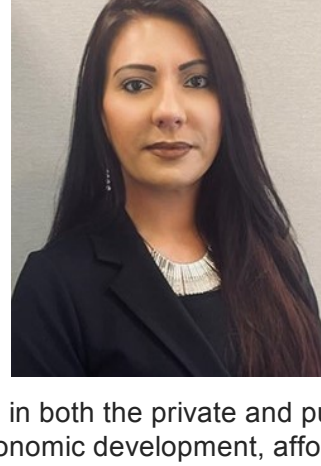


MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Cities around the world are experiencing an increase in climate-change-related storm events and seeking solutions to mitigate flooding. As the new director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, strengthening Alexandria's flood resiliency is one of my top priorities, and I look forward to working with City staff, residents, businesses, and other key stakeholders to address this critically important issue.



With more than two decades of leadership experience in both the private and public sectors, my expertise spans infrastructure, capital projects, economic development, affordable housing, program administration, and public works (you can read more about my background [here](#)). Much of my infrastructure expertise comes from my service in local municipalities in California and Texas, in areas experiencing increasingly frequent and severe weather episodes.

I am familiar with the challenges that Alexandria is facing with respect to stormwater management and flooding. And I am impressed by the work that the Flood Action Alexandria initiative, in partnership with the community, has accomplished thus far.

Balancing [large-capacity projects](#) with smaller [spot improvement projects](#) is a smart, strategic approach to address flooding in both the short and long term. The current and potential expansion of Alexandria's [Flood Mitigation Grant Program](#) is another way that the City is working with residents to protect their properties, in tandem with larger capital improvements and increased maintenance. I look forward to working on Alexandria's Flood Resiliency Plan to help guide our future work in these areas.

Climate change demands a paradigm shift in how we design, manage, and fund stormwater and sanitary infrastructure. I look forward to working with Alexandria residents and other stakeholders to identify, adopt, and implement innovative solutions. I know that together we can adapt to the challenges of a changing climate, protect our community from flooding, and promote a more resilient and sustainable Alexandria.

Adriana Castañeda, Director of the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services

Editor's note: The Manager's Message is a periodic editorial authored by senior leaders of the City of Alexandria.

