

# RRRC Plan Integration Tool

Supporting Local Governments Incorporate RRRC  
Flood Resilience Plan Actions into Local Planning  
Mechanisms

Fauquier County Analysis



February 2026

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CFPF: Community Flood Preparedness Fund

CIP: Capital Improvements Plan

DCR: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

EOP: Emergency Operations Plan

HMP: Hazard Mitigation Plan

ORP: Office of Resilience Planning

RRRC: Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

## About this Tool

### TOOL PURPOSE

The 2025 [Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan](#) (The Plan) emphasizes that *“A key first step in implementing the Plan will be the strategic integration of its goals, strategies, and recommendations into local and regional plans, policies, and procedures. These integration efforts are essential to ensure that risk-reduction principles are embedded in day-to-day decision-making.”*

Integrating regional resilience goals into local planning mechanisms is crucial to ensuring that hazard mitigation and flood resilience move from high level strategies into everyday decision making. Without intentional alignment, regional plans are often inconsistently implemented across localities. Alignment across plans enhances eligibility to state and federal funding programs and provides continuity as staff and funding cycles change which places flood resilience as a core aspect of local government rather than a standalone planning process. [Chapter 8 of the Plan](#), Implementation and Maintenance, provides a number of recommendations for implementing regional goals, strategies, and actions into local plans, policies, and procedures:

<b>Comprehensive Plans</b>	Incorporation of updated hazard vulnerability data, alignment of growth areas with low-risk zones, and inclusion of mitigation goals.
<b>Zoning Ordinances and Land Use Plans</b>	Inclusion of hazard-reducing provisions such as flood zone overlay districts, impervious surface limits, stormwater management standards, and site improvement requirements based on hazard data.
<b>Capital Improvement Program Budgets</b>	Prioritize resilience infrastructure including stormwater upgrades, green infrastructure, and emergency shelters.
<b>Emergency Operations Plans</b>	Incorporate hazard risk scenarios from the HMP and promote coordination with long-range land use and infrastructure planning.

*Figure 1. Opportunities for RRRC HMP and Resilience Plan Integration into Local Plans, Policies, and Procedures*

This tool provides a standardized and replicable process for Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) localities to review, compare, and integrate regional flood resilience strategies into local planning mechanisms during scheduled plan updates or ad hoc amendments. The tool helps ensure consistency across documents, reduces the potential for conflicting policies, and supports implementation of the RRRC Hazard Mitigation and Resiliency Plan strategy to “review HMP strategies as part of the regular updates of local plans”. This strategy is also included as a locality-specific project for the majority of participating jurisdictions.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [Chapter 7 Mitigation Strategies](#): Project # CC-7, TC-7, FC-17, R-5, W-4, O-5, Optional-13

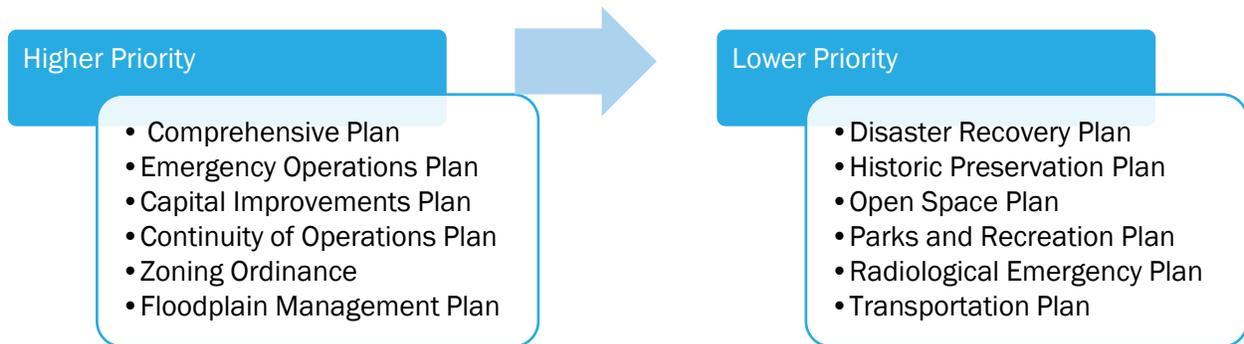
**INTENDED AUDIENCE**

This process is designed for local staff within the RRRC region who are responsible for developing and implementing local plans, policies, and programs such as the Comprehensive Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, Emergency Operations Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and Parks and Recreation Plan.

