Flood Smart Communities

Jayme Thomann, Senior Planner,
Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
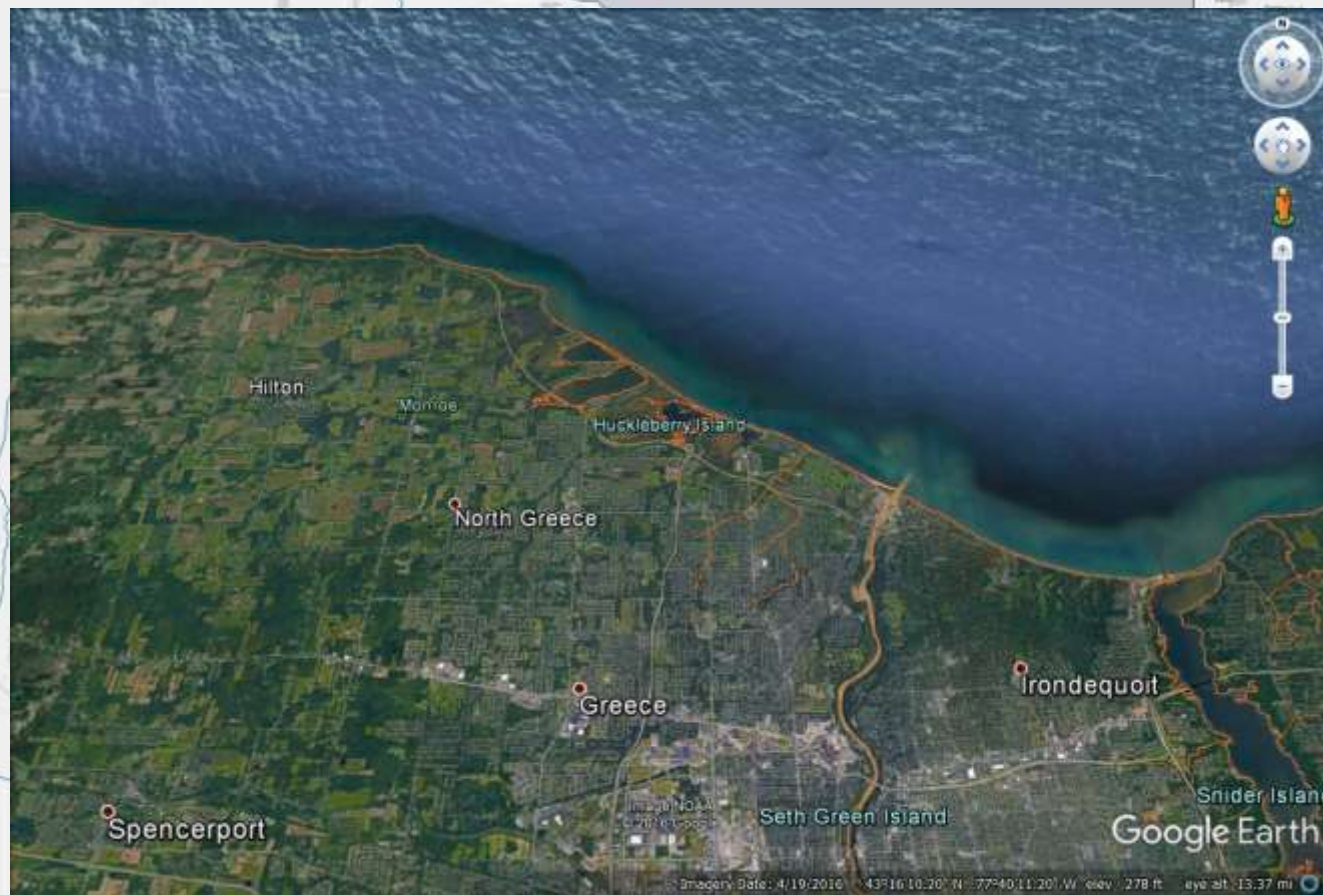Stevie Adams, Freshwater Specialist, The Nature Conservancy

Introduction

- We represent a diversity of community types—from high density and commercial development to rural residential with agriculture

- We regularly experience flooding and are connected by streams that flow to the Braddock Bay Fish and Wildlife Management Area

- We have a strong history of collaboration and currently work together on stormwater management activities through the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County

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Who We Are

Municipal representatives:

- Scott Copey, Planner, Town of Greece
- Paul Czapranski, Technical Services Coordinator, Town of Greece
- John Gauthier, Engineer and MS4 Permit Manager, Town of Greece
- Sue Duggan, Assistant to the Building Inspector, Town of Greece
- Mike Lissow, Code Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector and Fire Marshall, Village of Hilton
- Mike McHenry, Public Works Superintendent, Village of Hilton
- Dennis Scibetta, Building and Development Coordinator, Town of Parma

