



Update from Lee County August 9, 2018

Flood-mitigation work continues here in Lee County.

Grant update: Several recent questions involve the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant that Lee County received. The funding is designed to help with remaining post-Hurricane Irma issues such as completion of San Carlos Park ditches and the East Mulloch weir repair as well as sediment removal from countywide canals, including Ten Mile Canal.

NRCS was inundated with submissions from around the State of Florida, and the county has worked through the federal process. The county on July 30 received the agency's approval of its bid document for sediment removal in Ten Mile Canal and will receive bids by Aug. 27. Work will commence as soon as possible and is schedule to be completed grant-expiration timelines and extensions, if necessary.

The amount of grant money the county ultimately receives for its array of eligible projects will depend on the actual costs of the work.

Island Park area update: The pre-Labor Day rain event last August along with Hurricane Irma created challenges for many throughout Lee County. Since October 2017, the Lee Board of County Commissioners has approved numerous projects countywide. Specifically, work done in the hard-hit Island Park Road area includes:

- Regraded the roadside stormwater drainage swales along Island Park Road.
- Cleaned out the stormwater culverts along Island Park Road.
- 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 the Lee County Department of Transportation (DOT), rather it is maintained by The Forest Community.

- Inspected the three canal weirs that are maintained by the Forest community. These are the weirs at the west ends of the Forest North Canal, the Forest Central Canal and the Forest South Canal.
- 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.
- Installed additional surface-water measuring instruments on Ten Mile Canal near the U.S. 41 bridge.

General information: Lee County's considerable mitigation efforts helped during Tropical Storm Alberto and this year's earlier-than-normal start of rainy season. The county will continue to address flooding issues throughout Lee County.

The county will be working with AIM/Johnson Engineering to undertake a feasibility analysis of additional flood-attenuation measures. This work will include opportunities for public participation.

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