

MANAGER'S MESSAGE



Jesse Maness, Chief, Stormwater Management Division

Welcome to the First Flood Action newsletter... Staff will continue delivering multiple Large Capacity and Neighborhood Spot Improvement projects...

Staff will continue delivering multiple Large Capacity and Neighborhood Spot Improvement projects, performing maintenance on the storm sewer system, and advancing the City's Flood Resilience Plan...

SPOTLIGHT

There's Still Time to Apply: Stormwater Utility Fee Credit Program



Planting a new native tree is an eligible practice for SWU Fee Credit.

This year, many property owners took steps to reduce their Stormwater Utility (SWU) Fee by installing and maintaining eligible flood mitigation and stormwater quality practices...

The SWU Fee provides dedicated funding for stormwater management services and capital projects, including large capacity and spot improvement projects...

Small actions on individual properties can make a meaningful difference citywide... These practices help reduce flooding, improve water quality, and protect the Potomac River...

A variety of solutions are eligible under the program. Outdoor practices, including tree planting, conservation landscaping, and permeable driveways...

Property owners who applied during the 2023-2024 credit cycle are now eligible to renew their credits... City staff sent a reminder email to past applicants...

This month, City staff hosted two informational webinars to present program details and answered questions... Recording of the webinars are now available...

For more information, please visit the SWU Fee website... Property owners with questions about eligible practices are encouraged to contact Stormwater@alexandria.gov

PROJECT UPDATES

LARGE CAPACITY PROJECTS

City Prepares for Utility Relocation Ahead of Commonwealth, Ashby, Glebe Flood Mitigation Project Construction Phase



The City will install a new outlet to discharge stormwater to Four Mile Run near the Coca Kolay outdoor fields.

Flood Action Alexandria is its first large capacity project getting closer to construction. City staff are in the final stretch of the design phase for the Commonwealth, Ashby, Glebe Flood Mitigation project...

The project is a major investment to reduce flooding near the intersections of Commonwealth Avenue and E. Glebe Road, and Ashby Street and E. Glebe Road...

More information about the project is available on the City webpage.

See More Large Capacity Projects ->

NEIGHBORHOOD SPOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

City Prepares for Construction Phase of Edison Cul-de-Sac Drainage Improvement Project and 100 W Reed Avenue Curb Inlet Improvement Project



The City is finalizing utility relocation coordination for a pair of projects to provide flood relief near the Hume Springs neighborhood.

A new storm sewer and inlets along W. Reed Avenue, larger sewer pipes and drains at Four Mile Run and improved inlet connectivity on Dear Street are planned as part of the 100 W Reed Avenue Curb Inlet Improvement Project...

City staff are in the final design phases and expect to complete construction documents by the end of the year. Water and gas main relocations will be required to support the project...

The Edison Street Cul-de-Sac Drainage Improvement Project will see approximately \$1 million invested to expand the capture capacity of the nearby stormwater. The City will also add inlets at the intersection of Edison Street and Mark Drive.

Water and gas utilities will need to be relocated prior to construction to make space for the storm sewer upgrades. City staff anticipate project construction will begin in early 2027 and hold public engagement opportunities ahead of construction to share information about the project.

Funding for this project and the related Edison Street Drainage Improvement Project comes in part from a grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Stormwater Flood Preparedness Fund to accelerate preparations on the future Edison and Dale Large Capacity Project.

Utility Relocation Coordination Continues on Hume Avenue Bypass Project



New storm sewer and inlets will be installed along Raymond Avenue near the intersection with Dewitt Avenue.

City staff are working with utility companies to prepare the area near Mount Jefferson Park for significant upgrades to the storm sewer system as part of the Hume Avenue Bypass Project.

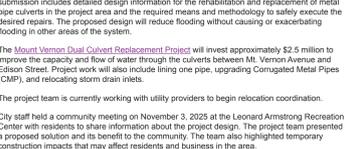
Planned work includes installing a new storm sewer along Hume Avenue to bypass the existing pipe and provide more capacity to catch flood water, along with new storm sewers and inlets along E. Raymond Avenue to capture additional stormwater...

Because of large-scale infrastructure being added to the area, a significant amount of utility relocation will be required along East Raymond, East Dewitt and Mark Drive...

The gas main will be relocated after the fiber relocation work is complete.

The City has reached an agreement with Trust Bank at 2809 Mt. Vernon Avenue to use the co-located parking during construction to reduce the impact on area residents and nearby public parking.

