



CITY OF
Tulsa
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Repetitive Loss Area # 55

**Little Joe Creek
E. 53rd St. & S. Sheridan Ave. Area**



August 17, 2017



SWIFT WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING, LLC
9 East 4th Street • Suite 301 • Tulsa, OK 74103 918-582-1380 • swre@swglobal.net

Bill Robison, P.E., CFM
Engineering Services



ENGINEERING SERVICES

August 17, 2017

Dear Resident/Property Owner:

Once considered the most flood-prone city in America, Tulsa has worked hard to reduce or eliminate flooding of its homes and neighborhoods. The City joined the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1974 and through decades of effort is now recognized as a national leader in flood hazard mitigation. As a result, property owners in Tulsa receive as much as 40% discount on their flood insurance.

A key component of the NFIP has been its focus on Repetitive Loss Properties, which make up only 1 percent of insured properties, but account for over 30 percent of flood insurance claims payments. A Repetitive Loss Property is defined by FEMA as any property that has been paid two or more flood insurance claims of \$1,000 or more in a 10-year time period.

The NFIP recently expanded its flood hazard mitigation program to include the identification of "Repetitive Loss Areas" (RLA)—those properties near an existing Repetitive Loss Property that may be subject to the same general flooding conditions. In most instances, 95% of the properties in an RLA will never have experienced flooding—especially if the cause of damage is shallow, overland flow due to local drainage conditions. Once the City has identified an RLA, we are required to contact the residents of the area and work together to develop a plan to reduce or eliminate flooding in the neighborhood.

Your property has been identified as being in a Repetitive Loss Area. We want to re-emphasize that this does not mean your property has flooded or is even likely to flood—only that it is in the same area, and in a similar geographical situation, as an existing Repetitive Loss Property.

We would like to invite you to participate in our flood prevention and mitigation efforts for your neighborhood. We need your input. What can we do, working together, to eliminate potential flood losses in your area? We look forward to hearing from you.

To learn more about your risk of flooding visit www.floodsmart.gov or contact the City of Tulsa Customer Care Center at (918) 596-7777.

Sincerely,
CITY OF TULSA, ENGINEERING SERVICES

Bill Robison, P.E., CFM
Senior Special Projects Engineer
Stormwater Project Coordination

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City of Tulsa Elected Officials

G.T. Bynum	Mayor
Vanessa Hall Harper	City Council District 1
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David Patrick	City Council District 3
Blake Ewing	City Council District 4
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Anna America	City Council District 7
Phil Lakin, Jr.	City Council District 8
Ben Kimbro	City Council District 9

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Mark Swiney, Esq.	Board Counsel

Tulsa Technical Advisory Committee

Paul D. Zachary, P.E, CFM	Director, Engineering Services
Matt Leichti, P.E.	Manager, Project Coordination
Bill Robison, P.E., CFM	Project Manager
Brad Jackson, P.E., CFM	Lead Engineer, Stormwater Design
Laura Hendrix, CFM	Floodplain Administrator
Angela King	Records Custodian

Consultants

Flanagan & Associates, LLC

Planning Consultants
3015 E. Skelly Drive, Suite 430
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105
(918) 749-2696 www.rdflanagan.com

Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM, Principal
John D. Flanagan, Research, Writing
Tyler Brooks, GIS Specialist
Nancy K. Edwards, Administration

Swift Water Resources Engineering, LLC

Hydrologic Engineering Consultants
9 East 4th Street, Suite 301
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103
(918) 582-1380 swre@sbcglobal.net

