



For Immediate Release

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Titusville Water Resources Stops Sewer Main Leak at Sand Point Park

TITUSVILLE, FL - (December 31, 2020) – Over a five-day period, The City of Titusville Water Resources Department worked to complete one of the most complex repairs of its wastewater system experienced in 20 years: a leak in a sanitary sewer main located 15 feet below the surface of a stormwater pond and covered by a concrete slab.

After receiving odor complaints and reports of dead fish in a stormwater pond in Sand Point Park, Titusville Water Resources personnel inspected the western stormwater pond in the park. Although no typical signs of a sewer break were detected, when further investigation revealed no alternative source for the problem, City crews worked to expose the sewer force main located 15 feet below the surface of the pond. Once examined, it was determined that the main was leaking. Effecting repairs to the pipe were complicated not only because of its underwater location, but also because a 7' x 55' x 3' concrete slab covered the pipe. Since jackhammering the slab could lead to catastrophic failure of the pipe, the pipe had to be cut and new piping routed around the slab. In addition, repairs had to be made under time pressure as sewage flow from the contributing lift stations had to be shut down to complete the repair. By Christmas Eve the new line was connected and the repair completed.

According to Water Resources Director Sean Stauffer, it took staff from multiple City departments working in conjunction with the emergency contractor, Gregori Construction Inc., on an around-the clock basis to successfully complete one of the most complex projects the utility had ever faced. "Without this team approach, we could not have succeeded. I want to thank everyone who helped on this project and provided solutions to a very complex problem. I especially appreciate the crews who worked during the holidays to get this repair done," said Stauffer.

Titusville has been able to contain the majority of the discharge from the spill in the stormwater pond in which the sewer main was located and in a nearby stormwater pond by construction an earthen dam, thereby minimizing the impacts to the Indian River Lagoon. The dam is checked twice daily to ensure stability. Signs have been posted at the ponds informing residents of the presence of bacteria in the water.

Approximately 244,000 gallons of contaminated water from the ponds has been recovered as of December 30 and sent to the City's Blue Heron Water Reclamation Facility for treatment. Three aeration systems have been installed in the Sand Point Park stormwater treatment ponds and two aeration systems in Space View Park's stormwater treatment pond. Aeration will accelerate the natural cleansing process provided in the stormwater treatment ponds. Testing and clean-up efforts will continue until water quality in the ponds returns to normal.

Analyses are being conducted to determine an estimate of the total amount of sewage discharged to the stormwater treatment ponds. The City of Titusville continues to work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to minimize any detrimental effects to the area.