Design Revisions Under Review for Mt. Vernon Cul-de-Sac Inlet and Storm Sewer Improvement Project



The alley near the Mt. Vernon Avenue cul-de-sac will be improved to mitigate flooding near the adjacent homes.

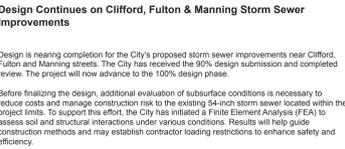
City staff are developing new design plans to reduce flooding near the Mt. Vernon Avenue cul-de-sac.

The approximately \$2 million project will include new inlets and underground storage on Mt. Vernon Avenue to capture and convey more stormwater runoff and upgrades to the parallel alleyway to improve surface drainage to a new inlet system at the lower end of the alley.

Water mains and laterals have been relocated along Mt. Vernon Ave. to make room for the new storm sewer as part of a broader project to upgrade the system by Virginia American Water.

City staff developed an alternative design to address concerns raised by the community last year. Following staff review of construction impacts, the revised design was presented to residents in October 2025. The City will continue to address community concerns about construction impacts, while finalizing development of the revised design and hold additional meetings with residents in the project area prior to the planned start of construction in early 2027.

City Moves Forward with Mount Vernon Dual Culvert Replacement Project



The dual culvert can be seen at the headwall running under Edison Street.

Design plans are underway for a project to mitigate flooding in the area between Mt. Vernon Avenue, W. Reed Avenue, and Edison Street.

City staff are reviewing the 90 percent design plans submitted by the project consultant. The submission includes detailed design information for the rehabilitation and replacement of metal pipe culverts in the project area and the required means and methodology to safely address the desired repairs...

The Mount Vernon Dual Culvert Replacement Project will upgrade approximately \$2.5 million to improve the capacity and flow of water through the culverts between Mt. Vernon Avenue and Edison Street. Project work will also include lining one pipe with Inverted Corrugated Metal Pipes (CMP) and relocating storm drain inlets.

The project team is currently working with utility providers to begin relocation coordination.

City staff held a community meeting on November 3, 2025 at the Leonard Armstrong Recreation Center with residents to share information about the project design. The project team presented a proposed solution and the final design to the community. The team also highlighted temporary construction impacts that may affect residents and business in the area.

Valley Drive Storm Drain Improvement Project



The project will reduce flooding near the intersection Belleme Avenue and Valley Avenue.

The City continues to make significant progress on a project to improve drainage and reduce flooding at Valley Drive, Crestwood Drive, and Dogwood Drive.

As part of the Valley Drive Storm Drain Improvement Project, the City will relocate the current storm drain and align with existing Valley Drive right-of-way. A new storm pipe will be installed along Crestwood Drive to connect with the structure at the intersection with Valley Drive. New curb inlets and manholes will be installed along Crestwood Drive and Summit Avenue to increase capacity.

City staff completed the review of the 60 percent design plans, providing detailed comments to the design contractor. During this review, staff identified that several properties would be impacted by proposed design. In response, the City directed the design consultant to evaluate alternative design options to minimize or avoid property impacts.

As part of the City's community outreach efforts, the project team conducted the first community meeting with residents at Mount Vernon Recreation Center. Staff presented the overall project objectives and provided an update on design progress. During the meeting, the team presented identified utility conflicts, discussed the impact on key design elements, and outlined potential temporary construction impacts that may affect residents.

Design Continues on Clifford, Fulton & Manning Storm Sewer Improvements

Design is nearing completion for the City's proposed storm sewer improvements near Clifford, Fulton and Manning streets. The City has received the 80% design submission and complete review. The project will now advance to the 100% design phase.

Before finalizing the design, additional evaluation of subsurface conditions is necessary to reduce costs and manage construction risk to the existing 54-inch storm sewer located within the project limits. To support this effort, the City has initiated a Finite Element Analysis (FEA) to assess soil and structural interactions under various conditions. Results will help guide construction methods and may establish contractor loading restrictions to enhance safety and efficiency.

The team continues to coordinate with a fiber provider to relocate existing conduits conflicting with the proposed improvements. Due to complexities associated with the proposed relocation approach, the work has been temporarily paused to ensure that the City's analysis minimizes public impact. The City and the third-party fiber utility remain in close coordination, and no schedule impacts to the City's drainage improvement project are anticipated as a result of this pause.

Ahead of this work, the City hosted a community meeting in January 2025 to review the planned fiber relocation, present the final proposed drainage improvements, provide a project status update, and discuss anticipated construction impacts. Meeting invitations were distributed in December.