Study team:

- Stevie Adams, Freshwater Specialist, TNC
- Jayme Thomann, Senior Planner, G/FLRPC
- Dr. Kathryn Bryk Friedman, Research Associate Professor of Law and Policy, UB
- Ha Hwang, PhD Candidate, UB
- Sharon Entress, Associate Director of Research, Regional Institute, UB
- Brian Conley, GIS Research Analyst, Regional Institute, UB

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TOWN OF GREECE

TOWN OF PARMA 1808

VILLAGE OF HILTON NEW YORK 1885

The Flood Smart Approach

- Watershed approach to floodplain management

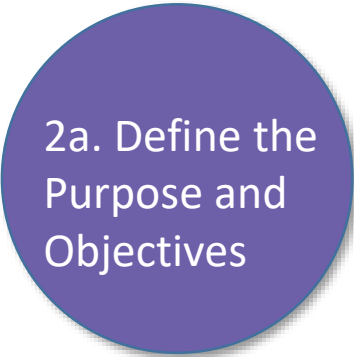- Community-specific assessments

- Systematic decision making

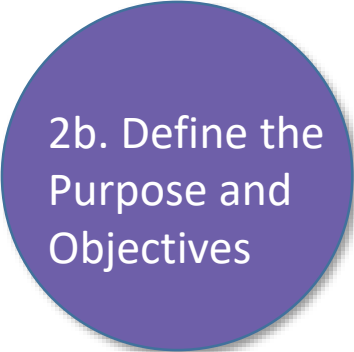# The Flood Smart Approach

1. Identify the Problem

Situation Analysis to ID causes and impacts of flooding

2a. Define the Purpose and Objectives

Statement of purpose that focused on collaboration, working proactively, and long-term planning

The Flood Smart Approach

2b. Define the Purpose and Objectives

1. Minimize economic impacts to the local governments
2. Minimize damage to property owners
3. Maximize multiple benefits of flood attenuation solutions
4. Maximize long-term, collaborative floodplain management

3. Conduct Community Study

1. Land use and natural environments
2. Surveyed residential property owners
3. Assessed different flood mitigation methods
4. Assessed vulnerability to flooding

The Flood Smart Approach

4. Develop Recommen-dations

1. **Convene an intermunicipal flood work group**
2. **Develop training requirements or program for municipal boards**
3. **Adopt an intermunicipal floodplain protection overlay district**
4. **Strengthen local flood damage prevention laws**
5. **Convene agricultural interests**
6. **Educate at-risk property owners**
7. **Prioritize and protect natural infrastructure**
8. **Share data with municipalities and the public**
9. **Utilize the Community Rating System**

5. Assess Effective-ness

Measure effectiveness of implementing recommendations and effectiveness of reducing vulnerability

