Hayden Resiliency Project

2026 APA CO Merit Award | Resilience, Sustainability, and Environmental Design

In 2025, the Town of Hayden teamed up with a consulting group led by Clarion Associates to complete the Hayden Resiliency Project. This project was a coordinated, interdisciplinary planning effort that wove resiliency and community health principles into the Town's overall approach to growth and development. Four core project components resulted from this work:

- **Development Code Update.** The Hayden Development Code, the Town's land use and subdivision regulations, is a key tool for implementing the Hayden Forward Master Plan (2020) and associated policy documents adopted by the Town. Prior to drafting any updates to the Development Code, the project team assessed the existing regulations to identify opportunities to update zoning districts, improve user-friendliness, address resiliency and infrastructure standards, and ensure compliance with updated local, state, and federal laws. Edits to the Development Code were then prepared by Clarion Associates in close coordination with Town staff, a project Working Group, topic-specific stakeholder groups, and the community. The updated Development Code was adopted in July of 2026.
- **Financial Growth Impact Model.** The Financial Growth Impact Model is a tool for the Town to better understand the fiscal impacts of current and future development. Using property tax rolls, parcel geodata, retail sales tax revenue, infrastructure information, and land use data, the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension developed a mapped model that illustrates the revenue and cost footprint of each parcel in Hayden, enabling the Town to evaluate the return on investment for different development types and scenarios. An Excel-based financial impact calculator was created to allow the Town to assess future projects.
- **Environmental Resiliency Review.** The Environmental Resiliency Review focuses on helping the Town better understand and prepare for environmental risks and vulnerabilities. Led by Brendle Group, the Environmental Resiliency Review identified current and future hazards (such as flooding, wildfire, and extreme weather events) and assessed how climate change may intensify these risks. This work culminated in the creation of a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Report that identified mitigation strategies tailored to the assessed vulnerabilities and prioritized by resilience impact, urgency, and feasibility to support Hayden's long-term environmental resilience.
- **Community Health Assessment and Action Plan (CHAAP).** The CHAAP is a comprehensive strategy to improve health outcomes, resilience, and quality of life in the Town of Hayden. The plan establishes a roadmap for integrating health considerations into Town decision-making, strengthening access to healthcare services, expanding opportunities for physical activity and recreation, supporting local food access, promoting healthy aging, and addressing environmental health concerns. Developed through an assessment of community health data, existing policies, local conditions, and stakeholder input, the CHAAP identifies priority

health needs and outlines actionable strategies to guide future investments, partnerships, and implementation efforts.

The project was guided by a Working Group consisting of a range of representatives with local expertise, community knowledge, and project-relevant experience. While many physical improvements will occur over time, the project has already produced measurable outcomes by improving coordination, increasing understanding of local vulnerabilities, and establishing a roadmap that positions Hayden to make more informed decisions rooted in resiliency moving forward.