

## Sinkholes

According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, sinkholes form due to the collapse of surface sediments into underground voids and cavities in the limestone bedrock. Sinkholes form silently over time until the collapse and erosion may continue for some time after.

The University of Florida produced the following tips for spotting potential sinkholes:

- Structural cracks in walls and floors
- Muddy well water
- Doors and windows that won't close properly
- Buried items, such as fence post, slowly becoming exposed
- Formation of small ponds

According to the 2018 State of Florida Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan, sinkholes can be triggered by a variety of factors, to include drought, heavy rain, significant groundwater withdrawal, or heavy infrastructure.

### *Brooks Sinkhole*

One of Florida's most notable sinkholes, *Brooks Sinkhole*, is located in Bradford County. Found just outside of the small town of Brooker, Florida, Brooks Sinkhole is an approximate 225 ft. long, 175 ft. wide, and 85 ft. deep cover-collapse sinkhole. The opening's discovery is unknown, but the sinkhole has become the subject of studies and project by different entities.

### *Vulnerability*

Bradford County does have some vulnerability in regards to sinkholes. Potentially, the county could be subjected to another cover-collapse sinkhole, such as Brooks Sinkhole. Per the State's 2013 Hazard Mitigation Plan, Bradford County has a low risk of a sinkhole hazard, as indicated by the graphic below.

Sinkholes are often isolated incidents, thus reducing vulnerability to large populations. However, a sinkhole occurring in an urban area or around residential structures may be more likely to endanger people or property.

### *Additional Occurrences*

No additional occurrences are known for sinkholes in Bradford County.