



Geographic Location	S.E. Michigan
Population	102,434
Government Structure	Council-Manager
Per Capita Income	\$14,910 (USD)

City Fact Sheet: Flint, Michigan

The City of Flint is in the early stages of adaptation planning. Flint adopted its first comprehensive Master Plan in fifty years on October 28, 2013.

As a follow up to this effort, the city is working to update its zoning code, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and other related plans and policies. Since 1960, the city has lost nearly half of its population and over 70,000 jobs. However, city planners and community stakeholders feel that Flint is ready to embrace wide reaching change and are eager to begin a process of rebuilding and visioning for a future that addresses systematic problems in place of quick-fix solutions.

UNIQUE FACTS

- In 2013, the City of Flint adopted its first comprehensive, long term Master Plan in over 50 years.
- As an initial demonstration project, the city reinvigorated the ecological and community value of the Max Brandon Park wetland to enhance stormwater management and raise awareness.
- The city received a \$75,000 grant from the Ruth Mott Foundation to further support the wetland restoration project.

CLIMATE IMPACT

1.9°F	Increase in Annual Temperatures (from 1951-2012)
5	More Days in the Growing Season (from 1951-2012)
8.5	Decrease in Days Below 32°F (from 1951-2012)
14.5%	Increase in Annual Precipitation (from 1951-2012)

OPPORTUNITIES

- The city has built relationships with important local partners to strategically address the Master Plan's visions and objectives while also bolstering citywide resiliency.
- Early Master Plan-related adaptation projects have enabled city staff to grow education and awareness efforts among residents.

CHALLENGES

- The City of Flint continues to face many hardships, including a shrinking population, declining city revenues, and limited staff resources.
- Flint was under Emergency Financial Management until April, 2015 which complicated decision making and has made budgeting for adaptation projects difficult.



ADAPTATION PROJECT: WETLAND RESTORATION

To restore both the ecological and community value of the Max Brandon Park wetland, the City of Flint used a \$12,500 project grant award to reinvigorate the wetland through the removal of debris and unclogging of storm drains and fixing culverts around wetlands; invasive species removal and native tree planting; and improving access to the wetland. The city was able to establish a 2-year pilot agreement with the Genesee County Parks department to oversee park maintenance and also leveraged the grant to receive a \$75,000 grant from the Ruth Mott Foundation. The city plans to continue engaging community members and partners with the care of the Max Brandon Park in order to meet their original goals of reducing costs of long-term maintenance, enhancing the parks ecosystem benefits, and using it as an opportunity to educate Flint residents about sustainability.

ADAPTATION WORKSHOP

Michigan Green Communities partnered with the University of Michigan-Flint, the Climate Center, the Flint and Genessee Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), the Michigan Municipal League (MML), and Flint city planners to organize and host an adaptation workshop on February 26 and 27, 2014. Attendees discussed and shared best practices for climate adaptation and resilience building across the City of Flint.

The goals of the workshop were to:

- Provide members the opportunity to network and share ideas and resources related to sustainability at the local government level.
- Help city staff identify key vulnerabilities and strategies for addressing climate impacts in Flint.



City staff discuss adaptation needs at a Climate Center workshop

Resources related to the Climate Center's work with the City of Flint can be found at: graham.umich.edu/climate/adaptation/urban/flint

More at: imagineflint.com

Cover photo courtesy of University of Michigan, Flint



Before Project Work: Broken Culvert



After Project Work: Functioning Swale

IMAGINE FLINT MASTER PLAN

In October of 2013, the City of Flint established its first comprehensive, long-range plan in over 50 years. The Imagine Flint Master Plan was unanimously adopted by both the City of Flint Planning Commission and the Flint City Council. The plan is the result of a 2-year process that included over 5,000 Flint residents and community stakeholders and was supported by numerous leaders and organizations from across the city. The plan brings together innovative solutions to confront Flint's challenges of increasing vacant properties, a shrinking tax-base, and a need for climate resilient practices and policies. More at: imagineflint.com



The Great Lakes Adaptation Assessment for Cities increased understanding about the challenges and opportunities municipalities face when adapting to climate change. This effort was supported by the Kresge Foundation and the University of Michigan's Graham Sustainability Institute, which fosters sustainability through knowledge, learning, and leadership. For more information on the project, see: www.graham.umich.edu/climate.