



ANNUAL REPORT 2026

Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information

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Volusia County Growth & Resource Management

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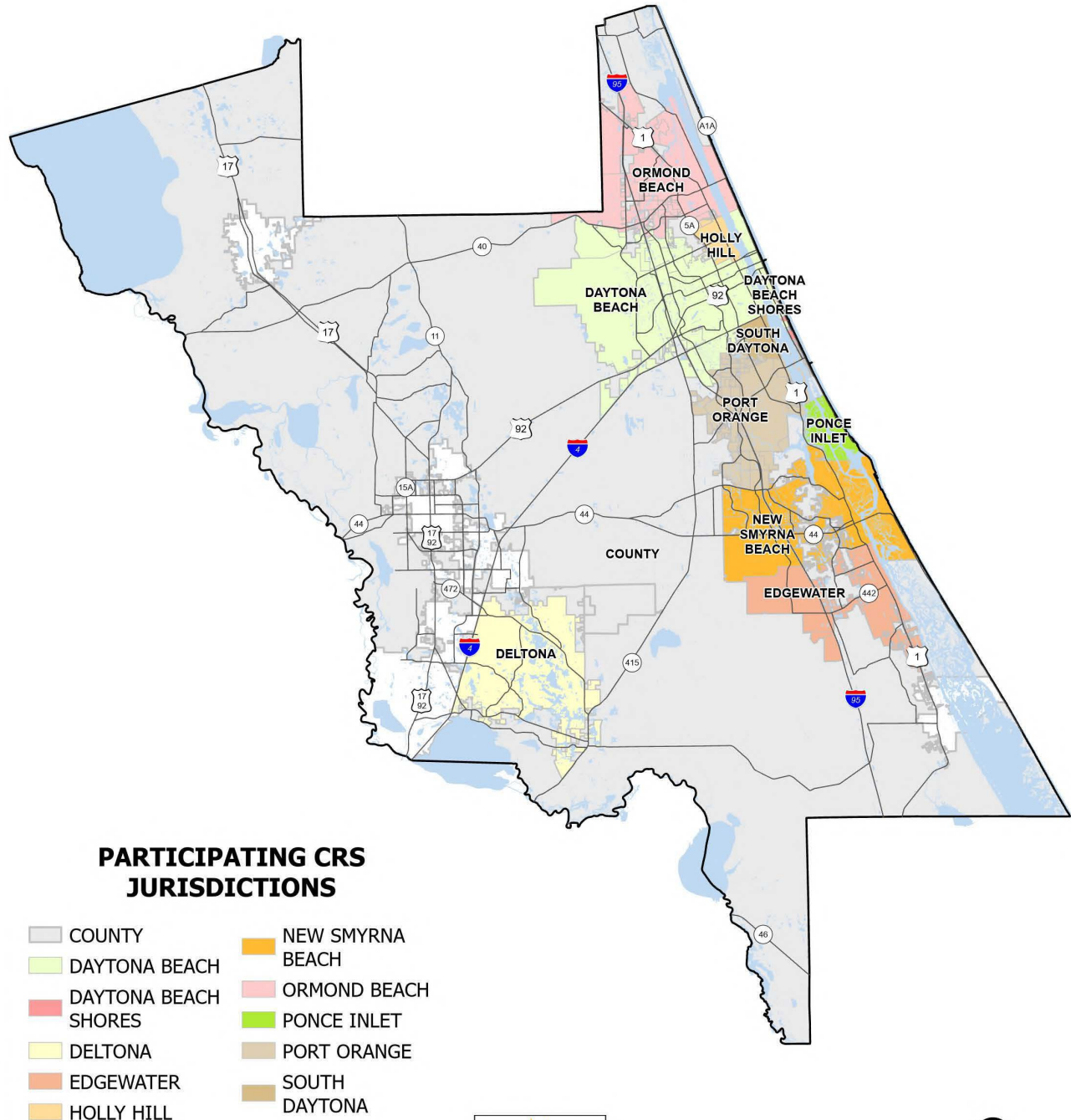
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Volusia County Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (MJ-PPI) is an ongoing public information effort to design and transmit the messages that the communities determine most important to their flood safety and the protection of their floodplains' natural functions. The MJ-PPI Committee conducted its annual evaluation meeting on March 13, 2026. This report summarizes the evaluation findings, project implementation status, progress toward desired outcomes, and recommendations for program improvements.

