



KEY UPDATES

Flood Mitigation Pilot Grant Program Launches

On **August 15, 2021**, the City of Alexandria will begin accepting and reviewing applications for the new [Flood Mitigation Grant Pilot Program](#) on a rolling basis. The program offers financial assistance as matching reimbursement grants to property owners who have installed flood mitigation measures on properties impacted by flooding from recent flash flooding events. **The City will host a virtual information session to introduce the program to the public on Tuesday, August 10 from 7 to 8 p.m.** [Register here.](#)

Property owners may receive up to 50% reimbursement of completed project costs, up to \$5,000, for implementing eligible floodproofing measures on their property following City staff review. During the pilot phase of the program, the eligibility criteria is limited to residential private property owners who have documented flooding from storms dating back to July 2019. The City plans to evaluate applications received and update eligibility criteria as the program evolves over time.

The City encourages private property owners impacted by flooding to implement floodproofing and mitigation techniques as the first line of defense as the City works to implement spot improvement projects and larger capital infrastructure projects to help mitigate flooding. Check out what the eligibility criteria is and what types of floodproofing measures are acceptable by visiting alexandriava.gov/121974.

Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group

The City's new Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group kicked off its [first meeting](#) on June 10. The group will be meeting on an ad hoc basis for an initial duration of one year to support and advise on the City's flood mitigation efforts. The [next Advisory Group meeting](#) is slated for **August 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.**

Additionally, there remains one vacant position on the Advisory Group – an Equity Expertise Representative. The ideal candidate should have an interest or expertise in diversity, race, and social and inclusivity issues. Anyone interested in applying may do so by visiting the Alexandria Boards and Commissions [webpage](#).

For more information about the Advisory Group and to watch a recording of the first meeting, visit alexandriava.gov/122418.

FEMA Flood Map Appeal Period Begins

Throughout May and June, the City held a series of [virtual neighborhood outreach events](#) to go over the updated Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain maps for Alexandria. The meetings were targeted for residents and businesses located within the new floodplain. When the flood map is updated to reflect the current risks where you live or own property, requirements for flood insurance coverage and the cost of your policy can change.

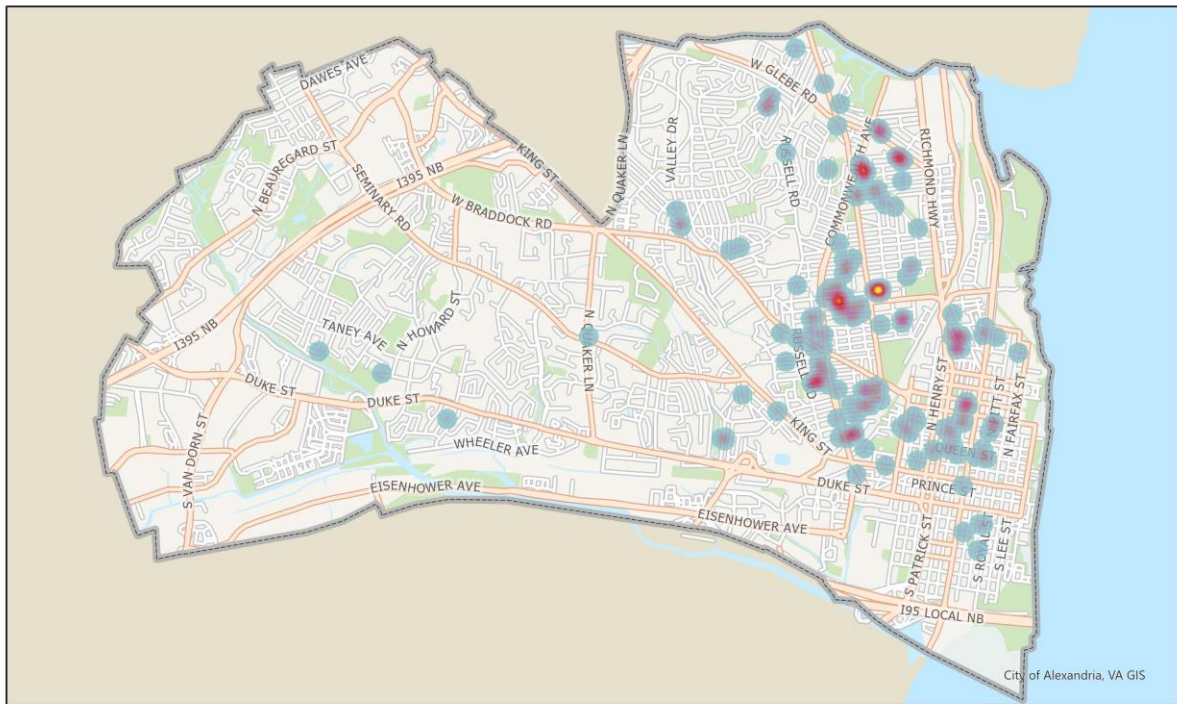
Before the new maps become effective in Fall 2022, individual property owners impacted by the changes are invited to participate in a review and appeals process. The public review and appeal period lasts **90 days** and began on **July 22, 2021**.



Residents may submit an appeal if they believe the modeling or data used to create the map is technically or scientifically incorrect. However, an appeal must include technical information, such as hydraulic or hydrologic data to support the claim. Appeals cannot be based on the effects of proposed projects or projects started after the study is in progress.

For additional information about this process and to learn more about FEMA's updates to the City's current floodplain maps, please visit alexandriava.gov/FloodMap.

