2023 Legislative Session Local Priorities

In support of Council Priority D4 these local legislative priorities will be presented during the annual Legislative Delegation meeting and included in a County-wide brochure

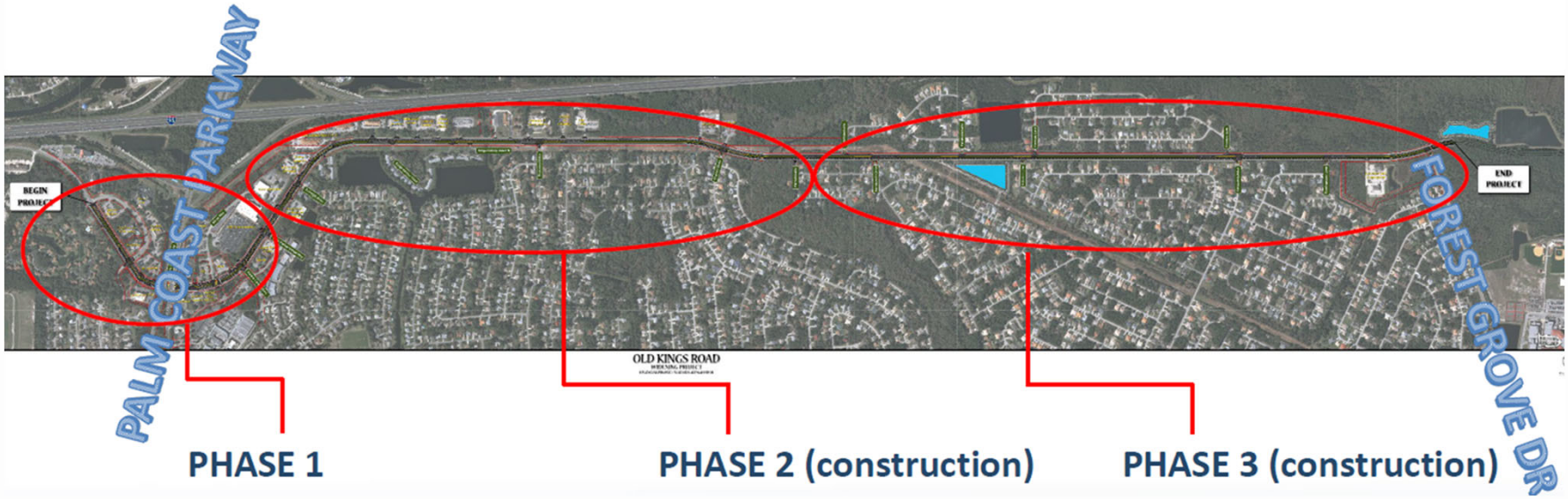
- **Safety through Smart Growth**
- **Community Resiliency Initiatives**
  - Reduce the Risk of Flood
  - Protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas
  - Protection of Water Supply
  - Protection of Water Quality

Support Transportation Access to the West

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Safety through Smart Growth

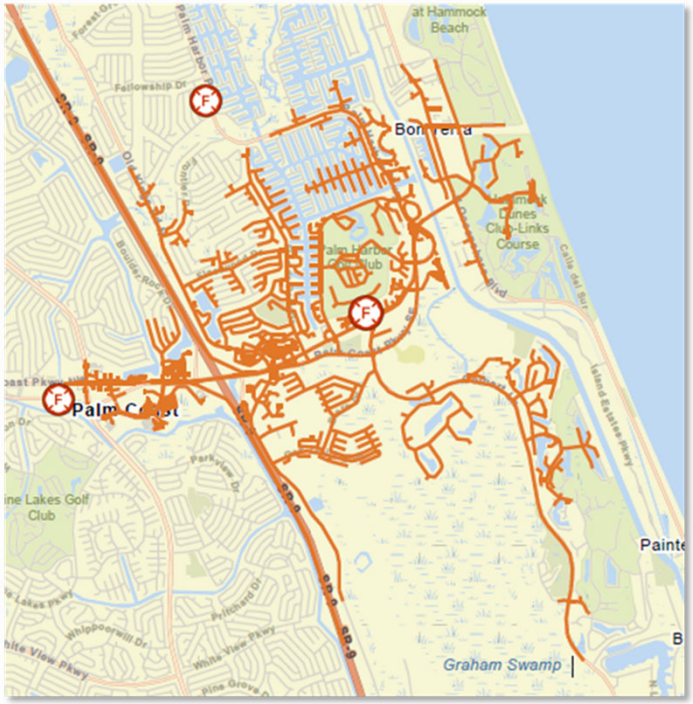
Request FDOT Fund Old Kings Road Construction Phase II and III



