



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fort Lauderdale Enhances Flood Resilience Through Infrastructure Upgrades *City Marks Ongoing Efforts in Flood Protection Ahead of Two-Year Flooding Anniversary*

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL – Two years ago, in April 2023, Fort Lauderdale experienced one of the most significant flooding events in its history. The record-setting rainfall caused widespread damage, but it also galvanized the City's commitment to resilience. In response, Fort Lauderdale accelerated plans to improve stormwater infrastructure and launched *Fortify Lauderdale* - a bold \$600 million initiative to fast-track upgrades in flood-prone neighborhoods. Now, on the second anniversary of the flood, the City is highlighting the substantial progress made and the work still to come.

The neighborhoods listed below represent just the first phase of this citywide effort. Phase 2 has expanded to include 25 neighborhoods slated to receive critical infrastructure improvements through the Fortify Lauderdale program.

Completed Projects

Edgewood

The Edgewood stormwater project was among the first completed under *Fortify Lauderdale*. It features 5.6 miles of reinforced concrete pipe — ranging from 15 to 66 inches in diameter — and more than 350 concrete structures. As part of this work, the City also completed the Osceola Creek Restoration Project, which improved stormwater flow through 1,500 feet of the creek from SW 32 Place to Marina Mile Boulevard. Key improvements included debris removal, bank stabilization, removal of invasive vegetation, and maintenance dredging to restore the creek's natural function.

River Oaks

The River Oaks neighborhood saw the installation of 278 drainage structures and over 21,000 linear feet of drainage pipe. Crews also lined more than 5,500 linear feet of existing pipe and reconstructed over 61,500 square yards of swales. This project was completed in tandem with the Edgewood work, and both neighborhoods are now supported by the newly opened River Oaks pump station, which was officially unveiled in December 2024.



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Durrs

Completed more than a year ahead of schedule, the Durrs project included the installation of 35,000 feet of stormwater pipe, more than 250 drainage structures, and reconstruction of 81,000 square yards of swales. This early completion reflects the City's determination to deliver meaningful flood protection with urgency.

Projects Underway

Historic Dorsey-Riverbend

Currently under construction and expected to finish a year ahead of schedule, this project includes 21,000 feet of stormwater pipe and 90 drainage structures. Crews are also installing a new sewer pump station, relocating nearby water and sewer lines, reconstructing driveways and swales, restoring pavement, and trimming trees to improve flow and safety.

Progresso Village

Also underway, the Progresso Village project includes 21,000 feet of stormwater pipe, 100 drainage structures, and a new stormwater pump station. Similar to Dorsey-Riverbend, this effort includes major utility coordination, pavement restoration, driveway and sidewalk reconstruction, and swale rehabilitation.

Projects in Design

Design work is actively underway in **Melrose Manors/Riverland Civic, Southeast Isles, and Victoria Park**, with construction scheduled to begin as part of the first phase of *Fortify Lauderdale*. These projects will bring long-awaited drainage solutions and infrastructure enhancements to key areas that have long been vulnerable to storm and tidal flooding.

A Citywide Commitment

"We didn't just rebuild. We looked to the future in protecting, reimagining what needed to be done," said Mayor Dean Trantalis. "Fortify Lauderdale is about investing in our future, and we're delivering results faster than anyone thought possible."

District 3 Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman praised the progress being made in her district, "I'm proud of the progress we've made in Durrs and Dorsey-Riverbend. These neighborhoods are seeing real improvements that will make a difference when the next storm comes. At the same time, I know many parts of District 3 are still waiting — and I want our neighbors to know that I hear them. These projects are coming, and I'm committed to making sure they happen as quickly and effectively as possible. Everyone deserves peace of mind when it rains."



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Commissioner Ben Sorensen of District 4 agreed, “From Edgewood to River Oaks, we’ve seen how investing in infrastructure delivers real change. We are not slowing down. We are upgrading infrastructure across our city, and I am proud to help drive these improvements forward.”

With more projects on the horizon, Fort Lauderdale remains committed to building a stronger, more resilient city — one neighborhood at a time.

Learn more about ongoing projects and future plans at fortlauderdale.gov/fortifylauderdale.

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