# Building a Resilience Microhub Network in RVA

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Plan-Off!
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Prepared for:

GROUNDWORK RVA

# The Short Version

- Groundwork RVA is building a **resilience microhub** in the Hillside neighborhood
- Our team submitted a **funding grant** from Virginia's Department of Energy
- The Hillside Hub will be the first link in a proposed larger **Resilience Network**






# What are Resilience Hubs?

Resilience hubs are a **tool** for community resilience

Community resilience is both **physical** and **social**

Hubs must be **accessible**, **resilient** , and **trusted**




**Lucks Field Community Center is a full-scale resilience hub**

# Resilience Microhubs

**Neighborhood-scale** resilience hubs

Build on **existing** resilience work

**Accessible** to community-based orgs



This mobile solar trailer will be sourced for the Hillside Hub

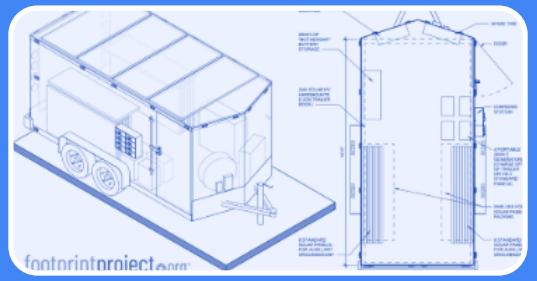


Community members building a solar hub in New Orleans

# How Can We Build a Microhub Network?



How do we prioritize and select a site for a microhub?



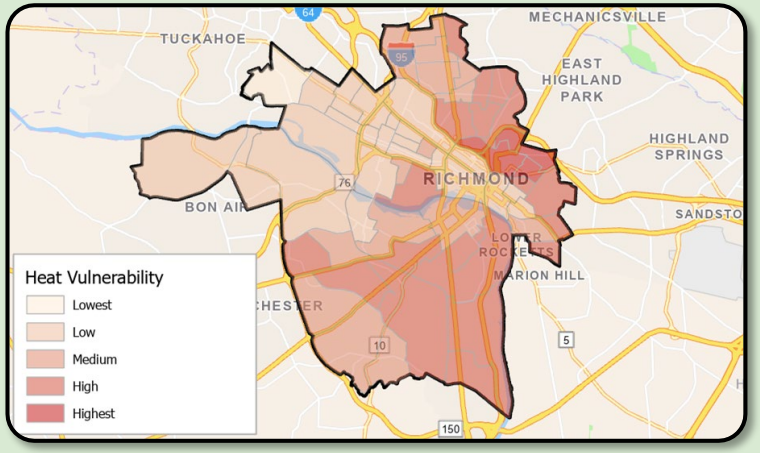
How do we design and implement a microhub effectively?

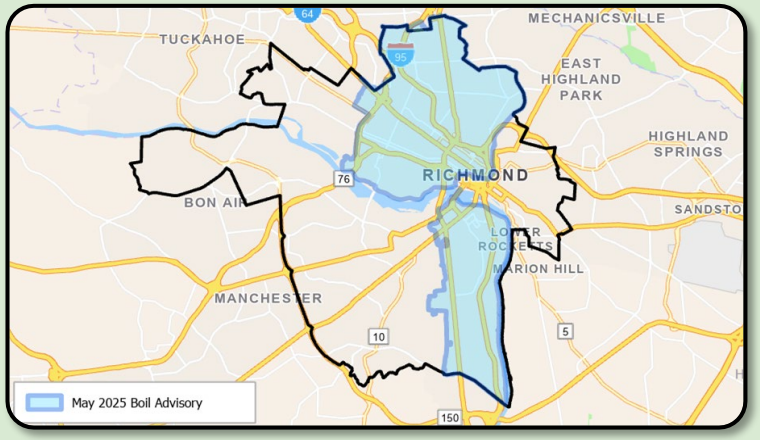


What services and programming could a microhub support?

