

STORMWATER UPDATES: JULY 14 - JULY 20, 2025

PHILLIPPI CREEK DREDGING PROJECTS:

Both County and WCIND dredge applications are currently being reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Additionally, the County's federal grant application is also under review by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Stormwater and WCIND staff are holding weekly meetings to update residents and community leaders.

The Phillippi Creek dredging between the mouth of the Creek and Beneva Road is being executed in 3 separate efforts: WCIND, County Phase 1 - Emergency High Spots and County Phase 2 – Expanded Dredge further detailed as follows:

WCIND Project:

Project Area: From the mouth of Phillippi Creek to areas just east of US41 (See Map1, yellow and green lines). This segment is being permitted with a 30ft cross-section and -4ft MLW depth.

Funding: County Navigation Improvement Fund (CNIF).

Permits: Since this project started before the 2024 storm season, it is not eligible for any "emergency" permitting processes. Applications have been submitted to the following permitting authorities:

- USACE: Currently under review by USACE; RAI response submitted June 13, 2025 (original submission April 28, 2025).
- FDEP: WCIND received a permit exemption from the FDEP on July 11, 2025.

County Phase 1 (High Spots):

Project Area: Between US41 and Beneva Road. Independent of the overall dredge project and meant to address several isolated high spots throughout the project area. These high spots have been identified as having significant sediment buildup and will be dredged 50' wide x 4' deep Mean Low Water, along the centerline of the Creek. See Map 2.

Funding: Stormwater Environmental Utility and Navigable Waterways Maintenance Management Program Revenues

Permits:

USACE: Currently under review as a Standard Permit. Submitted April 13th; RAI response submitted May 13th. Public Notice to be posted on June 27, 2025 and will closed on July 17, 2025 (Permit No.: SAJ-2025-01036). A Request for Information was received on July 1, 2025 and responded to on July 7, 2025 which included questions about our planned dredge

operational details in addition to FDEP Permitting status. The application is now being sent to NMFS for protected species review.

DEP: At this time, no permit is needed due to an active State's emergency order (EO). Staff plans to make application for a DEP permit in case the EO expires before the USACE permit is issued. FDEP will be sending the County a letter with details on an exemption process by July 13, 2025.

WNCA: Submitted May 14th; currently under review and found here: [WNCA Application](#) (Record No.: EP-WNCA-25-00258)

Contracting: County staff met with emergency contractors on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 to develop alternatives for securing dredging services so work can start as soon as possible upon permit acquisition. Staff has been directed to have a procurement completed so that when the permit is issued no additional time has to be spent on procurement and any contractors can start as soon as they can mobilize. Stormwater staff is working with procurement and the Office of the County Attorney to ensure this will be completed.

County Phase 2 (Expanded Dredge):

Project Area: Between US41 and Beneva Road to include an expanded cross-section, oxbows and side channels.

Funding: Resilient SRQ HUD Funds. The Action Plan has been approved. OFM is in receipt of the grant agreement and has routed it for signature. Once signed, it will be returned to HUD for their signature. GrantWorks and their sub-consultant, Neris, are engaged to complete a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review for an environmental clearance.

Permits:

USACE: When issued, the High Spot dredge permit will be modified to include the expanded cross-section, oxbows and side channels, as possible.

DEP: At this time, no permit is needed due to an active State's emergency order (EO). Staff plans to make application for a DEP permit in case the EO expires before the USACE permit is issued.

WNCA: When issued, the High Spot dredge permit will be modified to include the expanded cross-section, oxbows and side channels.

Contracting: Staff is working with Grants and Procurement to ready the appropriate solicitation information for use with Resilient SRQ HUD funds. This funding source requires a full duration bid process to obtain contractor resources.

Operational Updates:

Oxbow Surveys:

Bathymetric surveys and soil samples are pending from WCIND consultant.

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation:

- Survey: 90% complete. Final field work scheduled for July 30, 2025.
- Final Report: Pending

Dredging:

Pending USACOE permit issuance and contractor solicitation.

Dredge Material Management Areas of County-owned Properties:

Approved Sites:

- 2792 Valencia Dr./Immediately south of S. Tuttle roundabout
- 2540 Bee Ridge Rd./Immediately south of Bee Ridge
- 2404 Nassau St./Approx. 1/3 mile north of Proctor Rd.
- 1027 Greer Dr./Immediately west of S. Beneva Rd.
- 5500 S. Tamiami Trail/Phillippi Estate Park/Immediately SW of U.S. 41

Pending Site:

- 2401 Ashton Rd. – Approx. 1,300ft south of Riverview H.S. (Early Acquisition Stage)

Unusable sites:

- 1420 Gilbert Ave./Pinecraft Park/Immediately south of Bahia Vista St (Space/Heavy Equip.)
- 1 Ram Way/Riverview H.S. (Interference with school activities)

Dredge Material Management Areas of Privately-owned Properties:

Due to time constraints, the selected dredge contractor will negotiate potential use of private properties.

Dredge Material Disposal:

- Roadway Expansion (Preferred): Working to identify potential areas to stockpile material for later use in roadway expansion projects.
- Potential stockpiling at other preferred locations.
- Landfill (Contingency): Received landfill requirements; awaiting results of soil samples taken throughout the Creek. If landfill can use the dredge material for cover, there is no charge. If not, there will be a fee of \$60.58/per ton. Pending the estimated leaching potential of the material, there may be a limit on how much can be delivered to the landfill each day.