Reminder: Hurricane Season is Here – Prevent Sewer Backups

Heavy rains, which typically occur during hurricane season, sometimes cause sanitary sewer backups in some parts of Alexandria. With many hours of heavy rain, or an intense burst of rain, the sanitary sewer line may fill up with water and some sewage. Because of this, the sewer system may exceed its carrying capacity and may overflow in some areas, such as streets. It may also back up into homes through floor or plumbing drains. The following map shows areas throughout the City subject to sanitary sewer backups:



<h3>Areas Subject to Sanitary Sewer Backups</h3>	 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>0 200 400 600 800 1,600</p> <p>Feet</p> <p>1:10,000</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>N</p>  </div> </div>
<p>311 Sewer Backup Requests - July 2018 - Sept 2020</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background: linear-gradient(to top, red, yellow, green); margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div> <p>Low</p> <p>High</p> </div> </div>	<p><small>This map was produced by the GIS Division of the Department of IT&S, City of Alexandria, VA. Mapping Standards: 10000 State Plane Virginia North. Coordinate System: Lambert Conformal Conic. Map Scale: 1:10,000.</small></p> <p><small>Pursuant to Section 54-1-402 of the Code of Virginia, any determination of topography or contours, or any depiction of physical improvements, property lines or boundaries is for general information only and shall not be used for the design, modification or construction of improvements to real property or for flood plain determination.</small></p> <p><small>The maps provided hereunder are provided "as is" and the City expressly disclaims all warranties, LLC and otherwise, express or implied, including warranties as to accuracy of the maps and completeness and fitness for a particular purpose, and further accepts no liability or responsibility for all incidental, consequential or special damages arising out of or in connection with the use or performance of the maps.</small></p>

However, a modification to the internal plumbing within a home or business can provide a measure of protection against basement back-ups, and the City also offers financial assistance to homeowners for installing backflow preventers. For more information about installing a backflow preventer or the City's Backflow Preventer Assistance Program, visit alexandriava.gov/105378.

Allocation Plan for First Half of American Rescue Plan Act Funding

On July 6, City Council unanimously approved a [\\$29.8 million allocation plan](#) for the City's first half of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The projects in the plan align with the City's strategic COVID-19 recovery framework goals to ensure that businesses thrive; everyone has access to their basic needs; recovery lifts everyone; and the City makes long-term investments for its future, which includes stormwater enhancement and flood mitigation projects. Specifically, a portion of the funding will go toward the following projects:

- **Flash Flooding spot improvements:** Funding for four spot improvement projects (locations to be determined, but would either offset or allow some acceleration of prioritized projects). Projects would include detention, pipes and other drainage improvements that make neighborhoods more resilient to climate change and flash flooding.
- **Stormwater State of Good Repair & Resiliency:** One-time state of good repair and structural resiliency improvements to the Hooffs Run Culvert, including additional heavy cleaning. Needed capital facility maintenance to the Hooffs Run culvert (as identified in city inspection reports) include a one-time need of \$1.5 million, plus \$400,000 for additional recently-diagnosed capital maintenance needs. Heavy cleaning of the culvert is also proposed for the section between Timber Branch Parkway and East Maple Street (estimate of \$1.2 million), to be preceded by robotic inspection for \$110,000. Future heavy cleaning of the entire culvert (on a five-year interval) is programmed in the City's 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Post inspection and 10% contingency account for the remaining funding need.

Visit alexandriava.gov/AmericanRescuePlan for more information and a full list of the projects and programs.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Early Warning

Here's an overview of what early warning tools have been installed and how the City's rain and stream gauge network recently expanded throughout the community:

- 6 new rain gauges installed
 - George Mason Elementary School
 - Mt Vernon Community School
 - Francis C. Hammond Middle School
 - Charles Barrett Elementary School
 - Beach Park
 - Windmill Hill Park
- 2 new stream gauges installed
 - Taylor Run at Duke St.
 - Hooffs Run Culvert at Hooffs Run Park/E Rosemont Ave.
- 8 signs deployed warning that a "Road May Flood"
- An updated, interactive public-facing portal is under construction

- Consultant has completed the framework and draft interfaces for the major watersheds, currently under review.

To receive severe weather alerts and other notifications via email, text messages, and/or voice messages, sign up for the City's [free eNews service](#). The National Weather Service also automatically sends alerts in the event of flash flood watches or warnings via its nationwide [text emergency alert system](#), which will warn you when weather threatens. No sign up is required.

Community Maintenance Work



The City performed maintenance work on existing stormwater structures to prevent flooding. Here's what was done throughout the month of June:

- 349 storm inlets inspected
- 76 storm inlets cleaned
- 647 linear feet of storm pipe inspected
- 182 miles of street sweeping completed
- 14 storm structures repaired throughout the City
- Janney's Lane storm sewer repaired

Sanitary Sewer Asset Renewal Program

If you have recently seen our trucks in the Del Ray, Rosemont and Lynhaven neighborhoods, that work is part of the Sanitary Sewer Asset Renewal Program, which includes inspection and rehabilitation of City-owned sanitary sewers, lateral sewers, and manholes.

This work is part of a greater ongoing citywide initiative to renew and improve the

performance of the existing sanitary sewer system and to reduce infiltration and inflow into the sanitary sewer system during wet weather events.

Inspections began in March 2021 and will take approximately one year to complete. As of June 30, 2021, 188 mainlines have been inspected, totaling 41,904 linear feet of sewer pipe and representing 35% completed. Additionally, as of June 30, 2021, a total of 1,155 laterals have been inspected, representing 41% completed. Manhole inspections were initiated in June 2021. Once all inspections are completed, the next phase of the program will consist of rehabilitation of any structurally deficient sanitary sewers, manholes, and City-owned laterals determined to be in poor condition within the project area.

For more information about the Sanitary Sewer Asset Renewal Program, please visit alexandriava.gov/sewers.

STAY CONNECTED

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) to get additional updates on flooding and stormwater management from the City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.