# Prioritizing Locations

- Climate change is making Richmond **hotter** and **stormier**
- Richmonders experience many **heat-related** injuries and deaths every year
- Richmond's **water system** broke down twice in 2025
- People in frontline communities often experience **overlapping vulnerabilities**



# Designing a Microhub

## Services & Programming

- **Everyday**: Community-building and training
- **Disruption** : Responding to crisis
- **Recovery**: Bouncing forward



Concept art for an activated microhub responding to crisis

## Structure & Systems

- **Shipping container** buildings
- **Solar power** systems

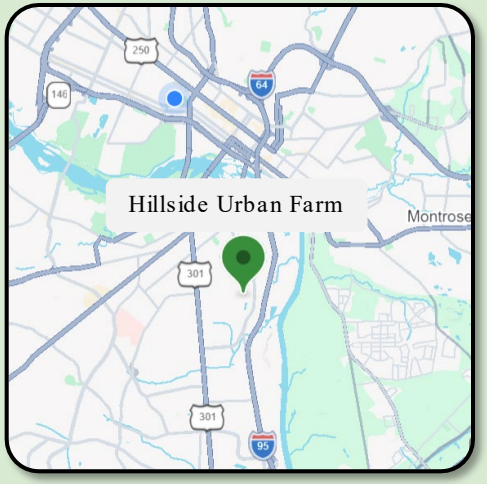


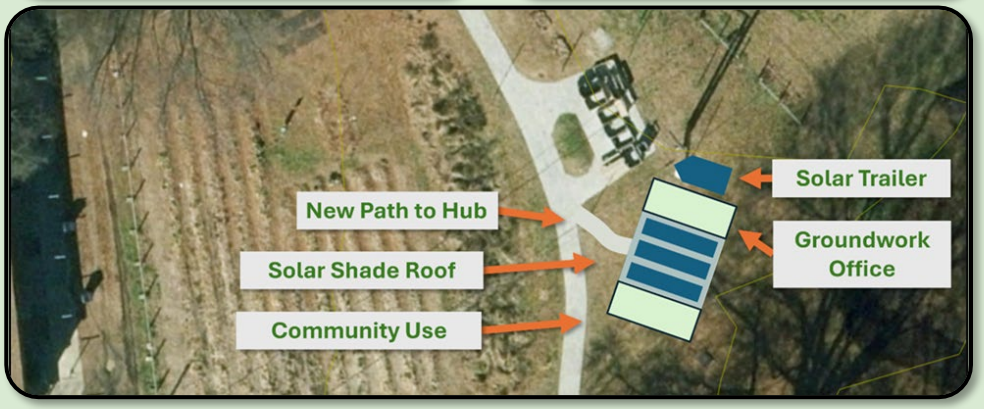
A modular shipping container village in Atlanta, GA

# The Hillside Farm Hub

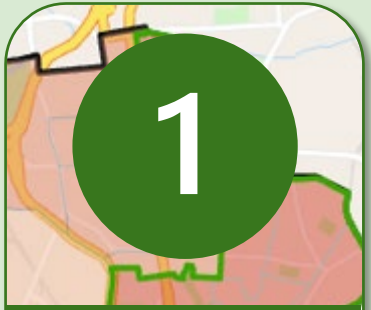
- Microhub at Groundwork's **Hillside Urban Farm**
- A **funding application** was submitted
- Includes a **mobile solar farm** and an office for the farm manager
- Uses **shipping container** buildings



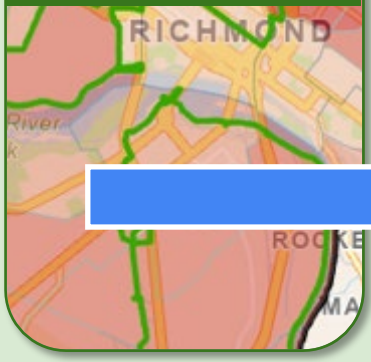


# The Resilience Hub Recipe




## Choose a Hub Site







## Design the Structure and Programming






## Identify and Secure Funding

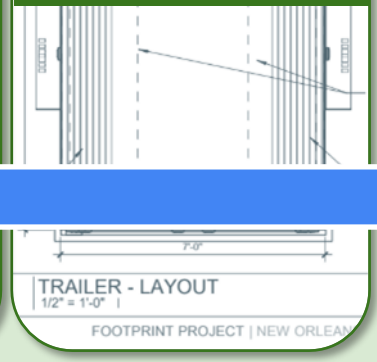

exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity for both physical and social vulnerability. Ypsilanti, MI used the EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN, which was removed from the EPA's website in 2025. Another useful analysis framework is asset-based community development, which uses an assessment of physical and social capital in a community to determine how a resilience hub can best leverage those skills for community empowerment".