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Safety through Smart Growth

Replace 45-Year-Old Fire Station #22



Safety through Smart Growth

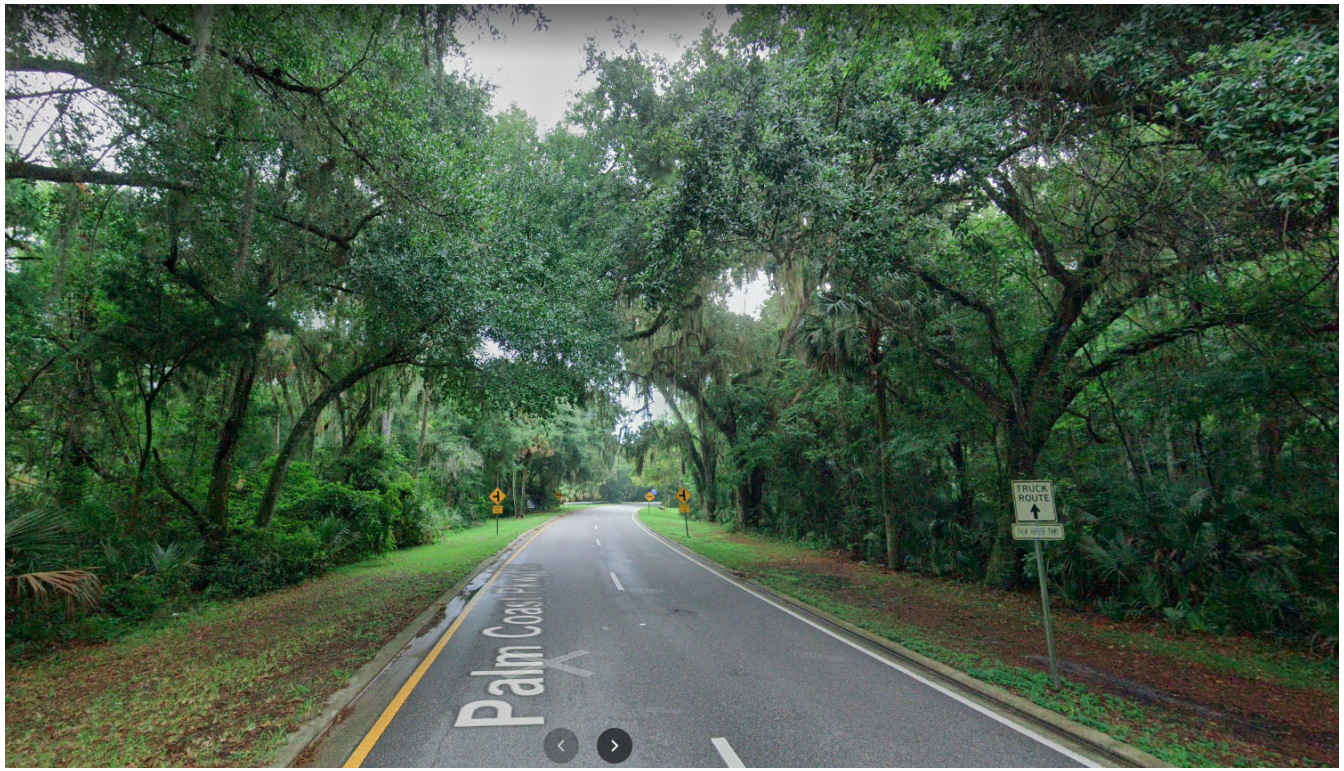
Support Funding Opportunities for Blare Drive and Colbert Lane Flood Mitigation and Flood Map Study and Revision