PROJECT UPDATES

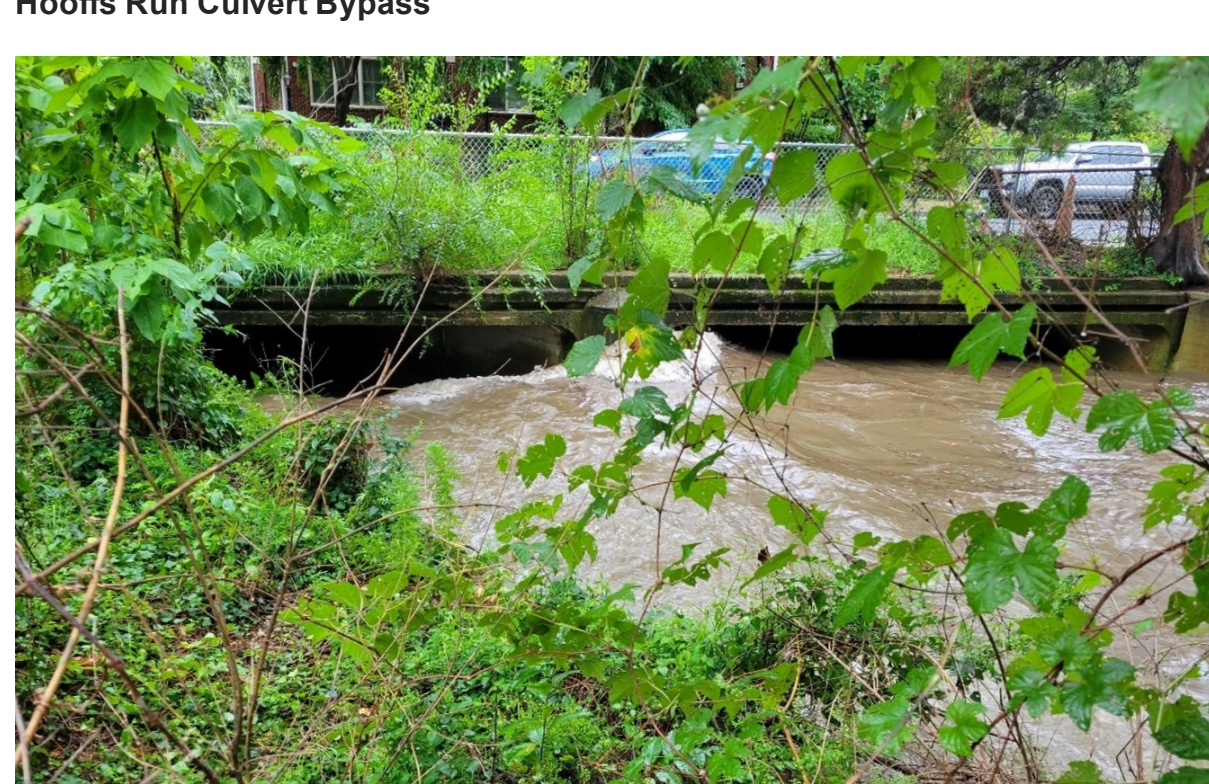
LARGE CAPACITY PROJECTS

Commonwealth, Ashby, and Glebe

Geotechnical investigation for the Commonwealth, Ashby, Glebe Flood Mitigation Project kicked off on August 2 and soil borings were completed on September 20. Crews collected soil data from more than 50 locations along the project corridor. The geotechnical engineers will now begin testing and analyzing the soil collected from the field. They will use this analysis to provide recommendations for culvert and green infrastructure design and construction.

The City hosted a [public open house](#) on September 28 at the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center. The meeting provided an overview of the project objectives, the proposed alignment, and the anticipated construction impacts. For more updates, please visit the [project webpage](#).

Hooffs Run Culvert Bypass



Flooding occurred along the Hooffs Run Culvert during an August 14 storm. The City recognizes the ongoing need for flood mitigation along the Hooffs Run Culvert and is working toward solutions. (City of Alexandria)

The Hooffs Run Culvert Bypass project team is seeking your feedback. Please complete a [brief questionnaire](#) before December 8 to share your insights.

The design team is busy with data collection, modeling of the existing culverts, and exploration of preliminary alternatives. Survey crews are working along Russell Road to collect information about the roadway, topography, underground utilities, and other existing features that help the team create better solutions. The model of existing conditions helps the team understand what elements in the existing pipe system are contributing to flooding. The team can also enter potential solutions into the model to see how they help flooding and check that the solutions do not worsen flooding elsewhere in the city.

The design team is also working to coordinate the [Hooffs Run Culvert Bypass Project](#) with other major infrastructure investments along King Street and Commonwealth Avenue. Join us for an [Open House](#) with the City, AlexRenew, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) on October 4 at the Alexandria Amtrak/VRE station (110 Callahan Dr.) between 5 and 7 p.m. to learn about these investments and talk to project leaders. Can't make it? Check out the [King and Commonwealth Infrastructure Investments webpage](#).

[See More Large Capacity Projects →](#)

SPOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Mount Vernon Avenue Cul-de-sac



Construction on Mount Vernon Avenue is expected to begin in Spring 2024 to address flooding concerns. The project will mitigate flooding for odd-numbered townhomes on the south end of Mount Vernon Avenue. (City of Alexandria)

The City continues to make progress on a spot improvement project to mitigate flooding of multiple townhomes in the cul-de-sac on the south end of Mount Vernon Avenue. The flood mitigation efforts include alley grading, storage, and drainage improvements.

Design, which began in October 2021 and required intensive utility coordination, is nearly complete. City staff are waiting for final construction cost estimates to include in the Invitation to Bid (ITB). The ITB will then be sent to the City's purchasing department to start the contractor procurement process.

Construction is expected to begin in May 2024 and wrap up in February 2025.

The project is funded through the federal American Rescue and Recovery Act (ARPA) and the City's [Stormwater Utility Fee](#).