**What? Community Feedback and Services Provided**

Organizations must understand and establish collaborative connections with their communities before determining which services and programs will be included in the hubs. Organizations have used both participatory design and community-building to this end. Faber et. al., working in Ypsilanti, MI, focused on community-building with a focus on creating a trusting, supportive relationship with community partners. Hawai'i's hub network is entirely operated by community



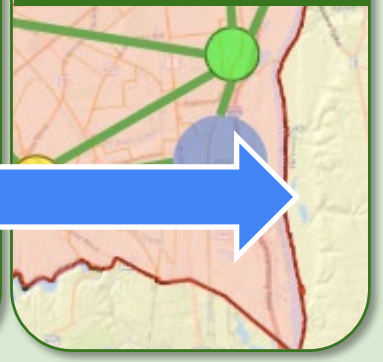

## Create an Implementation Plan







## Keep the Network Cohesive





# What Comes Next?

## Next Steps
*(Short Term)*

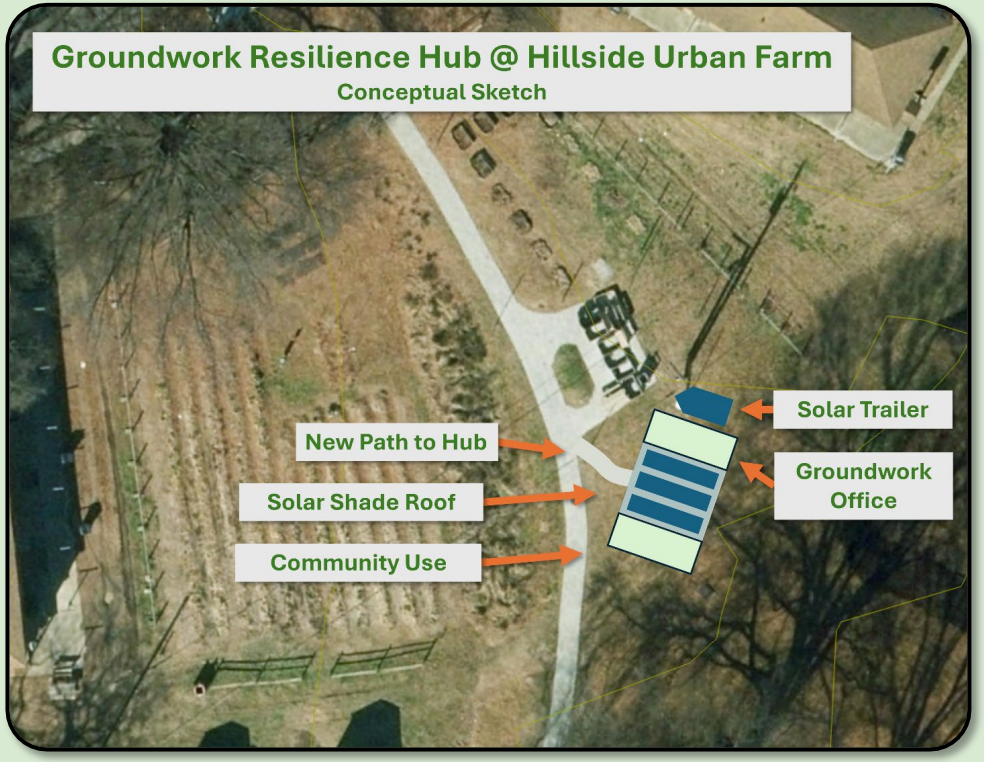
- Continue to develop the Hillside Hub

## Recommendations
*(Medium Term)*

- Use the **Resilience Hub Recipe**
- Develop **regional best practices**
- Create a **resource-sharing program**

# Thank you for your time!

With the Hillside Hub as the first link in a future network, microhubs can be an effective, accessible tool to adapt, strengthen, and protect our communities .

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