American Planning Association

SuperStorm Sandy – How Are Our Communities Recovering?

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Sandy Recovery Workshop
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How can recovery planning maximize long-term community betterment?

1. MITIGATE
   1. Structural—physical projects
   2. Nonstructural—policies, incentives, land-use controls
1. MITIGATE

Let nature do its job: Protection

What’s wrong with this picture?
2. Adapt to climate change

- Possible increased storm severity or frequency
- Sea-level rise = need for setbacks & elevation
- Protecting infrastructure in critical areas
  - Coastal road systems
  - Critical bridge links in coastal areas
  - Underground transport systems (subways/tunnels)
  - Water supply and treatment systems
- Rising ABFEs with new storm experience
- Problem is worldwide but impacts are local and vary
3. Improve the environment

- Reforestation
  - Joplin, MO (tornado in May 2011)
  - Aided by ReLeaf, Mo. Dept. of Conservation, volunteers, etc.

Photos from ReLeaf website
3. Improve the environment

- Restore wetlands
  - Louisiana established Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
  - Long-term effort to restore eroding coastal wetlands
3. Improve the environment

- Staten Island Blue Belt
  - NYC Environmental Protection Dept. project aimed at “ecologically sound stormwater management”
- Preserves existing wetland systems
4. Create new economic opportunities

- Greensburg, KS
  - Reinvented itself as “green community”
  - “Put the ‘green’ back in “Greensburg”
  - 100% reliance on renewable energy
  - New image shifts demographics
  - New investment from corporate sector
Left: Rebuilt Main Street

Right: Sun Chips Business Incubator
5. Strengthen Planning

- Do planners in your community play a role in preparing the hazard mitigation plan?
- Have planners carved out a secure role in managing disaster recovery?
- Have you integrated hazards issues into the comprehensive planning process?
- What role does hazard mitigation play in development work such as site plan reviews, redevelopment plans, and code enforcement?
- It’s all about planning creating added value
Recovery from Sandy

What are your questions?

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