Resiliency Initiatives - Flood

Stormwater Capacity Improvements – London Waterway

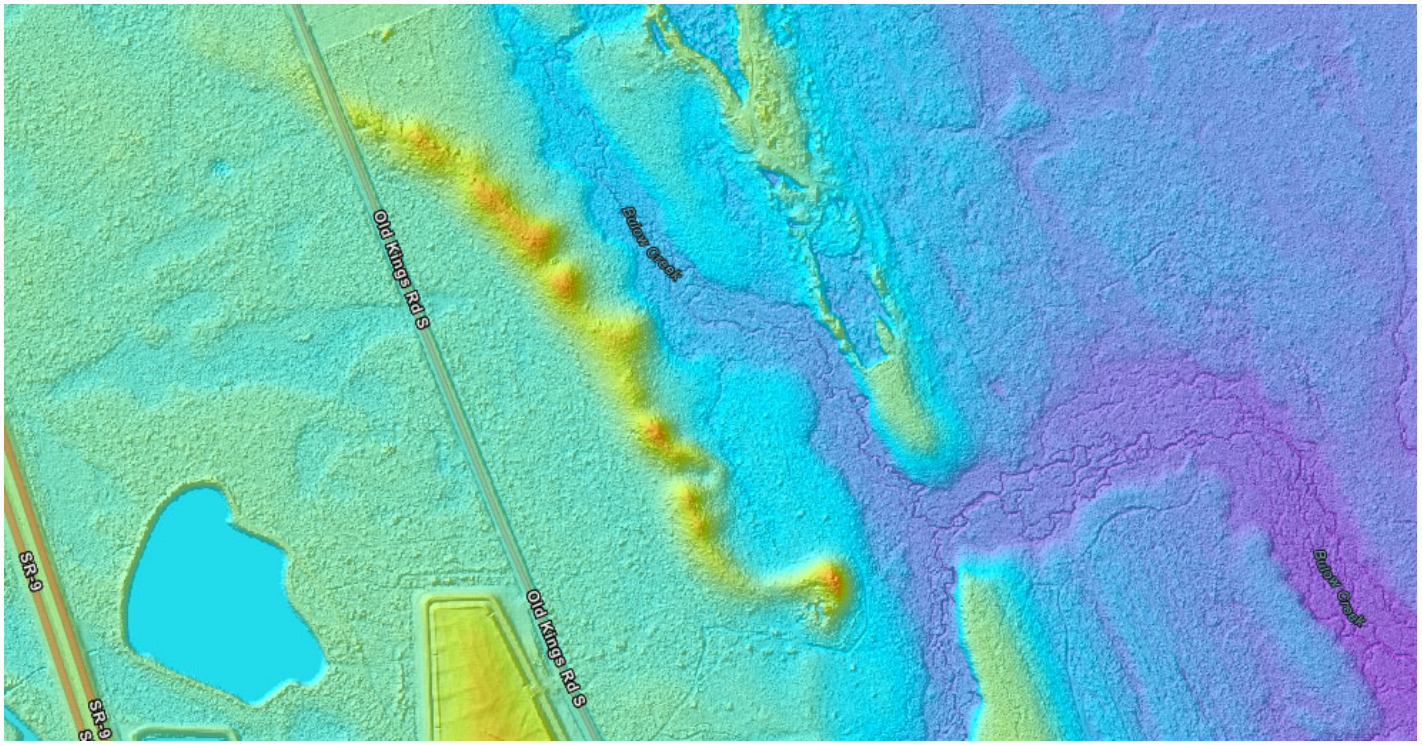
Resiliency Initiatives - Flood

Protect Palm Coast Parkway's Unique Hardwood Tree Canopy



Resiliency Initiatives - Environmental

