

Causes of Flooding...

Flooding in Howard County is a result of increased development and impervious surfaces in the watershed. Because of the addition of impervious surfaces, flooding and damage as a result of floods have become a more prevalent issue. Flooding can have a wide range of impacts and risks, including death, contaminated drinking water, hazardous material spills, increased populations of disease-carrying insects and rodents, and community disruption and displacement. Communities around the country can prevent flooding damage by maintaining and updating infrastructure, improving drinking water safeguards, and creating public plans of action in the case of a disaster striking.



For More Information...

Visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) at www.fema.gov

Specifically for more information on Howard County's flood protection program, call the Stormwater Management Division, at (410)-313-6444.

Resources and Credits

Fine, D. (n.d.). Retrieved December 3, 2015, from https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/41/FEMA_-_43944_-_Aerial_of_flooding_in_Tennessee.jpg

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Flooding in Cedar Rapids, IA. (n.d.). Retrieved December 3, 2015, from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usgeologicalsurvey/2593475733>

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Green roof Green roof planted with native species at L'Historial de la Vendée. (2005). Retrieved December 7, 2015, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_roof#/media/File:Green_Roof_at_Vendée_Historial_les_Lucs.jpg

Howard County Mitigation Plan, Pataspco River in Ellicott City. (1972). Retrieved from http://www.howardcountymd.gov/uploadedfiles/home/environment/environmental_services/finalhowardcountymd.pdf

Seal of Howard County, Maryland. (2013). Retrieved December 7, 2015 from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Seal_of_Howard_County,_Maryland.png

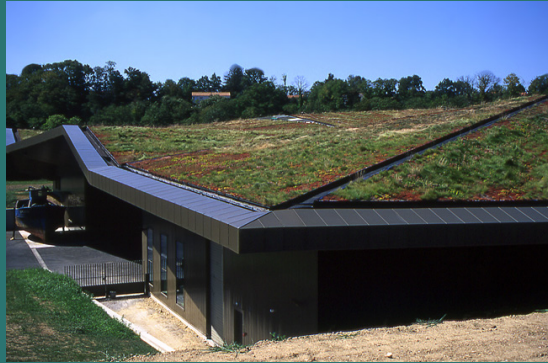
What is Green Infrastructure: Green Roofs. (2015). Retrieved December 3, 2015, from <http://www2.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure#Greenroofs>



Flood Preparedness

For the Howard County Homeowner





Preventing Floods...

- Green Infrastructure like permeable pavement that reduces water flow and runoff in cities can help lower risk of an actual flood occurring.
- Methods like green roofs (see photograph above) or green parking where vegetation is used in urban areas to help absorb water and pollutants that would otherwise flow through streets and sewers.
- Individuals/Citizens can install rain gardens or other environmentally friendly options on their own property to help mitigate the flow of water from rainfall.

Preparing for a Flood...

- Pay close attention to the news and weather forecasts for flood warnings
- Have a supply of at least three days' worth of water, with one gallon per person per day
- Keep three days' worth of non-perishable, easy to prepare food on hand
- Have a flashlight, radio, first aid kit, charged cell phone, emergency contact information, and extra cash
- Make sure to have copies of important documents in a protected area of the house
- Make a flood emergency plan

Ways to Stay Safe...

- Never attempt to drive or walk through a flooded area - just 6 inches of water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away!
- If there is a risk of flash flooding, move to higher ground immediately --flash floods are the #1 cause of water-related deaths in the United States!
- Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly with little warning
- If you are caught in a car on a flooded road, evacuate the vehicle and move to higher ground
- Be especially cautious at night when it is hard to evaluate the extent of danger

