

UPCOMING RIVER BEND ROAD AND DRAINAGE PROJECT

In the 2016-17 budget, Council approved funds to replace the 36” culverts under River Bend, at the low water crossing, and to clean out/widen the ditch that runs from Sweetgum near Capital and through the park area down to River Bend. But, as with everything else, Hurricane Harvey put an abrupt halt to this much needed project.

According to Drainage District 6 (DD6) this ditch drains the acreage surrounding it plus some runoff from the south side of River Oaks Boulevard, north to Mosshill, from Shipley west to Riverbend as well as the drainage behind the house at the corner of Sweetgum and the Boulevard as well as the houses on the west side of Riverbend starting at the boulevard going south about three or four houses. This is total of 66 acres that is drained by this ditch and the culvert under Riverbend. On the attached map, the 66 acres is outlined by the solid green line with red dashes to give a better idea of the overall size. The crossing is #33.

The culvert at the low water crossing on Riverbend is a single 36” diameter culvert that had a sewer line running thru the middle of it. This sewer line was removed after the FEMA buyout house was torn down just on the north side of the ditch in question a couple of years back. During heavy rain events, once the runoff gets to River Bend, it immediately encounters a bottleneck and begins to back up causing erosion of the embankments and flooding/damage of the roadway. Often times, the water is deep enough to make it necessary to close the road to thru traffic.

This project will be the combined effort of the City, DD6 and Precinct 1. Upon completion, the single 36” culvert will be replaced with two (2) 48” culverts; the roadway will be elevated by at least 12 inches; embankments will be reinforced with cement stabilized sand to prevent erosion; and, the ditch will be cleaned and widened so it can be kept mowed; and, will be seeded with grass. The two 48” diameter culverts will move about 3.55 times as much water as the single 36” does at this time. The excess dirt from the project will be spread over surrounding areas and seeded as well. As with all road and drainage projects, the City must pay for materials used while DD6 and Precinct 1 provide equipment and labor. The cost to the City for materials for this project will be approximately \$58,700.

These improvements are not expected to totally solve the flooding issues at this crossing. When the bayou rises out of its banks to the level that it exceeds the elevation of River Bend it will, once again, flood the street. But, during heavy rain events, the larger unobstructed culverts and elevated roadway should keep the roadway free under normal circumstances.

Weather permitting, work should start on River Bend within the next couple of weeks. As the culverts are being replaced, it will be necessary to close the street to thru traffic. This should only last a few days and your patience will be greatly appreciated. We believe the end result will be well worth this small inconvenience.

