STEWARDSHIP SHORT: Resilient Coastal Living

Coastal Stewards

Take Action

Prepare for Coastal Hazards

Protect Coastal Habitats

Invest in Green Infrastructure

Explore

FEMA Flood Map Service Center,
https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home

Georgia Flood Map Program
http://www.georgiadfirm.com/

National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Storm Surge Animation
https://youtu.be/q6W_20bwqWo

NOAA Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper
https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/flood-exposure.html

Connect

Georgia Emergency Management Agency
www.gema.ga.gov

Ready Georgia
ready.ga.gov

UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant
https://gacoast.uga.edu

Georgia Climate Project
www.georgiaclimateproject.org

Georgia Forestry Commission
http://www.gfc.state.ga.us

The Georgia coast is a dynamic place, with constantly shifting sands, water and weather. Protecting and maintaining coastal resources can help communities become more resilient against hazards like hurricanes and flooding.

Action 1 | PREPARE FOR HAZARDS

Coastal hazards are increasing as our region experiences rising sea levels, more frequent severe storms, warming temperatures and heavier rain events. Preparing, whether as an individual or as a community, can help minimize harm from coastal hazards.

- Storm surge, or higher water levels caused by a storm, can occur rapidly and is one of the most damaging aspects of a coastal flood hazard. Learn more about storm surge by exploring the National Storm Surge Hazard Maps produced by the National Hurricane Center, https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/nationalsurge/.
- Consider if retrofitting, which involves making changes to a building to protect it from hazards, would be a good fit for your home. Some retrofits include elevating, floodproofing, or relocating buildings. Learn more at https://www.fema.gov.
- Make a hurricane plan and build an emergency kit. Find out more at https://ready.ga.gov.
- Sign up for weather alerts through your local emergency management agency.

Action 2 | PROTECT COASTAL HABITATS

Coastal habitats naturally buffer impacts from coastal hazards, protecting coastal communities and making them more resilient. Salt marshes, oyster reefs, and dunes help reduce erosion and flooding. Forests along the Georgia coast can also reduce flooding during storms, as well as provide cooler temperatures during heat waves.

- Volunteer with local conservation organizations to help monitor, restore and protect coastal habitats.
- Always use boardwalks or public access points when visiting the beach to prevent damage to dunes.

Action 3 | INVEST IN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

We all depend on built infrastructure such as roads, houses and grocery stores to function as a society. Green infrastructure practices offer an alternative to hardened infrastructure. These practices use vegetation, soils, and other elements that protect and restore habitat by mimicking the natural water cycle. When green infrastructure is planned, designed and funded following the same approach as built infrastructure, it can enhance coastal resilience in communities impacted by hazards.

- Explore this planning tool to learn about green infrastructure in coastal Georgia, http://maps.crc.ga.gov/CoastalGreenInfrastructure/.
- Visit green infrastructure demonstration sites for ideas of what low impact development practices your community can implement, https://coastalgadnr.org/DemoSites.
- Attend local government planning meetings to learn more about green infrastructure projects in your area.
- Volunteer to plant trees or request a planting in your neighborhood by connecting with the Savannah Tree Foundation.
- Learn about living shorelines, a form of erosion control that is a natural alternative to a hardened structure like a bulkhead. More information is available on the Georgia Living Shoreline Map, http://arcg.is/1GfnuC

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