**Instructions**

**STEP 1: PLAN INVENTORY**

- Using the [Chapter 6 Capability Assessment Table 6.1](#) identify the local plans, ordinances, and budgets adopted by your county to guide planning and development. Select which planning mechanism(s) you are going to review for alignment with the RRRC Hazard Mitigation and Flood Resilience Plan.
  - See Figure 2 for a recommended prioritization of planning mechanisms to consider. You do not need to complete an analysis of every mechanism at the same time; this can be done in a step-by-step process over time.
- For each selected planning mechanism, record its status, update cycles, responsible department for development, and point of contacts.
- If there are local planning mechanisms in place that you choose *not* to review, still record them in the inventory and note that they are not applicable for integration at this time.



*Figure 2. Suggested Local Plans, Ordinances, and Budgets for Review*

### STEP 2: REGIONAL PLAN ANALYSIS

- Review the [Chapter 5 Flood Resilience Project Tables](#) of the RRRC regional Hazard Mitigation and Flood Resilience Plan and identify which regional flood resilience strategies are assigned to your locality.
- For each strategy identified in the previous bullet:
  - Note the theme it is categorized under in the RRRC table
  - Identify the relevant local planning mechanism(s) where that strategy can be integrated

### STEP 3: INTEGRATION OPPORTUNITIES AND ALIGNMENT PLAN

- Create one table per planning mechanism analyzed.
- List the RRRC flood resilience strategies that were identified as relevant to that planning mechanism.
- For each strategy, document any existing language that is relevant to the RRRC strategy and record whether alignment currently exists; mark aligned, conflicting, or gap.
  - **Aligned:** The planning mechanism already includes a strategy to accomplish the identified flood resilience goal.
  - **Conflicting:** The planning mechanism has a strategy that contradicts or prohibits the identified flood resilience goal from being implemented.
  - **Gap:** The planning mechanism does not include a strategy to accomplish the identified flood resilience goal.
- If you mark the strategy as a gap:
  - Identify the location in the local planning mechanism(s) where you would like to integrate the strategy
  - Draft suggested language
  - Assign responsible departments
- If you mark the strategy as conflicting:
  - Identify any data/definitions that must be aligned
  - Draft suggested language to mitigate the conflict

