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Sleepy Lagoon neighborhood gets funding boost from FEMA

A Longboat Key neighborhood will receive $400,000 of the $94 million FEMA is granting Florida.

By S.T. Cardinal | 8:00 a.m. November 2, 2026



Buttonwood Harbour and Sleepy Lagoon neighborhoods are among those most prone to flooding during high tide.
File image

LONGBOAT KEY NEWS

Design plans for drainage improvements to the Sleepy Lagoon neighborhood are nearly complete, and now, the town has a six-figure check on the way to pay for those plans.



“It backs up into the storm drains, and if we have a big rain it’ll just sit for days and days and days sometimes. The roads needed to be built a little higher and the drainage was never sufficient,” Karon said. “It just doesn’t drain, and it makes it really difficult. The yards just turn into bogs and driveways will get swamped. It kind of differs from house to house, but it just wasn’t done right when it was first developed.”

The planned improvements are part of a larger resiliency effort in the town that includes infrastructure improvements in the Village and Buttonwood neighborhoods, as well as two distinct separate Sleepy Lagoon resiliency projects: one on General Harris Street, Marbury Lane and Norton Street and the other on De Narvaez Drive, Juan Anasco Drive and Bayview Drive.

The town has already signed a $328,225 contract with civil engineering firm HR Green to complete design work for improvements to Juan Anasco, De Narvaen and Bayview Drives.

In March, the community was invited to the Bayfront Park Recreation Center to see plans for Sleepy Lagoon improvements and a presentation from HR Green. The project plans to raise the roads in a wave-shaped pattern, with valleys at the current elevation and peaks of 11 inches on De Narvaez and Juan Anasco Drives and 10 inches on Bayview Drive. Improvements would also include the installation of three additional stormwater outfall pipes.

Longboat Key Town Manager George Landry said the town has requested more information from FEMA on what the recent $400,000 FEMA grant is eligible for.

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According to an August update on the projects, the total cost for the next construction phases for all of the town's resiliency projects is $27.98 million. The town's five-year capital improvement plan estimates the total cost coming in at $34.3 million. The town has applied for additional grants to move those projects forward, and the $400,000 FEMA grant may lead to other grant opportunities.

"Having this money come from FEMA, that will open up the door for some federal grant money once we have a complete design," Landry said. "A lot of times you have to have a project that's what they consider shovel ready to be able to compete for grants. So we might be able to find ourselves with some resiliency grants or some other state or federal grants to help us fund these projects."

Progress report

The town of Longboat Key's neighborhood resiliency efforts are split into nine separate projects in three neighborhoods. Below is the status of each project, all of which are aimed at improving stormwater drainage.

- **Norton Street:** Design complete, $2.6 million estimated construction cost
- **Longboat Village phase 1:** Design work underway, $3.4 million estimated construction cost
- **Longboat Village phase 2:** Design at 50%, $1.1 million estimated construction cost
- **Longboat Village phase 3:** Design has not begun, $3.1 million estimated construction cost
- **Longboat Village phase 4:** Design has not begun, $2.8 million estimated construction cost
- **Sleepy Lagoon (General Harris, Marbury, Penfield):** Design work underway, $6.3 million estimated construction cost
- **Sleepy Lagoon (De Narvaez, Juan Anasco, Bayview):** Design at 90%, $4.34 million estimated construction cost
- **Buttonwood (Buttonwood Drive and Winslow Place):** Design complete, $3.3 million estimated construction cost
- **Buttonwood (Longview, Buttonwood, Monroe):** Design complete, $1.04 million estimated construction cost



AUTHOR

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S.T. "Tommy" Cardinal is the Longboat Key news reporter. The Sarasota native earned a degree from the University of Central Florida in Orlando with a minor in environmental studies. In Central Florida, Cardinal worked for a monthly newspaper covering downtown Orlando and College Park. He then worked for a weekly newspaper in coastal South Carolina where he earned South Carolina Press Association awards for his local government news coverage and photography.

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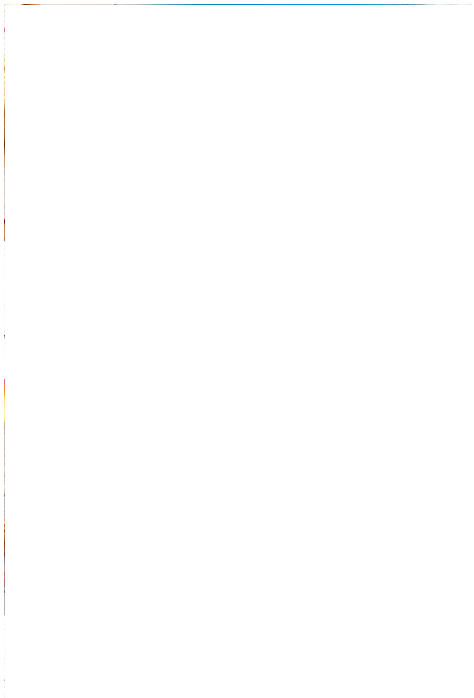
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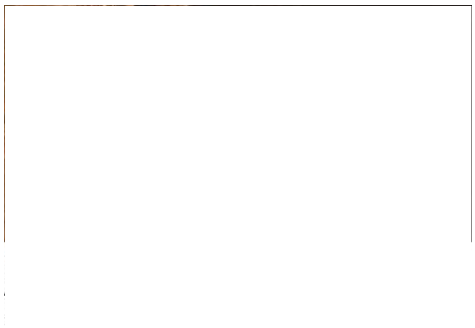
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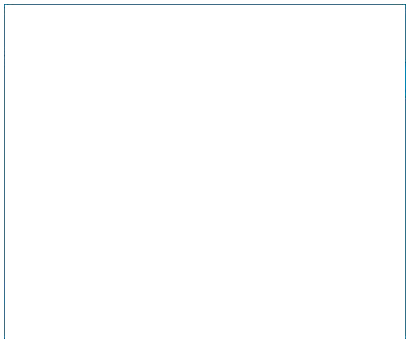
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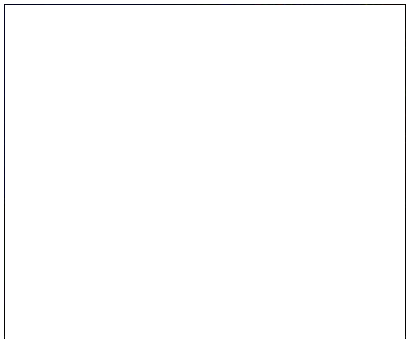


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