Acquire Bulow Creek Relic Dune and Burial Mound

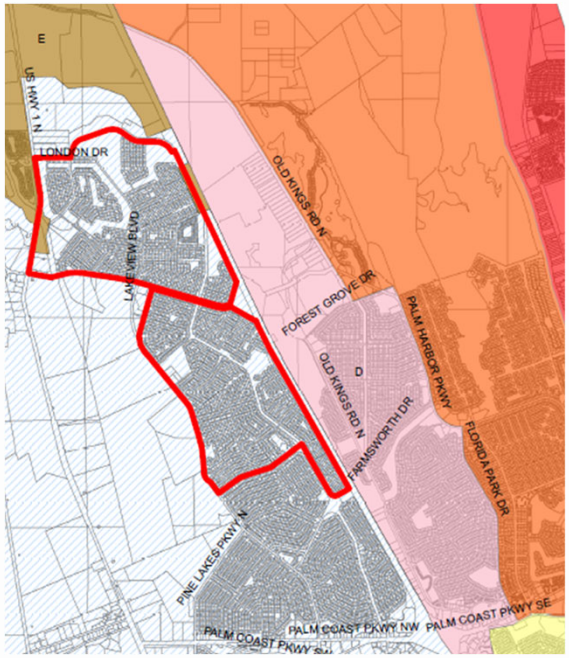


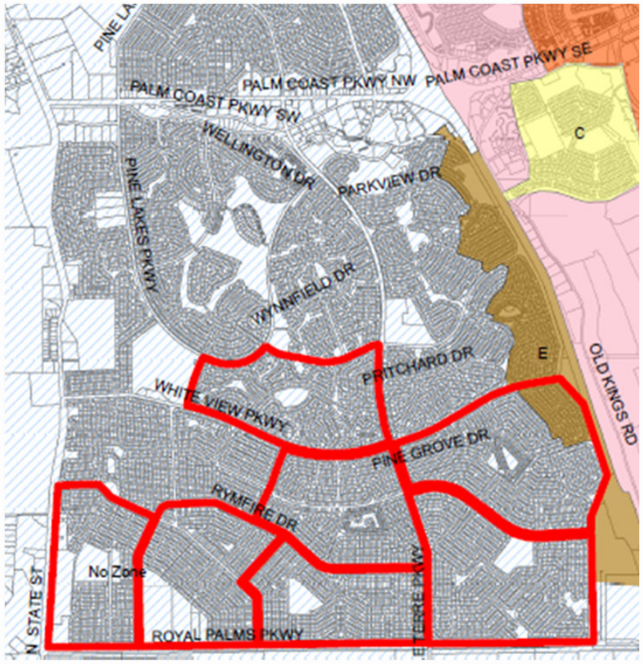
Resiliency Initiatives - Environmental

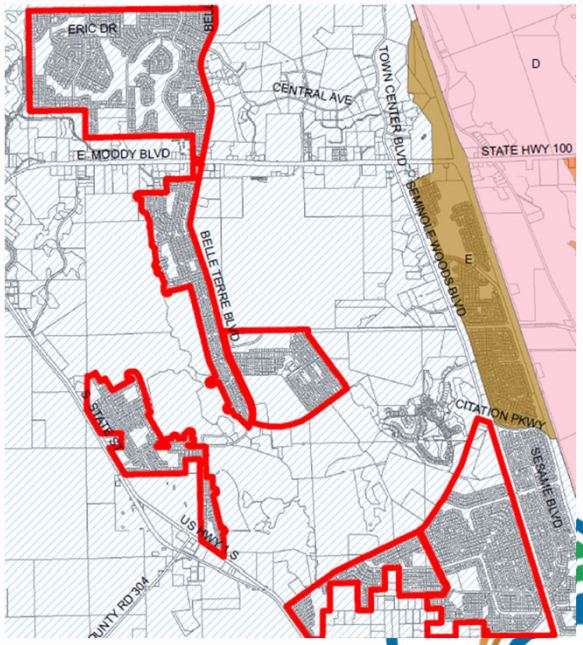
Construct Regional Rapid Infiltration Basin (RIB) Site

