

PROTECT NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS

Preserve these areas. Keep them clean and do not walk on sand dunes. Oceanfront sand dunes and wetland areas help protect property from flooding.

The City has adopted the Sarasota City Plan, which provides for environmental protection and preservation of recreation and open space. Our goal is to keep our natural features and many fine parks that are in flood-prone areas throughout the City underdeveloped so they can serve their natural function.

Help protect our floodplain.

Only Rain Goes Down the Drain!

SEA LEVEL RISE

Plan for sea level rise. Living on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, Sarasota County is very susceptible to the potential impacts of Sea Level Rise (SLR). Not only will projected increases in sea level affect homes and infrastructure along the coast of Sarasota County, but more frequent inland flooding can occur due to high tailwater conditions that can diminish the stormwater system capacity to send runoff to the Gulf.

KEEP DRAINAGE SYSTEMS CLEAR

Keep debris out of driveway culverts, ditches, and swales. By keeping drainage channels and catch basins free from obstructions it reduces flooding during heavy rains. Residents are asked to maintain the channels near their property by removing or reporting obstructions such as shopping carts, trash, and tree limbs. You can request a ditch cleaning before a storm occurs.

Section 16-36, of the City Code, provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to deposit any refuse in any canal, waterway, or lake within the City. Improper dumping can cause drainage systems to malfunction and increases the risk of flood damage to your property.



It's
against
the law in
the City of
Sarasota to dump
trash, household
items and
wastewater into
storm drains or
waterways.

Violations of the City Code can be reported to Sarasota County by submitting a request for service at <https://seeclickfix.com/sarasota-county> or call 941-861-5000.

KNOW YOUR EVACUATION LEVEL FOR HURRICANES AND FLOODING

Prior to a flooding event, know your evacuation level. Evacuation levels are not your flood zone. To find your evacuation level, please log onto https://sarco.maps.arcgis.com/Know_your_Evacuation_Level type in your address. Be prepared before the event.

FLOOD PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

The Development Services Department provides information on required minimum floor elevations, flood depth data, data on historical flooding, coastal erosion, wetlands in the City, along with other information relating to flood threats in the City of Sarasota. We also provide financial assistance advice on grants that may be available to help reduce the risk of flooding.

The Building Division can provide you with the names of city licensed and registered contractors.

Upon request, building staff will make site visits to advise of appropriate protection measures for both new and existing buildings and can lend assistance in reviewing retrofitting plans for existing structures.

Call the Flood Information line at 941-263-6354 for additional information regarding this brochure and other floodplain management information.

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT/DAMAGE REQUIREMENTS, THE 50% RULE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations require that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a structure equal or exceeds 50% of the structure's market value, the building must be upgraded to meet the same construction requirements as a new building.

For specific information, please contact the Development Services Department prior to planning any construction at 941-263-6354 or 941-263-6455.

FLOOD WARNINGS

Local officials will issue flood watches (when conditions are likely) and warnings (when an event is going to happen). Monitor local media, the Weather Channel, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the latest information and official instructions and emergency updates.

FLOODING: The Risk is Real. Are you Prepared?

**OUR GOAL IS TO CREATE:
SAFE PLACES FOR PEOPLE,
HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS,
A VISUALLY APPEALING CITY,
RESPONSIBLE CITY GOVERNMENT,
ECONOMIC VITALITY**



**1575 SECOND STREET
SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34236
Call us at 941-263-6354**

**"WE SERVE
WITH EXCELLENCE AND PRIDE"**



COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM INFORMATION

The City of Sarasota is a participant in the Community Rating System Program (CRS). As part of the CRS, National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), NFIP flood insurance policies receive a 25% discount on flood insurance. This brochure suggests some actions you can take to protect yourself, your property and minimize flood damage.

KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARD

Find out your flood risk. Learn if your property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area. Flooding results from two major sources in the City of Sarasota. Coastal areas are subject to surge and coastal waves from the Gulf of Mexico. Inland areas flood when rainfall accumulates in low, flat areas with inadequate or poorly maintained drainage systems. Rainfall occurs primarily due to thunderstorms in the summer months, with additional rainfall occurring with the passage of hurricanes or tropical systems.

Floods can occur at any time during the year.

Build with the future in mind. Floods are the most frequent and costly natural hazard in the United States. Given the areas low elevation, coastal location and frequency of heavy rain, flooding is a serious threat to all of us.

You may obtain information on flood zones, flood depth, elevation requirements, copies of elevation certificates, Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRA), historical flooding, coastal erosion, wetlands, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps by visiting the Development Services Department, on the website <https://www.sarasotafl.gov/services/flood-information> or by calling the flood information line 941-263-6354.

INSURE YOUR PROPERTY

Every property can flood! The City of Sarasota participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which makes flood insurance available to everyone who resides in the City.

There is a 26% chance that property in a Special Flood Hazard Area will be damaged by flood over the lifetime of a 30-year mortgage.

Most homeowner insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding.

Buy flood insurance to protect yourself and your family from devastating losses due to flooding. For many people, their home and its contents represent their greatest investment. You may not receive disaster assistance after a flood.

Flood insurance is available to homeowners, condo owners, commercial owners, and all renters. Policies can cover the building, the contents, or both.

Properties in the Special Flood Hazard Area, with a federally backed mortgage, are required to have flood insurance.

Please contact the City, your insurance agent, visit www.floodsmart.gov or call the NFIP at 1-888-379-9531 for more information on flood insurance and questions you may have.

It takes 30 days after buying flood insurance for the policy to go into effect. Buy your policy now!

PROTECT PEOPLE FROM HAZARD

Stay connected. The City of Sarasota Emergency Management has established a Flood Warning and Response Plan. Public service information during weather emergencies will be disseminated through the City's website, social media accounts, various AM, and FM radio stations, as well as various broadcast and cable television stations. Current weather watches and warnings are also available from the National Weather Service Office in Ruskin, Florida.

Consider how an emergency might affect you and your family. Have enough food, water, medicine, etc. for a week during an event.

Being prepared is your best defense against a flood and/or hurricane.

Make a plan that includes but is not limited to:

1. A strategy for family communication. Appoint an out-of-town relative as a point person for everyone in your household to contact.
2. Know the requirements of household members with special needs.

3. Never attempt to drive through flooded roadways. Floodwater can conceal damage underneath. As little as two feet of running water can carry away most vehicles including SUV's.

Turn Around, Don't Drown!

4. Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts, and storm drains.
5. Discuss your family emergency plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together, and what you will do in case of emergency.
6. Have a plan for your pet.

BUILD RESPONSIBLY & PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Get permits. Permits are required, even if you do the work yourself. Report construction done without permits to your local jurisdiction. Hire design professionals that are familiar with local hazards to prepare construction plans. Hire only contractors licensed by the City.

Citizens, especially those with properties located in a floodplain, are encouraged to contact the Building Division 941-263-6494 prior to building, repairing, filling or otherwise developing their property, to determine what permits are needed.

Retrofitting structures may minimize flood damage. There are some inexpensive ways to protect your property from flood damage. Technical advice on construction techniques can be secured from the Development Services Department. Contact city staff for property protection advice and/or provide a site visit.

Set buildings back from water and wetlands. Use flood resistant material. Elevate the lowest habitable floor and elevate machinery per local requirements.

Federal aid may be available for retrofitting, relocating, or demolishing structures with repetitive flooding. Contact the Development Services Department on the website <https://www.sarasotafl.gov/services/flood-information> or call the flood information line 941-263-6354 to receive more information.

Even if your property is not in a flood zone, you are still at risk for flooding!