

City Talk for June 8, 2022

Public Works Department

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### **Stormwater Master Plan receives an update**

Advances in technology have changed how we live, recreate and work. One way we're seeing this exemplified at City Hall is in the finalization of our Stormwater Master Plan Update that uses the latest technology in software and data collection to better inform the existing conditions used in the modeling of stormwater maps that are the bedrock of the plan. More specifically, this Master Plan Update better represents where water will flow, how much water could flow down a particular wash or drainage, how fast the water could move and potentially how deep. Because of this, our stormwater maps will be changing in the near future to reflect this new information.

JE Fuller, an engineering consultant who specializes in storm water engineering in the southwest, has spent the last two years updating our existing Stormwater Master Plan from 2005. The new plan will not only include more accurate modeling but will also take into account the extensive changes in the form of new development, improved/new stormwater facilities, and natural changes to the terrain as a result of erosion that we've seen since the last plan was completed.

This Master Plan also reflects the infrastructure that is currently in place, the existing culverts, developments and the many improvement projects the city has constructed. The consultant conducted storm drain system inventory from archives and field checks, updated rainfall statistics and received recent digital topography from Yavapai County and other parameters. Part of the Master Plan Update also included extensive public outreach. This resulted in the identification of numerous potential flood hazard locations.

The consultant and city staff identified several significant additions, changes and improvements to the stormwater infrastructure, conveyance corridors and storage facilities in and around the city. These changes have significantly altered some flow paths, peak flows and flooding frequency/magnitude in known and observed flood hazard areas. Some of the assumptions and conclusions made during the 2005 study are no longer applicable due to these changes. A highly detailed two-dimensional hydrologic assessment of the city's drainage infrastructure and drainage corridor capabilities will be illustrated on easy-to-read maps on the city website. If there is a change in the flood mapping of your property, whether it is residential or commercial, you will be notified. In addition to maps on the website, we will hold a public meeting at the end of June for people who would like to see the maps in person.

The results of the Stormwater Master Plan Update and the information received from the public input will be used by the city in prioritizing stormwater mitigation capital improvement projects in the near future. This information will also be available to city residents and property owners for their use in obtaining flood insurance, assessing home improvement projects and additions, or determining why a lot is still not developed -- to name a few.

The Stormwater Master Plan Update will be completed this month and the information will be uploaded to the city's website in late July after completing the public outreach. The Master Plan's updated maps will better reflect the existing conditions within the city, thanks to technological advances, and therefore will help with smarter development in the years to come. For additional information, including the soon-

to-be-added Stormwater Master Plan Update, please visit our stormwater webpage at [www.sedonaaz.gov/stormwater](http://www.sedonaaz.gov/stormwater).