Flooding and Stormwater Management

Floods are the most common natural disaster in Hernando County. They can be caused by hurricanes, tropical storms, or slow-moving winter fronts.

Flooding can damage homes, roads, and property — but a strong stormwater management system helps prevent flooding before it starts. By keeping drains clear, planting vegetation, and improving stormwater management, we can protect our families, property, and community.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater management is how we guide rainwater away from streets, homes, and businesses. Without good drainage, flooding will get worse.

Stormwater systems can be:

- **Natural** (soil, trees, wetlands)
- **Manmade** (ditches, drains, culverts, ponds)

Examples of Stormwater Drainage Systems:

- Swales (shallow ditches)
- Retention ponds
- Storm drains & gutters
- Culverts (pipes under roads)
- Green infrastructure (trees, plants, soil)

Maintaining stormwater systems can reduce flooding and protect the community. Often times trash and debris can clog culverts or ditches and make drainage and flooding worse. Investments to protect and strengthen the stormwater management system will protect you, your property and your community.



Bioretention



Bioswales



Green Infrastructure



Storm Sewers



Storm Water Drain



Rain Water Garden

Drainage Easements

A storm drainage easement (sometimes referred to as a right of way) is land set aside so water can flow safely and maintenance can be done. If you have a drainage easement on your property, you still own the land, but the government has the right to access and maintain drainage there. Storm drainage easements give the government specific rights to manage drainage within the designated area. Maintenance is vital to keep the drainage area functioning properly. Stormwater management easements don't allow permanent changes to areas outside the easement boundary.

Although property owners own the underlying property, they should be careful about placing anything permanent (like a shed or fence) over a recorded easement. The area must remain clear so that the government can access it to maintain the drainage system. To check if you have a drainage easement, look at your property plat or contact local land records.

There is debate about whether drainage easements impact property value. The truth is that it depends on the context. When drainage easements are properly maintained, they can raise property values by lowering the risk of flooding. This makes homes more appealing to buyers and helps improve quality of life in the neighborhood.

How to Improve Stormwater Management

Plant Vegetation: Trees and plants soak up stormwater, reduce erosion, and clean water before it reaches rivers and lakes.

Keep Swales Clean: Trash and debris often ends up in swales and streams. Keeping these waterways open prevents flooding, improves habitats, and stops pollution from reaching rivers and oceans.