Community Updates:

Meetings with community stakeholder groups (i.e. SAND, Forest Lakes and Southgate) had been held each Thursday from 9-10a.m through July 10, 2025. The meetings have moved to every other week until the permitting process nears end. Stormwater staff are collaborating with OFM-Grants and WCIND to ensure consistent and accurate communication. Of particular interest and concern to attendees are the project scope and

timeframe, width of the dredge, logistics for dredged material placement prior to disposal, the County's plan for sustained waterway maintenance including a defined Level of Service, and the HUD approval process.

GENERAL STORMWATER MAINTENANCE UPDATES:

Summary:

- The week of July 7, the County staff and contractors completed 1029 maintenance tasks.
 - Ditch Maintenance: 20,985 feet or 4 miles of ditches were been maintained. In total, 551 tasks have been completed; 243 tasks are in progress; 646 tasks are pending located to clear before starting work.
 - Hand-clearing: 30 tasks completed . 32 tasks are remaining.
- County Field Service staff will be working overtime through the weekend.
- Contracted staff will be working through the weekend.

Spotlight areas of maintenance:

- The removal of oak trees in Cowpen Slough near the train trestle behind Artistry, began on July 15 and is expected to be complete by the end of this reporting period.
- Pipe liners and backflow prevention valves were installed on County maintained pipes along Cowpen Slough adjacent to Saddle Creek.
- Excavation work on Phillippi Creek Branch AA began with the long arm excavator; 1,007 ft were maintained and 266 cubic yards of sediment have been removed.
- Sediment removal from Phillippi Creek at a permitted sediment sump located just south of the carwash near the intersection of Fruitville Road and Beneva Rd.

STORMWATER OUTREACH EFFORTS:

Photos/Videos

2 stormwater videos were filmed this week and 1 photo opportunities were captured. The team continues editing and scheduling additional videos.

Topics covered:

- July 14: Hot Spot inspection in Pinecraft area (photos)
- July 16: Tree removal in Cow Pen Slough
- July 17: Flapper valves installation in Saddle Creek

Upcoming/Next week: Additional film/photo dates are being scheduled.

Photos

- Various photos of the Stormwater team out in the field, performing regular job duties. Working on adding to the photo gallery.
- Stormwater photo gallery: <https://www.cleanpix.com/cleanpix/portal/W1qSG-eBf-ZA1>

Newsletters

- July 16: Employee Newsletter (New Stormwater Director)
- July 18: Public newsletter (RainCheck Program Update)

Media Relations

- Incorporating video news release (VNR) footage into our scheduled filming to provide reporters with footage to cover stories we pitch.
- Corrections: 0
- Pitches: 0
- Inquiries: 1
- Media engagements
 - July 16 – Adam Armbruster / A-LIST Talks with Adam Armbruster - RainCheck Program and small-scale Best Management Practices and Interview with NEST Coordinator Jennifer Rudolph. (Podcast)



Public Works News Clips:

- July 14
 - Sun Newspapers - [Buyouts OK'd for rural Venice, area hit by higher flooding](#)

Social Media

- July 14: Stormwater Hot Spots Cleared (shared on Facebook and X/Twitter) FB Link: <https://www.facebook.com/1170456588450133>
- July 15: Water Quality Update – RainCheck Program (shared on Facebook, Ring, Nextdoor and X/Twitter) FB Link: <https://www.facebook.com/1171199291709196>

- July 16: Stormwater Railroad Trestle Removal Before and After (shared on Facebook, Instagram and X/Twitter) FB Link: <https://www.facebook.com/1172076254954833>
- July 17: Cow Pen Slough Tree Debris Removal (scheduled on Facebook and X/Twitter) SCHEDULING ISSUE – Moved to 7/18
- Stormwater Team Outreach:
 - 8 emails to citizens
 - 1 call with citizens
 - Site Visits:
 - 1 RainCheck site visit
 - Jen met with teachers from Roots Nature and Leadership Academy to discuss stormwater projects students can be involved in (storm drain markings, creating a bioswale)
 - Highlights:
 - A-LIST Talks with Adam Armbruster podcast interview

Internal Communications:

- Developing a private eNet page for Public Works staff to provide staff updates and share information (Example: BCC Stormwater report/update)
- Next steps:
- Need to finalize initial concept and show to Spencer for approval.
- Ongoing efforts coordinating with the field services team and the engineering team to schedule photos and videos to show the hard work of the men and women of Stormwater.
- Ongoing project coordination for needed design items.
- Coordinating information sharing meetings with key members of Stormwater team

Web – This page will be continuously updated as we gather more footage of the work in the field. (Link: scgov.net/stormwater)

- July 16: Updated Stormwater FAQs
- Will continue stakeholder meeting with Stormwater team members to ensure accurate and relevant information is published to the website.

Design

- July 16: Stormwater FAQ updated
 - Next steps:
 - Flood flyer, updating text and providing additional translations.
 - Non-branded items listed on scgov.net, updating/removing items not consistent with Sarasota County branding.

Map 1 WCIND Project Area



Phillippi Creek Dredging 2025