See More Spot Improvement Projects ->

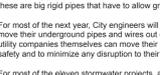
Explore the City's Flood mitigation efforts and find real-time updates. Visit the interactive Project map at alexandriava.gov/floodaction

NEWS

City Prepares Application for Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant

Applications are currently being accepted for a state grant to help fund flood mitigation projects. The Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) Grant is administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation...

The City is submitting applications for Round 6 to help support two projects. Phase 2 of the Four Mile Run and Hooft's Run Inlet Replacement Project and the Valley Drive Storm Drain Improvement Project.



Inlets will be improved as part of the Four Mile Run and Hooft's Run Inlet Replacement Project.

The Phase 2 Four Mile Run and Hooft's Run Inlet Replacement Project will either improve or replace an additional 120 prioritized inlets in the two watersheds. These inlets will be installed to the 75 inlets funded during Phase 1. The City estimates this will allow close to three times as much water to enter the storm drain, reducing water ponding that exacerbates localized flooding issues in the roadway. If awarded, the grant would reimburse up to 50 percent of the estimated \$2,346,000 total project cost.

The Valley Drive Storm Drain Improvement Project will improve drainage and reduce flooding at Valley Drive, Crestwood Drive, and Dogwood Drive.

Since the CFPF grant was established in 2020, the City has received more than \$6.6 million in grants to support six flood mitigation projects, including the Edison Street and Dale Large Capacity Project, which was established to improve the capacity and flow of water through the culverts between Mt. Vernon Avenue and Edison Street...

City of Alexandria to Observe Virginia Flood Awareness Week

Flood Awareness Week is almost here! The City of Alexandria will recognize Virginia Flood Awareness Week from March 8 - 14. Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, this year's theme of "Know your risk. Protect your property. Get flood insurance..." encourages residents to learn about flood risk and promotes the need for flood insurance...

Flood Action Alexandria was launched as an initiative in 2021 to mitigate flooding issues through capital project implementation and maintenance programs. Citywide projects through Flood Action Alexandria qualifies residents and property owners for reduced flood insurance rates, for example. The Flood Mitigation Grant program is also a part of this initiative, offering up to 50% of the total costs of measures and associated costs for properties that install eligible floodproofing practices.

Flood insurance can be purchased by contacting an insurance agent or visiting FloodSmart.gov for insurance options.

Anywhere that rains there is potential for flooding. To know if you are in a flood risk area visit the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Flood Risk Information System.

More information about Virginia Flood Awareness Week is available at www.dcr.virginia.gov/flood.

Flood Awareness banner with text: 'Anywhere it can rain it can flood. Are you ready? dcr.virginia.gov/flood'

COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE WORK

STORMWATER AND SANITARY MAINTENANCE November - December

Infographic showing maintenance statistics: Inspected and Maintained 44 stormwater outfalls, 44 sanitary manholes, 13,006 lbs of debris removed, 4 months inspected or repaired, 85 stormwater inlets, 85 best management practices (BMP), 23 alexandria service requests.

FROM THE FLOOD ACTION ADVISORY GROUP

The Flood Action Program is making Alexandria more flood resilient. But...no one said this was going to be easy.

At the Stormwater Advisory Committee meeting on January 21, 2026, we got some good news and some bad news. Let me start with the good news: right now, there are eleven moderate-sized flood-proofing projects that will soon complete their design stage and can begin actual construction...

While her day-to-day focus is on environmental quality in Alexandria - specifically noise and air quality - Abwood now works across multiple City departments to create innovative and hands-on programs for Alexandria youth as one of the lead coordinators for initiatives such as Earth Month and the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE). Her process centers opportunities for residents to learn about ways they can positively impact the environment. Earth Month, which allows her to work closely with different teams, including the Stormwater Management Division, provides a wide variety of ways for residents to get involved and learn about environmental topics.

When talking about the MWEE, Abwood said, "Developing the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience is the most rewarding project because it weaves outdoor experiences with a classroom curriculum. During the MWEE, Stormwater Division staff work with ACPD educators to help students learn the importance of protecting water quality and put classroom lessons into action through a field trip to the watershed at Ben Brennan Park. During the trip, students work together to test water quality and discuss ways they can have a positive impact on our environment."

Outside of work, she enjoys her family time of visiting relatives, swimming, camping, and skiing with her outdoor pals. A year-round soccer player, she also spends time juggling air playing with her dog, Meeka Mocha.

Melissa Abwood with family.

The Flood Action Alexandria newsletter is produced by City staff. Email us at Stormwater@alexandria.gov

