



# FAQs

## 1. What does the acronym COSWMP mean?

**Answer:** City of Opa-locka Stormwater Master Plan

## 2. What is the purpose of the Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP)?

**Answer:** The COSWMP is a planning-level document that provides an assessment of the current conditions of the City's stormwater management (drainage) systems. This assessment is intended to identify, validate and prioritize areas where drainage systems are deficient and the level of severity associated with the deficiencies. Once the problem areas are verified, drainage improvement projects are developed to address the deficiencies. The SWMP also develops cost estimates for these projects for future incorporation into the City's budget or external funding sources and recommends an implementation schedule for the defined projects.

## 3. What are the limitations of the COSWMP?

**Answer:** The SWMP is a macroscopic assessment that functions as a planning tool. Therefore, it only considers the major portions of the drainage systems that exist, and it does not take into account the individual inlets or roadway collection structures.

## 4. Why are SWMP updated about every 5-years?

**Answer:** SWMP are typically updated every 5-years to assess the current condition of municipal drainage systems and is a requirement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – this can ultimately affect flood insurance rates. Updates take into account projects that have been constructed since the last SWMP, newly developed areas, changes in local conditions such as adjustments in maintained canal stages and land use changes.

## 5. How will the COSWMP be used by the City?

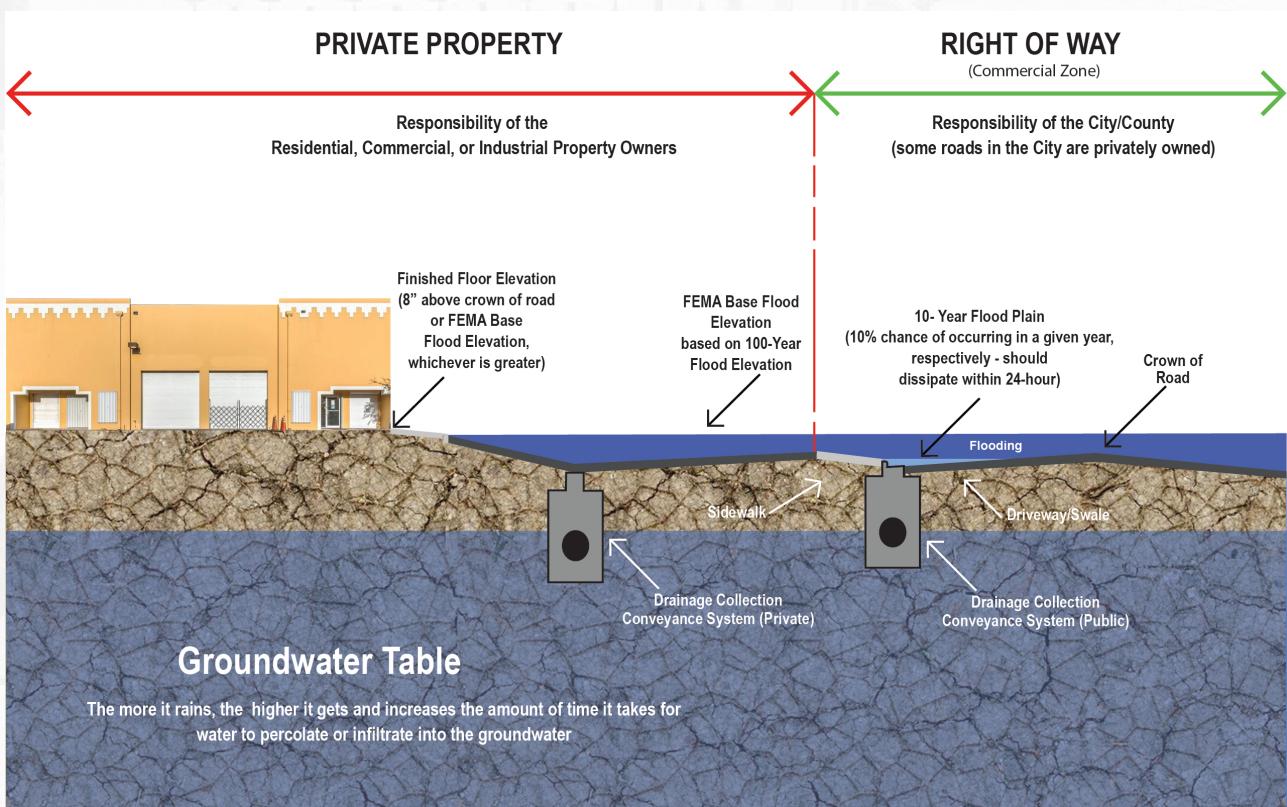
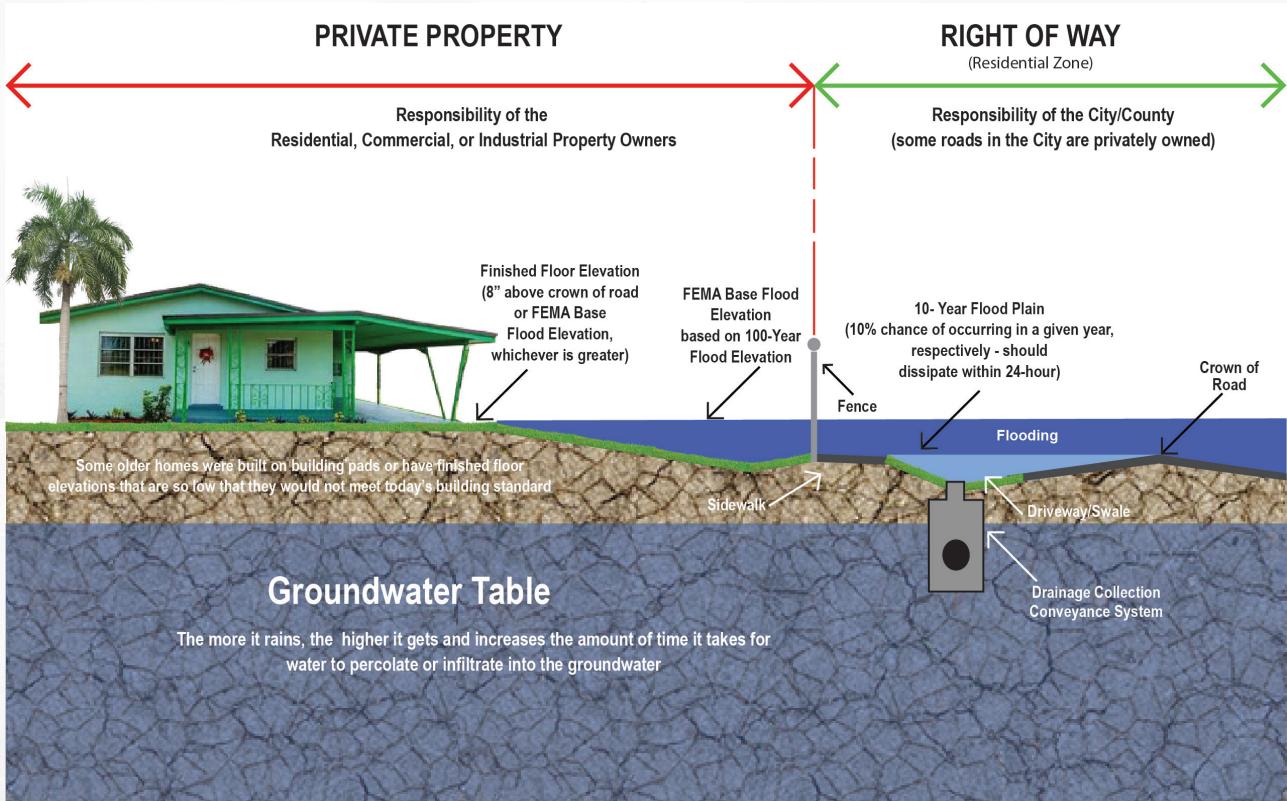
**Answer:** The SWMP serves to support the city in making objective, educated and scientifically substantiated decisions for the management of the City's drainage systems. It provides a valuable comprehension of the City's stormwater management status, identify areas of concern, and provide a recommendation for implementing future flood improvements and mitigation strategies/ projects to derive the greatest benefit in the most cost-effective manner.

