

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is stormwater?

A. Stormwater is runoff from a rainstorm. Urban areas, unlike forests, wetlands, and grasslands, contain great areas of impervious surfaces such as asphalt, concrete and rooftops that prevent water from seeping into the ground. Because of this, large amounts of water accumulate above the surface.

Q. Why is it important to manage stormwater?

A. Stormwater management helps the community in many ways including reducing the potential of flooding into homes and properties. If stormwater is not managed properly, it can cause flooding, pooling, erosion and water pollution. Heavy rains that flood streets and yards can result in property damage. Stormwater runoff also picks up pollutants and debris from streets, parking lots and yards and carries them into nearby bodies of water. In addition, stormwater management must strive to maintain the groundwater table at a level sufficiently high to keep habitat areas and plant life hydrated properly. Excessive discharge of rainwater off the land which results in a low water table level is detrimental to the environment.

Q. What are impervious surfaces?

A. Impervious surfaces are hard or disturbed surfaces that prevent or inhibit the natural entry of water into the soil. Examples of impervious surfaces include but are not limited to the following: building footprints; driveways; parking lots; patios; decks; garages; sheds; brick pavers; asphalt; concrete; gravel; and compacted dirt. Also included are all non-improved (vegetated or grass covered) areas that are used for parking or that are driven upon.

Q. How long will the construction start, and finish?

A. It is estimated that the Griffin Road Area Stormwater Improvement Project (GRASIP) construction will begin in the spring of 2021 and take approximately three months to complete once a Notice to Proceed is issued.

Q. Will trees and other vegetation along the swale/ ditch have to be removed?

A. Yes, in order to properly shape the ditch, most of the vegetation within the drainage easement will have to be removed. The county staff and their contractor will do their best to keep as many native trees as possible but there are no guarantees.

Q. Will I be allowed to plant my own trees in the drainage easement after construction?

A. No, new plantings would obstruct maintenance and have the potential to weaken or even destroy the ditch banks during a weather event.

Q. My street doesn't flood. Why do I need this project?

A. Even if a project doesn't provide direct benefits to your neighborhood, you will likely derive indirect benefits from the project. For instance, flooding in one basin can interfere with your ability to travel across the county or receive timely assistance from public safety crews. Also, it may be necessary to complete downstream stormwater system improvements before it is feasible to address upstream concerns. This segment of ditch is just one small part of a much larger system and all parts must be completed for flood waters to move out of the worst affected areas.