



Frequently Asked Utility Questions Lockwood Ridge/Ashton Community

What projects are planned in the Lockwood Ridge/Ashton community?

There are three (3) coordinated and interrelated Capital Improvement Projects planned in this community:

1. **Phillippi Creek Septic System Replacement Program (Area O/P)** – this project will provide central sewer service to your neighborhood and central water service, where it is not currently available.
2. **Lockwood Ridge Interconnect Forcemain (LRIF)** – this project involves the tie-in of a forcemain (sewer pipe) to the existing forcemain currently in the right-of-way along Lockwood Ridge Road, which will carry wastewater flows from various areas of the county to one of the county’s regional water reclamation facilities for treatment.
3. **Siesta Key Master Pump Station and Forcemain (SKMPS&FM)** – this project involves installing a forcemain to the mainland to carry wastewater flow into the regional collection system to one of the water reclamation facilities. A master pump station will be built on the existing plant property to pump the flow to the mainland. This project allows this facility to be decommissioned.

Why are these planned in my neighborhood?

All three of these projects are interrelated and part of the overall utility master plan to remove package plants and septic systems from service, by providing the necessary utility infrastructure and central sewer service to residences in the unincorporated county.

Area O/P will consist of small diameter, shallow vacuum sewer lines throughout the neighborhoods identified in Area O/P. With traditional gravity sewer installation, roads would have to be completely closed and the pipes are buried very deep, causing a major disruption to the neighborhood. Vacuum sewer technology is best suited in existing neighborhoods where retro-fit projects are difficult. Along with the vacuum lines, a vacuum pump station (building where flow is gathered and re-pumped) will be constructed to collect the flow and pump it to one of the regional water reclamation facilities for treatment. The proposed vacuum pump station is planned to be located at an existing county facility, Water Pump Station #3, located on Ruby Lane, at the end of a dead end street with an earthen berm surrounding the south side of the property. The county has three existing 1.5 million gallon tanks on this property that have been in this location since the 1970’s.

Lockwood Ridge Interconnect Forcemain (LRIF) is an integral part of the utility planning efforts. The interconnect of this new forcemain with the existing 20” forcemain running in the right-of-way along Lockwood Ridge Road will allow the utility to divert wastewater flow to one of two regional water reclamation facilities (WRF), the Bee Ridge WRF or Central County WRF for treatment. This is important so the utility can maximize the flow to each of the regional facilities, thereby delaying costly plant expansions. The tie-in will consist of an above-ground meter assembly, approximately 30’ in length, and about 2 ½’ above ground. It is a completely enclosed pipe system and will be surrounded by a fence.

The final project, the Siesta Key Master Pump Station and Forcemain (SKMPS&FM), allows the county to decommission a wastewater treatment facility, located on a barrier island. Currently over 1 million gallons per

day of wastewater is treated to an advanced treatment level as defined by The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and is disposed of in surface waters. Over the past decade, the minimum levels of treatment for surface water discharge have become increasingly more difficult for this facility to meet. The plant will have no means of effluent disposal if it cannot meet the treatment levels. In addition, this facility was acquired by the county through a contractual arrangement in 2007 and was in some disrepair. The utility master plan shows it is in the best interest of the county and the utility ratepayers to remove this facility from service and treat it at the mainland at two of the regional facilities.

Why do we have to take sewage from Siesta Key and other areas outside of our community?

The vacuum pump station associated with Area O/P will treat only the flows from your neighborhoods. The LRIF carry wastewater flows from many different areas, such as Siesta Key, growth along US41 and Stickney Point Road, and new development planned at US41 and Constitution Blvd.

It is very common that forcemains carry flow from many different areas of the county through collection systems, and then pump the flow to a regional facility for treatment. Utility infrastructure is not sized for each individual community. Larger infrastructure, creating the backbone of the network system, has to be available to pump flow from neighborhoods out to treatment plants.

Why can't the plant stay on-line on Siesta Key like it is now?

The plant treats its wastewater to an advanced level which allows it to be discharged to surface waters however, meeting these state requirement is increasingly becoming more difficult as the plant is nearing its useful life. The plant is in disrepair and is currently undergoing small capital improvements just to continue to meet treatment levels for the next several years. In addition, the utility master plan identified this facility to come off-line and be decommissioned with flow being pumped to the mainland for treatment at the Bee Ridge or Central County WRFs.

What is the current status of the three projects?

Area O/P is at 90% design for the wastewater and 60% design for the water portion of the project. The Lockwood Ridge Interconnect is at 60% design and the Siesta Key Master Pump Station and Forcemain is at 30% design.

Do other neighborhoods have the same utility pipes as you are planning for this area?

Yes, throughout Sarasota County neighborhoods, there is a vast network of water, wastewater and reclaimed water pipes that make up the utility system.

