BROWARD COUNTY
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PARKS AND RECREATION

Emergency Management and Public Safety Section

National Hurricane Preparedness Week (May 3-9, 2026)

Parks Advisory Board Meeting - May 1, 2026

Parks & Recreation Responsibilities in Hurricane Preparedness

🗓️ Florida’s Hurricane Preparedness Week is the first week in May and helps agencies and residents get ready before hurricane season begins on June 1.

🏞️ Parks and Recreation agencies play a key role in supporting community emergency preparedness, risk management, facility readiness, and public safety during natural disasters.

📋 Core responsibilities include maintaining emergency action plans, identifying hazards, training staff, and preparing facilities for sheltering or evacuation needs.

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Parks & Recreation Responsibilities in Hurricane Preparedness, continued

🚚 Parks also serves as staging and logistics sites by providing space for response crews, deploying resources, and storm-related debris management.

🌴 They protect coastal and urban park assets by addressing storm-surge risks, securing waterfront facilities, and managing vegetation in high-wind and flood-prone areas.

🤝 They assist with post-storm community recovery by reopening parks safely, supporting cooling or distribution sites, and coordinating with local partners as services are restored.

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Preparedness Actions for Staff & Facilities

Parks staff prepare for storms by:

- 📄 Reviewing emergency action plans and ensuring roles, responsibilities, and procedures are up to date
- 🔒 Securing outdoor assets such as benches, signage, equipment, and loose items by ensuring they are tied down or stored
- 🌳 Inspecting trees and removing hazards by trimming limbs and addressing vulnerable vegetation around facilities
- 📲 Confirming communication channels by verifying that staff alert systems and contact lists are up-to-date
- 🏠 Updating shelter-in-place or closure procedures and making sure plans reflect current facility needs and storm guidance

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Community Engagement & Public Messaging

How Parks Can Support Preparedness Week Communications

📌 Displaying hurricane-preparedness posters at parks and community centers

📣 Posting “Know Your Zone” guidance and supply-kit tips on social media

📲 Encouraging residents to enroll in local emergency-alert systems

🎟️ Promoting hurricane-readiness workshops and public preparedness activities





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Post-Storm Recovery & Continuity of Operations

 Conduct safety assessments before reopening by evaluating parks, trails, and recreation centers for hazards, structural issues, and debris to ensure safe public access.

🪵 Support debris removal & damage documentation by assisting with clearing park areas, documenting impacts, and coordinating with insurance and public works teams.

🧊 Provide temporary community support spaces by offering parks or centers as cooling sites, charging areas, or distribution points as neighborhoods restore essential services.

🔄 Restoring high-use facilities as a priority by reopening key recreation spaces to help stabilize community routines and support recovery.

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🔑 Key Takeaways & What Comes Next

🗓️ Stay prepared throughout hurricane season by continuing to update plans, train staff, and coordinate with local partners.

📡 Maintain clear communication channels by ensuring teams receive timely updates and know their roles during activation.

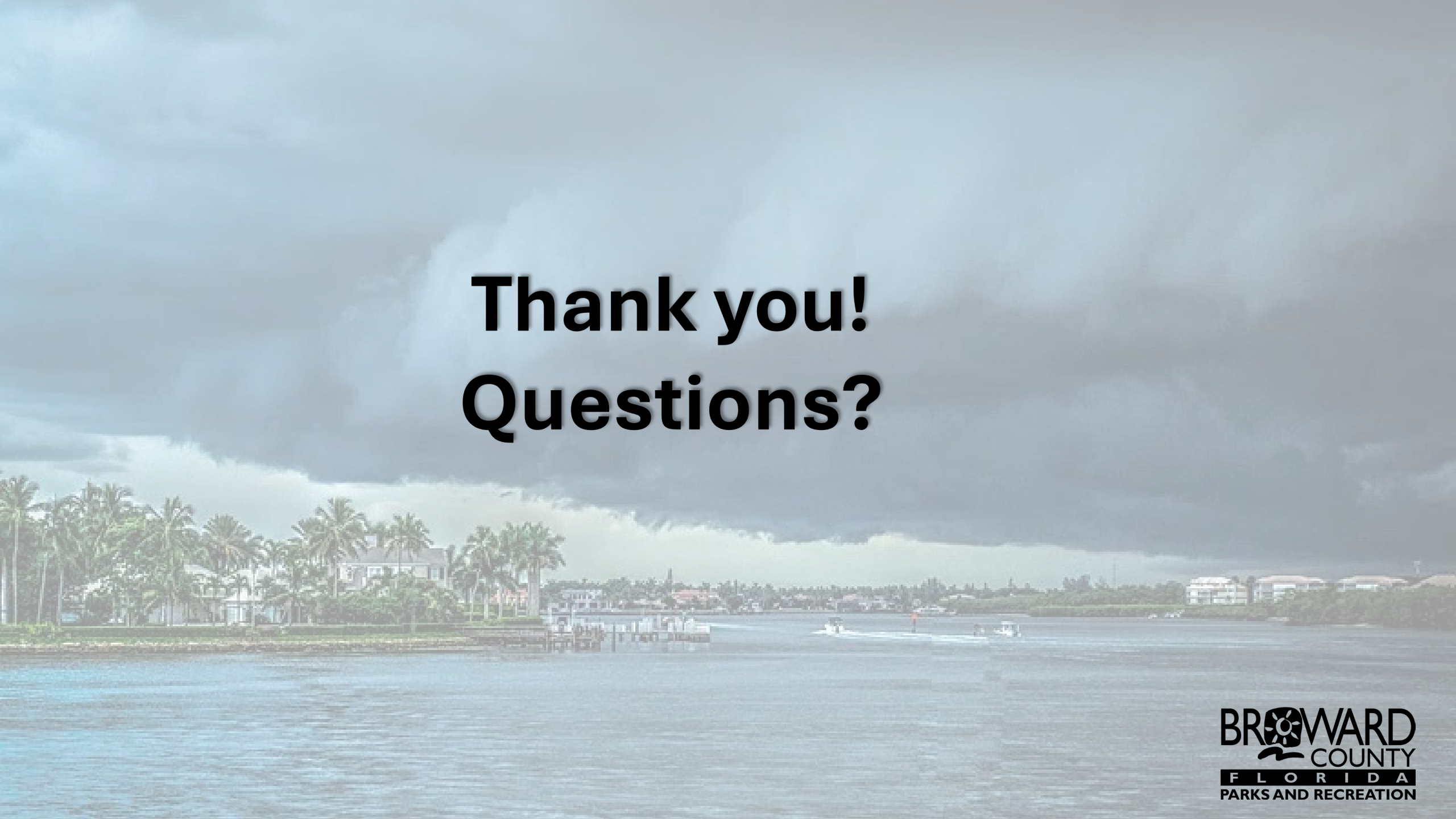
🤝 Strengthen partnerships by collaborating with the Broward Emergency Management Division, the Public Works Department, and community organizations to enhance readiness.

🌱 Support community resilience by reopening parks safely, providing recovery spaces, and helping restore normalcy after storms.

✔️ Final Takeaway

Preparedness is a shared responsibility—consistent planning and coordination keep South Florida communities safer.

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Thank you!
Questions?
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