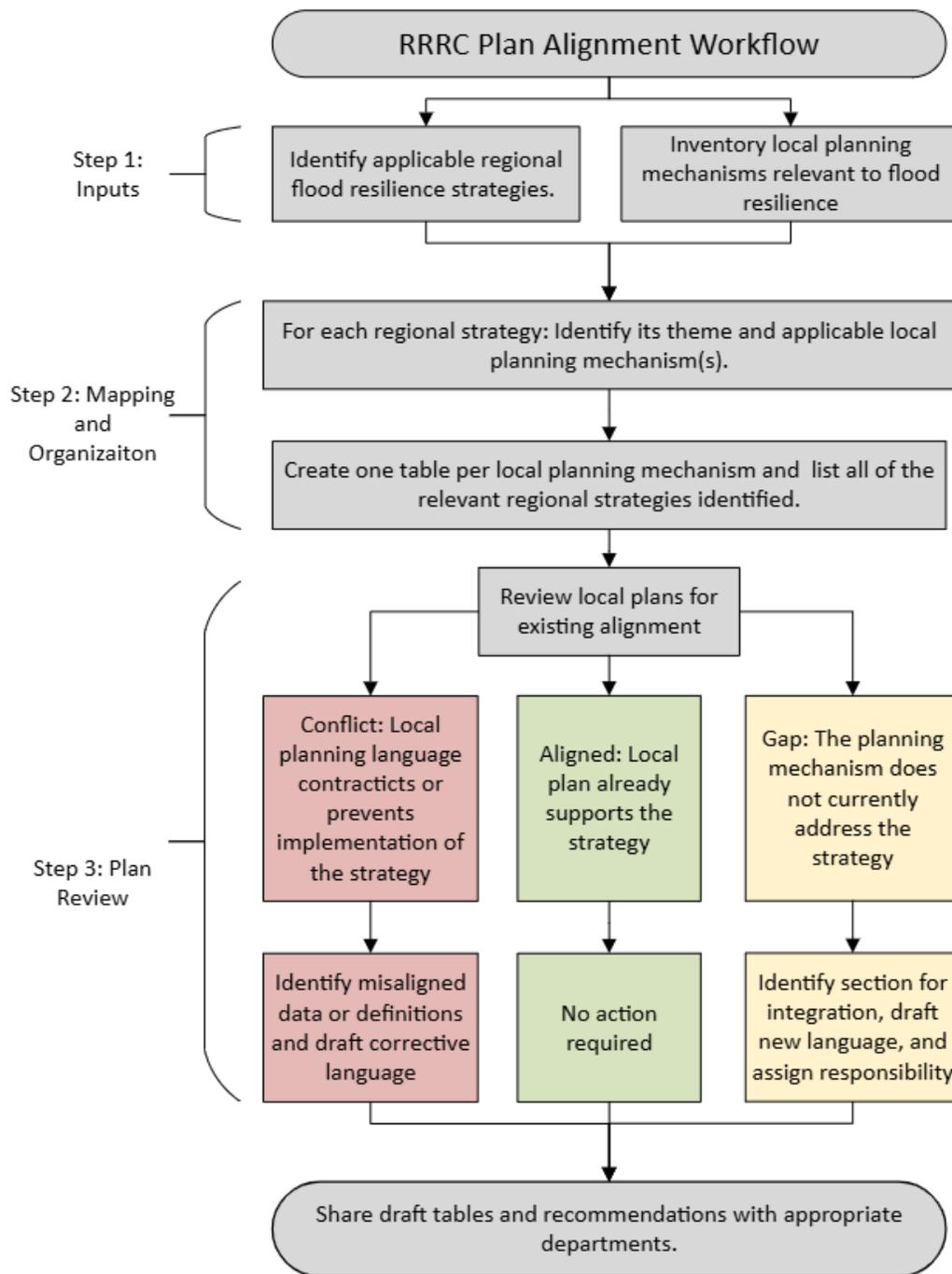


Figure 3. Plan Integration Tool Workflow

## Tool Template

This section provides a template to use when completing each of the steps described in the instructions.

### LOCALITY IDENTIFICATION

The following analysis is being conducted for **Fauquier County** located in the Rappahannock-Rapidan Region.

### STEP 1: PLAN INVENTORY

Using the [Chapter 6 Capability Assessment Table 6.1](#) list all relevant local plans, budgets, ordinances, and other planning mechanisms used in your county that may intersect with flood resilience. Include lead department responsible for development, and its update cycle. While you do not need to complete the analysis for every planning mechanism all at once, it will be helpful to have a list of all that are intended to be analyzed.

Planning Mechanism Name	Lead Department	Last Updated	Planning Cycle	Next Update	Plan Location
Comprehensive Plan	Community Development	August 2015	Annual amendments	Ad hoc	<a href="#">Comprehensive Plan   Fauquier County, VA</a>
Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)	Management and Budget	June 2025	Annual	June 2026	<a href="#">CIP   Fauquier County, VA</a>
Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)	Emergency Management	November 2022	4 years	November 2026	<a href="#">EOP   Fauquier County, VA</a>
Parks and Open Space Plan	Parks and Recreation	March 2021	Ad hoc	Ad hoc	<a href="#">Parks, Rec, and Open Space Plan</a>
Comprehensive Drought Management and Emergency Preparedness Plan	Emergency Management	August 2016	Ad hoc	Ad hoc	<a href="#">Comprehensive Drought Management and Emergency Preparedness Plan</a>
Fauquier County Zoning Ordinance - Floodplains	Community Development	April 2025	Ad hoc	Ad hoc	<a href="#">Fauquier County Floodplain Ordinance</a>

**STEP 2. REGIONAL PLAN ANALYSIS**

Identify [all Flood Resilience Mitigation Action Plan Projects](#) within Chapter 5 of the RRRC Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan that are assigned to your locality. Using the dropdown list, record the theme it is categorized under in the regional plan and then identify the local planning mechanism(s) it can be implemented through. If there are multiple relevant planning mechanisms, create a separate row for each one.

