Two Years of Hurricanes: Dauphin Island’s Resilience & Future Sustainability

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- Five E’s Unlimited
Gulf Coast of the U.S.

Insert shows Mobile Bay & Dauphin Island along AL Gulf Coast
What is Sustainability?

A Community will move towards sustainability when it understands the connected economic, social, and environmental consequences of its actions and makes deliberate, informed choices that allow all people to lead healthy, productive, and enjoyable lives in the community, now and in the future, without experiencing unintended consequences.

Living sustainably is maintaining the important mix of options and opportunities while creating no new and onerous constraints.

Living unsustainably is losing them, narrowing the range of options that subsequent generations and people elsewhere can choose among in their attempt to adapt, survive, and prosper.
Capital

Resources invested to create new resources over a long time horizon
Natural Capital

Provides possibilities and limits to human actions: influences and is influenced by human actions.
Cultural Capital

Determines how we see the world, what we take for granted, what we value, and what things we think possible to change.
Human Capital

Characteristics and potential of individuals that are determined by the intersection of nature (genetics) and nurture (social interactions and the environment).
Social Capital

Interactions among individuals that occur with a degree of frequency and comfort.
Political Capital

The ability of a group to influence standards, regulations, and enforcement of those regulations that determine the distribution of resources and the ways they are used: increased voice and influence of people.
Financial capital is often dominant because it is easy to measure, and there is a tendency to put other capitals into financial capital terms: can result in an appropriately diverse and healthy economy if distributed fairly.
Built Capital

Human-constructed infrastructure used as tools for production of other capitals.
Community Capitals Model

WELL-BEING
Healthy Ecosystem
Vital Economy
Social Equity

Built Capital
Financial Capital
Political Capital
Social Capital
Human Capital
Cultural Capital
Natural Capital

Source: Cornelia Butler Flora, North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, 2004
Spiraling of Capital Assets

- Rebuilding DI bridge - 1982
- New westend beach home development
  (pressures on environment)
- Rental property taxes prime town revenue
- Travel to mainland for shopping
- Decline in population – equity issues
- Local business closures
- Loss of tourism trade
- 2-years of hurricane destruction
- Damaged infrastructure
- Decline of income & economic activity
- Community pride & hope challenged

(Additional notes: pressures on environment)
Sustainability requires all three sectors to be engaged.

Sometimes everything is geared around one aspect at the expense of the others.
Impacts of different sources of capital investments on community outcomes

**Clientelism**
Community decisions based on what outsiders from market, state, or civil society offer, building power of local elites and service providers.

**Progressive Participation**
Community decides priorities based on the common good.

**Extreme individualism**
Wealthy invest for themselves; poor excluded from access to community capitals.

**Strong Boundaries**
Particularistic internal investment. When your kin are in office, you get the potholes fixed. No outside communication or trust.
Spiraling of Capital Assets

Develop core values & decide what is most important (cultural)

Bridging social capital brings in outside expertise together with internal wisdom (social)
New Directions in Community Based Resource Decision-Making

- Identify the Stakeholders, Constituencies & Special Interests
- Draw-out People’s Attitudes, Perceptions and Values
- Engage Stakeholders in a Facilitated, Consensus-building Process
- Evaluate Common Goals and Commonly-developed Alternatives
- Promote Effective Advocacy
PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

Building community capacity through vision and leadership

Citizens are provided with the information and opportunities necessary to participate meaningfully in decision-making, and all affected people are encouraged to participate in policy formulation and implementation. (Citizen Engagement and Responsibility)

Decision-making considers the full environmental, economic, and social costs (full cost accounting) to ensure that all projects contribute to the sustainability vision for the community. (Economic Security)
Visioning Goals

- Central Downtown Village Environment
- Effective Governance
- New Sources of Revenue
- Sustainable Beaches & Dunes
- Eco-Tourism
- Healthy Ecosystems
- Sustainable Small Town Community
Spiraling of Capital Assets

- Bridging social capital brings in outside expertise together with internal wisdom (social)
- Protect environment to sustain resources for economy (natural)
- Develop core values & decide what is most important (cultural)
The community finds ways to capitalize on the region's ecological infrastructure, complementing conventional approaches to such issues as flood control, stormwater management, drinking water supply, wastewater treatment, and public park & recreational design with approaches that emphasize the services provided by healthy natural ecosystems.

(Making Connections and Tradeoffs)
Spiraling of Capital Assets

Bridging social capital brings in outside expertise together with internal wisdom (social)

Change zoning to improve infrastructure & enhance development (political)

Develop core values & decide what is most important (cultural)

Protect environment to sustain resources for economy (natural)

Seek new developers & investors (financial)
Conceptual Flow of Dollars ($) Through the Dauphin Island Economy

Mobile County, Alabama, Gulf Coast and beyond
Economic activity is diversified, the degree of local ownership increases, and it has the capacity to change with a changing market place by expanding to new markets and/or adding value to existing assets.

(Economic Security)
BUILDING A STRONG AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY

Enhancing quality of life

Policies exist to promote fair and affordable access to housing and cooperatively developed programs are in place to promote the affordability of goods and services to residents and employees and to keep money circulating in the community.

(Social Equity)
Dauphin Island’s Next Decade
Partnering in the Community’s Success

- Creating a Shared Vision
- Achieving the Vision
- Community Responsibility

Protecting Our Future

- Natural Environment
- Physical Infrastructure

Building a Vibrant Community

- Sense of Community
- Culture
- Workforce
- Affordability
- Health Services & Education

Enriching the Community Experience

- Economic Systems
- Land Use & Urban Design
- Access & Mobility
"Warren ...... Things are going well on Dauphin Island. We purchased property at the west end of Bienville Blvd and will be opening a new public beach there on June 20. The same day we will open our new 'green park' which will be a pedestrian park with picnic tables and a gazebo for people to bird watch, have lunch, or read a book. The century year old oaks now can be readily seen and enjoyed by all. We are also poised to purchase two abutting properties on Aloe Bay. This is all part of our 'downtown business district & working waterfront' effort. At the same time we are nearly finished with our new building at Billy Goat Hole. All we have to do now is keep the hurricanes away and the Island should regroup in a short while. We have several new businesses that have opened in the past 3-4 months including two restaurants, a kayak rental and a florist/gift shop. See what Five E’s and you did !!!!!!! All my best .... Jeff Collier, Mayor, Dauphin Island, AL