



## **New Update from Lee County**

December 20, 2017

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**Here is an update on Lee County's flood mitigation efforts post-Hurricane Irma**

### **San Carlos Park area update:**

Lee County Commissioners committed funding to clearing horticultural debris from canals and rights-of-way in San Carlos Park. In collaboration with the East Mulloch Drainage District, the county will have a contractor help mitigate potential future flooding by removing, hauling and properly disposing of Hurricane Irma-generated vegetation that may be blocking canals.

The contractor – with oversight from Lee County Natural Resources – will cover about four square miles in the area south of Alico Road and between Three Oaks Parkway (on the east) and U.S. 41 (on the west). The procurement process is complete and work will begin in January.

### **Lee County Department of Transportation update:**

- The arrival of dry season enables Lee County Department of Transportation crews across the county to conduct extensive ditch work to correct ditch washouts and ditch erosion caused by summer rain and Hurricane Irma.
- DOT has eight drainage crews working on ditch maintenance countywide.
- Work continues on the central east-west canal along Island Park. In addition, work will begin late this week or next on various sections of Island Park roadside ditches as well.

### **Lee County Natural Resources Department update:**

The fieldwork on the county's five Initial Flooding Assessment Projects is wrapping up. The project areas cover Imperial River/ Spring Creek/ Halfway Creek/ Estero River; Ten Mile Canal/ Island Park/ Briarcliff/ Six Mile Cypress; Orange River/ Hickey Creek/ Bedman Creek; Bayshore Creek/ Popash Creek/ Stroud Creek; and, Whiskey Creek/ Villas/ Pine Lake.

Data from this effort will enable the county to proceed with early activities that will provide relief prior to next rainy season. The coming final weeks of December are the last chance for residents and property owners to help with data collection. You can [sign up](#) for email notifications for Flood related information and optionally [complete a flooding questionnaire](#) to enhance our consultants' data by uploading photos, providing observations and sharing data for flooding experienced during the August 25-27 Rain Event or Hurricane Irma. This information is helpful in our evaluation of the flood events and identifying possible solutions. Not a computer person? Call the county's flood hotline at 239-533-8888. (Please note county offices will be closed in observance of the holidays; check [www.leegov.com](http://www.leegov.com) for details).

What's next? County staff will work with consultants to prioritize work efforts for these short-term mitigation projects in 2018.

**Note:** The county's long-term recovery goal is to establish a plan to reduce flooding on a larger regional scale. Water management in this area is a complex system and has to be addressed holistically. To consider larger projects such as dredging, diking, diverting, berming or storing water, a series of tools are used to evaluate projects to ensure the project performs as intended. Those with the most promise are then selected for budgeting and implementation. This next step includes grant applications, land acquisition (if necessary), permitting, design, bid and construction.

**More:**

Forward this email to others and they can sign up for county flood-update e-blasts.

Our next communication will be in January.

**Lee County Flood Hotline 239-533-8888**

Visit Lee County's website at [www.leegov.com/lrma/flood](http://www.leegov.com/lrma/flood).