

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN CEDAR KEY

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While Cedar Key is a small municipality on Florida's Gulf Coast, the city has an outsized influence on Florida's \$14 million hard clam aquaculture industry. However, Cedar Key also faces particularly high exposure to climate hazards. To address the challenges of sea level rise and storms, the City has partnered with the University of Florida on the "Resilient Cedar Key" project, which aims to develop a comprehensive vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan for the municipality. This presentation will discuss the results of this vulnerability assessment and explore the actions needed to make the community more resilient.

Undertaken by the Florida Institute for Built Environment Resilience, City of Cedar Key, IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station/ Florida Sea Grant, Center for Landscape Conservation Planning, Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, and IFAS Food and Resource Economics Dept, the project goal is to determine the actions needed to build a more resilient future through a process informed by meaningful community engagement.

Key results: Cedar Key is particularly low-lying and will be increasingly subject to sea level rise inundation, which, over time, will cause disconnects that threaten community access and continuity. Our guiding framework is that Cedar Key was historically a less contiguous archipelago, and reestablishing hydrologic connectivity through the island will reduce flood risk overall. Furthermore, the city's natural ecosystems have defined its past and will sustain its future. These principles (and others) underly a series of adaptation actions that focus on 1) restoring Cedar Key's natural hydrology, 2) maintaining connectivity, 3) enhancing ecologic infrastructure, and 4) safeguarding homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure. Following Hurricane Idalia, specific project ideas such as relocating city services to higher ground, buying out vulnerable properties, and relocating the city's wastewater plant inland are now at the forefront of community conversations and gaining additional momentum for implementation.

PRESENTER BIO: Andrea Galinski, mla, cfm, is an Assistant Professor in the UF Landscape Architecture Department, and research affiliate with the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies. Previous to UF, she worked in Louisiana on the state's Coastal Master Plan to protect and restore the coast in the context of a changing climate.