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quick facts on...

# Hillsboro Canal Bank Stabilization Project

JANUARY 2012

**The South Florida Water Management District** is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

**Our Mission** is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.

The South Florida Water Management District is responsible for operating and maintaining the regional water management system that provides flood control and protects water supplies for South Florida's 7.7 million residents. Flowing along the county line between Palm Beach and Broward counties, the Hillsboro (G-8) Canal is a major component of the regional system. The District has begun a multiyear effort to ensure a 7.6-mile section of the canal can effectively move water as designed for another 50 years.

## Repairs Needed to Ensure Flood Protection

The SFWMD's Operations, Maintenance and Construction Division conducts regular inspections of the regional water management system — which includes more than 1,600 miles of canals — to prioritize projects necessary for the system's continued operation.

Through the inspection program, the District identified the need to repair and protect the banks of the Hillsboro Canal. Over decades of



*Bank erosion on the Hillsboro Canal contributes to the buildup of sediment around coastal structures, such as the G-56 (above) located on the eastern end of the canal just west of Military Trail.*

service, extended sections of the canal banks have eroded or detached from the bank slope and fallen into the canal. These bank failures limit the flow of water in the canal, creating the potential for flooding impacts in Palm Beach and Broward counties during a major storm or hurricane.

Bank erosion is also known to contribute to the buildup of sediment around coastal structures, such as the G-56 on the eastern end of the Hillsboro Canal. Accumulated sediment needs to be removed to ensure that these structures can provide adequate flood control protection.

The Hillsboro Canal Bank Stabilization Project will address these issues through canal bank repairs and dredging that will improve the stability of the canal banks and restore the canal to its intended capacity. The District is designing a cost-effective solution that will also maximize flood protection for surrounding areas.



*The Canal Bank Stabilization project will repair banks along the Hillsboro Canal and dredge a 7.6-mile section — from about Military Trail to 3 miles west of U.S. 441 — to ensure water can be moved through the canal to maximize flood protection.*

### Need to Clear Portions of the Right-of-Way

The Hillsboro Canal’s right-of-way extends several feet landward from the top of the canal bank. The placement of encroachments such as trees, docks and fences within the District right-of-way requires a Right-of-Way Occupancy Permit, which is a revocable license (Chapter 40E-6, Florida Administrative Code). Some residents who live along the Hillsboro Canal have planted vegetation or added structures such as boat docks within the District’s right-of-way along the canal.

To guarantee the integrity of the Hillsboro Canal Bank Stabilization Project, the District will need to remove some of these encroachments. Residents may be able to replace some of the



The Hillsboro Canal’s right-of-way extends several feet landward from the top of the bank. The placement of encroachments such as a boat dock have caused the bank slope to erode or become detached and fall into the canal.



Planting vegetation or trees along the canal’s right-of-way may cause portions of the bank to fall into the canal, limiting water flow and creating the potential for flooding during major storms.

structures following completion of the canal bank stabilization project, provided the structures meet the regulatory and project operation/maintenance requirements.

Many — but not all — of the structures that could be removed have been permitted by the District. These permits protect the District’s ability to effectively and safely use canal and levee rights-of-way in the regional system while providing for compatible public and private uses.

### A Right-of-Way Occupancy Permit:

- Conveys no property rights to the permittee but acknowledges that the requested use is consistent with the applicable rules and District missions
- Is required prior to connecting with, placing structures in or across, discharging into or making use of the canal and levee system or “Works of the District” and certain other canals and works
- Can be revoked if the permitted use interferes or will interfere with the construction, alteration, operation or maintenance of present or proposed works or lands of the District
- Applies to rights-of-way acquired for the canal and levee system that makes up the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Central and Southern Florida Project and other canals and works

### For More Information ...

More information on the Hillsboro Canal Bank Stabilization Project is available at [www.sfwmd.gov/pbco](http://www.sfwmd.gov/pbco).

Palm Beach County residents with questions may contact Laura Corry, SFWMD Outreach Representative, at [lcorry@sfwmd.gov](mailto:lcorry@sfwmd.gov) or (561) 682-6012 or Pam Mac’Kie, SFWMD Intergovernmental Representative, at [pmackie@sfwmd.gov](mailto:pmackie@sfwmd.gov) or (561) 682-2655.

Broward County residents with questions may contact Carole Morris, SFWMD Intergovernmental Representative, at [cmorris@sfwmd.gov](mailto:cmorris@sfwmd.gov) or (954) 452-4814, ext. 4987.

### Approximate Timeframe for Project Implementation

- Design – January 2012 through March 2013
- Construction – June 2013 through March 2015



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[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)

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