

Caloosahatchee Connect Project Update

Fall 2020

The Caloosahatchee Connect engineering team began permitting and preliminary engineering to design a reclaimed water transmission main across the Caloosahatchee River from the City of Fort Myers to Cape Coral's Everest Water Reclamation Facility (EWRf). Much of the work happening now is behind the scenes but design team members have been busy working in their areas of expertise on several tasks to bring this project to fruition.

Surveying along Everest Parkway and in Horton Park has been completed. Engineers are designing the reclaimed water pipeline along Everest Parkway and working with Cape Coral staff to finalize the layout and location for a connection to the EWRf. The connection will allow the Fort Myers flow to be distributed to Cape Coral's reclaimed water distribution system, the above ground storage tanks and/or the injection well, if needed.

The team filed for and received authorizations from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct geotechnical borings below the Caloosahatchee River along the proposed pipeline alignment. Environmental surveys were conducted ahead of the permitting to ensure subsurface borings would not impact submerged aquatic resources (e.g. oysters, seagrasses, etc.).

Upon receiving agency approvals, subsurface geotechnical information was gathered to help determine the precise route of the pipeline as it crosses underneath the river. To do this, crews mobilized a truck-mounted drilling rig and mounted it atop a 50-foot long barge using a special drilling platform designed specifically for this job. The drilling team performed sampling operations to depths of up to 120 feet below the surface. Samples the drill team collected from the 10 geotechnical borings are being laboratory tested to gain a better understanding of their properties to help further assist the team with their design of the pipeline route.

With design nearly halfway completed, the appropriate pipe size and pipe material have been selected, along with the proposed alignment and work areas. The design team is using the recently acquired geotechnical data, including the deep borings drilled in the waterway, to optimize constructability of the trenchless crossing. The design will be finalized in 2020, incorporating input from various stakeholders and permitting agencies.

To bring awareness to the cooperative projects between the City of Cape Coral and the City of Fort Myers, a signature brand and logo were created for the projects now known as the Caloosahatchee Connect Project. The logo design represents connection, unity and water. With two interlocking water droplets, the logo stands for the connection of two cities, two communities and two water sources. In addition, it symbolizes the reuse and recycling of water that will occur once the project is complete. It also emphasizes the municipality interaction to accomplish benefits that will serve as an improvement to Cape Coral, Fort Myers and the Caloosahatchee River.

For more information about the history of the project or to learn more about the Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) installation process, please visit the project website at www.CaloosahatcheeConnect.com. You can sign up to receive email updates about the project. For questions or concerns about this project, please contact the Public Information Consultant for the project at (239) 337-1071 or via email at info@CaloosahatcheeConnect.com.



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