RRRC Flood Resilience Strategy (Chapter 5)	Theme	Relevant Local Planning Mechanism(s)
FC-1: Join the Community Rating System program to reduce the flood insurance premium of citizens in Fauquier County and to foster better floodplain management practices.	Education and Outreach	Comprehensive Plan
FC-2: Encourage residents to keep storm drains clear of debris during storms	Education and Outreach	Emergency Operations Plan
FC-3: Develop an education and outreach plan for the upcoming changes in FEMA flood mapping and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for property owners and general public	Education and Outreach	Public Education and Outreach
FC-4: Riparian Restoration for Flood Prevention – Revegetate a 500-foot length of Cedar Run Creek to mitigate against flood events, slow down flood waters, stabilize soil, and reduce erosion	Nature Based Solutions/Projects	Comprehensive Plan
FC-4: Riparian Restoration for Flood Prevention – Revegetate a 500-foot length of Cedar Run Creek to mitigate against flood events, slow down flood waters, stabilize soil, and reduce erosion	Nature Based Solutions/Projects	Capital Improvements Plan
FC-5: Stormwater mitigation and habitat creation – Engineering design and installation/ replacement of three stormwater roadside ditches into bioswales through the planting of herbaceous native plants to create habitat, increase stormwater uptake and water quality.	Nature Based Solutions/Projects	Comprehensive Plan
FC-5: Stormwater mitigation and habitat creation – Engineering design and installation/ replacement of three stormwater roadside ditches into bioswales through the planting of herbaceous native plants to create habitat, increase stormwater uptake and water quality.	Nature Based Solutions/Projects	Capital Improvements Plan
FC-6: Retain thick vegetative cover on public lands flanking river to reduce the potential of erosion.	Nature Based Solutions/Projects	Comprehensive Plan
FC-6: Retain thick vegetative cover on public lands flanking river to reduce the potential of erosion.	Nature Based Solutions/Projects	Parks and Open Space Plan
FC-7: Limit the percentage of impervious surface with developed parcels	Nature Based Solutions/Projects	Comprehensive Plan
FC-8: Substitute porous surfaces/pavement for impervious pavement when appropriate to reduce flooding caused by runoff.	Nature Based Solutions/Projects	Comprehensive Plan
FC-9: Work with RRRC to conduct a crosswalk with other relevant regional and local plans to identify planning and/or implementation projects that may be eligible for HMGP and/or appropriate alternative HMP, VA CFPF, or other funding sources.	Study/Plan/Strategy	Comprehensive Plan
FC-10: Implement a community or Regional Debris Management Strategy	Study/Plan/Strategy	Emergency Operations Plan
FC-12: Incorporate into emergency response plans the procedure for tracking high water marks following a flood	Study/Plan/Strategy	Emergency Operations Plan
FC-13: Develop an open space acquisition, reuse, and preservation plan targeting flood hazard areas.	Study/Plan/Strategy	Comprehensive Plan
FC-14: Consider acquisition, elevation, or flood-proofing of structures with repetitive loss claims to the National Flood Insurance Program	Infrastructure	Capital Improvements Plan
FC-15: Relocation of structures out of the floodplain	Infrastructure	Capital Improvements Plan
FC-16: Designate a local floodplain manager/CRS coordination that achieves Certified Floodplain Manager certification	Staffing	County Budget/staffing plan

**STEP 3. INTEGRATION OPPORTUNITIES AND ALIGNMENT PLAN**

Identify how RRRC strategies identified in Step 2 can be integrated into local planning mechanisms. Create a separate table for each local planning mechanism. Using Column 3 from Step 2, separate the regional strategies by relevant local planning mechanism. For each strategy, check whether it is already integrated into the mechanism you are analyzing. If it is already aligned, use the dropdown menu to mark it as such and move to the next strategy. If it is not, suggest language, a section, and a lead department for integration. This can be done for one plan at a time, the full analysis for every plan does not need to be completed at once.

