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CITY LEADERS CELEBRATE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GROUNDBREAKING

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. May 27, 2009 – Mayor John Peyton, District Nine City Council member Warren Jones and the Department of Public Works today hosted a ceremony to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Melba/Green drainage improvement project.

Financed by the Jacksonville Stormwater Utility as well as funds from the Better Jacksonville Plan, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and drainage bonds, the \$3.1 million project will include the construction of a 2.5-acre stormwater retention pond in Powers Park.

In addition to the pond, the project will include the addition of a new stormwater trunk line located in the Post Street right-of-way. FDOT participation includes the milling and resurfacing of Post Street from Edgewood to McDuff avenues.



“Last week’s rain further underscored the need for enhanced drainage structures in our community. This is particularly true in neighborhoods like Murray Hill that are frequently challenged by inclement weather,” said Mayor Peyton. “We are pleased to move forward with another drainage project made possible by the Jacksonville Stormwater Utility and know that once complete, residents will begin to benefit from the positive results of these infrastructure improvements. Moreover, we are making an investment in the future of our tributaries and the St. Johns River by reducing pollutants from runoff.”



When completed, the pond and enhanced drainage structures will have increased capacity to help mitigate reoccurring flooding and treat stormwater runoff before the water flows into naturally occurring waterways.

“The Melba/Green Street drainage project will not only improve the drainage in the Murray Hill community, but more importantly, it will have a positive impact on the flooding of McCoy’s Creek, by reducing the run-off into the southwest branch of the creek,” said Council member Jones.

Construction is anticipated to be complete in May 2010.

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Continued from page 1.

In 2007, the City of Jacksonville authorized the implementation of the Jacksonville Stormwater Utility. This dedicated stormwater funding source enables the city to directly manage and

reliably prioritize and implement projects, programs and services associated with the city's stormwater management system.

The costs for improving Jacksonville's drainage system and satisfying federal and state requirements for treating stormwater runoff have increased dramatically. Recognizing these increased demands, the City of Jacksonville created the Jacksonville Stormwater Utility to directly manage the projects, programs and services associated with the city's stormwater management system.

The stormwater utility generates the revenue that is dedicated to meeting new and existing stormwater requirements and to improving Jacksonville's water system, including one of the city's greatest assets—the St. Johns River. The 2009 stormwater and solid waste bills will be mailed to property owners today.

This entity is responsible for the assessment and collection of a stormwater fee applied to residential and non-residential properties based on the parcel's impervious area and administration of those funds to implement stormwater management projects.

For more information about stormwater projects under construction or planned for the future, visit www.jaxstormwater.com.

To view photos of this event, visit the city's photo sharing site at:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/34206377@N08/collections/>

All photos are public documents and available for download. If you need additional information about any photos of this event, please contact Kristen Beach, (904) 630-2709.

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