



New Update from Lee County

May 11, 2018

Lee County government continues to work diligently to ensure flood-prone areas are ready for rainy season.

The Hurricane Irma website has been updated with information to help residents prepare for 2018 hurricane season, including links to a schedule of hurricane seminars and the [All Hazards Guide](#), a one-stop source for guidance on storm preparation, home and property safety, shelter information, flood-related information, the evacuation process and emergency contact numbers.

Update from Lee County's Department of Transportation

Work continues in the Villas in south Fort Myers. Crews are working to reestablish the drainage swales on Woodland Boulevard to Austin Street. Crews are working in the northwest areas in the Villas and will notify residents with door hanger notices shortly before work begins in their area.

Maintenance crews also continue to work throughout Lee County to ensure all major flow ways are working at full capacity.

Update from Lee County Natural Resources

Staff continues to contract with local vendors to remove blockages identified and prioritized under Phase 2 Flood Assessments. Staff also is seeking permits for removal of storm-generated sediment in the Ten Mile Canal and coordinating with the South Florida Water Management District on permit-related issues for continued maintenance of waterways.

The Aim Engineering/Johnson Engineering team was selected as the No. 1 firm for the Phase 3 Long-term Analysis. Natural Resources is finalizing the scope of work and contract negotiations will begin immediately.

Background:

You may recall that in the 2017 August rainfall event and during Hurricane Irma, about 30 inches of rain saturated Lee County in just a few weeks. The Lee Board of County Commissioners instructed staff to develop a plan; staff came back with and is implementing a three-pronged approach:

- Phase 1 – Immediate removal of known waterway impediments.
- Phase 2 – Flood assessments by watershed to identify impediments to storm flow for near-term and short term remedial efforts.
- Phase 3 – Long-term look at potential engineered solutions.

Update from the City of Bonita Springs

The City has been coordinating with the South Florida Water Management District to conduct snag and clearing projects on the Imperial River, Kehl Canal and Oak Creek. The District completed the snagging and clearing of the

Imperial River and Kehl Canal in early April and announced to City Council on May 2 that it will conduct a project to snag and clear Oak Creek this summer.

The City has received notice of grant funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture via the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Program in April. This grant will provide funding for a snagging and clearing project along Leitner Creek in the early summer.

Update from the South Florida Water Management District

The District last month completed a two-year project restoring about 1,000 acres in the South Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) in southern Lee County. The project restored this portion of the ecosystem near Bonita Springs to its historical hydrologic and ecological state by clearing exotic vegetation, removing 10 miles of roads, removing berms and plugging ditches and drainage canals in the area. To learn more about the completed restoration project in CREW, read SFWMD's recent press release at: https://www.sfwmd.gov/news/nr_2018_0425_southern_crew_restoration

The District also recently completed a tree and vegetation clearing project along a 3.4-mile stretch of the Imperial River. This river provides drainage to the Bonita Springs area, so the District cleared the river banks of trees that could block the river during a storm and cause flooding. The District is preparing to start a similar tree-clearing project along a stretch of Oak Creek near Bonita Springs.

More information

Visit www.leegov.com/irma/flood

Please forward this to others who may be interested in signing up for future updates.