## 6. What is considered flooding?

**Answer:** Flooding is frequently incorrectly used to describe standing water on roadway pavements. However, is better defined as when a drainage system does not meet the intended flood protection level of service.

## 7. What is flood protection level of service?

**Answer:** Flood protection level of service is defined as the level of flood protection a drainage system provides against a predefined rainfall event. For example, drainage systems must provide flood protection for buildings finished floor elevations up to a 100-year rainfall event.



## **8. What is a 5-year, 10-year, and 100-year design storm event, and how does that translate to the degree of flood protection and rainfall amount?**

**Answer:** Stormwater management professionals and jurisdictional agencies use the 5-year, 10-year, and 100-year terms to identify the intensity and probability of a rainfall event occurring. These terms are called recurrence intervals and translate into the percentage of chance of a rainfall event occurring in any given year. For example, a 100-Year event does not only mean that the storm is one which will happen only once in a 100-year period, but it also has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year – this probability is easy to calculate and is just the number 1 divided by the recurrence interval.

Rainfall amount quantity in inches is associated with these recurrence intervals and these amounts are based on statistical analyses which take into account many years of rainfall data for a region. These rainfall depths are site specific and vary throughout the State and the world.

The 5- and 10-year design storm events are used to size drainage systems to provide flood protection for streets and roads. The 100-years design storm event is used to establish the minimum finished floor elevations.

## **9. What is a building's Finished Floor Elevation?**

**Answer:** The Finished Floor Elevation, or FFE, is the lowest habitable elevation of building/home/structure. This elevation is established based on the Florida Building Code in consideration of regional flooding maps developed by FEMA as part of its flood rate insurance mapping program. Buildings having their FFE below these established standards are prone and susceptible to flooding and damage.

## **10. What is the City's responsibility for citywide stormwater management?**

**Answer:** The City is responsible for all City owned roads and roads which the city has an agreement with the County or State to maintain. Other areas exist within the city which are maintained and are the sole responsibility of the County and the State (Florida Department of Transportation and South Florida Water Management District). These areas mostly include major roadways, highways, and some canals receiving flows from the city. The City is not responsible for the maintenance of private properties which include residential, commercial, and industrial lots, private parking lots, private roads, and common areas within private communities.

## **11. I have a private road and property with flooding concerns, can the City do for me?**

**Answer:** The City will work with a private owner/management company/Homeowners and may provide guidance regarding the causes of flooding and how to best alleviate flooding.

## 12. Who should I contact if I have a problem concerning flooding in my area?

**Answer:** Concern about flooding or a drainage system malfunction can be reported online at:

<https://www.opalockafl.gov/FormCenter/Public-Works-Utilities-6/Flooding-Notification-49>

Alternatively, concerns can be directed to the city's Public Works Department at (305) 953-2828, Located at 12950 N.W. 42nd Ave. Opa-Locka, FL 33054