The committee represents eleven participating jurisdictions: Daytona Beach, Daytona Beach Shores, Deltona, Edgewater, Holly Hill, New Smyrna Beach, Ormond Beach, Ponce Inlet, Port Orange, South Daytona, and unincorporated Volusia County. Participating within the MJ-PPI allows communities to increase the points for each Outreach Project and Flood Response Preparation for their overall Community Rating System (CRS) rating.



VOLUSIA COUNTY PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM JURISDICTIONS



Customized map prepared by:
Volusia County Growth & Resource Management - Mapping and Addressing



1 inch equals 8 miles
4/21/2026

PRIORITY AUDIENCES, MESSAGES, AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

Priority Audiences (Remain Unchanged)

- General public
- Residents in the floodplain
- Residents and property owners in repetitive loss areas
- Residents and property owners in substantial damage properties
- Real estate, lending, and title insurance agencies
- New residents and property owners

Priority Areas (2025 Original)

- All properties (recognizing that flooding can occur anywhere)
- Special Flood Hazard Areas (A, AE, AH, VE zones)
- Zone X and Shaded X zones

Priority Areas (2026 Update)

- All properties (recognizing that flooding can occur anywhere)
- Special Flood Hazard Areas (A, AE, AH, VE zones)
- Zone X and Shaded X zones
 - Focus on select location as we would for special flood hazard areas (A-AE).

Messages and Desired Outcomes (2026 Update)

The committee evaluated and revised the following messages for the 2026 annual report:

- Message #A (No Change)
 - “Understand your risk of flooding. Finding out is simple!”
 - *Desired Outcome:* Increasing engagements on flood mapping websites.
 - *Tracking Method:* Landing page visits to county flood information pages.
- Message #B (No Change)

- "Protect yourself, your home, business, and personal belongings from the next flood with flood insurance."
 - *Desired Outcome:* Increase in flood insurance policy purchases.
- Message #C (No Change)
 - "Turn around, don't drown to safeguard yourself and neighbors from unnecessary flood risk. Sign up for alerts."
 - *Desired Outcome:* Reduce flood-related injuries and increase emergency alert registrations.
- Message #D (No Change)
 - "Keep debris and trash clear from streams, ditches, and inlets to prevent excess flooding prior to storm events."
 - *Desired Outcome:* Reduce localized flooding through improved drainage maintenance.
- Message #E (Updated)
 - "Before you start any storm repairs or improvements, check permit requirements."
 - *Desired Outcome:* Increase compliance with substantial improvement regulations.
 - *Challenge Identified:* Clarity of messaging is vital for citizens to understand that drywall, cabinet and flooring replacement may require permits.
 - *Legislative Impact Update:* Senate Bill 180 has prohibited local governments that participate in the NFIP from enforcing or adopting cumulative substantial improvement periods.
- Message #F (No Change)
 - "Hire only licensed contractors who know the local ordinances and jurisdiction's requirements for permitting."
 - *Desired Outcome:* Reduce non-compliant construction and protect property owners

- Message #G (Updated)

- **Current** - “Keep natural areas undisturbed, reduce and report illegal clearing and dumping, and protect water quality by limiting runoff, nutrient pollution, and improper fertilizer use.”
 - **Update:** "Keep natural areas undisturbed and report illegal dumping and clearing. Undisturbed natural areas absorb stormwater, filter runoff, and reduce nutrient pollution in our waterways."
 - **Desired Outcome:** Reduce runoff volume and nutrient loading to maintain water quality in receiving water bodies.
 - **Challenge Identified:** Nitrate concentrations in local waterways consistently exceed established target levels, driven primarily by fertilizer application and onsite sewage treatment systems. Natural undisturbed areas function as critical stormwater reservoirs and biological filters that intercept nutrients before they reach surface water. When these areas are cleared or degraded, including through illegal dumping and clearing, runoff volume and nutrient loading increase. Public awareness of the connection between parcel-level land disturbance and downstream water quality remains limited.

- Message #H (New)

- **Current (Originally Message #G)** - “Keep natural areas undisturbed, reduce and report illegal clearing and dumping, and protect water quality by limiting runoff, nutrient pollution, and improper fertilizer use.”
 - **Update:** "During flood events, excessive runoff can overwhelm lift stations and release sewage into our waterways. Report lift station overflows or suspected sewage discharges.
 - **Desired Outcome:** Reduce the frequency and public health impact of sewage contamination events associated with flood conditions.
 - **Challenge:** During flood events, stormwater infiltration into sewer lines and inundation of lift station infrastructure can exceed system capacity, resulting in sewer overflows that discharge untreated sewage into local waterways. This produces water quality and public health impacts distinct from chronic nutrient loading. Public awareness of this risk is low, and most residents are unfamiliar with how to recognize or report an overflow event.

