



Post-Hurricane Michael Recovery: Examining the Glenwood Neighborhood Plan, Panama City



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Introduction

Discussion

Results

RESEARCH QUESTION:

To examine examples of disaster recovery efforts at the community/neighborhood level, as well as provide insights on how effective neighborhood planning can be in addressing community vulnerability and contributing to resilience building.

RELEVANCE:

Similar research of natural disasters show that different communities have varying recovery trajectory. Which makes it important to look at what contributes to the difference.

PURPOSE:

This research is part of a larger understanding of the vulnerability and resilience of coastal communities. Using the information outlined by the Panama City Coastal plans of disaster recovery, it provides a starting point for understanding the community perception and dynamics around vulnerability reduction and resilience building.

Methods

- Process analysis (reviewing the planning process using recognition lens of environmental justice)
- Document analysis (reviewing the neighborhood plan - content, priority, intended outcome)
- Mapping current projects in the neighborhood and city using GIS



Figure 1. Zoom Meeting of the Glenwood neighborhood planning meeting.

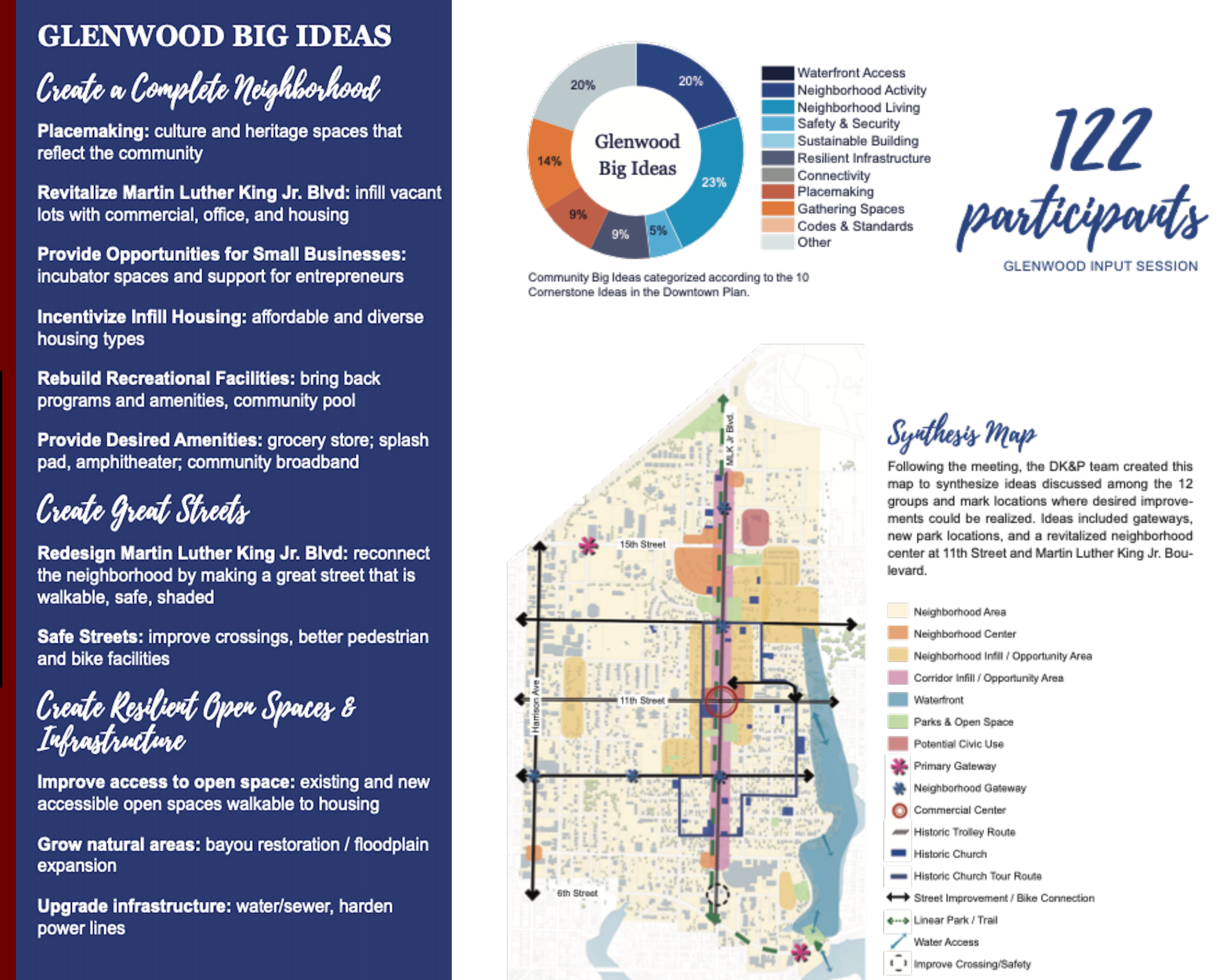


Figure 2 Panama City Neighborhood Plans showing "Glenwood Big Ideas" (Page 12 and 109)