**Comprehensive Plan Integration**

RRRC Strategy for Integration	Existing Reference	Reference Location	Relationship (aligned/conflicting/gap)	Suggested Language	Suggested Section	Lead Integration Department
FC-1: Join the Community Rating System program to reduce the flood insurance premium of citizens in Fauquier County and to foster better floodplain management practices	No reference	No reference	Gap	The County will evaluate and pursue participation in FEMA's CRS program to strengthen floodplain management practices and reduce flood insurance premiums for residents	Chapter 2: Natural Resources	Community Development
FC-4: Riparian Restoration for Flood Prevention – Revegetate a 500-foot length of Cedar Run Creek to mitigate against flood events, slow down flood waters, stabilize soil, and reduce erosion	Facilitate, augment and support existing programs and efforts to establish streamside vegetative buffers. This may include but not be limited to exploring means in which buffers may serve multiple purposes; for example, community amenities such as greenway trails working as buffers.	Chapter 2A pg. 15	Aligned	n/a	n/a	n/a
FC-6: Retain thick vegetative cover on public lands flanking river to reduce the potential of erosion.	Encourage the establishment of stream buffers for water quality protection.	Chapter 2A pg. 15	Aligned	n/a	n/a	n/a
FC-7: Limit the percentage of impervious surface with developed parcels	No reference	No reference	Gap	To reduce runoff, erosion, and localized flooding, the County will explore establishing maximum impervious surface ratios and encourage low-impact development.	Chapter 2A: Natural Resources	Community Development
FC-8: Substitute porous surfaces/pavement for impervious pavement when appropriate to reduce flooding caused by runoff.	No reference	No reference	Gap	Projects should incorporate permeable pavement and/or porous pavers where feasible to reduce runoff volume.	Chapter 2A: Natural Resources	Community Development
FC-9: Work with RRRC to conduct a crosswalk with other relevant regional and local plans to identify planning and/or implementation projects that may be eligible for HMGP and/or appropriate alternative HMP, VA CFPF, or other funding sources.	No reference	No reference	Gap	The County will prioritize regional collaboration in order to maximize funding opportunities for planning and implementation projects.	Chapter 1: Vision and Goals	Community Development, RRRC

FC-13: Develop an open space acquisition, reuse, and preservation plan targeting flood hazard areas.	No reference	No reference	Gap	Evaluate and prioritize the acquisition or conservation of open space within flood-prone areas to reduce flood risk, create natural buffers, and expand opportunities for nature-based solutions.	Chapter 2: Natural Resources	Community Development, Parks and Rec
FC-16: Designate a local floodplain manager/CRS coordination that achieves Certified Floodplain Manager certification	No reference	No reference	Gap	The County will pursue participation in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) to reduce flood risk, strengthen floodplain management practices, and lower flood insurance costs for residents,	Chapter 2: Natural Resources	Community Development

**Emergency Operations Plan Integration**

RRRC Strategy for Integration	Existing Reference	Reference Location	Relationship (aligned/conflicting/gap)	Suggested Language	Suggested Section	Lead Integration Department
FC-10: Implement a community or Regional Debris Management Strategy	Fauquier County notes that an informational product was developed, but is currently exploring way to secure the resources, capacity, and expertise to develop a full plan.	Section 3 pg. 58	Gap	Fauquier County will update and formalize a Debris Management Plan to guide post-disaster debris disposal and coordination with regional partners. This plan will be incorporated as an annex to the EOP.	Emergency Operations Plan: Debris Management Annex	Emergency Management
FC-12: Incorporate into emergency response plans the procedure for tracking high water marks following a flood	No reference	No reference	Gap	Following all flood events, the County will deploy field staff to document high water marks in accordance with FEMA guidance. This information will be shared with Community Development and included in future Hazard Mitigation Plans.	IX: Recovery operations	Emergency Management, GIS

**Capital Improvements Plan Integration**

RRRC Strategy for Integration	Existing Reference	Reference Location	Relationship (aligned/conflicting/gap)	Suggested Language	Suggested Section	Lead Integration Department
FC-4: Riparian Restoration for Flood Prevention – Revegetate a 500-foot length of Cedar Run Creek	No reference	No reference	Gap	Riparian restoration for flood prevention at Cedar Run Creek	Environmental Services	Public Works, Community Development
FC-5: Stormwater mitigation and habitat creation – Engineering design and installation/ replacement of three stormwater roadside ditches into bioswales through the planting of herbaceous native plants to create	No reference	No reference	Gap	Bioswale installation	Environmental Services	Public Works, Community Development

habitat, increase stormwater uptake and water quality.						
FC-14: Consider acquisition, elevation, or flood-proofing of structures with repetitive loss claims to the National Flood Insurance Program	No reference	No reference	Gap	Relocation of structures out of the floodplain	Utilities/ Infrastructure	Public Works, Community Development
FC-15: Relocation of structures out of the floodplain	No reference	No reference	Gap	Relocation of structures out of the floodplain	Utilities/ Infrastructure	Public Works, Community Development