The Community Study

Flooding Vulnerability Assessment

Physical

Soil, hydrological and topographic conditions

Social

Socioeconomic factors that indicate a higher risk of residents being impacted by flooding, weighted by population density
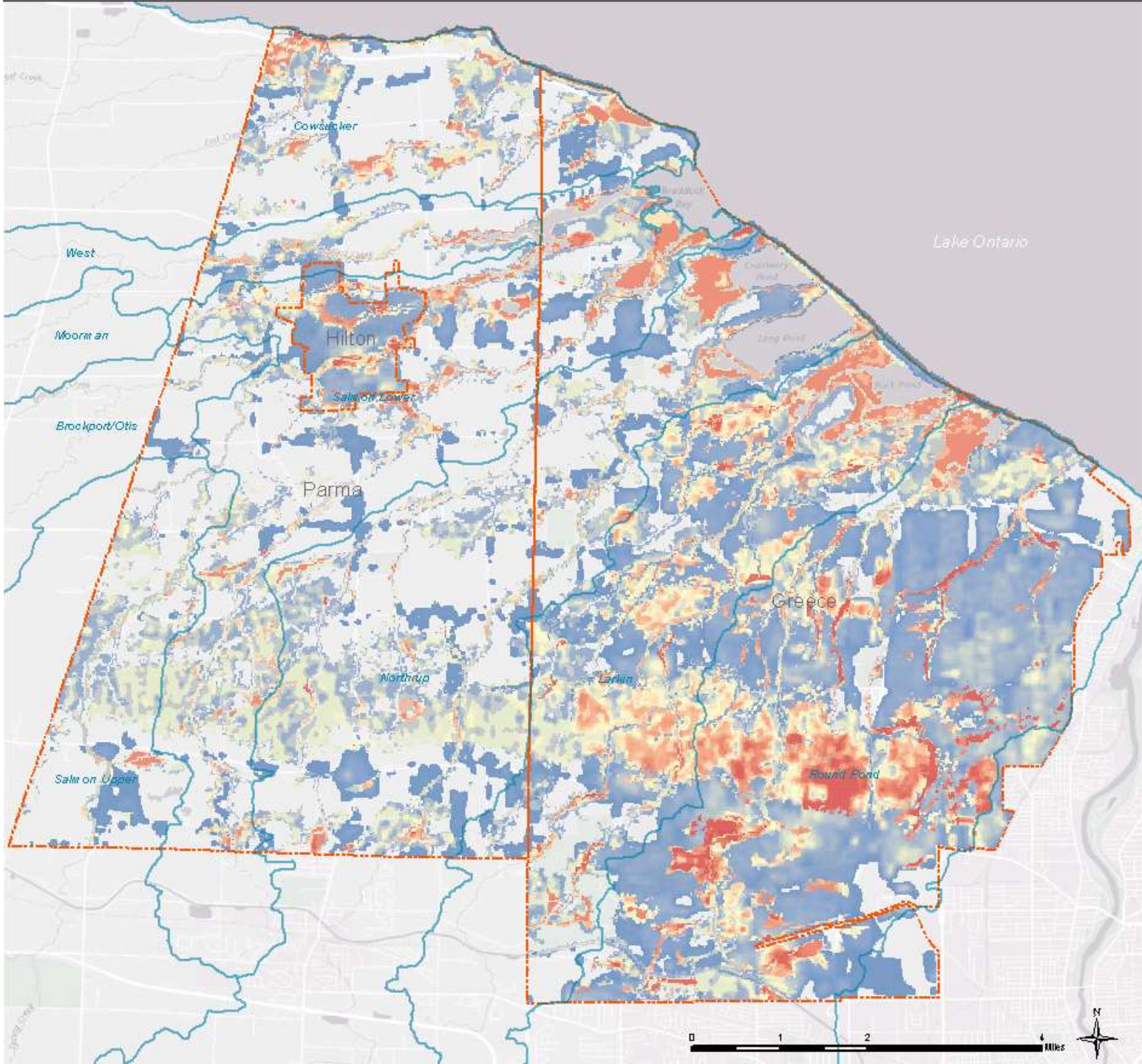
Structural

The number of structures located in floodplains and flood prone areas and certain characteristics

Economic

The value of structures, the contents within and the productivity of local workers and businesses

Composite Vulnerability to Flooding

The Recommendations and Implementing the Plan

The Recommendations

1. **Convene intermunicipal work group**
   - Meets regularly
   - Is responsible for implementing the Flood Smart Action Plan
   - Provides a forum for communication and information sharing
   - Builds and maintains partnership and collaboration between Greece, Parma, and Hilton and upstream municipalities

2. **Develop training requirements or program for municipal boards**
   - Power to protect development from the impacts of flooding
   - Empower member with information

3. **Adopt intermunicipal floodplain protection overlay district (POD)**
   - Acknowledges the upstream-downstream connection of communities
   - Requires additional and intermunicipal review of site plans for building permits
   - Includes floodplains not mapped by FEMA

4. **Strengthen local flood damage prevention laws**
   - Commit to higher standards that will better protect people and assets
   - Can also secure more Community Rating System points which benefits community resilience and flood insurance policy holders

5. **Convene agricultural interests**
   - Strengthen relationships with agricultural interests to protect this important component of the local economy
   - Reduce flooding contributions from these lands.

The Recommendations

6.   **Educate at-risk property owners**
   - Help residents be more prepared so that they can respond to and recover from flooding more effectively

7.   **Prioritize and protect natural infrastructure**
   - Helps reduce impacts of flood events by storing water and releasing it more slowly to the stream network and groundwater
   - Protect floodplains and wetlands that lie upstream of population centers so they continue to provide flood attenuation services

8.   **Share data with municipalities and the public**
   - Compiling GIS data and other data produced during this project
   - Make info available to the public so it can used in decision making
   - Improve communication by providing the same info to everyone

9.   **Utilize the Community Rating System**
   - A voluntary incentive program to exceed minimum NFIP requirements
   - Improve public safety, reduce property loss, protect open space and natural resources, and recover better post-disaster
   - A discount of up to 45% off flood insurance premiums

Implementing the Plan

1. Flood work group → Subcommittee of Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County

2. Training opportunities → Local Government Workshops and Silver Jackets inter-agency education opportunity and site visit

3. Floodplain Protection Overlay District → Launching project to develop model local law

4. Local Flood Damage Prevention Law → Updating Comprehensive Plan

5. Share data → Submitted grant proposals for statewide online mapper

6. Utilize CRS → Completed CRS Quick Check as a next step to application

Questions?

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Stevie Adams, sadams@tnc.org
For more information: http://www.gflrpc.org/FloodSmartCommunities.htm