



St. Johns River Water Management District

Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D., Executive Director

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On the internet at www.sjrwmd.com.

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With hurricane season and Florida's wettest time of year in full swing, being proactive is essential to identifying and correcting potential flood problems before they occur. As a steward of your neighborhood, homeowner associations (HOA) share the responsibility of helping to prepare for high water levels and potential flooding on and near residential property.

Many of the 18 counties within the St. Johns River Water Management District have received above-average rainfall since August 2017. Our team is responding to inquiries across the district from homeowners seeking information about localized flooding, water levels and stormwater system function and maintenance. During wet weather, we recommend that communities take the following preventive actions:

- Report clogged culverts or slow-moving water in ditches to your local government;
- Keep grass clippings and other debris out of stormwater drainage systems to prevent clogging and loss of stormwater storage and treatment capacity; and
- Clean out gutters and extend downspouts at least four feet from structures.

Lakes and waterways naturally rise and fall depending on rainfall and other conditions. While building codes and stormwater permits may require that a house be built above flood level, flooding can still be a threat to driveways, subdivision roads, septic tanks and common recreational areas. Homes and businesses in flood-prone areas can be retrofitted to minimize future flood damage.

One of the most common questions about flooding focuses on maintenance of neighborhood stormwater ponds. Who is responsible? Maintenance of private stormwater systems permitted by the district or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection may be the responsibility of a developer or homeowners association. You can find out by contacting your local Property Appraiser to find the parcel and its owner.

We believe that partnership and communication is key to minimizing flooding impacts and have a variety of online resources available. To access resources for water level information and links to flood statements and warnings, river stages, and local government emergency contacts in the district's 18-county region, visit www.sjrwmd.com/localgovernments/flooding/.

Thank you,

Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D.

Executive Director

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