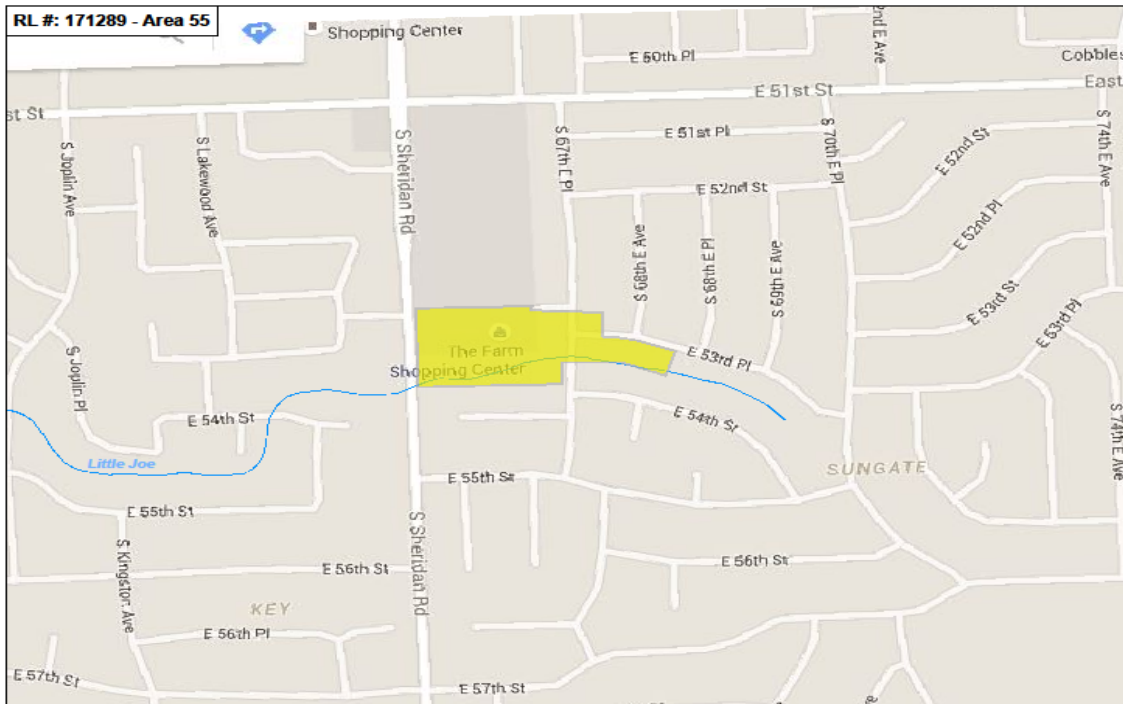
Mark Swift, P.E., CFM
Angela Swift, CPA, CEO

Repetitive Loss Area # 55

Little Joe Creek E. 53rd St. & S. Sheridan Ave. Area

Overview

Repetitive Loss Area (RLA) #55 is located on Little Joe Creek between Sheridan Rd. on the west and S. 68th Pl. E. on the east, and from E. 53rd St. on the north to E. 54th St. on the south. The RLA is about 5.5 miles above Joe Creek's junction with the Arkansas River. There are 12 properties in the RLA: two commercial buildings, five multi-family duplexes, and five single-family residences. The properties were developed between 1965 and 1978. The residences are ranch-style frame structures with brick facia in Average to Good condition, while the commercial buildings are single-story with flat-roofs and brick or stone facia in Fair+ to Average condition. Between 1979 and 2007 overbank flooding from Little Joe Creek and overland flow generated seven damage claims totaling \$10,091. One claim was in 1979, two in 1984, and one each in 1992, 2000 and 2007. The claim in 1992 was not paid. The individual paid claims averaged about \$2,000, and ranged from a low of \$244 to a high of \$4,477. All claims are related to the two commercial properties, one of which is the Area's Repetitive Loss Property.



RLA #55 is located along Little Joe Creek between Sheridan Rd. and S. 68th Pl. E., and south from E. 53rd St. to E. 54th St.

Channel modifications by the City and the US Army Corps of Engineers in the 1980s lessened flooding in this reach of the stream, but did not remove the properties from the City's Regulatory Floodplain (TRFP). What flooding remains is primarily shallow flooding from overland flow, and local drainage problems in the generally level terrain of The Farm shopping center and properties immediately to the east of S. 67th E. Pl.

The location of RLA #55 is shown on the map above, and on the more detailed photo/topography map on page 5. The detailed map identifies properties, County Assessor parcels, floodplains and the existing storm sewer system.

I. Background

During the post-World War building boom of the 1950s and 1960s, Tulsa expanded rapidly east and south into the basins of Mingo and Joe creeks. Because of the city's climate and the broad floodplains along these creeks this growth brought with it an increased risk of flooding. And indeed, by the mid-1980s floods were occurring almost yearly and flooding had become Tulsa's most destructive natural hazard. One researcher at the time declared Tulsa "the most flood-prone community in the nation."

Tulsa was not unique in its rapid post-war development and attendant risks. Cities across America were experiencing similar problems as they spread out into prosperous subdivisions. In response, the U.S. Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 to help property owners protect themselves from flood losses. The NFIP offered flood insurance to homeowners, renters, and business owners if their community participated in the NFIP and agreed to adopt and enforce ordinances that met or exceeded FEMA requirements for reducing the risk of flooding.

