

Palmer Ranch Master Property Owners Association, Inc.
Tropical Storm / Hurricane Debby
August 4-5, 2024

You'll hear it said over and over – this storm was historic! While many of us seasoned Floridians are used to weathering 'just a tropical storm'; however, I don't think we'll carry that carefree attitude with us in future events. This one was massive! For the Ranch, rain totals range from 9.5" to 12", depending on where you're at. Two of the radar-detected tornados went right through the Ranch, yet we've no reports of people hurt and/or homes/property being damaged. For that, I'm very grateful.

I've a strong feeling we'll be talking about Debby for years to come - simply because of the amount of rain we received. News reports are indicating Sarasota County received the most rainfall in the state, with some locations totaling 22-inches.

In all the years on the property, neither Sue nor I have ever seen the amount of water we've seen throughout the drainage system. While the water at many locations is at the top of banks and water is covering roads - so far - we've no reports of water inundating homes.

Speaking of standing water – residents are upset over the water covering the roads in their Palmer Ranch neighborhood. It's important to note that the stormwater engineers designed the roadways as part of the stormwater system. If the drain basins and ponds are full, water is directed to the roads. Based on my experience, once we're no longer dealing with storm surge, the waters can make their way to the bay, which should relieve the streets from standing water. This won't happen overnight and we're likely to see water rise in the main drain basins as the rest of the area tries to drain as well.

Damage to the property has been minimal, with the majority being the loss of all the annuals at the Clark Road / Sawyer Loop Road entry, due to the flooding of Clark Road. Here's a link to a video someone posted on Facebook of the flooding at this intersection:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/aSmCvmZCWcrTkvik/>



Tract 605 (East side of McIntosh Road at Palmer Ranch Pkwy West) Our park area with the two park benches and nature path are submerged.

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East side of Sawyer Loop across from Anson Apartments. Two ponds became one as the water overtook the banks and turned a two-lane road into one lane.



South Creek (in front of Glenridge on Honore Avenue) This area is normally a ditch, yet here the water is even with Honore.

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Hurricane Season runs from June 1st through November 30th. Every season we're educated on getting our kits ready for whatever may come. It's in storms like these we're reminded of the power of nature and to be prepared.

Below are photos of some of the roads in Palmer Ranch neighborhoods that are completely covered by water. We're told again and again when approaching a road with water over it to 'Turn Around – Don't Drown'. While the drainage system is functioning as it should in the communities shown below, residents need to be aware of what can happen during an event like the one we just had.



I'm reminding Palmer Ranch Members events like these help us to better understand our community and its design, and it's the ideal time to record what has happened and what occurs afterwards. Take photos, measure water levels of your ponds and record the changes to see how long it takes for the water levels to return to 'normal'. Take those observations and learn what may need to be done and how you can use this as an educational opportunity for the members of our community.

If you've no already done so, you can visit the website established by Sarasota County so you can observe citizen reports, in real time – simply visit the following link:
<https://sarco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/media/index.html?appid=5e6a9275914e40a48119b509a3602744>

Recovery from Debby's visit will take time; however, our area has done it before and will do it again!

Stay safe!

Tracy