



Caloosahatchee Connect *Horizontal Directional Drilling Begins*

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February 2023 - Newsletter #2

In March, contractors for the City of Cape Coral will begin the horizontal directional drill, or HDD, segment that will install reclaimed water main pipe under the Caloosahatchee River to a connection point in Fort Myers. This process will connect the City of Cape Coral's reclaimed water pipe on Everest Parkway to the City of Fort Myers portion of the project.

How Did We Get Here?

In the 2022 Caloosahatchee Connect project newsletter, residents were informed about the 2018 interlocal agreement between the City of Cape Coral and the City of Fort Myers to construct a pipeline across the Caloosahatchee River to transmit up to 12 million gallons per day of reclaimed water from Fort Myers to Cape Coral. The reclaimed water transmission main will reduce nutrient discharges to the river while providing more reclaimed water to Cape Coral. The additional water source will reduce withdrawals from freshwater canals and help maintain water levels during the dry season as well as provide additional irrigation water to residents.

Where Are We Now?

Currently, the City's Everest Parkway contractor is nearing completion of the open cut reclaimed water pipe installation along the north side of Everest Parkway from Horton Park to the Everest Water Reclamation Facility.

The City of Fort Myers' contractors are nearly complete with the installation of the reclaimed water pipeline in Fort Myers while construction continues on a new water reclamation facility at their South Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant that will treat the reclaimed water being sent to Cape Coral.

Cape Coral's remaining work includes the installation of a 7,630-foot reclaimed water transmission main via Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) method.

Stay Informed, Stay Connected

Residents that use Everest Parkway to access their homes are **strongly encouraged** to sign up for weekly look ahead reports to receive up-to-date information about construction detours and intersection closures that will occur between mid-March and the final completion of the HDD expected this fall. To receive email updates and to learn more about the HDD process, please visit the project website at www.CaloosahatcheeConnect.com.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the City's public information consultant for the project, Cella Molnar & Associates, Inc. at 239-337-1071 or via email to info@CaloosahatcheeConnect.com.

To learn more about the project, visit: www.CaloosahatcheeConnect.com

What Residents Need to Know About the HDD Work

HDD is a surface-to-surface pipe installation method with an entrance and exit site at each end of the drill. Limited work areas are needed on each side of the Caloosahatchee River. One drill site will be located in Horton Park in Cape Coral and a second drill site will be located in the green space just south of the Midpoint Bridge in Fort Myers. Using this trenchless technology will allow the new pipeline to be installed while avoiding harm to the environment. To watch a video about the HDD process, please visit the website at www.CaloosahatcheeConnect.com.

The HDD process for this project will consist of several stages including:

Stage 1 – Installation of the Steel Conductor Casings –

Before drilling can begin, the contractor will install large steel casings through the soft, near surface soils to a prescribed depth using a pneumatic hammer designed to push these casings into the ground. Soundwalls and, noise and vibration monitoring equipment will be placed within Horton Park in Cape Coral and within the staging area at 8432 San Marcos located in Fort Myers prior to the casing installations and drilling operations. Residents will hear a loud hammering noise for periods of 45 to 60 minutes while each section of casing is driven. This will occur during daytime hours (Monday-Friday) for approximately 10 to 14 days on each side beginning in mid-March.



Pneumatic hammer attached to steel casing pipe for installation

Stage 2 – Horizontal Directional Drilling Operation – The next major phase of construction will be the drilling operations. The first



To watch a video about the HDD process, visit the website at www.CaloosahatcheeConnect.com.

pass will require drilling equipment to work from both sides of the river and meet in the middle to create the path for the bore. Residents near both drilling operations will hear drill equipment, including pumps, drill rigs and loading equipment for approximately two to three weeks (including weekends) until the first pass is completed. Residents on both sides can anticipate increased truck traffic to the site through this period.

The longest phase of the HDD will be reaming, or enlarging, the bore with a single large drill rig on the Fort Myers side.

This drill rig will be contained within the soundwall enclosure for the duration of drilling. Support equipment, such as cleaning tanks, vacuum trucks, pumps and excavators will be located on the Cape Coral side during this phase. This portion of the drilling is expected to occur for approximately two to three months (including weekends). Residents on the Fort Myers side can anticipate increased truck traffic to the site during this period.



Typical drill rig to be used to conduct HDD Operations

Stage 3 – Pipe Preparation and Pullback – Pipe deliveries and assembly will occur exclusively on the Cape Coral side of the drill along Everest Parkway from SE 17th Ave to Horton Park. In June, the contractor is expected to begin fusing pipe along Everest Parkway so that the pipe can be fully assembled and in place by the time Stage 2 of the HDD Operation is complete. Residents in the Everest Parkway neighborhoods will experience traffic impacts, detours and intersection closures necessary to redirect access to Everest Parkway. The pipe preparation phase will occur at the same time as the Stage 2 HDD Operation and will last approximately 45 to 60 days.



Pipes supported on rollers during fusion operations

The final phase will require that the fully assembled pipe resting on rollers be pulled until the entire pipeline is pulled into the borehole (approximately four to six days for final staging of the pipe and pulling it into the bore). SE 28th Street will be closed for this portion of work and flagmen will be in place to ensure residents have access to their homes.

The above proposed phasing plan is subject to change due to underground conditions, availability of materials and inclement weather.

Access to Driveways

While access to residences will be maintained during the pipe staging, fusing and pull back process, motorists should expect detours and possible delays while crews are actively fusing pipe and pulling pipe. During the pipe fusing stage, several intersections on Everest Parkway will need to be closed.

Intersections on Everest Parkway that are expected to remain open will be as follows:

- SE 20th Place
- SE 23rd Avenue
- SE 25th Street

During the HDD work, areas of Horton Park, including the playground, will be closed to the public due to safety concerns. The Horton Park boat ramp is anticipated to remain open except during the final, or pullback, phase of Stage 3. More information will be provided to residents, boaters and park visitors at a later date.

Fun Fact

When complete, this 7,630-foot reclaimed water transmission main will be the largest and longest subaqueous HDD project using fusible polyvinyl chloride pipe (FPVC) in the world.



c/o Cella Molnar & Associates, Inc.
1631 Hendry Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Caloosahatchee Connect *Horizontal Directional Drilling Begins*




The City of Cape Coral invites you to save the date & plan to attend a *Groundbreaking Ceremony*
for the Horizontal Drill Segment of the Caloosahatchee Connect Reclaimed Water Project

in partnership with the City of Fort Myers

The Ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 23, 2023
at Horton Park & Boat Ramp, 2628 SE 26th Place, Cape Coral FL 33904

We strongly encourage you to visit the project website at www.CaloosahatcheeConnect.com to sign up for weekly email updates during the HDD work. You can also find out more information about the project and the HDD process on the website. If you have questions or concerns about the project, please contact the public information consultant for the project at (239) 337-1071 or via email at info@CaloosahatcheeConnect.com.

 **Cella Molnar & Associates, Inc.**

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