

Charlotte County Risk MAP (Mapping, Assessment, Planning)

Charlotte County is a low lying coastal community with two rivers and a large natural estuary within the County. This not only makes Charlotte County a great place to live, work and play, it does put us at some risk from flooding from several different sources.

As a County, we have experienced flooding in the past but we are very aware of our risk and as a County, do everything possible to minimize the risk of flooding.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for managing the National Flood Insurance program (NFIP). This program is a partnership between FEMA and the local jurisdiction whereby the local jurisdiction agrees to take steps to minimize the risk of flooding and in return, the NFIP will provide flood insurance to those properties that are considered to be at higher risk, and FEMA will analyze the jurisdiction and provide us with maps showing where these areas of higher risk are and provide us tools to help our citizens understand their personal level of risk.

Charlotte County was initially mapped in 1973 and there have been periodic updates to our maps, the last major change being in 2003. Charlotte County is now part of another re-mapping initiative that is focusing specifically on our risk from coastal flooding called Risk MAP. For more information about Risk MAP from FEMA, please click [here](#). A printable flyer with more information is available [here](#).

The Risk MAP Process

The Risk MAP process takes several years to produce real results and changes to the maps. You can find more information about how these maps are developed [here](#). It is estimated that Charlotte County should see new maps adopted within the next four to five years.

The FEMA process includes specific meetings and outreach to County staff along with outreach to our citizens later on in the process. Charlotte County however did not feel that this was giving the County enough input or involvement into the process.

Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda work together to advocate for our citizens

Recognizing that this is a critical issue for our citizens, and one that must be given a high priority the Board of County Commissioners in partnership with the City of Punta Gorda Councilmembers decided to hire a team of specialists to work with staff to oversee the project and advocate on behalf of the County and the City.

The team is made up of hydrologists, engineers, climatologists and other specialists who are able to analyze interim data produced by FEMA and address any issues or concerns at that time, rather than waiting for the official review periods. This proactive and collaborative approach will ensure that the end results of the study accurately reflect the flood risk to our residents and that this risk is communicated well to our citizens.

Project updates

Updates to the project will be made as we receive them. This is a long term project and one that may not seem to be progressing, especially during the first two or three years. This is simply because it takes this long for the data to be analyzed and models to be run.

As information is made available, it will be updated here and for more specific information, please contact Claire Jubb at Claire.Jubb@CharlotteCountyfl.gov who will gladly update you on the progress of the project. There will also be semi-annual updates by the County’s team to the Board of County Commissioners and the City of Punta Gorda Council members at their joint meetings.

Project Update

Date	Item	Description	Link to presentation/ documents
March 2013	Discovery Meeting	This is the initial meeting held by FEMA with their contractors and representatives of the local jurisdiction to kick off the project. At this meeting, the jurisdictions are encouraged to share areas of concern, additional data they may have and ask any questions about the process.	The presentation from FEMA is attached here
September 2014	Technical Outreach Meeting – Mesh Review	This meeting discussed the initial climatological and topographical modeling would be handled and included some technical data about how the information is then fed into the models.	The presentation from this meeting is attached here .

February 2015	All Hands Technical Outreach meeting	This meeting discussed the final climatological and topographical data that incorporated comments made by the County's technical team.	Documents from this meeting will be made available within the next two weeks.
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