

STORMWATER IN MANATEE COUNTY



2026

WHY THIS MATTERS

Strong stormwater management is essential to protecting Manatee County's communities, infrastructure, and water quality, especially as storms become more intense and development continues to expand. While the County has taken important steps toward establishing a dedicated stormwater funding source, current resources remain inconsistent and insufficient to meet growing needs. Without reliable funding, decisive action to mitigate flooding risks, infrastructure gaps, and pollution in local waterways will remain planned for the future. A stormwater fee will fund a sustainable stormwater program that reduces long-term costs, improves resilience, and protects public safety and environmental health.

KEY ASKS

1. Finalize and Implement a Stormwater Utility Fee

- Move from planning to implementation of a consistent Stormwater Environmental Utility fee.
- Ensure the fee structure is equitable, clearly communicated, and tied to measurable outcomes.

2. Enhance Public Engagement & Reporting

- Stick to the timeline for engaging the community on the potential stormwater fee. Scan QR Code for detailed timeline.



3. Strengthen Accountability & Transparency

- Develop a publicly accessible stormwater database that tracks infrastructure, inspections, and maintenance.
- Map flood-prone areas and project priorities so residents understand risks and planned improvements.

4. Ensure Water Quality Protection

- Strengthen efforts to reduce pollutant runoff into local waterways, including nutrients and bacteria.
- Align stormwater investments with broader environmental goals, including protection of bays, rivers, and drinking water sources.

VOICES FOR WATER: ADVOCACY PROGRAM

