



## **New Update from Lee County**

February 1, 2018

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

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

From Lee County Natural Resources: Work continues on the San Carlos Park area canals. To date, the contractor has cleared about two miles of canals within the East Mulloch Drainage District. Work will continue through February in the area south of Alico Road and between Three Oaks Parkway (on the east) and U.S. 41 (on the west).

From Lee County Department of Transportation (DOT): The contractor has started the debris clean up in Lee County canals. They are working in the Briarcliff area and on Summerlin Road south of Gladiolus Drive.

### **Island Park area information from Lee County DOT Operations**

DOT has surveyed the drainage of Island Park Road. Culverts have been inspected and cleared. Now work continues to address minor issues, such as addressing any high spots within the drainways, and inspecting all pipes to ensure the drainage within easements is working properly. Additionally:

- A DOT drainage plan for Island Park Road is being worked on and will be completed this month. Within a few weeks of completion, DOT crews will begin working along Island Park Road. They will re-establish swales, which means motorists will experience intermittent single-lane closures.
- DOT is hiring a contracted surveyor for the west end of The Forest South Canal (also known as IDD Canal T) to the weir structure. The survey is needed because of the proximity of the canal along the maintenance easement and along the golf course.
- DOT canal crews will begin cleaning the Forest North Canal this month.

### **Update on Initial Flooding Assessment Projects**

Lee County Natural Resources Department will post the flood assessment project reports this month. Reports – when completed – will be made available to the public at [www.leegov.com/irma/flood](http://www.leegov.com/irma/flood). Or people can call the county's flood hotline at 239-533-8888. You will receive an email alert when they are posted and will be able to view the full reports the county receives from its consultants.

About the reports: The reports/ 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.

### **Questions and answers**

The county and many stakeholders – including the South Florida Water Management District, the state and federal governments, and individual home owners associations – have a role to play in solutions to mitigating flooding. Below are some questions received recently from the public in the Ten Mile Canal area; staff has provided replies:

Q: When or how quickly will next steps be taken to develop the three-stage plan that has been mentioned by the county to address the water management system / flooding issues that have been discussed since Hurricane Irma?

A: We are completing Phase 2 Flood assessments and waiting on the final report from our engineering consultant. It will identify short-term or near-term flood mitigation measures such as debris removal, vegetation blockages, sedimentation, erosion and structural failures. A prioritized list will be generated along with identification of the responsible entity for implementation. This information will be shared with community, as well as participating agencies.

The Phase 3 work – or three-stage plan -- is the detailed hydrology and hydraulics analysis of the watersheds subjected to the flood event. This work is necessary to evaluate the larger capital projects to determine effectiveness, cost/ benefit and permissibility of identified solutions. We expect to advertise and begin the Competitive Negotiation process Friday, Feb. 2. This analysis can take the better part of a year to complete. Once projects are identified, a prioritized list can be generated for implementation, funding grants, etc.

Q: Which department and who at the county is processing this information? What is the timeframe for the completion of the analysis?

A: Phase 2 Flood Assessments and Phase 3 Long term Flood Analysis are being managed by Lee County Natural Resources. See above for time frame.

Q: What about public participation once the county has developed plans for the water management system, and is there a schedule?

A: Schedules for deliverables, including public meetings, will be established as part of the consultant contract.

Q: Was there or has there been such a schedule established by the county – and any other involved agency – that has been used and followed since the last water management system master plan of 1994? If so, where can the content be made available for public examination?

A: Elements of the original master plan for Ten Mile Canal and Six Mile Cypress watersheds have been completed over time. Lee County DOT maintains an inventory of related canals and ditches. Other components are maintained by the property associations involved.

Q: What about the cost of recommended changes, upgrades and maintenance of the water management system? What avenues are being used to explore funding sources?

A: Lee County continues to seek cost share and grant opportunities from entities including the South Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the state Hazard Mitigation Grants Program.

Q: Lee County has mentioned that its DOT and Natural Resources departments will be in touch with other agencies concerning responsibilities related to the issues observed during the flood events last summer, especially given that areas of responsibility exist that do not fall under the umbrella of the county. Is county staff pursuing who is responsible for which areas?

A: Yes. The county continues to coordinate with all stakeholders and as the flood mitigation plans emerge, stakeholders across the board are being looped in. Part of the process identified above involves ensuring appropriate stakeholders are made aware of which action items, tasks, planned efforts fall within their purview.

### **New on the website**

A new map has been added to our post-Hurricane Irma flood information page. Click [here](#) to see the map. It shows drainage in the Ten Mile Canal area.

### **More**

- Forward this email to others and they can sign up for update county flood-update e-blasts.
- Our next communication will be later in February.

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

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