

Understand Exposure | Community Asset Themes

WHO

This exercise is for the practitioner to complete in the Understand Exposure step.

WHAT

This resource provides examples of community asset themes and types and a worksheet to define them. These will be used later in the Understand Exposure step to determine potential impacts and collect data.

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

- [FEMA Lifelines](#) - aside from the themes described below, these can be a good starting place for developing themes for the community
- Review any relevant information about the community that has been gathered in [1.2 Plans, Initiatives, and Context Inventory - Worksheet](#).

INSTRUCTIONS

- Review the [example community asset themes and types](#) and any relevant information gathered about the community.
- Use the [space provided to develop themes and types](#).
- Share these with the full team to review and finalize.

Communities may end up with different or additional categories depending on priorities, data availability, and their own set of unique circumstances. Below are examples of community asset themes and types. You'll notice that between communities, some of these are exactly the same, while others break some themes down even further. Using what has been collected and discussed with the community and project team, begin to fill in the empty table provided. These themes will be finalized prior to completing the vulnerability and risk assessment in the Assess Vulnerability and Risk step.

When defining themes and asset types, consider a separate category for natural systems or features and undeveloped open space. Beaches, forests, coral reefs, and wetlands are just a few examples of natural systems that provide ecosystem services and protective value.

Example Community Asset Themes and Types

Community A

Theme	Types
Critical Facilities	Medical facilities, schools, fire and police stations, energy and utility facilities, and transportation-related facilities
Government-owned	All municipal, county, state, or federal owned properties, except for parks and recreation and critical facilities, which are assessed separately
Commercial and industrial properties	Non-residential properties that serve businesses, organizations, and industries: retail, hotels, mixed commercial, restaurants
Parks and Cultural	Greenways and other recreation property. Includes local landmarks, community or civic facilities, and property with religious significance
Residential	All single-family and multi-family residences, affordable housing, apartments, retirement homes, manufactured houses, and mobile home parks
Historic	Properties identified by the local historic preservation office and those listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Community B

Theme	Types
Commercial Property	Retail, office, restaurant, hotel, industrial, and other properties that serve businesses and organizations
Residential Property	All single-family and multi-family residences, affordable housing, apartments, retirement homes, manufactured houses, and mobile home parks
Government-owned Property	All municipal, county, state, or federal owned properties, except for those associated with parks and recreation and critical facilities
Critical Facilities	Fire and police stations, facilities that aid in emergency response, medical facilities, schools, energy and utility facilities, and transportation-related facilities
Parks and Cultural Property	Park properties, including greenways and other recreation properties. Cultural properties includes local landmarks, community or civic facilities, and property with religious significance

Community C

Theme	Types
Commercial and Industrial Property	Retail, office, restaurant, hotel, industrial, parking, and mixed-use properties which include businesses and support commerce, jobs, and tourism
Critical Facilities and Government-owned Property	City-owned properties or private facilities providing critical services. Includes medical facilities, schools, food pantries and stores accepting SNAP benefits, police and fire stations, and utility facilities. Also included are other properties listed as owned by the federal, state, or city government, except parks and community centers.
Parks, Cultural, and Entertainment Property	Places of worship, community centers, parks, museums, libraries, and commercial, private, or exempt properties used for community gatherings and entertainment
Residential Property	Properties where people live or shelter, including single and multi-family houses, condominiums, mobile homes, group homes, residential medical facilities and retirement homes. Included were vacant parcels with codes specifying residential
Vacant Property	Includes all properties where the use code specifies vacant land or otherwise

Community D

Theme	Types
Commercial Property	Non-residential properties that serve businesses and organizations (e.g., hotels, restaurants, offices)
Residential Property	Single-family and multi-family residences, low-income housing, apartments, manufactured houses, and mobile home parks
Industrial Property	Factories and companies manufacturing goods or materials. Includes distribution centers and industrial sites that store raw materials (e.g., gravel and concrete)
Mixed-Use Property	Properties that are a combination of multiple uses (e.g., commercial and residential)
Critical Facilities	Fire and police stations that aid in emergency response, as well as other critical facilities not included in another category
Natural Areas, Parks, Greenways	All parks and community centers
Government-owned Property	All government-owned properties, except for those associated with parks and recreation and critical facilities
Cultural Property	Religious and historic properties
Medical Property	Major regional hospitals and local clinics

Community Asset Themes Worksheet

Using information about the community, begin to define themes and community asset types.

Theme	Types

Notes

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IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES

Understand people and community assets, hazards, and stressors

- The City of Charleston uses categories called “Core Systems,” which were used to define and group community asset themes and types for the assessment. These are detailed in the [All Hazards Vulnerability Assessment](#) report. Details on hazards, stressors, and non-climate stressors can be found in this report.
- The [State of North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan](#) evaluated community assets by sector. Table 2-3 “Sectors Evaluated in the 2020 Resilience Plan” includes the sector (similar to community asset theme), contributing department(s), and examples of community assets, services, and programs included.
- An overview of the community asset themes, categories, and a description of each is provided in table 1-3 in the [Multi-jurisdictional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment](#) for the Southeast Palm Beach County Coastal Resilience Partnership.
- The [Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region](#) by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus who partnered with NOAA’s Climate Resilience Toolkit Team. The Our Changing Climate chapter discusses climate stressors and the Climate Adaptation and Resilience chapter goes into detailed discussion of the step-by-step approach following the Steps to Resilience.
- [City of Baltimore Disaster Preparedness Planning Project \(2018\)](#) details the hazards (Chapter 3) used in their assessment. While they took a different approach to determining what to assess, the full exploration of the hazard is as complete as should be in the Steps to Resilience.
- The [City of Tallahassee](#) uses language such as “shocks” and “stressors” in the Resilience Plan. While not all of these are included in the vulnerability and risk assessment done in Step 2, the report provides a short paragraph of how the City is affected by these (Chapter 2). Property use codes that were identified for community asset types are detailed in the report appendix.