



Flood Mitigation Status Update

June 19, 2018

At its regular meeting on June 5, the Lee Board of County Commissioners asked county staff to prepare a summary of the county's response to the flooding that resulted from two heavy rain events in August 2017 and Hurricane Irma in September 2017. Today, June 19, the following summary was provided to the Board:

Since the two rain events of August and September, Lee County Department of Transportation (DOT) and Natural Resources have worked on numerous flood-mitigation projects and related issues. The concentration of work was geared to those communities that flooded during the two rain events and then to concentrate on areas that traditionally flood during a normal rainy season. DOT and Natural Resources then concentrated their efforts toward preparing for events related to a normal rainy season.

Lee County continues to provide information to the community using direct emails to residents as well as through our website. The Irma flood website to date has had 20,282 unique visitors and 56,649 page views. We also meet with concerned citizens out in the community to discuss flooding issues.

Natural Resources

Phase 1

- Initial clearing of debris from waterways is completed.

Phase 2

- Flood assessments were completed and work progresses on priority blockages.
- Clearing of waterways is underway in the East Mulloch Drainage District (EMDD), which is in the San Carlos Park area.
- Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) grant funding is being secured to finalize remaining issues: Completion of EMDD waterways: repair of EMDD weir; sediment removal from Ten Mile Canal, and countywide canals.
- The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is aware of possible permit issues that caused or contributed to flooding at various areas throughout the county.
- Lee County and SFWMD are working on an agreement for operation and maintenance of area waterways.

Phase 3

- A county contract-negotiation process selected AIM/Johnson Engineering team to undertake long-term solution analysis.
- Scope of work is being developed at this time.
- Opportunities for public participation will be available. No dates are yet set.

DOT

Lee County DOT has continued to address drainage issues countywide. Lee County DOT has four roadway ditching crews and two canal crews working countywide. Immediately after Irma, DOT had more than 600 drainage RFAs (Requests For Action.) The areas in which DOT has concentrated drainage efforts include:

- Island Park
- The Villas
- Whiskey Creek (Sautern Drive)
- Lehigh Acres
- Pine Island (Pine Island Road at Betsy Parkway)
- Geneva Canal / Pinebrook Woods community
- North Fort Myers (Biscayne/Pondella Road area)
- Boca Grande
- Plantation/Metro area

The Board also has taken action. Since October 2017, the Board has approved funding of more than \$8.3 million for flooding projects within Lee County, which consist of both county funds and grants.

BoCC Action

- October 2017 – Approved Interlocal Agreement with the EMDD (\$1 million)
- November 2017 – Approved amended Interlocal Agreement with EMDD to allow the county flexibility to use FEMA-approved contactors and debris collection sites (no funds required)
- March 2018 – Approved Hurricane debris removal from various waterways (\$1,720,653)
- April 2018 – Applied for the Natural Resources Conservation Services grants for hurricane damage (\$4,950,000 grant and \$1,650,000 reserves)

Summary

For the upcoming fiscal year, the county has budgeted an additional \$3 million for flood-mitigation projects.

Lee County DOT and Natural Resources have made measurable mitigation efforts as evidenced by the tropical storm in May, as well as the start of rainy season that began May 15, weeks earlier than is typical.

DOT and Natural Resources continue to address flooding issues around Lee County.

Note:

Scroll down below for more information regarding Island Park.

More information and past updates are available at:
www.leegov.com/irma/flood

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

Island Park Update

County staff received questions from Island Park residents regarding specifics of county work performed there. Work in the Island Park Road area includes:

- Regraded the roadside storm water drainage swales along Island Park Road.
- Cleaned out the storm water culverts along Island Park Road.

- Inspected all canal weirs. All weirs are maintained by The Forest Community.
- Installed one new basin and one new culvert to prevent erosion to the canal maintenance road leading to the Forest South Canal.
- Regraded and cleaned out debris from the Forest North Canal (aka the now-defunct Iona Drainage District Canal K), which runs along the north boundary of The Forest Community.
- Regraded and cleaned out debris from the Forest South Canal (aka the now-defunct Iona Drainage District Canal T), which runs along the south boundary of The Forest Community.
- Cleared an additional 500 feet of maintenance road at the west end of the Forest South Canal.
- Inspected and had The Forest community make several repairs to the Forest Central Canal (aka the now-defunct Iona Drainage District Canal S), which runs through the center of The Forest Community. This canal is not maintained by Lee County DOT, rather it is maintained by The Forest Community.
- Inspected the Estero Bay Circle Canal (aka the now-defunct Iona Drainage District Canal U). This runs along Estero Bay Circle and passes the new KB Homes Community. KB Homes will be starting a canal maintenance project within the next few weeks. This canal is not maintained by Lee County DOT, rather it is maintained by KB Homes/Coves of Estero Bay.
- Cleared 2,000 feet of canal maintenance road along the west bank of the Ten Mile Canal (aka the now-defunct Iona Drainage District Canal A). This is the portion of Ten Mile Canal east of 41. This will allow Lee County DOT to maintain this portion of the canal with less difficulty.

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