



America's Seaplane City<sup>SM</sup>

# Frequently Asked Questions

## RUBY STREET STORMWATER & BEAUTIFICATION PLAN

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT?

- Reduce pollutants flowing into Lake Dora.
- Use an innovative, yet sustainable treatment approach.
- Provide public education on stormwater pollution issues.
- Enhance the quality of life, community vibrancy, and economic development in the City of Tavares.

### WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?

The Ruby Street project is designed first and foremost to improve and protect the water quality of Lake Dora, which has been designated as an impaired lake by the EPA. Because the City of Tavares is committed to taking the lead on reducing the flow of pollutants into Lake Dora, an innovative and aesthetically pleasing stormwater treatment plan was created, many aspects of which will be the first in State of Florida to be utilized. The project will also be used to inform and educate the public about stormwater pollution issues.

An 8-acre walkable park will be created, which will consist of a series of beautiful "ponds" and wooden bridges, which will actually serve as sustainable stormwater treatment area. Floating flower and fauna mats (Bee Mats) will fill the ponds, which will also contribute to removing pollutants. This cutting-edge stormwater treatment "park" will create a scenic green space addition to downtown.

In addition to the implementation of this innovative stormwater technology, the City of Tavares will be replacing 50-year old drainage pipes and outfalls, which will resolve the flooding issues that currently plague Ruby Street during heavy rains. These heavy rains flood the roadways, spill over to the park and then flow into the lake, carrying the pollutants. These flooded roads make it difficult for residents to walk to the local businesses.

The conclusion of the project will include a complete beautification and streetscape of Ruby Street, including hand-laid Ruby red brick, and comprehensive landscaping and planting of trees. The finished Ruby Street project will be among the most inviting downtown locations in Florida.

### HOW IS THE PROJECT BEING FUNDED?

The City of Tavares sought funding for this project from various sources to support the construction of the system wide utility improvements, and minimize cost to city taxpayers. To date, the City has received funding from the following sources:

- **State of Florida Funding:** Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).
- **TMDL - Water Quality Restoration Program** for the implementation of best management practices to reduce pollutant loads to impaired waters from urban stormwater discharges.
- **319 / LP - grant** thru Florida Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Section for implementation of projects or programs that will help to reduce nonpoint sources of pollutions.
- **SRF - State Revolving Fund loan program** - SRF programs provide financial savings for projects that benefit the environment, including protection of public health and conservation of local watersheds. The City was able to obtain a loan at .37% interest payable over 20 years.
- **Local County Funding:** Lake County Water Authority LCWA - a local with a mission to conserve and protect freshwater resources and provide recreational facilities and education, foster tourism, through more efficient use of resources to better the aquatic ecosystems, and environment in Lake County and improve the community as a whole.

The combined CRA grants, that the City has received, for the stormwater, water, wastewater and reclaimed water improvements totals almost \$2.603 million

### WHAT ARE THE PROJECTED CONSTRUCTION TIMEFRAMES?

- Approximately 450 days to completion
- Project launch is slated for July 8, 2016

The construction of the stormwater park will commence first, while

the first block of Ruby Street through Joanna Street will undergo improvements simultaneously. The drain pipe replacement will proceed block-by-block until completion, ending at Disston and St. Clair Abrams Streets.

## **WHERE CAN THE UPDATED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE BE FOUND?**

An ongoing construction schedule and updates will be housed on the City website at: [Tavares.org](http://Tavares.org).

Updates will also be included in the city utility billing statements, as well as newsletters. Ruby Street businesses will also be informed of the latest information.

You may also request to be added to our email list to receive updated information. Please contact Mandy Wettstein at [mandywettstein@gmail.com](mailto:mandywettstein@gmail.com).

## **WHAT HOURS WILL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE?**

Construction activities may proceed from 7am - 6pm Monday through Friday. Some night and/or weekend work may be required, depending on weather, in order to keep the project on track.

## **HOW MUCH NOISE AND DUST WILL THE CONSTRUCTION GENERATE?**

We anticipate normal noise and dust associate with typical construction. We will have project managers on site who will work with the crews to contain these factors as much as possible. In addition, water sources and other temporary controls on site will be used to limit dust and noise.

## **WHEN WILL THE FIRST TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS AND PARTIAL ROAD CLOSING OCCUR?**

On or around September 5, 2016, we anticipate Ruby Street will be closed from Sinclair Avenue through Joanna Street. Work will proceed quickly in order to reopen this section. From there, the project will proceed down Ruby Street block-by-block. As each section is finished, it will be re-opened. It is important to note that only small sections of Ruby Street will be closed temporarily at any given time. At no time will the entire street will be closed.

## **WILL THE MARINA, BOAT RAMPS AND WOOTON PARK REMAIN OPEN DURING THIS PROJECT?**

Yes, with one exception. In November 2016, we anticipate the Sea Plane basin area will be closed for approximately three weeks. All other operations will remain under normal posted hours.

## **WILL MAIN STREET AND OTHER AREAS OF TAVARES BE AFFECTED?**

No. There may be some slight traffic increases as we re-route entrances to Ruby Street.

## **WILL THE RUBY STREET BUSINESSES BE OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE?**

Yes. All businesses will remain open as normal during the course of this project. While a particular intersection is closed down, directional signage and temporary walkways will be provided so that patrons will have full access to enjoy the Ruby Street experience.

This project has been carefully designed to provide such access to our local businesses, and it is essential that everyone come and enjoy your favorites businesses as you normally would.

## **WILL PARKING BE AFFECTED?**

No. Normal parking areas will still be available. In some cases, alternate access to entry may be provided, but will be clearly posted with directional signage.

## **WILL THE DOWNTOWN TAVARES EVENT SCHEDULE BE AFFECTED?**

No. The construction schedule was carefully developed to accommodate our local event schedule. All planned activities will proceed as normal.

## **WILL ANY WILDLIFE BE AFFECTED BY THIS PROJECT?**

As with any construction project, some wildlife will relocate on its own. We are working with our partner agencies to insure that disruption to wildlife patterns is minimal. The City of Tavares values our wildlife friends, and we will remain highly sensitive to this concern.

## **WHO IS THE CONTACT PERSON FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?**

For more information contact:  
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