Tulsa joined the NFIP in 1974, and through great effort and considerable expense has significantly reduced its exposure to flooding. As a result, Tulsa has been awarded a Class II rating in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS), which grants its residents a 40 percent discount on the cost of flood insurance for structures in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), also known as the 1% or 100-year floodplain. Since the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, many properties have seen a substantial increase in their premiums, making this discount even more important.

For its part, the NFIP is continually faced with the job of paying claims while trying to keep the price of flood insurance at an affordable level. Properties that flood repeatedly—known as "repetitive loss properties," have been a particular problem for the program: Although they make up only 1 percent of insured properties, they account for one-third of all claims payments (about \$200 million a year, or \$4.5 billion to date). A repetitive loss property is defined by FEMA as any property that has been paid two or more flood insurance claims of \$1,000 or more in a 10-year time period.

Consequently, one of the requirements of the CRS is that communities identify all repetitive loss properties in their jurisdiction and work with the owners to find ways to reduce or eliminate future flood damage. This initiative has been very successful in reducing flood losses and claims.

FEMA has recently extended its repetitive loss program to include "Repetitive Loss Areas" (RLA). To maintain a Class II rating in the CRS, Tulsa is now required to analyze the area surrounding each of its repetitive loss properties and identify any neighboring

properties (including uninsured ones) that may be subject to the same general flooding conditions. This group of nearby properties is then designated as an RLA. The City is required to contact the owners of the properties in all its RLAs, inform them that they may be located in an area subject to flooding, and develop a plan for mitigating or eliminating flooding in the area, much as is being done for the individual repetitive loss properties.

It is important to note that most of the homes in an RLA—perhaps as many as 80% or 90%—may not have experienced flooding of any kind. What they have in common is being subject to the same general geographical and flood conditions as the nearby repetitive loss property. It should also be stressed that the flooding events in question may have had little or nothing to do with overflow from a creek, but perhaps may have been the result of storm sewer backup or overland flow from a neighbor’s property into a low-lying, slab-on-grade home or garage.

The location of RLA #55 is shown on the aerial photo/topography map on page 5, below. The map identifies properties, County Assessor parcels, floodplains and the existing storm drainage system.

II. Location

Joe Creek is about 6.5 miles in length and drains an area of 13.7 sq. miles in southeast Tulsa. The creek has several tributary branches (East and West Joe Creek, Little Joe and South Joe) that converge near E. 53rd and S. Evanston Ave., at Manion Park, just north of Eisenhower International School, to form lower Joe Creek mainstem. The mainstem and its tributaries have been channelized through much of their lengths.



Little Joe Creek channel, looking west—downstream—from S. 67th Pl. E.

Little Joe Creek, itself, rises near S. 61st St. and 73rd Ave. E. and flows north and then west for 3.4 miles, crossing under The Farm shopping center and Sheridan Rd., then entering La Fortune Park at about Hudson Ave. and 56th St. and finally joining the North and South Forks of the creek at Manion Park.

Located along Little Joe Creek between Sheridan Rd. and S. 68th Pl. E., RLA #55 is about 5.5 miles above the creek's junction with the Arkansas River, and immediately east of the Sheridan Rd. bridge over Little Joe Creek. Of the 12 properties that make up the RLA, all are situated in the creek's alluvial floodplain at between 720 and 727 ft. elevation. The creek is carried through conduits beneath The Farm shopping center, between S. 67th Pl. E. and Sheridan Rd.

III. History

Development

The buildings and homes in RLA #55 were constructed between 1965 and 1978 before any channelization improvements had been made along the creek. In its lower reaches, Joe Creek used to meander through soft, loamy soils and often shifted channels by as much as 1,000 feet, undermining trees along its banks, which would then topple into the creek and block flows during heavy downpours. Concrete channels seemed the best option for controlling flooding along Joe Creek and its tributaries.

