

Citizen Comments

April 18th - Neighborhoods along Newmarket Creek and Back River

[Consultant Presentation](#)

Table 1

- Concerns
 - What was the historic depth of the creek? Does dredging creek make a difference?
 - Lee Heights (in Aberdeen)
 - Ewell Court; Newmarket Creek runs behind home
 - Flooding in major storm e.g. Nor'easter
 - Water/flooding in sun room
 - Duration of flood varies
 - Evans Street (in Aberdeen)
 - Residents living along the creek + ditch experience flooding
 - Residents across the street do not have the same experience
 - New development at Briarfield and Queen (in Aberdeen) makes Lee Heights less prone to flooding
 - Winchester Drive (Northampton Area)
 - 2 ditches that convene @ Bethel church
 - Pipes are overburdened
 - Back of church and parking lot floods
 - Entire area becomes a lake
 - Drainage falls toward Bethel Church parking lot and floods
 - Frequency: Nor'easters
 - 4" rains leads to flooding – heavy rain
 - Solution: improved drainage
 - School at Jefferson and South (in Newport News) causing a lot of runoff from storms that goes to Hampton
 - Wetlands need protecting
 - **Northampton and Churchill** – ditches need cleaning
 - **Cynthia and Headrow** – drainage backs up here
- Solutions
 - Tide gates on stormwater outfalls would keep tidal flooding out of neighborhoods
 - Tax breaks for properties in flood zone
 - Improve embankment
 - Dredge and pipe
 - Citizen steering committee for direction and oversight,
 - And tiger teams, for doing
 - Marketing ideas:
 - News, phone calls (e.g. trash schedule change)
 - Moratorium on development in sensitive areas (e.g. cat 1/cat 2) until we get it under control/understood
 - Tide gates on outfall pipes
 - Opportunity to create a floodable area at **Kraft School**
 - **Winchester and Berkshire** – drain needed here

- **Winchester and Benjamin** – drain needed here to carry water towards Benjamin
- **Willowtree**: \$800k removal of sediment and phosphorus... useless because it will not solve flooding along Winchester; city must improve ditches and better defined/improved drainage system using pipes.

Table 2

- Concerns
 - **Kathanne and Friendly** – floods during rain events, lasts less than one day
 - **Wheatland and Woodbridge** – tidal flooding and storm, lasts less than 12 hours. Better after Sandy Point
 - **Michele Drive at E. Little Back** – tidal and rain flooding, lasts 3-5 hours, from under King St.
 - **Charlton** – rain, tidal, storm event flooding, lasts less than 12 hours, Nor'easters are longer
 - **Mercury Boulevard Bridge** – Prevents water flow
 - **Charlton and Mercury** – storm and some tidal flooding
 - School in Newport News is a concern
 - Water on NN/Hampton border
- Solutions
 - Widen and deepen drainage ditch at Wheatland and Woodbridge
 - Clean ditches/drainage swales
 - Close the channel at Factory inlet
 - Retention ponds
 - No more development of wetlands
 - Reduce impervious areas, add more pervious surfaces

Table 3

- Concerns
 - **Briarwood Terrace** – water comes in from creek inland
 - Floods all the streets – Wildwood, Bowen Drive 111-121, loss of power
 - Floods come from rain events + high tide and last more than 2 hours
 - Floods also come from natural events (Nor'easters)
 - Floods come from everything
 - Causes:
 - Coliseum Central buildings (since area developed there has been more flooding)
 - Built housing developments around creek, e.g. Paula Maria
 - Creating erosion
 - Less drainage (water has nowhere to go)
 - Development near Hampton High
 - Flooding on **Jodys** along the creek
- Solutions
 - Find a place for water to go to protect homes
 - Clean ditches along creek (priority)

- Dredging/rocking the banks/concrete (priority)
- Newport News drainage flowing into Hampton
- Partner with Newport News
- Place to store the water along creek in NHD
- Pumping stations
- Do what Riverdale did
- Put information/presentation/notes on Nextdoor/Notes
- Move transformer
- Move cars to higher ground
- There are many possible places to store water in open spaces along the creek – end of Arrollton Dr, end of Bowen for example

Table 4

- Concerns
 - Applied to have house raised and was denied
 - Should not have built Home Depot
 - Storm drains get covered
 - **King Street** bridge (loading to base) closes in floods
 - **Percy and King St**
 - **Tyburn and King St**
 - **Walkers Landing and King St**
 - Langley Base floods; damages equipment – effects livelihood
 - **Gateway and LaSalle** (leading to base)
 - **Shoreline** – houses get flooding from river before the street
 - **Gilbert** – sewer line blew from flooding
 - Water starts at Gilbert at Eagle point – dip in the road
 - Streets between **Overton and Charlton**
 - **Woodbridge** (and houses surrounding on the water)
 - **LaSalle and Mercury**
 - **Broad Street, Gildner, Reed**
 - **Linda, Ramsay, Marple**

- Solutions
 - When Factory Point was fixed, flooding stopped (shoreline reinforced for breakwaters). Some say can't prove the breaks helped, but just because the city won't pay for a study to prove it's not happening, doesn't mean it's not happening
 - Many people want a gate, but it is expensive
 - Look at outfalls and make sure they are getting water out when tides goes down
 - Move moveable, flexible roads with room underneath for water

Table 5

- Concerns
 - **Armistead bridge** floods in front of Home Depot
 - Flooding under crawl spaces because of a neighbor's driveway and ditch on Marple Lake (use to be daycare)
 - Heavy rain, concern 3x a year on average

- **Rockwell Road** floods toward Gosnold Hope Park – tidal and rain flooding
- On Bowen, transformer has bust. Power off for 3 weeks during Isabel. Was lifted by DE, used as a yardstick
- **Scher and Bowen** areas
- Solutions
 - Dig out ditch in front of the new driveway (Marple)
 - Would like a place to park cars during hurricane in their neighborhood (Gosnold Hope Park, Langley Elementary?)
 - Increase depth of ditches close to Newport News boundary
 - Rec: budget, councilmen, etc. attend meetings
 - Dredging and wider channels

Table 6 (attendees outside of topic neighborhoods)

- Concerns:
 - The City did not protect its wetlands and we are paying for it now.
 - Find other ways to fund raising homes outside of FEMA \$
 - The process needs to be improved. Better experts and contractors in the process
 - Does FEMA reject homes for raising if they are not up to the building code?
 - The base is done for. The slightest threat of water and they close.
 - Flooding became worse with Home Depot and townhomes
 - Flooding did not occur around **Todds Lane and Big Bethel Road** until homes were built around there.
 - Powhatan Park – Newmarket Creek backs up into ditch (during Nor'easters, not when it rains)
 - Tidal flooding and rain leads to erosion and silting of ditches – permeable pavers might help.
 - **Dandy Point and Beach Road** floods – not the homes, but the intersection.
 - Takes about half a day to clear, and typically occurs in big storms like hurricanes and Nor'easters
 - Raising the street 6" would be a huge improvement
 - The city cannot always get on property to do ditch maintenance (when on private property and owners will not allow).
 - Issue with individuals filling in their piece of the ditch – impairs the rest of the system's ability to convey water.
 - Biggest concern is storm surge from hurricanes and Nor'easters –wind makes it much worse
 - This occurs about 4x a year
- Possible solutions:
 - Improve and maintain ditch system
 - Nuisances and serious issues are different and should be treated differently
 - How big a dyke would you have to build for it be effective?