

Environmental Benefits

The timing of this project's completion is critical. Currently, public health and safety are at risk, not to mention property values. The magnitude of these issues is far reaching. The drainage and debris entering the Chipola River from this area comes from a large portion of the City. This affects the aquatic, wetlands, and upland habitats along the Chipola River. In addition, the untreated stormwater and debris flowing into the River affects the water quality of the Chipola River, not only in Marianna, but in communities downstream to the Gulf of Mexico. Potentially, hundreds of thousands of people, animals, fowl and aquatic habitats are impacted by the City's inability to filter and treat stormwater from the developed areas of Marianna. This type of water pollution kills organisms that depend on the water body and ultimately disrupts the natural food chain and leads to overgrowth of algae reducing oxygen in the water supply and blocking fish gills. Eventually people, fowl and animals become infected by diseases related to poor water quality.

Implementation of the Chipola River Stormwater Mitigation Project will reduce pollution for people, animals, fowl and aquatic life from Marianna to the Gulf Coast. In addition, aquatic, wetland and upland habitats in the area of the project will be preserved for future generations. With the creation of the stormwater detention facility in Phase B, the City may need to mitigate habitat impacts through relocation and/or recreation efforts. However, the overall benefits far outweigh any losses.