Flooding

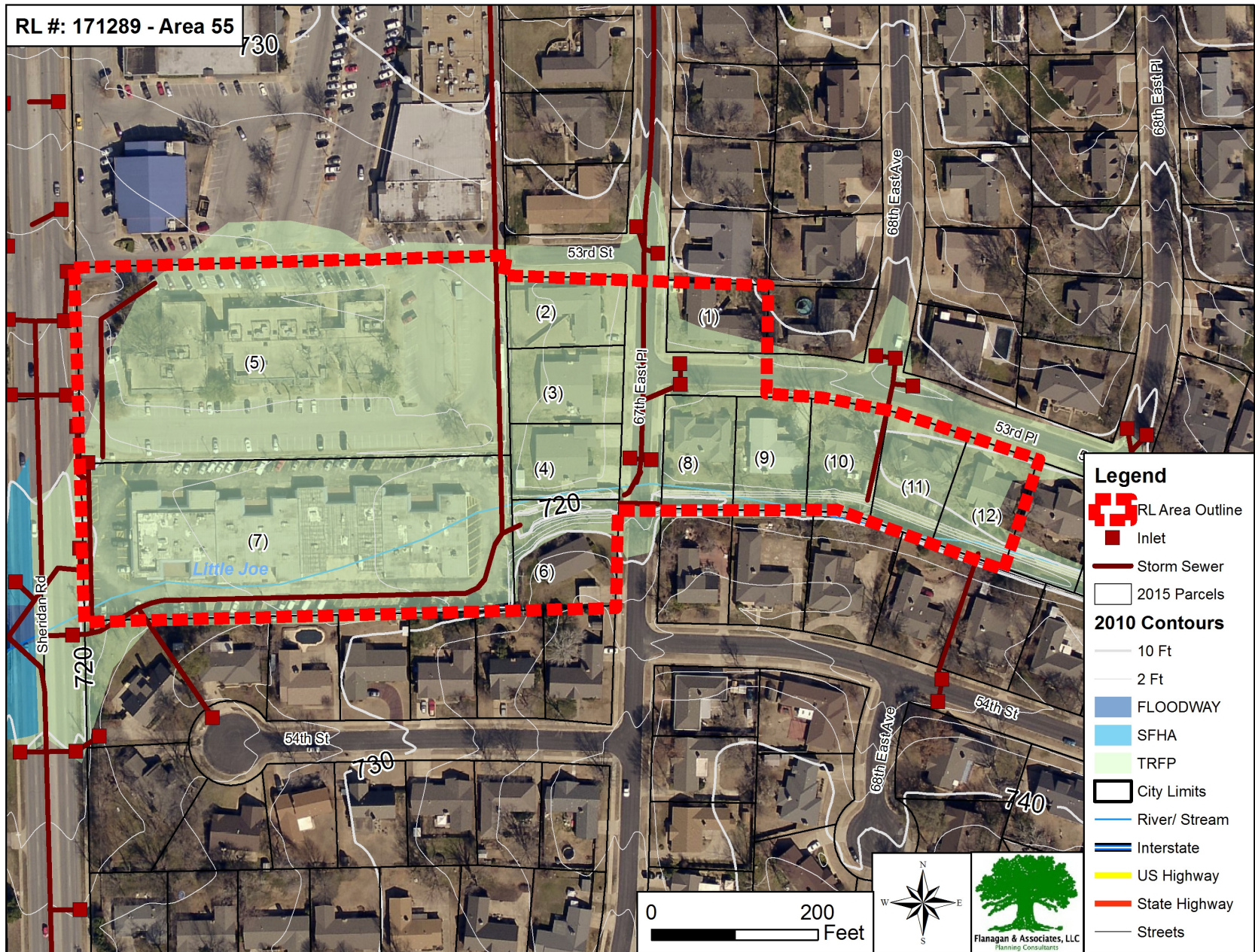
There was significant flooding on Joe Creek in October 1959, May 10-11, 1970 (Mothers Day flood), June 7-9, 1974, May 31, 1976 (Memorial Day flood), June 21, 1979, June 17, 1980, May 27, 1984 (another Memorial Day flood), August 11, 1992, May 7, 1993, May 6, 2000 and May 8, 2007. According to newspaper reports, flooding was particularly bad on Joe Creek in 1974 and 1976, although not necessarily along this reach. The storms that resulted in the six damage claims in RLA #55 totaling \$10,091 occurred in 1979, 1984, 1992, 2000 and 2007. The 1992 claim was not paid.

Improvements

Subsequent improvements to the Little Joe Creek channel by the City and the US Army Corps of Engineers between 1978 and 1981 largely solved the riverine flooding problems along the creek, and removed much—but not all—of this stretch of Little Joe Creek from both FEMA's SFHA and the City's Regulatory Floodplain. The City also enlarged the storm sewer system within the Joe Creek basin to solve chronic storm sewer backup problems at numerous locations in the basin. All of the properties in RLA #55 are still touched to some extent by the City of Tulsa's Regulatory Floodplain, and the RLA is designated an area of shallow flooding due to drainage patterns in the generally level terrain.

