

*The Stormwater Division, part of the City of Tampa Mobility Department, works to maintain the City's drainage system. Additionally, the Division provides flood maps, information on flood prevention, and safety tips in the event of flooding.*

## MAINTENANCE OF THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM

The Stormwater Operations Division is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the City's stormwater system. The Division's efforts to reduce flooding and improve water quality include:

- ▲ Flood response and investigation
- ▲ Capital improvement projects
- ▲ Pipe and inlet inspection and cleaning
- ▲ Ditch cleaning
- ▲ Street sweeping
- ▲ Infrastructure repair
- ▲ Flood maps
- ▲ Inventory of drainage issues

## PROPERTY PROTECTION

You can take an active role in protecting your property from flood damage. The method you choose will depend on your particular situation.

- ▲ Use an earthen berm or swale for water diversion
- ▲ Install or redirect roof gutters
- ▲ Reduce impervious surfaces
- ▲ Raise buildings above base flood levels
- ▲ Consider installing storm shutters
- ▲ Reinforce garage doors

The Stormwater Division can explain several options you may want to try to prevent flooding and damage to your property. In addition, the Construction Services Division (CSD) can also provide information on retrofitting techniques for flood-prone structures. To schedule a site visit with a community representative, please contact the Stormwater Division at (813) 274-3101.

## LOCAL FLOODING

There are several causes of flooding within the city of Tampa. The most frequent type of flooding, localized flooding, is caused by high-intensity and short-duration summer thunderstorms and tropical storms. Due to the lack of topographic relief, it is sometimes difficult for water to quickly drain from the land.

Tampa also has sections along Bayshore Boulevard and in the vicinity of Westshore Boulevard that can experience tidal-influenced flooding. Additionally, storm surge associated with tropical systems can create the most widespread damage to the City. Monitor tropical storm conditions and heed evacuation notifications. The flood water may not be deep, but it can damage property and may even pose a threat to personal safety.

## SAFETY DURING FLOODING EVENTS

- ▲ Do not drive through flooded areas
- ▲ Do not wade through flooded water
- ▲ Watch out for unseen hazards
- ▲ Be alert for distressed animals
- ▲ Obey all evacuation notices
- ▲ Do not approach electrical lines
- ▲ Turn off your electricity
- ▲ Check for gas leaks

## FLOOD AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

In accordance with Section 21-9 of the City of Tampa's Stormwater Management Ordinance, do not place debris, yard waste, or trash in or near stormwater inlets, ditches, or other waterways. This can easily create blockages that may result in flooding. If you observe debris in stormwater inlets or ditches, please report it to City of Tampa Neighborhood Enhancement at (813) 274-5545. Pollution and illicit discharges to stormwater systems or waterways should be reported to Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) at (813) 627-2600. Please review Section 23.5-5 of the City of Tampa Supplemental

Enforcement Procedures Ordinance for the schedule of violations and penalties.

Always check with the CSD for required permits before you make any changes to your property such as grading, filling, or construction, especially if you reside in a floodplain. The changes you have planned may cause flooding problems for you or your neighbors, or require alternative design.

The City maintains the "Stormwater Advisory List" (SAL) of flood-prone properties that includes information about past flooding at or near the site in question. Development in these areas may be restricted. For more information, please call the Stormwater Division at (813) 274-3101 or visit: [tampa.gov/tss-stormwater/info/stormwater-advisory-list-properties](https://tampa.gov/tss-stormwater/info/stormwater-advisory-list-properties)

## FLOODPLAINS

Floodplains are natural buffers that help reduce flood damage and provide habitat for wildlife. The Hillsborough River contains the largest floodplain within the City. The upper Hillsborough River and its tributaries are designated Outstanding Florida Waters by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. This means the river has special restrictions, which prohibit any new activity that would lower the water quality or degrade the river. This protection ensures its continued usefulness for both the residents of Tampa and the environment.

For more information about this watershed, visit the Southwest Florida Water Management District website at: [www4.swfwmd.state.fl.us/hill/](http://www4.swfwmd.state.fl.us/hill/).

## FLOOD MAPS

The City of Tampa and Hillsborough County both have copies of the 2008 and updated 2021 coastal Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps for our area. The Stormwater Division also has maps available that show special flood-hazard areas and areas of localized flooding, which may not be shown on FEMA flood maps, as well as information related to erosion and the depth of flooding in some areas. You may want to check these maps for flooding information before purchasing property. Please contact the Stormwater Division or search by address at: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search>. Maps are also available at John F. Germany Library reference section.