



Actions for Flood Resilient Homes: Floodproofing Accessory Structures and Yards

The damage that can be caused by flood water doesn't stop at your front door. The way you care for your yard and how you site and construct accessory structures can reduce both flood exposure and vulnerability.

✓ Before flood action

✗ During flood action

✗ After flood action

Floodproofing accessory structures

Your yard is an extension of your living space, which needs to be protected. The first step in floodproofing is to site the accessory structures on your property—your patio, fire table/pit, garden shed, gazebo—on high ground. You can also reduce your vulnerability by building these structures with flood-resistant materials. See the City's factsheet on Wet Floodproofing for a list of flood-resistant materials.

You should also secure yard items to prevent them from being damaged or swept away. Anchor them or attach them to more stable structures.



Floodproofing yards

There are many options you can consider to reduce flooding in your yard.

- **Make sure your yard is properly graded:** Patios, driveways, walkways, flowerbeds—if possible, they should all be graded so that the water flows away from the house.
- **Install a rain garden:** Rain gardens protect your yard from flooding by allowing runoff water to pool and slowly percolate into the ground. See the City's factsheet for more information on rain gardens.
- **Install dry wells:** Dry wells are underground structures that help rainwater dissipate into the ground. They can be used for wet spots or small, flood-prone areas on your property.
- **Create or take advantage of natural swales:** Swales are depressions in the landscape that redirect water flow, normally to a dry well or a garden bed with good drainage. You can slow the flow by lining the lowest point with rocks or adding deep-rooted plants on the slope.
- **Use heavier mulch:** Light-weight mulch can spread under flooding conditions, clogging drains. If using mulch near your home's exterior, make sure the mulch is at least 6 inches from your siding to prevent moisture wicking and rotting.
- **Replace impervious surfaces:** Impervious (non-porous) surfaces increase runoff. Replace them with pervious materials or landscaping.
- **Drain your driveway:** Driveways are a big contributor to stormwater runoff. You can mitigate the impact of that stormwater by adding drainage on the sides of the pavement—or by replacing the pavement with a pervious surface.
- **Plant a tree:** Trees create a leafy canopy that intercepts rainfall and reduces runoff. According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a typical street tree can intercept from 500 to 760 gallons of water per year, depending on the species.

Other considerations

Parts of the City of Edina are within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, which offers cost-share grants for rain gardens. The minimum grant is \$500 and requires a 25% match. To see if your home is located within the district and to learn more about the grant program, go to: <https://www.ninemilecreek.org/>.

Helpful websites

<https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/manage-flood-risk>

<https://www.homeadvisor.com/r/flood-proof-landscaping/>

<https://www.owntheyard.com/how-to-fix-backyard-flooding/>

<https://iaibd.org/6-backyard-flooding-solutions-landscaping-storm-proof-yard/>