**Public Education and Outreach Integration**

RRRC Strategy for Integration	Existing Reference	Reference Location	Relationship (aligned/conflicting/gap)	Suggested Language	Suggested Section	Lead Integration Department
FC-2: Encourage residents to keep storm drains clear of debris during storms	No reference	No reference	Gap	The County will expand public outreach to encourage residents to keep storm drains clear during storm events. Educational materials will be added to the emergency management webpage.	Add a public education tab to emergency management webpage	Emergency Management; Community Development
FC-3: Develop an education and outreach plan for the upcoming changes in FEMA flood mapping and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for property owners and general public	No reference	No reference	Gap	The County will implement a phased public education and outreach campaign aligned with updates to FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps. This initiative will provide residents and businesses with clear information on changing flood designations, insurance implications, property disclosure requirements, and available mitigation support.	Add a public education tab to emergency management webpage	Emergency Management and Community Development

**Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Integration**

RRRC Strategy for Integration	Existing Reference	Reference Location	Relationship (aligned/conflicting/gap)	Suggested Language	Suggested Section	Lead Integration Department
FC-6: Retain thick vegetative cover on public lands flanking river to reduce the potential of erosion.	Park land acquisition should consider potential environmental services like habitat protection or flood control measures during the selection and master planning of a site.	Recommendations for Improvements pg. 39	Aligned	n/a	n/a	n/a

**STEP 4. COORDINATION & FINALIZATION**

Share the draft alignment recommendations with the lead departments noted in Step 3, as well as RRRC, and ORP.

Department/Office Shared With	Date Shared
Fauquier County Emergency Management	January 2026
Fauquier County Community Development	January 2026
RRRC Community Development	January 2026
DCR Office of Resilience Planning	January 2026

**General Strategies to Integrate Resilience in Local Plans**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLANS**

- Incorporation of updated hazard vulnerability data, alignment of growth areas with low-risk zones, and inclusion of mitigation goals.
- Consider updating floodplain development regulations and incorporating no adverse impact requirements that increase flood protection for new and existing development.
- Promote the use of green infrastructure and other stormwater management practices to reduce runoff that contributes to flooding.
- Provide affordable housing in safe areas that are not prone to flooding.

**ZONING ORDINANCES AND LAND USE PLANS**

- Inclusion of hazard-reducing provisions such as flood zone overlay districts, impervious surface limits, stormwater management standards (BMPs), and site improvement requirements based on hazard data.
- Direct new growth away from designated flood hazard risk areas
- Promote land use patterns that reduce exposure to hazards and keep vulnerable development out of floodplains and other known hazard areas.
- Identify equitable relocation strategies for repetitive loss structures.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGETS**

- Prioritize resilience infrastructure including stormwater upgrades, green infrastructure, and emergency shelters.
- Evaluate long-term cost savings of resilience investments by comparing the upfront cost of mitigation projects with the avoided damages from future flood events.
- Incorporate lifecycle cost analysis to ensure that CIP dollars are directed toward projects that reduce long-term maintenance and recovery expenses.

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS**

- Incorporate hazard risk scenarios from the HMP and promote coordination with long-range land use and infrastructure planning.
- Ensure evacuation shelters are located outside flood hazard areas.
- Develop a Severe Weather Debris Management Plan using [DEQ, FEMA, and EPA guides](#) as a reference.

## Process Checklist

### PLAN INVENTORY

- Review the [Chapter 6 Capability Matrix](#) to identify the local planning mechanisms used by your locality
- Inventory selected plans in the table provided. Make sure to include:

### REGIONAL PLAN ANALYSIS

- Review the [Chapter 5 Flood Mitigation Project Tables](#) to identify and record all regional flood resilience strategies assigned to your locality.
- For each identified strategy, identify and record the relevant local planning mechanisms listed in your Plan Inventory through which that strategy can be implemented

### INTEGRATION OPPORTUNITIES AND ALIGNMENT PLAN

- Create a separate table for each plan in your Plan Inventory
- Fill the first column with the applicable strategies as identified in the previous step.