

## **Highlands Hammock Floodplain Model Details**

**Calibration/Verification Event:** Hurricane Ian, 09/28/2022 (13.6" of rainfall).

**Floodplains:** Based on 100-year, 24-hr design storm (9.5" of rainfall).

**Topographic Data:** Based on information collected between 2005 and 2010.

**Permit Data:** Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) cutoff date for modeling was 2021.

## **Projected Timeline for Model Approval**

### **September/October 2024 (45 days)**

- Preliminary floodplain information presented to public for review and comment.

### **October/November 2024 (45 days)**

- District will review all public comments received during initial review period.
- Any comments received after the initial review period will not be included in the updates to the floodplains. Please refer to the website for the official cutoff date.

### **December 2024**

- Update preliminary floodplains based on verified information provided by the public.

### **January 2024**

- Finalize floodplain information and submit results to Governing Board for approval.
- Once approved by the Governing Board this information will be used by the District for regulatory purposes.

## **Additional Resources / Contact Information**

### **FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)**

- Highlands County – Current Effective Date is 11/2015.
- Hardee County - Current Effective Date is 11/2013.
- The County will determine when approved floodplains will be provided to FEMA.

### **National Flood Insurance Program**

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### **Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)**

WMP Info Line (352) 415-0974

[WMP@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:WMP@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs, services and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation, or who would like information as to the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities, as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Human Resources Office Chief, at 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone 352-269-3929; or email [ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org](mailto:ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org). If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice). If requested, appropriate auxiliary aids and services will be provided at any public meeting, forum, or event of the District. In the event of a complaint, please follow the grievance procedure located at [WaterMatters.org/ADA](http://WaterMatters.org/ADA).

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Q: What is the Watershed Management Program?**

A: The District takes a watershed approach to managing water and water-related resources within its boundaries. By doing so, all the characteristics of each watershed can be evaluated to reflect the real, interconnected nature of Florida's water resources. This increases the District's ability to clearly identify, prioritize and address issues related to the area's water resources. The Watershed Management Program provides a method to evaluate the capacity of a watershed to protect, enhance and restore water quality and natural systems while achieving flood protection.

For more information, please visit:

[https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/sites/default/files/medias/documents/watershed\\_management.pdf](https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/sites/default/files/medias/documents/watershed_management.pdf)

### **Q: How will this affect me?**

A: As preliminary flood risk information is developed for a watershed, the District provides the information to the public so that citizens can learn about the data and science used to determine the flood hazard areas, view the preliminary floodplain results and have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. We encourage you to contact us through a phone call, email or the comment card if you have information to share. This information could be used to update FEMA maps in the future or for permitting decisions on a property.

### **Q: Where can I search for potential impacts or changes on my property?**

A: Maps are found here: <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/watershed-management-program>.

### **Q: Who do I contact with comments and questions?**

A: For watershed related issues you may submit questions and comments on our website, leave a voice message at (352) 415-0974 or email us at [WMP@watermatters.org](mailto:WMP@watermatters.org). For flood insurance related questions please contact one of the FEMA representatives listed on the previous page.

### **Q: Where can I provide photos of previous flooding?**

A: You may email flood photos to us at [WMP@watermatters.org](mailto:WMP@watermatters.org). Please include the location and date the photo was taken, if possible.

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**Q: What is the typical time frame for public comments and finalizing a Watershed Management Plan?**

A: The comment form will be open on the District website for 45 days for comments. After the comments are received and addressed the Watershed Management Plan will be finalized. Typically, this is completed within a year.

**Q: Who do I contact if I have a stormwater maintenance issue or a possible Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) violation?**

A: Property owners can describe the issue as a comment on our website, leave a voice message at (352) 415-0974 or email us at [WMP@watermatters.org](mailto:WMP@watermatters.org) and the message will be routed to the appropriate staff within our Regulatory Division.

**Q: I got a letter in the mail, but my neighbor did not, why?**

A: The District notifies property owners via mail for those properties that are currently in a FEMA high-risk flood zone (Zones AE, A, VE, etc.). The parcels selected could have changed to a medium or low-risk flood zone or reclassified as a high-risk flood zone based on the watershed study results.

**Q: Where can I find more information about flood insurance?**

A: To view FEMA's existing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), visit the [FEMA Map Service Center](#) and search by street address; or, you can view flood risk information using [FEMA's map viewer](#).