IV. Research and Analysis

The analysis of Repetitive Loss Area #55 was conducted by the Project Team through interviews with City officials, research into Engineering Services and Stormwater Drainage files, including the Joe Creek Master Drainage Plan, review of the City's extensive flood history documentation, assessment of insurance claims, field trips to the



RLA, interviews with home owners and questionnaires mailed to owner and residents soliciting information about prior and existing flooding issues, if any.

Agencies and Organizations

The City of Tulsa's Storm Drainage & Hazard Mitigation Advisory Board (SDHMAB), which also serves as the City's Hazard Mitigation and CRS Committee, and the CRS Public Participation Involvement & Information Committee (PPI) met monthly during the two-year Repetitive Loss Area Planning process. Each committee was updated on the status of the planning process, discussed issues, and provided guidance. Research and analysis were done in accordance with guidelines from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Community Rating System (CRS).

Local, State & Federal Agencies and non-profit organizations are represented on the PPI Committee. The RLA plans were discussed at the PPI Committee meetings, and other agencies such as TAEMA were contacted by phone or email. The RLA plans were presented to City Council for adoption; the agenda was made public and furnished to the media. The council meeting is a public meeting and the local media was present at the meeting. In addition the council meetings are aired on our local government network TV channel TGOV.

Participating agencies and organizations involved were: City of Tulsa (CoT) Storm Drainage & Hazard Mitigation Advisory Board, CRS PPI Committee, CoT Communications Department, CoT Development Services, Working in Neighborhoods, CoT Engineering Services, CoT Finance Department, CoT Legal Department, CoT Streets & Stormwater, CoT Water & Sewer Department, Child Care Resource Center, Indian Nations Council of Governments, Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency (TAEMA), Disaster Resilience Network, Metropolitan Environmental Trust, Oklahoma Insurance Department, Tulsa Association of Realtors, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Plans, Studies and Documents

The following City of Tulsa and FEMA documents were used in the analysis:

- *Flood Insurance Rate Map*, City of Tulsa, October 16, 2012
- *Regulatory Floodplain Map Atlas*, Tulsa Engineering Services, October, 2016
- *2014 City of Tulsa Hazard Mitigation Plan Update*, Flanagan & Assoc., 2014
- *City of Tulsa Stormwater Management Plan*
- *Stormwater Design Criteria Manual: Critical Neighborhood Flood Control Projects*
- *Stormwater Capital Improvements List*, City of Tulsa, Engineering Services
- *Guidebook to Conducting Repetitive Loss Area Analyses*, UNO and FEMA

Capital Improvements Plans

No City of Tulsa Capital Improvements are currently planned that could have a positive impact on the flooding problems in Repetitive Loss Area #55. There are storm sewer improvement and regional detention facilities on the existing CIPs for Little Joe Creek along with Master Drainage Plan recommendations that are not yet on the CIPs. None are presently funded.

Flood Insurance Data

None of the 12 properties in the RLA currently carry flood insurance. Two properties have made flood damage claims to the NFIP in earlier years. Because the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 522a) restricts the release of flood insurance policy and claims data to the public, neither the Repetitive Loss properties nor specific claim data are detailed in this Plan.

Claims Data.

Two properties in RLA #55 have made a total of six flood damage claims—in 1979, 1984, 1992, 2000 and 2007, and received total payments of \$10,091. The claim in 1992 was not paid. One property made five claims (the Repetitive Loss Property) and the other made one claim. The five paid claims averaged about \$2,000 each.

Field Surveys and Site Visits

Site visits were conducted during the study, primarily to confirm foundation type and view local on-site overland flow drainage patterns.

Review Drainage Patterns.

The Project Team examined aerial topography maps, master drainage plans, storm sewer plans, City Customer Care Center complaints and comments, and conducted field checks to determine area drainage patterns and identify flood problem areas. The results of the research and analysis are described in the following paragraphs and summarized in the table below.

Structures

The Project Team made a number of visits to RLA #55 to determine the situation and condition of the structures. Visual analysis was verified by queries of Tulsa County Assessor data.

Structure Type.

The structures in RLA #55 are 10 ranch-style residences, including five single-family residences and five duplexes, and two single-story commercial buildings.

Foundation Type.