- Recovery Action Plans had inclusion of Panama City residents.
"Recovery will be inclusive of the whole community—meaning projects will be supported by partners across public and private sectors and informed by diverse stakeholders with a variety of perspectives."
- Age of housing units in the community contributed to higher rate of destruction during Hurricane Michael exacerbating a housing problem
- Recovery issues includes lack of proof of housing ownership (common for houses to be "heirs")
- Some current community problems are rooted in historical development decisions (eg. limited commercial areas caused by expansion of MLK Boulevard that displaced black business)
- Neighborhoods provided different levels of priority within the community. Ex. Glenwood prioritized Increased/New Activity in Commercial Areas (Jobs) and Safety and Security
- Plans had little reference to Social Vulnerability
- 76% of participants of the plans were over the age of 50

LIMITS OF PARTICIPATION:

- Lack of younger generations point of view.
- Majority of Planning Meetings were on Zoom due to COVID-19.

- Planning activities are formal and lead by technical experts and professional planners (top-down)
- The same activities done in all neighborhood plan

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN:

- Common "community visions" among neighborhoods using planning language
- Very comprehensive and diverse strategies (land use, zoning and building code) but limited on social dimensions

WAY FROWARD/ NEXT STEPS:

- Interview with the planners and local officials
- Interview with community members that participated in the planning process
- Interview with community organizations

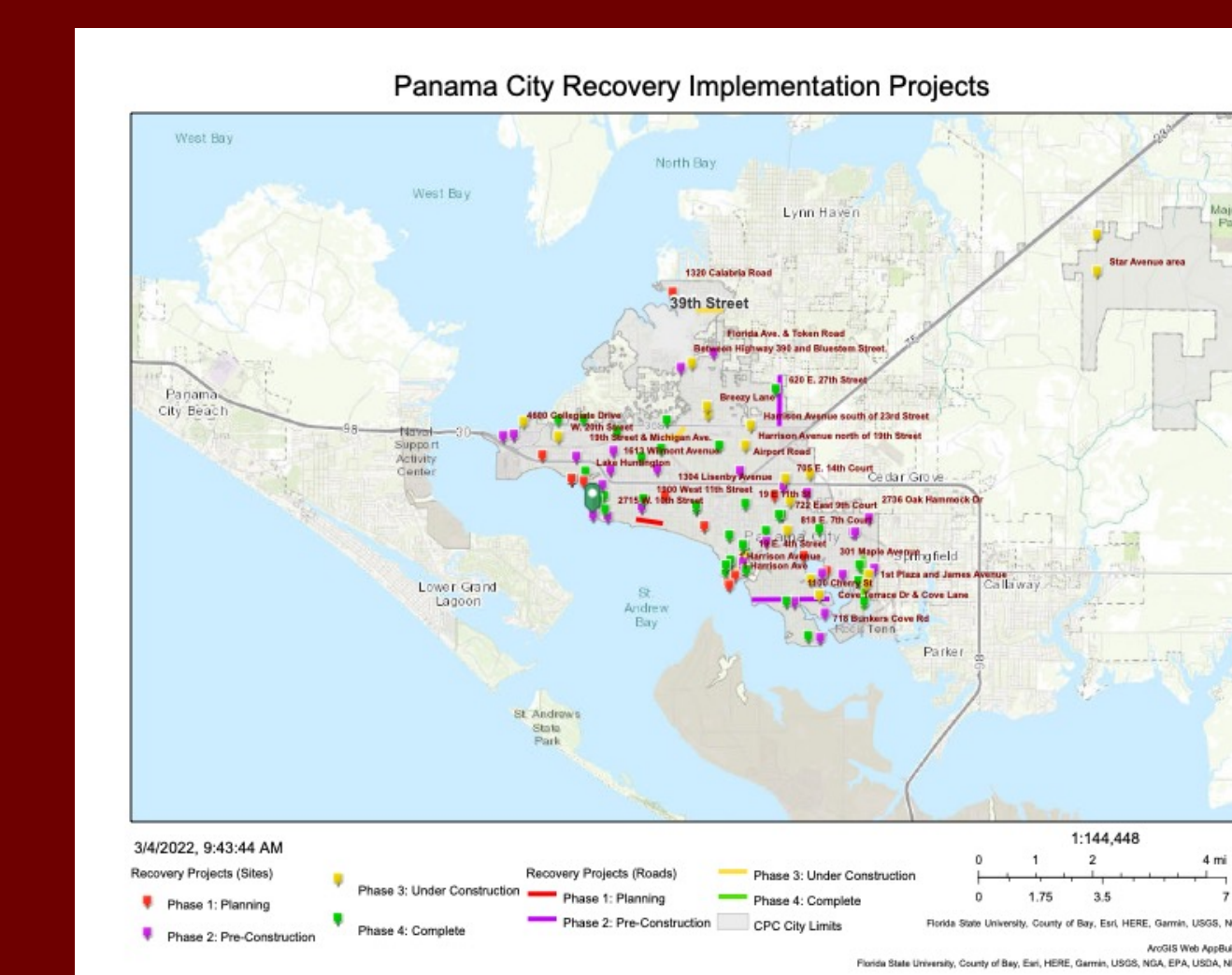


Figure 3. Map of Panama City Recovery Implementation Projects.

