

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

- Comprehensive plan shall be reviewed every five years and completely updated every ten years (SC Code 6-29-510)
- Planning Commission reviews draft from staff and makes recommendation to City Council
- City Council holds public hearing and approves plan by ordinance
- Plan elements reviewed and updated during this review include:
 - Introduction
 - Population element
 - Housing element
 - Resiliency element (NEW)
 - Goals, Objectives and Strategies

RESILIENCY ELEMENT

- New element as required by amendment to SC Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994
- The South Carolina Office of Resiliency (SCOR) defines resilience as “the ability of communities, economies, and ecosystems within South Carolina to anticipate, absorb, recover, and thrive when presented with environmental change and natural hazards.”
- Cities and counties must include a resiliency element that considers the impacts of flooding, high water, and other natural hazards on residents, communities, institutions, businesses, economic development, public infrastructure and facilities, and public health, safety, and welfare.

RESILIENCY ELEMENT

Risk = Frequency x Severity

RESILIENCY ELEMENT

Natural Hazards

- Flooding
- Severe thunderstorms (includes wind, lightning and hail)
- Tropical storms
- Tornadoes
- Wildfire
- Extreme heat and drought
- Earthquakes
- Winter weather (includes sleet, freezing rain and snow)

RESILIENCY ELEMENT

Flooding

- Risk from Wateree River and associated tributaries
- Kendall Lake and Little Pine Tree Creek
- Stormwater flooding
- Dam failures
 - Dam breach in 1990 resulted in four deaths

Severe Thunderstorms

- Hazards include hail, lightning and high winds (greater than 58 mph)
- High frequency but low damage events
- Hail can cause damage to roofs and vehicles
- High winds can blow down trees which fall on power lines

RESILIENCY ELEMENT

Tornadoes

- Moderate risk of occurrence
- Highest risk associated with tropical storms passing by
 - Tropical Storm Francis spawned multiple tornadoes in Kershaw County including one in Camden

Wildfire

- Moderately high number of events but low amount of acreage burned
- Most wildfires in Kershaw County are in rural parts of county
- Fire in 1985 on Red Fox Road destroyed eight homes

Drought & Extreme Heat

- Drought can cause drop in level of Lake Wateree which is primary water source for Camden

RESILIENCY ELEMENT

Earthquakes

- Low risk of damage
- “Earthquake swarm” – 56 earthquakes in Elgin area since 2021; no damage or loss of life reported
- Earthquakes were magnitude 3.6 or lower

Winter Weather

- Includes snow, sleet and freezing rain
- Primary risk is downed trees and power lines
- Extended periods below freezing can damage agriculture

RESILIENCY ELEMENT

Other risks analyzed

- Transportation of hazardous materials (rail and highway)
- Energy and utilities
 - City has ongoing program to relocate electric lines underground)
- Cybersecurity and communications
- Nuclear radiation
 - Camden falls within the fifty-mile Emergency Planning Zones of the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station in Fairfield County and the H.B. Robinson Nuclear Station in Darlington County

RESILIENCY ELEMENT

FEMA National Risk Index

- Defines risk as “the potential for negative impacts, because of natural hazard”
- Social vulnerability ratings refer to the ability of a community to prepare for, respond and recover from the stresses of hazardous events
- The index shows Kershaw County has a lower overall Weather and Climate Combined Risk Score of 13.74, lower than the State at 15.35, but higher than the national score of 13.30
- The Weather and Climate Combined Risk Scores for the three Census tracts that include Camden are significantly higher than the State score, ranging from 17.92 (Tract 9706.01) to 22.15 (Tract 9708).

RESILIENCY ELEMENT

Goals

- Create a disaster-resistant city
- Examine capital improvement projects using a resilience lens.
- Preserve protective features of the natural environment to reduce the impacts of hazards on people and property
- Encourage private sector involvement in resiliency, disaster preparedness, and response planning to include neighborhoods and businesses.
- Proactively plan for rapid restoration of lifeline services and community recovery for City residents and employers.