The type of foundation was determined by field investigation and query of Tulsa County Assessor records. All of the structures in the RLA have slab on grade foundations.

Condition of Structures.

The condition of the structures in the RLA was determined by field investigation and a search of the County Assessor's records. The commercial structures were in Fair to Average condition, while the residences were in Average to Good condition. These findings are summarized in the following table.

Properties in the RLA

Address	Structure Type	Foundation Type	Year Built	Condition
Property 1	Single Family Res.	Slab on Grade	1971	Avg +
Property 2	Single Family Res	Slab on Grade	1971	Good
Property 3	Single Family Res	Slab on Grade	1972	Good
Property 4	Single Family Res	Slab on Grade	1971	Good
Property 5	Commercial	Slab on Grade	1965	Avg
Property 6	Single Family Res	Slab on Grade	1966	Avg +
Property 7	Commercial	Slab on Grade	1967	Fair +
Property 8	Single Family Res	Slab on Grade	1965	Good
Property 9	Single Family Res	Slab on Grade	1971	Good
Property 10	Single Family Res	Slab on Grade	1965	Good
Property 11	Single Family Res	Slab on Grade	1978	Good
Property 12	Single Family Res	Slab on Grade	1971	Good

Notification

Annual Floodplain Notification. Each year, in March, the City notifies all homeowners and residents living in a 100-year floodplain that their properties are subject to flooding and informs them of what steps they can take to protect their residences, businesses and families, including the purchase of flood insurance.

Annual Repetitive Loss Area Notification. Residents and property owners in Repetitive Loss Area #55 are notified annually that their properties are located in a Repetitive Loss Area, and are potentially subject to flood damage from overland flow and storm sewer back-up.

Property Owners/Residents Notification. Property owners and residents/occupants were advised of the Repetitive Loss Area study and analysis by letter, were sent a questionnaire soliciting information and input, and asked to contact the City for more information or a copy of the completed RLA Plan.

Public Participation and Involvement. City Staff/Consultants interviewed homeowners to brief them on the Repetitive Loss Area Analysis Study/Plan, receive their input, and discuss possible mitigation measures.

Property Owner Response to Notifications. As of June 6, 2016, there has been one response from a property owner or resident of RLA #55, stating that there has been no flooding the property since its purchase in 2009.

Conclusions

The two properties in RLA #55 that have made flood damage claims are both slab-on-grade commercial buildings that suffered damaged from overland flow in the parking lots of The Farm shopping center.

Although there have been no damage claims made by the single- and multiple-family residences in the RLA, all are adjacent or near Little Joe Creek and within the City’s Regulatory Floodplain, have slab-on-grade foundations, and are situated at between 720 and 727 feet elevation. While channel improvements along Little Joe Creek have largely ended overbank flooding in this area, one of the properties has experienced flooding as recently as May 6, 2000. The storm sewers in RLA #55 were enlarged in the 1990s,

which has resolved street flooding in the neighborhood. Based on flood data, site surveys and feedback from residents and property owners, any remaining drainage problems would be due to the slab-on-grade construction of some of the structures and site drainage issues involving overland flow in the generally flat topography.

V. Mitigation Measures

Overview

The Master Drainage Plan for this reach of the Joe Creek identifies the most cost-effective structural solutions (channel improvements, enlarged inlets and storm sewers, stormwater detention ponds) for the area. The Non-Structural Plan identifies buildings where a structural solution is not cost-effective, and acquisition is the recommended solution. There are presently no funded Capital Improvement Projects for future channel improvements or detention ponds in this area. The *Joe Creek Master Drainage Plan* is in the process of being updated, and additional structural and non-structural solutions may be identified.

Individual Mitigation Measures: What You Can Do

Individual property protection actions are usually undertaken by property owners on a lot-by-lot, building-by-building basis, and include private floodproofing, moving mechanical equipment above flood levels, installing French drains and minor site grading to move local drainage to the street, sanitary sewer backup protection, and flood insurance.

The City of Tulsa is willing to have a stormwater engineer do a site visit to assist you in analyzing your specific drainage problems and discuss potential solutions. Contact the Customer Care Center at (918) 596-7777, or go online to www.cityoftulsa.org/connect/contact-the-city.

