

# How Communities Can Reduce Flood Risk

EVERYONE CAN HELP PROMOTE LEVEE AND FLOOD SAFETY. THERE ARE MANY ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE AHEAD OF TIME.



## Steps Communities can take to reduce flood risk:

- Buy properties in flood-prone areas, remove existing structures, and convert the areas into parks or greenways that can accommodate flooding.
- Remodel or outfit buildings or raise them on stilts above floodwater levels.
- Urge homeowners to purchase flood insurance.
- Avoid building structures, planting trees, or leaving debris on a levee.
- Change zoning ordinances or building codes to limit development in floodplains.
- Develop or refine flood warning systems, emergency evacuation plans, and flood preparedness.
- Provide technical and/or financial assistance to property owners to protect against flooding.

Flood risk can never be eliminated entirely. But just as you can take steps to reduce the risk of flooding to your home, your community can take actions to reduce its risk, too.

In fact, communities should view levees as one part of a comprehensive approach to reducing flood risk, rather than the only line of defense.

All rivers, streams, and lakes will eventually flood. The levees built to protect people from flooding are by no means fail-proof. Some levees are in good shape but many are not. People who live behind levees are vulnerable to flooding.

Know your risk, know your role, and take action to reduce your risk.