PROJECTS IN THE PPI USED TO CONVEY MESSAGES

The following projects are listed within the 2025 MJ-PPI 5-Year Report:

Outreach Projects (OP)

- **Consolidated Flood Facts Brochure**
 - Locations Distributed:
 - Community permitting offices (OP #1)
 - Branch libraries (OP #2)
 - Chamber of Commerce's (OP #3)
 - Tracking Mechanism: Will be established prior to the second PPI meet of 2026.
- **Booths at Countywide and Citywide Events (OP #4)**
 - Tracking Mechanism: Will be established prior in the second PPI meet of 2026.
- **Presentations**
 - Countywide Citizens and Professional Groups (OP #5)
 - Emergency Management public presentations, including flood messaging (OP #6)
 - Family Disaster Preparedness (OP #10)
 - *Conducted by Volusia County Emergency Management*
 - Tracking Mechanism: Will be established prior in the second PPI meet of 2026.
- **Letters Distributed**
 - Audience:
 - Repetitive Loss Areas (OP #9)
 - Real estate, lending, and insurance companies (OP #13)
 - *Letter included Consolidated Flood Fact Brochure*
 - Tracking Mechanism: Will be established prior in the second PPI meet of 2026.
- **Annual Flood Guide (OP #8)**
 - Locations Distributed:
 - Community permitting offices
 - Regional libraries
 - Sent to all properties in a Special Flood Hazard Area
 - County offices
 - Tracking Mechanism: Will be established prior in the second PPI meet of 2026.

- **Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) Annual Hurricane Expo (OP #11)**
 - Tracking Mechanism: Will be established prior in the second PPI meet of 2026.
- **Alerts and Posts**
 - Everbridge Messaging (OP #12)
 - Multi-media Post and digital alerts (OP #7)
 - Tracking Mechanism: Will be established prior in the second PPI meet of 2026.
- **Floodplain Disclosures and Permit Awareness (OP #14)**
 - Tracking Mechanism: Will be established prior in the second PPI meet of 2026.
- **Ask Before You Buy Brochure (OP #15)**
 - Distributed to realtors to provide to buyers
 - Tracking Mechanism: Will be established prior in the second PPI meet of 2026.

Coverage Improvement Plan (CP) Projects

- **Letters from Councilperson/Commissioner/Mayor (CIP #1)**
 - Distributed to floodplain and repetitive loss properties

Flood Response Projects (FRP)

- **Educational Everbridge Messages (FRP #1)**
- **Door Hangers (FRP #2)**
 - Distributed to affected communities by damage assessment team.
- **Safety Everbridge Messages (FRP #3)**

PROGRESS TOWARD DESIRED OUTCOMES

Positive Trends

- **Emergency Preparedness:** Everbridge registrations increased by more than 1,958 users, indicating improved adoption of the emergency alert system.
- **Flood Protection Information:** Flood protection information has increased by over 249, indicating that people may be more proactive about knowing their risk.
- **Committee Engagement:** Strong participation finalizing the 2025 MJ-PPI five (5) year update.
- **Elevation Certificates:** The number of Elevation Certificates increased from 126 to over 384 in the past year. This growth suggests increased homeowner engagement in assessing flood risk and/or efforts to ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

Concerning Trends

- Continual federal shutdowns have created a landscape of uncertainty in data collection. No new data for the number of floodplain polices and repetitive loss has been acquired.
- **Water Quality Degradation:** Contrary to previous reports stating maintained water quality levels, state data show an actual decline in many areas. Elevated nutrient levels are driven by human activities. Fertilizers, onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, and more have been impairing both our surface and groundwater systems.

Population and Development Impacts

- Most communities experienced population increases since 2015 and are anticipated to increase from the estimated 2024 - 2025 numbers.
- Deltona maintains the highest population among the Volusia County cities.
- Unincorporated areas experienced a slight population decrease (approximately 258 people between 2010-2020), then is projected to have risen by 2,560 from 2024-2025.

IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

Data Quality Issues

No additional data was received by FEMA, Verisk (FEMA Contractor), the State due to the Department of Homeland Security shutdown. Continual federal government shutdowns have created uncertainty regarding the availability and reliability of data used for reporting and program administration. Two main shutdown events have occurred within the past two years. The first occurred from October 1, 2025, through November 12, 2025, and involved a lapse in appropriations affecting the capacity of the Federal Government. The second involved lapses in appropriations affecting multiple federal agencies, most notably the Department of Homeland Security, resulting in a partial shutdown from January 31 through February 3, 2026. A short-term extension of funding was subsequently enacted for approximately two weeks; however, another lapse, triggering Department of Homeland Security shutdown, began on February 13, 2026, which was ended on April 30, 2026.