Know and Understand Your Flood Risk. As stated above, being located in a Repetitive Loss Area does *not* mean a property will flood. Nevertheless, it is important that residents and property owners in flood hazard areas know and understand their flood risk and take what steps they can to protect their homes, families and possessions. City staff is available to explain the local flood risk, interpret floodplain maps, and determine if an area or property has drainage problems or a history of prior flooding. Staff can also discuss the ways a specific property can be protected from flooding. An Elevation Certificate can help define a property's flood risk under various rainfall scenarios (e.g., in a 10-year, 50-year, 100-year, or 300-year storm). You can receive a free flood zone determination by contacting the City with the correct legal description and street address, or the Tax Assessor/Parcel Number of the property.

Make a Disaster Preparedness Plan. It is always a good idea for residents and



This platform and wall protect the home and air conditioning equipment from shallow flooding.

property owners in flood hazard zones to prepare a disaster preparedness and response plan that addresses all the steps and details that will demand attention once a flood watch or warning is issued. A Building Permit is required to install a safe room in a flood-prone area.

Create Berms, Swales or Redirected Drainage. Flood waters can be diverted away from structures using such things as berms, brick planter boxes and swales, but these may not be done in ways that cause damage to other properties. Owners and residents can request a meeting with a City Engineer to discuss the best ways to solve existing drainage problems, and whether a Building Permit will be required. Contact the Customer Care Center at (918) 596-2100. Berms or redirected drainage may be the most feasible solution for areas with flooding due to overland flow, such as RLA #55.

Install Local, Property-Specific Paving, Plantings and Catchment Basins. City Engineering staff can explain the natural functions of floodplains and how they act to slow and purify urban runoff and reduce flooding. Staff can also suggest low-impact development projects which imitate natural floodplain functions by slowing runoff and filtering out impurities. These include such things as rain gardens, catchment basins and pervious paving materials.

Acquisition. The City of Tulsa has a repetitive loss acquisition program to purchase repeatedly flooded properties. This voluntary program offers owners who are in this situation have a way out. The City applies to FEMA for funds using the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Once the grant is awarded, the property is appraised as if it were not a flooded property and the offer for the property is based on this appraisal. In addition to getting the best possible price, the owner receives moving expenses, a \$1,000 stipend for purchasing a home outside the floodplain, and a 30-day rent free period after closing in which to move. All closing costs and other fees are paid by the City. Once the owner has moved out, the home is demolished and restored as open space to protect the natural and beneficial function of the floodplain. If you would like more information about this program contact the Customer Care Center at (918) 596-7777.

Acquisition is usually not feasible or cost effective for areas of shallow flooding, as in RLA #55. If a property is located in a FEMA Floodway or Special Flood Hazard Area, demolition, acquisition and relocation may be feasible and cost-effective.

Elevate Your Structure. Elevating the structure is only suitable for areas of shallow flooding, and is usually not feasible or cost-effective for masonry homes built on concrete slabs. It can sometimes be cost-effective for wood frame buildings on crawlspaces. None of the structures in RLA #55 is a candidate for elevation.

Dry Floodproof Your Structure. This can include actions that seal a structure and prevent floodwaters from entering. This method is best in areas where flood depths are no more than two or three feet. Buildings can be made watertight by sealing the walls with waterproof coatings, impermeable membranes, or additional layers of masonry or concrete. Doors, windows, and other openings below the base flood elevation must also be equipped with permanent or removable shields, and backflow valves must be installed in sewer lines and drains. Dry floodproofing needs to be designed by an engineer to ensure the structure can resist the force of the water.

Wet Floodproof Your Building. Wet floodproofing allows water to enter a structure, while removing, protecting or elevating items that can be damaged, such as air conditioning equipment. This is often used on structures with crawl spaces and shallow flood depths. The City does not allow basements in flood-prone areas, or the wet floodproofing of basements.

Wet Floodproof Your Garage. The garage, with its slab-on-grade construction, is one of the most vulnerable areas of your home to overland flow flooding. Remove, relocate, elevate, or otherwise protect items that can be damaged from flooding.

Elevate Damage-Prone Components. Critical items such as furnace or air conditioning units. This should be done for components that are in the wet-floodproofed area of the building as well as for units that are outside of the structure but subject to shallow flooding.

Maintain Nearby Streams, Ditches, and Storm Drains. Local flooding can often be caused by brush and other debris blocking drainage ways and culverts. Although this is not a major problem for Little Joe Creek itself, debris can block bar ditches and storm sewer inlets. Residents and property owners should do their part in keeping inlets and drainage ways clear of brush and debris. Do not attempt to clear debris during a flood event.