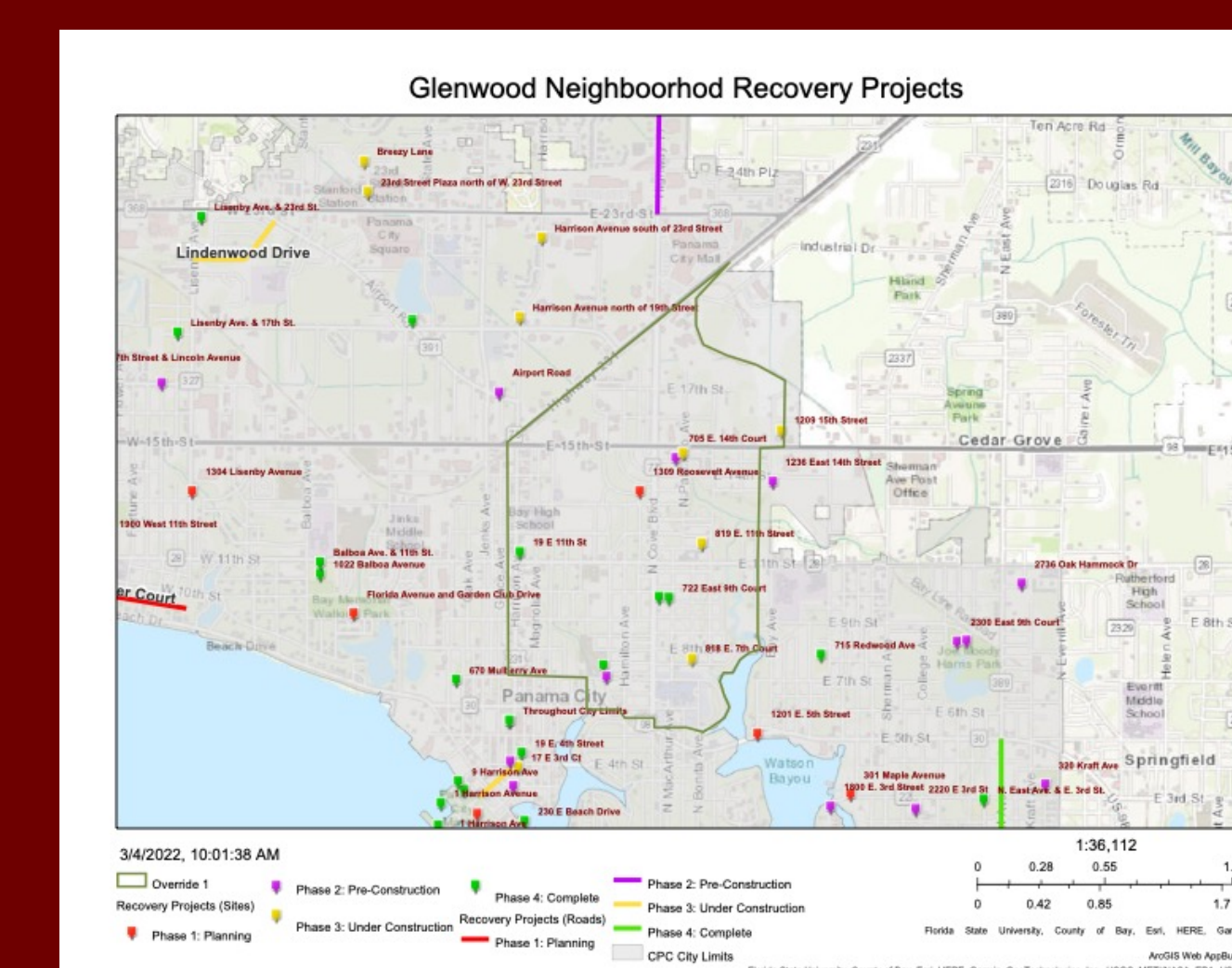


Figure 4. Map of Panama City Recovery Projects in the Glenwood Neighborhood.

References

- Neighborhood Planning Zoom Recordings. 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.rebuildpc.org/panama-city-neighborhood-plans/>
- Panama City Neighborhood Plans. 2021. City of Panama City Long Term Recovery Planning Project. Retrieved from <https://www.rebuildpc.org/panama-city-neighborhood-plans/>