

Economic and Social Benefits

The proposed project will improve the ecosystems related to the Chipola River, thereby also improving the water quality and reducing wastes discharged into the area. Jobs will be created, or at least retained to make the proposed improvements.

The project will increase property values in the neighborhood where it is located due to the reduction in safety issues and park improvements. The eroding ditches will have enclosed piping that is covered with landscaping, which will reduce pedestrian, automobile, and bicycle safety threats. Eroding ditches will no longer encroach on private property near homes. The project will also eliminate the attractive nuisance of a deep ditch where children may fall or want to play that quickly fills with flood waters during storms. The proposed stormwater detention pond will be located on State owned land managed by the City. The property was purchased to provide an area for a stormwater facility with recreational trails down to the Chipola River. It is a part of the Chipola River Greenway (Butler Recreation Area). The proposed improvements will not only help keep the water clean, but provide enhancements to an existing primitive park in a neighborhood. The combined improvements will enhance property values and provide an improved park near a school and in a residential area.

On a larger scale with water pollution flowing to the Gulf of Mexico, fishing stock is negatively affected when there is a depletion of oxygen in the water supply. Consumers are also leery of purchasing fish from these sources, costing fisheries a loss in revenues. In addition, in areas where there are water sports and activities downstream, large amounts of money may be spent to cleanup algae blooms. Approximately \$1 billion each year is lost in the United States tourism industries related to fishing and recreational activities due to polluted water bodies (Facts about nutrient pollution, EPA, EPA-840-F12-003 May 2012).