

In Search of Sustainable Communities



Further Reading

[Not a Walk in the Park: What It Really Takes to Build Green Spaces | Planetizen Features](#)

[Book Review: Combining Sustainability and Smart Growth | Planetizen Blogs](#)

[How smart growth can protect against flooding in vulnerable communities - Smart Growth America](#)

[Resilience Planning Through Equity Lens \(youtube.com\)](#)

[The Affordable City: Supply, Stability, and Subsidy — and Lessons Since 2020 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Five reasons why urban practitioners should care about resilience | CNU](#)

[This Doctor Is Working to Build Resilience and Land Justice for Communities of Color | Civil Eats](#)

Sustainability

We all want to live in a community that contains the resources needed to survive, is safe, clean, and provides adequate public services such as schools and a fire department. **But it would be shortsighted to consider only the needs of community members here today.**

How can we ensure future generations continue to benefit from the resources we enjoy today?

🌿 Is this community sustainable?



“1st Street NE cycletrack, Washington DC” by BeyondDC, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

🌱 Is this community sustainable?



“Street Crossing Guard on Egan Drive, Juneau, Alaska” by Gillfoto, CC BY-SA 4.0

Sustainability is multi-faceted and includes social, economic and environmental factors.

Example: Riparian buffers
(Environmental)

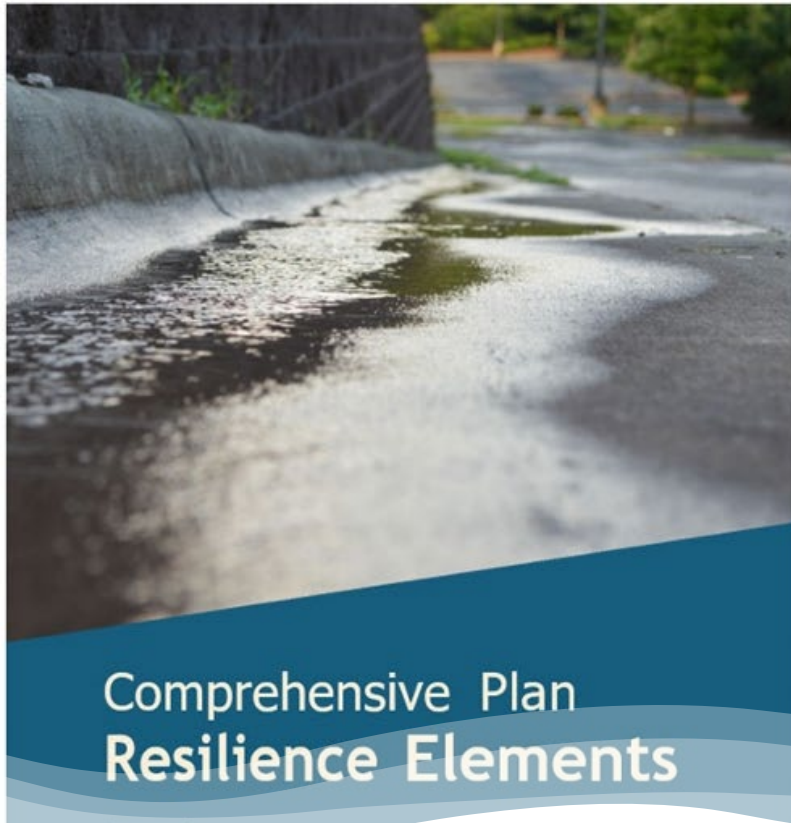
Example: Access to
Education
(Social)

Example: Job opportunities
(Economic)



SC Comprehensive Plan Enabling Act

In SC Code Title 6, Chapter 29, local government is responsible for creating a comprehensive plan that includes 10 elements. One of the elements is **resiliency**.



Element	Potential Connection
Population	Planning for resilient development associated with population growth.
Economic Development	Impact of hazards on business districts, downtowns and major employers and industries.
Cultural Resources	Vulnerability of historic assets, unique natural/scenic resources, archeological resources.
Community Facilities	Vulnerability of community facilities.
Housing	Vulnerability related to the type, age and condition of housing, affordability, floodplain buyout. Decision making for new development informed by future flood risk (subdivision approvals, etc.).
Land Use	Consideration of future risk in the development of the future land use. Existing and potential policies based on historic flooding and future risk. Are areas outside flood zone appropriately zoned for development?
Transportation	Consider the vulnerability of transportation infrastructure and strategies to increase resilience when identifying and implementing major road improvements & construction, pedestrian, bike and other transportation projects.
Priority Investment	Analyze likely federal, state and local funds available over next 10 years to implement resilience projects. Are there any new critical facilities or utilities planned for at risk areas?
Natural Resources	Vulnerability of natural resources, nature-based solutions

Resiliency

Resiliency considers the impacts of flooding, high water, and natural hazards on individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, economic development, public infrastructure and facilities, and public health, safety and welfare.



References

https://www.sccounties.org/sites/default/files/uploads/services/education-and-training/planning-and-zoning-education/11142022/hope_scor_resilience_planning_comp_11.6.22.pdf

[Code of Laws - Title 6 - Chapter 29 - South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act Of 1994 \(scstatehouse.gov\)](#)

[Including All Elements of the Comprehensive Plan | MASC](#)

[In Search of Sustainable Life \(populationeducation.org\)](#)