Resiliency Initiatives – Water Supply

Pretreatment Effluent Pumping (PEP) Asset Management Inventory and Analysis

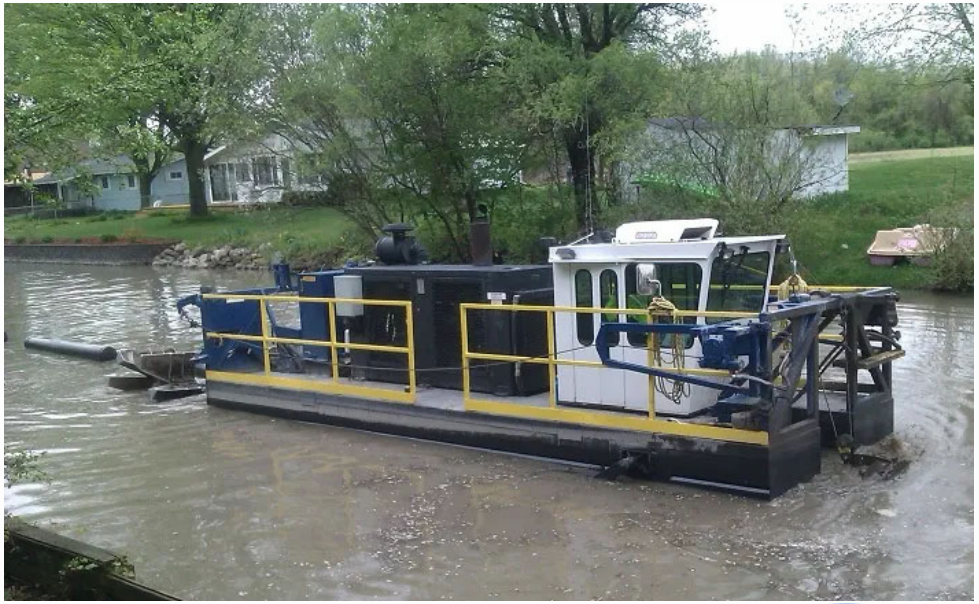






Resiliency Initiatives – Water Quality

Saltwater Canal Health and Stewardship



Resiliency Initiatives – Water Quality

QUESTIONS?

Safety through Smart Growth

Support Transportation Access to the West (2023 NEFRC Regional Priority)
The FEC Railroad bisects Palm Coast running north/south just west of US1. There are approximately 12,000 acres of land within the Palm Coast municipal boundaries west of the railroad tracks with limited access. Currently, there are only two, at grade, railroad crossings within the city limits. The city has committed $5.3M to land acquisition, wetland mitigation and design of a railroad flyover at Matanzas Woods Parkway. Opening these corridors will promote economic opportunities in Palm Coast and Flagler County. **Provide legislative support.**

Request FDOT Fund Old Kings Road Construction Phase II and III (2023 NEFRC Regional Priority)
The City's highest ranked transportation project at the TPO, Old Kings Road widening, began with FDOT in 2009. Phase 1, funded by FDOT in 2019, was recently completed; however, the City had to postpone two FDOT funded projects to ensure sufficient funding for Phase 1 to occur. The River to Sea TPO Ranks the project as #3 of Prioritized Regionally Significant Non-SIS Projects. **Provide legislative support.**

Replace 45-Year-Old Fire Station #22
Built in 1977, Fire Station 22 has served the community as a volunteer fire station, sheriff's office substation, and since 1997 a 24-hour career fire station. During that time the station has transitioned from running 55 calls in one year to running over 1600 calls this year. Today, the station has reached the end of its productive life. In addition to maintenance issues such as beam rot, roof damage, and plumbing problems, the design of Station 22 does not meet the needs of the modern-day fire service. The size of the station's bay requires a customized fire truck that holds less equipment but still costs more than a typical Palm Coast pumper. Health and safety initiatives intended to address firefighter wellness and cancer prevention are modified or put on hold for firefighters stationed at 22. Additionally, four full-time staff (men and women) share a common bunk area with little to no privacy and both city and county units are unable to utilize the station for firefighter development due to space issues. City Council has funded land acquisition and design for the new station. **Support funding for public safety.**

Community Resiliency Initiatives

Reduce the Risk of Flood

Support Funding Blare Drive and Colbert Lane Flood Mitigation and Flood Map Study and Revision
This project consists of increasing the stormwater conveyance capacity of three culvert crossings: (1) at Blare Drive and (2) at Colbert Lane. The improvement of the drainage system will allow for a faster recovery during and following storm events while providing additional flood protection/resiliency to the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Since the stormwater modeling is being performed with more sophisticated software and data of that used during the effective model, the project provides an opportunity to revise the existing flood maps so as to more accurately define the limits of the floodplain once the construction has taken place. The potential flood map revision should have a beneficial effect to flood insurance premiums to those homeowners whose homes end up outside of the revised floodplain. It would also alert others of the proximity of the revised floodplain in areas that do not currently show the floodplain. **Support funding for community resiliency.**

Stormwater capacity improvements – London Waterway
This project consists of the construction of a stormwater pond that will act as an attenuation basin for the London Waterway. The proposed pond is designed to be hydraulically connected to the waterway in such a manner that during rain events, runoff that would have normally been stored within the canal gets routed through the pond. The stormwater flow through the proposed pond shall be routed downstream of weir control structure LO-1 (the original destination). The drainage improvement will add capacity to the canal and provide additional flood protection to the neighborhood. The construction plans also propose the construction of (2) look-out decks with boardwalk access to serve as a passive park to the immediate neighborhood. Finally, the pond's side banks shall be planted with aquatic vegetation and two large "islands" will remain natural to provide buffering and screening of the existing adjacent homes. **Support funding for community resiliency.**

Protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Protect Palm Coast Parkway's Unique Hard Wood Tree Canopy
The "Tree Tunnel" as it is known runs from the intersection of Palm Coast Parkway and Old Kings Road all the way to the Palm Harbor Parkway intersection. This area showcases the beautiful native trees that are present here in Palm Coast and gives a glimpse of the beginnings of Graham Swamp. The property at Palm Coast Parkway and Colbert Lane includes trees over 70" in diameter, important habitat for native wildlife, and flood water storage as part of the swamp. Being able to preserve the northern most part of Graham Swamp would both preserve the character of the "Tree Tunnel" and keep the swamp as a large connected system that allows water storage and water treatment for the city. **Support inclusion in the Flagler County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program and Florida Forever funding.**

Acquire Bulow Creek Relic Dune and Burial Mound
The relic dune or Sandridge, as termed by city staff, is a very unique topographical area for Palm Coast. At its highest point the ridge reaches an elevation of 42' above sea level which is very rare for the area. This ridge buffers Bulow Creek, an Outstanding Florida Waterway, from Old Kings Road S to provide the creek with added protection from pollution. Bulow Creek is very important for floodplain management, the creek itself is a regulatory floodway where high velocity flood waters flow south until they reach the Intracoastal Waterway. At the terminus of the ridge, there is a Native American burial mound; the mound no longer contains any remains or artifacts, but it is still a significant cultural site. The combination of the Sandridge, wetlands, and Bulow Creek provide unique variations in habitat for a multitude of species and plants that only increase the importance of protecting the area. Pursuant to Comprehensive Plan Policy 1.1.9.18 **-** *The City shall coordinate with land acquisition entities and public agencies to acquire environmentally and culturally significant lands in the Planning Area east of Old Kings Road.* **Support inclusion in the Flagler County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program and Florida Forever funding.**

Protection of Water Supply

Construct Regional Rapid Infiltration Basin (RIB) Site
A study has been completed for a Resiliency Plan for the Rapid Infiltration Basin (RIB) site. The study revealed that converting the spray irrigation to rapid infiltration basins is feasible and will increase the much-needed effluent capacity along with storage. The RIB treats the wastewater as it infiltrates through the soil and at the same time replenishes the aquifer. The process can treat a much larger volume of wastewater on a small land area than aboveground high-volume irrigation. **Support funding for community resiliency.**

Pretreatment Effluent Pumping (PEP) Asset Management Inventory and Analysis
The Pretreatment Effluent Pumping (PEP) system consists of roughly 21,750 potential installations. To date, 15,939 are installed and operating which leaves 5,811 additional installations units with a 2.3 persons per unit estimate this equates to a population of roughly 36,600 city residents being served by the city PEP system. The need for asset management software has been identified by City staff to support many activities conducted by all Departments and divisions including the requirements for maintaining the PEP systems. The Asset Management software can electronically initiate, assign, dispatch, and track electronic work orders requested for an asset and track from inception through completion with a flexible, easily managed workflow process. Functionality includes access to the GIS generated maps, completing work orders, entering resources, creation of assets, editing of assets including location and attributes, and creating work orders. **Support funding for community resiliency.**

Saltwater Canal Health and Stewardship
There is a network of 26 miles of saltwater canals that host a wealth of recreational opportunities, aesthetic value, and habitat for marine fauna. Through three canal cuts, vessels have access from the Intracoastal Waterway into the network of canals. By nature of the design and tidally influenced environment, foreign debris, sediment, organic materials, and other discharges that may accumulate over time. The saltwater canals are also recognized as a habitat harbor for manatees and young. Water quality is a critical element to supporting marine fauna. City Council has approved a local priority that focuses on the dredging of the canals to remove unsuitable materials and to restore depth. As part of the first phase, preliminary bathymetric survey along with grab samples are being conducted to evaluate conditions. In the event recognized environmental conditions exist, city staff will be targeting environmental grants to assist with recovery. **Support funding for community resiliency.**