

My name is Michael Brown and I have lived at 16025 Wall Street here in Jersey Village for a little over 23 years now. I have been flooded four times significantly and at one other time just my garage took on water. All five events resulted in significant clean up requirements for my property.

Pretty much as long as I have been able, I've closely monitored the bayou levels and compared them with rainfall rates and amounts around us to get a feel for the effect that the weather was causing. I've become extremely concerned at what I can see is a growing problem. It is taking less rain to produce more water in the drainage system as time marches on. We are particularly impacted by water that falls on the upper 18 square miles of watershed to the North and West of Jersey Village proper. This was demonstrated in May of 2015 when a large amount of rain fell upon us, but did not result in flooding. There are a couple of reasons that we didn't flood then:

- 1) Most of the rain fell directly on us and downstream of us, but very little fell on the upper watershed.
- 2) The rain literally stopped just in the nick of time before flooding occurred. That is supported by the fact that HCOEM and JV's emergency response team putting out notice of imminent flooding. Had rain continued to fall, we most certainly would have flooded right along with those further downstream that weren't as lucky as us.

This April, this wasn't the same case. A relatively large amount of rain fell on the upper watershed as well as JV which resulted in the bayou exceeding its banks and rising to the statistical level of a 10 YEAR FLOOD event, as measured at the Lakeview flood gauge.

The thing about this particular flood that was different than all the previous floods for me was that I was taking on water, due to excessive street flooding, BEFORE the bayou exceeded its banks. That had NEVER happened before. I think it is important to point out that we had received less than 6" of rainfall that fell on unsaturated ground before midnight. During the several hour break in the rain that occurred before the next big round, much of the water eventually drained off. All of this occurred without the main channel exceeding its banks. Again, nothing like this has ever happened before. I have never had water near slab level without the bayou exceeding its banks, though I have seen significant street flooding well up into my yard in the past maybe roughly 20 times. Forgive me for not keeping detailed records of those events, but Jim Pulliam can provide a detailed list of near flood events.

I attribute this change in behavior to two things:

- 1) The weir/erosion control device installed along Elwood Drive where the Wall Street tributary merges into the main channel.
- 2) Increased runoff due to the construction of 290.

There is one other significant factor, but it has always been a consistent contributor to the runoff flowing down Wall, and that's the Jersey Meadow Golf Course. Enormous amounts of water sheet off the course once the ground is saturated and the water hazards have filled to capacity due to the vast amount of land that sits well above most of the homes in Jersey Village.

Now, I'd like to discuss the water flowing into and out of JV in the existing channel system. There are three inlets and two exits for the water. First let me discuss the three inlets:

- 1) The main channel. The main channel that flows into JV is significantly wider than the channel within town that it flows into. This is because HCFCD has widened and deepened that channel upstream of us without corresponding changes in our territory. I'm not going to attempt to explain why, but suffice it say that discussing the reasons only leads to finger pointing and relatively lame excuses that are without real merit.
- 2) The North tributary. This channel is the one that everyone sees when they use the golf course to make their way in or out of town. It comes in from the West and then flows due East and Appears to flow straight into the so-called bypass channel. In actuality every bit of the water coming in through that channel merges into the main channel and consequently must flow through town along with the main channel portion that wasn't diverted to the bypass channel.
- 3) The Wall Street tributary. This channel starts West of town, on the other side of 290. The channel head end is somewhere around Fairview Street amidst a large amount of commercial business with huge concrete covered parking lots, acres of them. It also takes on water from the Jones Road extension and now is expected to carry the load created by all of 290 from somewhere near the Beltway and out to somewhere near Eldridge. This channel has virtually no chance of carrying the load that has been placed upon it to date. If development of the Crossroads area occurs, it's just going to lead to that many more acres of runoff that it will be expected to carry. I'd like to add that the Wall Street tributary already outflows to the streets well before reaching the top of bank since the streets are several feet lower than the bank.

Both of these channels must merge into the main channel before leaving town since there is only one main exit which is along Jersey Drive. The bypass channel egress is supposed to be carrying as much as 30% of the incoming main channel water supply around JV and merging in downstream of us, outside of the city limits. It appears that nowhere near that much water is actually being diverted into it based upon local expert opinions of geologists and engineers that have personally examined it during heavy rainfall events. Currently, there is no way to precisely measure the actual amount being diverted, just like there are no gauges monitoring the two incoming channels. In fact, without velocity or flow measurement it's anyone's guess as to the exact amounts of water flowing anywhere. There are NO sensors

installed that would provide that information. Water level and rainfall amounts are the only data collected by the installed sensors.

Now, to the point of all this: Our situation is constantly evolving. What might work in the short run isn't likely to work 20 years from now with further development. Widening and deepening the main channel through town isn't going to reduce the water flow coming in through the tributaries so we need more exit capability than inlet capability. HCFC has possibly solved that issue by widening and deepening the channel downstream of us already.

As I see it, the golf course is the last big piece of land in our watershed that could protect our town now and in the future and we have the luxury of being in complete control of the property. It seems to be a no-brainer to have a long term plan that includes keeping it permanently green, but in a flood preventative way, not the flood additive fashion that it currently exists in. It is almost perfectly situated to be able to offload water from both tributaries, detain it temporarily and then balance the flow back into the main channel. It has the potential to detain three times the water that the current pond can hold. Furthermore, the current pond is really just a detention basin for the North tributary due to its position, not the main channel flowing into town. That water would have to flow backwards to get into the current detention pond. I don't think I have to try hard to make the case that the current pond isn't enough. I believe that has already been proven with less than 12" of total rainfall last April.

Before continuing to spend large amounts of capital on improvements and marketing of the current course, I am of the opinion that we should wait at least until the study is completed. After all, it's not like it's a source of significant revenue. During the entire time that I've lived here, I think it finished one year in the black solely because the city decided to postpone repaving the parking lot. The private group that owned the course before JV purchased it couldn't generate a profit either and that was in a time that golf was still gaining players, not losing them as it has been for something approaching 10 years. There are a lot of additional facts that I wanted to cite to back up my claim that golf is in serious decline, but I simply don't have time to list them during public comments. Suffice it to say that I've done my homework and I can back up my assertions.