Efforts were made to obtain updated information during this period. FEMA Region 4, Verisk, and the State Division of Emergency Management were contacted; however, no updated data was available. The State Division of Emergency Management indicated that no updated federal data had been received during the shutdown period.

Legislative Uncertainty

2024 Senate Bill 180 remains unchanged, as the 2026 Senate Bill 840 and House Bill 146 did not pass to amend Senate Bill 180. This bill will continue to constrain local governments. There has also been a hold on funding for FEMA contractors that facilitate many aspects of FEMA, CRS, for example. It is unknown when it will be funded or if the CRS program will remain post-government shutdown.

Resource Limitations

Due to staffing changes and the inability to obtain new data and documentation, it has affected some communities' ability to provide comprehensive metrics.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES

Priority Areas Revisions for 2026

- Zone X and Shaded X zones
 - Focus on select location as we would for special flood hazard areas (A-AE).
 - Older developments with limited or outdated stormwater infrastructure.
 - Locations identified by jurisdictions as experiencing elevated flood risk despite being mapped in Zone X.
 - Areas that correlate with findings from the 2024 Vulnerability Assessment, where applicable.
 - More evaluation is needed to determine true risk areas within Flood Zone X. This analysis should overlay Vulnerability Assessment data with Flood Zone X boundaries to identify high-priority locations, incorporating factors such as the presence of critical infrastructure, the age of surrounding subdivisions, and the adequacy of existing stormwater infrastructure. Where these variables converge, they may indicate elevated risk warranting prioritized outreach and further study.

Message Revisions for 2026

- Message #E
 - ***Legislative Impact Update:*** Senate Bill 180 has prohibited local governments that participate in the NFIP from enforcing or adopting cumulative substantial improvement periods.
- Message #G
 - **Update:** "Keep natural areas undisturbed and report illegal dumping and clearing. Undisturbed natural areas absorb stormwater, filter runoff, and reduce nutrient pollution in our waterways."
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before they reach surface water. When these areas are cleared or degraded, including through illegal dumping and clearing, runoff volume and nutrient loading increase. Public awareness of the connection between parcel-level land disturbance and downstream water quality remains limited.

- Message #H

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New Initiatives for 2026

- **Tracking methods for Outreach Projects:**
 - County-wide tracker with methodology.
 - Share drive with Excel sheets for jurisdictions to include their data, and instructions for operation.
 - Possible survey or working with other partners to evaluate county-wide perception of risk. This can aid us in understanding if our tracking and outreach projects have been effective.
- **Changing the way we express flood risk:**
 - Issued documents, meetings, events - all should get away from the 100-year or 1% flood metrics.
 - Staff should also express risk vs savings. Information given should show the discount rate in the jurisdictions, and how much they could be saving, how much they will be paying, versus how much it may be lost.

- Outreach projects and messaging should push for both.
- **Adding a new message:**
 - This message requires more deliberation to determine an adequate tracking mechanism.
 - Possible Message - “Understand your maintenance responsibilities as the property owner and take appropriate action.”
 - *Desired Outcome:* Ensure that residents, HOAs, and other ownership entities understand their maintenance responsibilities and know what actions to take to properly maintain drainage systems for flooding conditions.
 - *Preliminary Tracking method:* Total number of drainage-related property owner actions, including code enforcement cases, maintenance-related inquiries, and ownership/responsibility inquiries.

Audience Expansion

- None

Project Modifications

- None at this time - Comments may reflect large-scale modifications.

CONCLUSION

The 2026 MJ-PPI evaluation identified both successes and challenges in the implementation of the program. Emergency preparedness outreach demonstrated positive results, as reflected by increased registrations for the County's alert notification system. However, water quality within the County continues to decline due to human impacts, indicating that additional measures will be necessary to address the underlying causes.

The committee also identified concerns related to data availability and quality, as well as recent legislative changes that may affect program implementation. It is also recognized that data collection remains a significant constraint, and future uncertainties may further hinder the ability to provide accurate and consistent reporting on program outcomes and measurable change. These findings provide an opportunity to refine program strategies and improve performance during the 2027 program year.

- **Next Steps:**
 - Implement revised messaging strategies and how we communicate flood risk.
 - Identify target locations in Flood Zone X that are more susceptible.
 - Identify tracking mechanisms for Outreach Projects.
 - Continue data quality improvement efforts with FEMA coordination.
 - Monitor the fluidity of FEMA and CRS program.