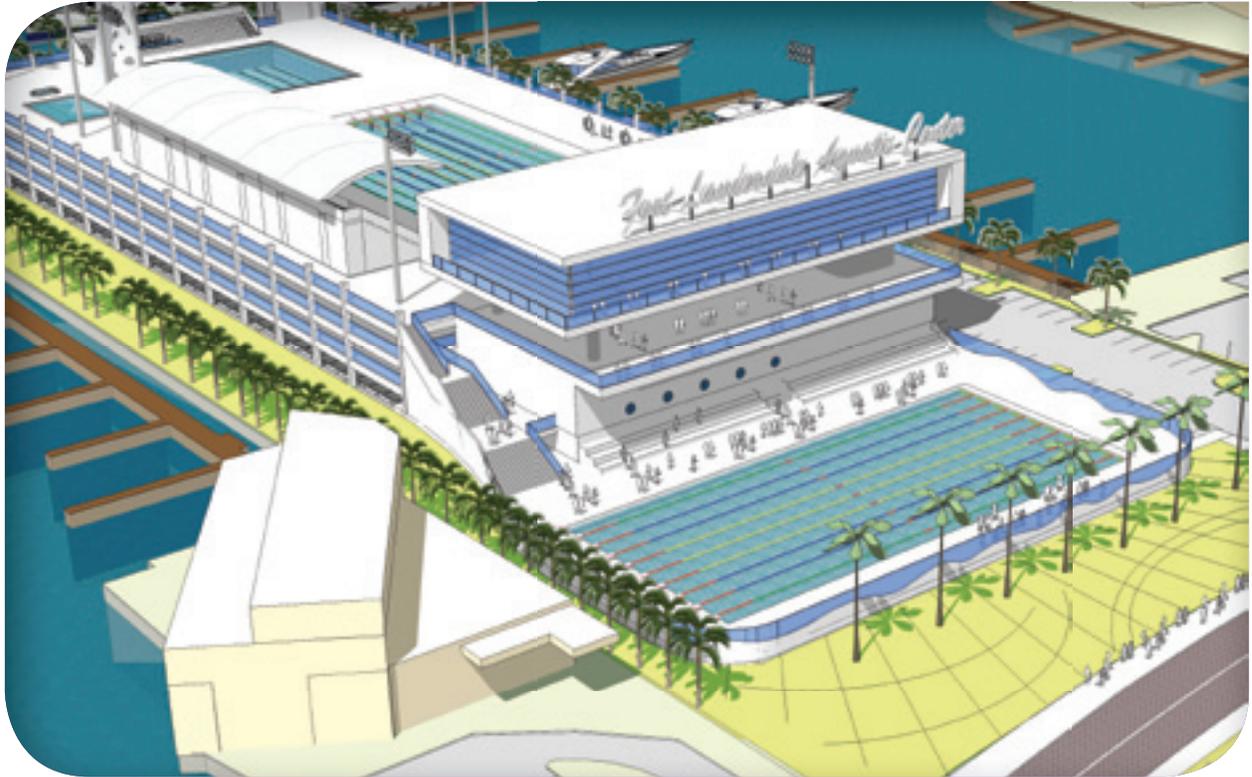


**“With Fort Lauderdale’s unique topography of canals and beachfront, without addressing global warming, it will be underwater in 2035,”** was a defining citizen comment provided during the Visioning effort’s community outreach phase that expressed some of the fears our community was facing in 2012. Now, within that same topography of inland, low-lying neighborhoods in numerous communities that our rivers and canals flow through, **drainage and stormwater management** are no longer of concern. Today, our waterways are an integral part of our sophisticated water supply system, serving as conduits to deliver this essential resource. We ensure our abundance of water is harvested and retained for future usage to meet all of our potable and non-potable needs. Our aging infrastructure that was beginning to fatigue was replaced with a more resilient and **permeable system** that was engineered **to withstand the effects of climate change.**

***“Develop a Climate Action Plan - will impact all City services, all residents, and all businesses.” - Open House, 2011***

Recreational, business, and manufacturing users alike utilize Fort Lauderdale’s **urban waterway commuter grid to move throughout our City.** Surface buoy systems guide all maritime vessels, from mega yachts and water taxis to kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards. Underwater beacons accommodate the newest transportation technologies found in today’s personal electric underwater submarines.

In the past, like many other cities around the world, Fort Lauderdale was uncertain and wary of the future, especially in the face of emerging data on climate change. While some cities failed to act, Fort Lauderdale worked with its regional partners to safeguard the area against this potential threat. Today, the City remains committed to being flexible and resilient to ensure the health and safety of its citizenry, economy and environment. Fort Lauderdale continues to utilize the latest scientific data to pioneer innovative technologies that allow us to **prepare for and respond to emergencies.** This well-developed relationship between **resiliency** and **disaster preparedness** brings the co-benefit of quick and effective response to fires, accidents, and emergency medical needs present in daily life and exacerbated in disaster response. Being prepared minimizes the impact of weather events on our community and enables our neighbors to bounce back more quickly which, in turn, allows them to enjoy a higher quality of life. *We are ready and we are community.*



## » IMAGINE 2035

*Where were you on August 17, 2032? I was sitting in the stands of the Fort Lauderdale Wave Arena watching the Opening Ceremonies of the XXXIII Summer Olympic Games.*

It was an exciting few years for Fort Lauderdale and the rest of South Florida as we prepared to host such an extraordinary display of global athleticism. While Fort Lauderdale may not have been on many people's minds as a potential Summer Olympics Host City in 2012, the City has made significant strides over the past several years. These positive changes have opened our City up to a number of new and unique opportunities. **Hosting the Summer Olympics** is just the tip of the iceberg of the great things to come for our community!

The Olympic Games provided Fort Lauderdale with an opportunity to show the world the achievements we have made in sustainability and resiliency. We are proud to say that Fort Lauderdale is the first City to ever plan, implement, and achieve an overall net-zero carbon footprint for the entire Olympic Games. A by-

product of the Games is Fort Lauderdale's Olympic Village, which is now one of the most desired business and residential locations within the City, not just for its fame derived from hosting the athletes of the Games, but because of its energy efficiency. The net-negative carbon footprint mixed-use development model developed in Fort Lauderdale is being replicated all over the world. In fact, two similar projects were recently completed in Hong Kong and Jakarta.

2032 was a memorable year indeed! We made global history with our advances in sustainability, and none of us will ever forget the numerous medals that were awarded to many of our own, homegrown Olympians who spent countless hours training in the pools at our Aquatics Complex and on the running tracks at Carter Park. Fort Lauderdale, 2032 – Host of the XXXIII Summer Olympics!