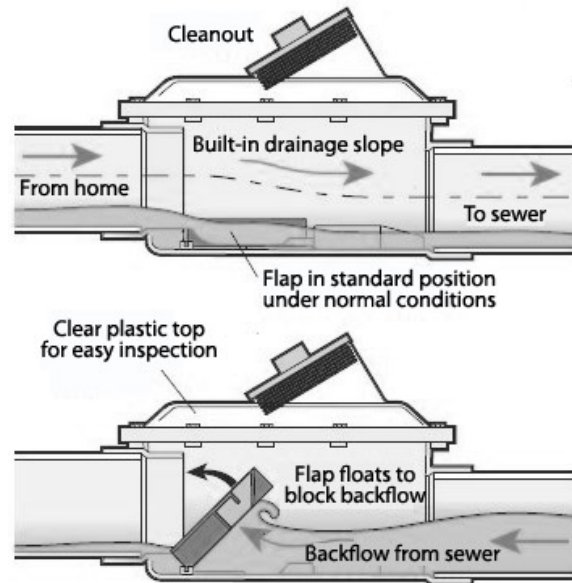
Correct Sanitary Sewer Backup Problems. Sanitary sewer backup can be a problem in low-lying, flood-prone areas like RLA #55. The installation of backflow prevention valves on sewer lines is recommended.

Purchase and Maintain Flood Insurance. Flood Insurance is available and recommended for the structure and contents for all properties in Tulsa. A large percentage of all flood insurance claims are for properties that are outside the FEMA floodplain. Because of the City of Tulsa's sustained efforts to reduce flooding, you are entitled to a discount on your flood insurance. A property does not have to be in a floodplain to qualify for flood insurance.

Repetitive Loss Area Mitigation Measures: What the City Can Do

The City of Tulsa is actively committed to the following floodplain management activities:

- Preventative activities to keep flood problems from getting worse.
- Natural resource protection activities to preserve or restore natural areas or the natural functions of floodplain and watershed areas.



Sewer backflow prevention valves are essential components for homes in low-lying, flood-prone areas.

- Emergency services measures taken during an emergency to minimize its impact.
- Structural projects to keep flood waters away from properties.
- Public information activities to advise property owners, potential property owners, and visitors about flood hazards, ways to protect people and property from the hazards, and the natural and beneficial functions of local floodplains.

As funding becomes available for this Repetitive Loss Area, the City will undertake a more detailed Mini-Master Drainage Plan to identify alternative solutions to the flooding problems and recommend a public works project. The actual construction of any public works project may require the acquisition of properties and/or drainage easements. The City will continue to fulfill its maintenance responsibility for channels, drainageways, and storm sewer inlets and pipes. At this time, the City has identified the following actions which are appropriate for RLA #55.

- Acquire flood prone properties on a voluntary basis.
- Improve conveyance of Creek to mitigate overbank flooding.
- Construct upstream detention to reduce storm water runoff into the RLA.

VI. Funding

Due to the nature of the flooding problems and the damages involved in RLA #55, acquisition and floodproofing remain the preferred options for the homes. The funding of other improvements to individual properties—such as berms and floodproofing—will have to be borne by the homeowner. The City will investigate the availability of funding for the public works actions listed above. Funding for ongoing City maintenance responsibilities is provided by the Stormwater Utility Fee. Funding for a public works project in this RLA is dependent of several factors, including the prioritized ranking of the project with other Capital Improvement projects, inclusion in future street maintenance projects, being part of a Bond Issue project, etc. The City will investigate the possibility of increasing the storm sewer capacity with any future street projects in the area. Another potential funding source is FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which can be implemented after a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration in the State.

VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

Due to the improved channel of Little Joe Creek and the addition and enlargement of storm sewers in the area, overbank flooding along this reach of the stream has been significantly reduced if not eliminated. Nevertheless, all of the properties in RLA #55 continue to be in the City of Tulsa's Regulatory Floodplain. In addition, low-lying areas along the channel are likely to remain subject to potential flooding from overland flow and occasional street flooding and storm sewer backup due to the generally level terrain.

Homeowners are encouraged to maintain flood insurance. The City of Tulsa is a Community Rating System (CRS) Class II Community, so all homeowners qualify for up to a 40% discount on their flood insurance premiums. Homeowners are also encouraged to undertake individual mitigation measures to reduce their risk of overland flow and overbank flooding. The City of Tulsa is ready to assist in this effort with professional advice.