

CLOSING THE LOOP

Q2 2026 WEBINAR

Storm Smart North Port: Preparing for Wind, Water & Recovery

Background

In 2025, through the City's Brand Refresh surveys and broader engagement efforts, residents shared feedback not only on the City's visual identity, but also on how they prefer to receive information and engage with local government.

While many comments focused on branding, there was a clear desire to better understand City operations and particularly how decisions are made, how projects are funded and how public input influences outcomes.

From this feedback, four key engagement themes emerged, directly shaping the City's 2026 Community Engagement Plan. One of the strongest requests was for more educational, transparent and interactive opportunities to engage with City leadership. In response, a structured webinar series was developed to meet that need.



Webinar Summary

On April 17, 2026, the City of North Port hosted "Storm Smart North Port: Preparing for Wind, Water & Recovery", a webinar designed to help residents understand how the stormwater system works, what to expect during heavy rain and how to prepare for storm season.

The presentation covered how water moves through the City, the role of key infrastructure like swales and retention systems and how North Port's location within a larger watershed impacts flooding. It also addressed common misconceptions, including why roads may temporarily hold water.

Residents received practical guidance on protecting their homes, understanding flood risk and staying informed, along with an overview of City resources and emergency response.

The goal was to increase understanding, set expectations and equip residents to navigate storm-related challenges with confidence.



Participation

Questions and Answers

The webinar concluded with a live Q&A session, where participants had the opportunity to submit questions and have these answered by City staff.

To uphold our commitment to transparency and “Closing the Loop,” we are sharing the questions and answers below. By documenting and publishing this discussion, we aim to ensure that all residents, whether they attended or not, have access to the information shared.

How long should water remain in our swales?

Water in swales can remain for up to 72 hours after the last rainfall, which is within normal expectations. During the summer months, when it may rain daily, some areas, particularly those located lower in the drainage system, may experience standing water more frequently or even continuously.

What happens if a dam breaks?

The City of North Port does not have any dams. During past storm events, there were rumors about a potential dam failure, but this is not applicable to our system.

Instead, the City uses water control structures, including fixed weirs, which are designed in a series, similar to a stair-step system. This design ensures that if one structure were to fail, water would be released in a controlled way and captured by the next structure downstream. This prevents any large or sudden surge of water, as the system is built with multiple safeguards that protect each other.

If a dam were to break in another area, could it impact North Port?

No. There are no dams within or near North Port that impact the City’s watershed, so this is not a concern for our area.

What do you mean by sealing low entry points where possible?

This refers to areas at ground level where water can enter your home, such as the bottom of exterior doors or garage door seals. Ensuring these areas are properly sealed and watertight can help prevent water intrusion during heavy rain or storm events.

What is the name of the watershed referenced as bringing water from the north and northeast?

This area is part of the Big Slough watershed.

Please repeat the web address for alerts?

NorthPortFL.Gov/Alerts

What is the best way to protect your roof during a storm?

Regular maintenance is key. Keep gutters clear, trim nearby trees or limbs that could fall and ensure shingles or tiles are secure. While storm damage can still occur depending on storm strength, these steps help reduce risk.

Metal roofs currently offer the strongest level of protection but for homes with shingles or tiles, proper upkeep and minimizing nearby hazards can make a significant difference.

Do I need to sign up for the alert system if I already receive phone and text alerts?

It depends. If you have not signed up through the provided link, you will still need to register. These alerts are separate from AMBER Alerts and notifications from the National Weather Service.

They are sent directly by the City of North Port or Sarasota County and may include important, localized information not included in standard alerts.

How can I download the presentation?

The webinar recording, presentation and full Q&A document will be uploaded to the City's Engage Hub. Attendees will also receive a follow-up email with a link to access these materials, along with their certificate of completion.

Residents can also visit the Engage Hub at any time to view this and previous webinar content. The address is: NorthPortFL.gov/EngageHub

What dates span storm season?

Storm season runs from June 1 through November 30 each year, covering approximately half the year.

Can you tell us about the Hurricane Expo?

The City hosts an annual Hurricane Expo that brings together a range of partners, including Sarasota County, Mosquito Control, the National Weather Service, nonprofits and private sector vendors.

The event offers residents the opportunity to learn more about storm preparedness, hear seasonal forecasts and engage directly with experts. City staff, including Public Works and Emergency Management, also provide more detailed information on stormwater and hurricane readiness.

This event is a valuable opportunity for residents to ask questions, gather resources and better prepare for hurricane season.



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Closing the Loop

Thank you for engaging with us. Government works best when it operates in the open and when residents feel informed, heard and respected. This “Closing the Loop” report is part of our ongoing effort to ensure transparency; not only in decision-making, but in how we communicate about it.

This report reflects our commitment to transparency. By documenting the questions asked and the answers provided, we aim to ensure that the conversation remains accessible to all residents and not just those who were able to attend.

We recognize that trust is built over time through consistent communication, accountability and follow-through. That is the purpose of our “Closing the Loop” reports: to demonstrate that engagement does not end when the meeting adjourns.

We encourage you to stay involved. Attend future Webinars, Town Halls, participate in surveys, review public meeting materials and continue sharing your perspectives. Your voice matters, and it plays a meaningful role in shaping North Port’s future.

