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Groveland CSD

Press Release

Mary Laveroni Park Restoration Update 4/26/2018

As we are all painfully aware, the March 22 flash floods caused severe damage to a number of important properties and facilities owned by the CSD. Our sewer system was inundated by massive amounts of stormwater, overwhelming and overflowing several of our sewage pumping stations. Concrete sewer manholes in drainage areas were broken off causing stormwater and debris to enter the system uncontrollably. Some CSD roads were washed out, and pipes blew apart nearly causing overflow of the wastewater plant holding pond. Water ran several feet deep in and around the lower section of Mary Laveroni Park, inundating and undermining the foundation of the concession stand and amphitheater. The entire lower parking lot washed away down the creek, much of which was then deposited on the grassy area of the lower park. Deep ruts have been created by the flowing water throughout much of the lower park.

Initial estimates for cleaning up the asphalt and debris in the park, and filling the ruts with gravel, total nearly \$130,000. This cost does not include replacement of the concession stand, water, electrical or other lower park fixtures. The CSD has insurance to cover its structures, however the deductible is \$250,000. The District park funding or cash available is nowhere near enough to pay for these repairs. We are working with the county, state and FEMA in an attempt to secure funding for restoration of the park and infrastructure damaged by the storm; but if successful, this funding could take many months to receive. We also need to consider whether buildings in the flooded area need to be relocated away from the creek, or rebuilt to withstand flood waters in the future. As a government agency, we are required to closely adhere to the many onerous state water quality permitting and environmental laws associated with filling areas, or building adjacent to the creek.

The time and effort associated with the planning, permitting and securing funding for the restoration of the park is what has resulted in the delay of repair/reopening of the lower park area. Please know that we intend to do everything in our power to secure the needed money and clearances to restore the park. We are spending public tax dollars, so we must do so carefully and with public safety in mind. Please keep out of the dangerous areas blocked off with temporary fencing. We will open areas of the park as they are made accessible and cleared of hazards to the public. Things are looking up, as we are beginning to receive interest and involvement in a formal fundraising campaign for park restoration, and have received offers of donated equipment and manpower from the community! Please stay tuned to see how you can help with funding or in organized volunteer efforts.

*Sincerely,
GCSD staff*
