



# Chapter 3: Flood Management & Infrastructure



## Why this matters

Hurricanes, tropical storms, and severe thunderstorms are becoming more intense. At the same time, more development, buildings, and paved surfaces reduce the land’s ability to absorb and infiltrate rainfall while aging drainage systems are strained by increased stormwater runoff.

## What’s happening here?

Neighborhoods near creeks and low-lying roads will experience more frequent and intense flooding, putting homes, roads, and utilities at risk. Stormwater runoff can pollute local waterways, damage cultural resources, and overwhelm infrastructure, increasing repair and recovery costs for communities. Flood control projects, while critical, can disrupt natural water flow and harm wildlife habitats.

The CAP prioritizes three approaches for greater flood resilience:

**Improve infrastructure and floodplain management**

**Promote low-impact development**

**Communicate flood risks**

## What does the CAP include?

In addition to the County’s active floodplain management program, building codes, and ongoing infrastructure upgrades, key flood-resiliency strategies in the CAP include:

- **Improving stormwater and flood infrastructure**
- **Developing an Alachua County Watershed Masterplan**
- **Reducing risk by adopting smart rules for building near flood-prone areas**
- **Promoting low-impact development practices that capture and infiltrate rainfall on site**
- **Improving and expanding information (models, maps, accessible data, and alerts) for communicating flood risks**

### Program Highlight

Sweetwater Wetlands Park in Gainesville is a constructed wetland that functions as a natural filtration system for stormwater runoff before it enters Paynes Prairie, while also providing green space, wildlife habitat, and a valuable recreational amenity.

## How can residents contribute?

### Sign up for text alerts

- AlachuaCountyReady.com and Alert Alachua send severe weather alerts to keep you informed

### Protect your property

- Consider purchasing flood insurance for properties that are vulnerable to future flooding

### Manage runoff at home

- Direct roof downspouts to a rain barrel, landscape beds, or the yard (away from paved driveways and sidewalks)
- Install a rain garden to capture and infiltrate stormwater on-site