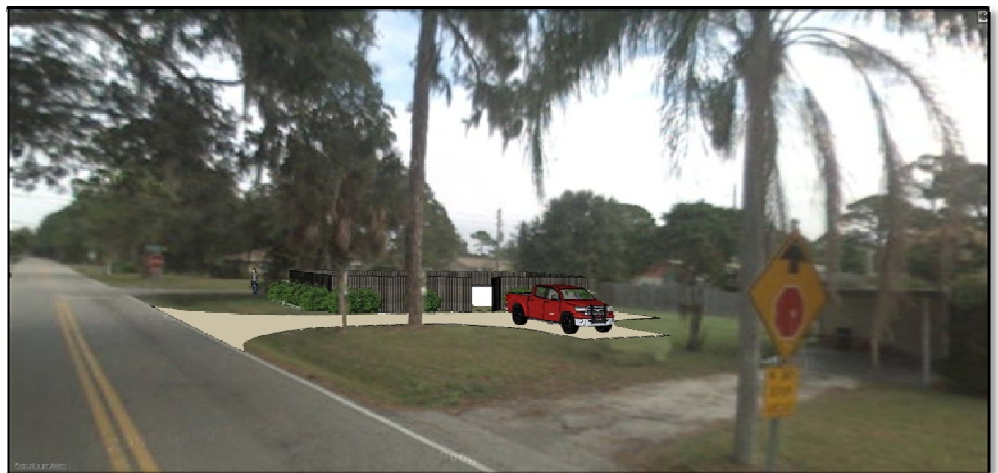


Photo Simulation

When do we anticipate construction starting in your neighborhood as a result of these projects?

Area O/P will not start construction for about two years as it is dependent on securing a loan (State Revolving Funds) from the State of Florida. It is anticipated that the earliest construction could occur is late 2012 or 2013. Portions of the other two projects will be done at the same time as Area O/P to avoid multiple disruptions to the

neighborhood. Construction within these areas for all three projects is not anticipated to take more than twelve to eighteen months. When all construction is complete, the community will receive the benefit of new asphalt overlay on the roads where work was performed.

What other pipes already exist in this area?

A 20” forcemain has been in place for over 10 years that runs within the right-of-way on Lockwood Ridge Road. In addition, an 8” forcemain runs along Ashton Road. The proposed 20” forcemain will connect to the existing 20” forcemain on Lockwood Ridge Road. Flow throughout the county runs through the existing forcemains.

Why was this route chosen? Have other routes been investigated? Where are they? What are the costs?
 The selected route and other alternative routes were investigated (see attached graphic) and are briefly described below:

Selected Route: The selected route was chosen as it is the most economical option considering construction along Ashton Road is unavoidable since central sewers will be installed. Vacuum lines will collect area wastewater and a force main will transfer that collected wastewater to the existing 20" diameter transmission main. The interconnect is occurring where a proposed new line coming down Ashton Road will tie into the existing 20" diameter force main that is on Lockwood Ridge. The presence and use of the existing sewer line, availability of property, County ownership of right-of-ways, cost of construction, and phasing of new construction within the immediate area were among the main reasons this site was selected for the interconnect/metering location.

Alternate Route #1 (Lockwood Ridge and Proctor Road): Rather than put multiple pipes in a common trench, the force main carrying both Siesta Key and Area O/P flows could be sent north up Swift Road to Proctor and then east to Lockwood Ridge. Swift and Proctor are both major arterial roads that experience heavy traffic volumes and serve as a major corridor in the county. The pipe line length would nearly double that of the selected route. Extensive maintenance of traffic would need to be implemented. An initial estimate for this route is nearly \$1.5 million dollars more than the selected route. This additional cost does not include re-design, property acquisition, pumping costs and long-term operational considerations.

Alternate Route #2 (Clark Road and Lockwood Ridge): This route would consist of a 20" diameter force main carrying only Siesta Key flows and new development from the US 41 and Stickney Point and Constitution Blvd. Area O/ P flows would still travel down Ashton to Lockwood Ridge by use of a smaller force main (8" to 10" in diameter). The new 20" diameter force main could be constructed south down Swift Road to Clark Road and then east to Lockwood Ridge. As with the first Alternative above, Swift Road is a major county arterial road. Clark Road is a State road controlled by the Florida Department of Transportation. In the event the State does any work to this road, the county’s utility lines would have to be moved and relocated at the county’s expense. For this reason, most utility companies will stay outside of the boundaries of State roads. Extensive maintenance of traffic is also an issue under this route. The pipeline within Clark Road would need to be constructed nearly 25 to 30’ deep, substantially increasing the construction costs by nearly \$1.5 million dollars. As with Route #1, this additional cost does not include re-design, property acquisition, pump costs and long-term operational considerations for the utility.

I am concerned about sewage spills. Can you guarantee a break in the pipe won’t occur?

It would be unrealistic to guarantee that a pipe break could not occur. In calendar year 2010, the county treated over 3,600,000,000 gallons of wastewater. The amount that spilled throughout the county over the 12-month period was 0.015 percent.

Will the metering assembly proposed at the county property on Lockwood Ridge Road and Ashton Road have an odor?

The above ground metering assembly is a completely enclosed pipe with no air gap (vents) and will not emit an odor.

Will county staff be available to answer our questions and concerns regarding these projects?

Yes, county staff plans to schedule meetings to review these projects in detail with the property owners residing in your neighborhood.



Medium Meter Assembly



If you have any questions, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or TTY 941-861-1833 and ask for information on Phillippi Creek Septic System Replacement Program.