For more information on how spot improvement projects are aiding areas affected by flooding in Alexandria, please visit the [City's Spot Improvement Project webpage](#).

[See More Spot Improvement Projects →](#)

Explore the City's flood mitigation projects
Read about project status updates
Visit the City's interactive Project map
alexandriava.gov/FloodAction

NEWS

Rehabilitation of Sanitary Sewer Mainlines and Manholes Starting This Fall

As part of the [City's Sanitary Sewer Asset Renewal Program](#), the City has hired a contractor to rehabilitate mainline sanitary sewers and manholes starting this fall. Rehabilitation will take place in the Del Ray, Lynhaven, and Rosemont neighborhoods, in areas east of Commonwealth Avenue.

Manhole inspections and sewer closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspections were completed last year. A total of 165 pipe segments and 122 manholes, representing approximately 20 percent of the system inspected, were found to have structural defects and other issues that allow for infiltration and inflow (I&I) to enter the sanitary sewer system. Along with reducing the potential for I&I, rehabilitating sanitary sewers renews the existing sewer pipes, extends their useful life, and protects against pipe collapses and other costly emergency repairs. The City's contractor will use [ultraviolet \(UV\) cured-in-place pipe technology](#) to rehabilitate the existing sanitary sewers.

The City is currently reaching out to the community regarding this work and will hold a [public meeting](#) on Thursday, October 12, at 7 p.m. at City Hall (301 King St.) and virtually, through [Zoom](#). The meeting will include a 30-minute presentation by City staff followed by a question-and-answer session.

COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE WORK

The Public Works Services (PWS) team will inspect Hooffs Run on an annual basis and perform necessary spot cleaning based on the inspection report findings. The next inspection is tentatively scheduled to begin in October 2023.

The PWS Stormwater team inspects and cleans inlets throughout the city. Crews will be cleaning the existing inlet openings to the culvert between Linden and Rosemont Streets over the next few weeks.

STORMWATER AND SEWER MAINTENANCE	
JULY-SEPTEMBER	
ROUTINE STORMWATER MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS AND CLEANING • 38 Hot spot areas • 11 Inlets and catch basins	SANITARY SEWER MAINTENANCE • 262 Cleaned inlets • 54 Cleaned siphons • 67 Cleaned catch basins
PREVENTATIVE STORMWATER MAINTENANCE • Fallen tree removal • Culvert inspection	SANITARY SEWER MAINTENANCE • 4,640 ft. Sewer main cleaned • 43,903 ft. Sewer CCTV • 36 ft. Repaired sewer pipe
PUBLIC BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) • 21 BMP Maintenance and cleaning	SANITARY SEWER INSPECTION PROGRAM • 27,272 Linear ft. Manhole sewer • 260 Laterals

FROM THE AD HOC GROUP

A Tale of Two Storms—and the Work That Lies Ahead of Us

This summer, Alexandria was hit hard by two severe rainstorms that caused flooding due to the City's overwhelmed stormwater system. These were not typical summer showers. On July 29 and August 14, each of these extreme rain events dropped more than an inch of rain in just 15 minutes. To put it into perspective, Alexandria usually receives only 3 inches of rain during the entire month of July or August, but in just 15 minutes, we received a third of that amount—twice. Flooding was seen in many areas, including upper King Street, Commonwealth Avenue, Glebe Road, and near the Braddock Road Metro Station, Lyles-Crouch School, and other places. However, there are signs of improvement.

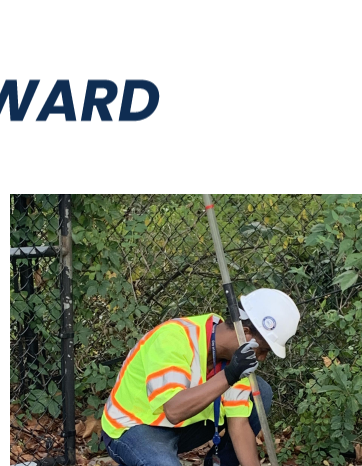
Increased stormwater system maintenance means the flood waters are now draining faster. Knee-deep water along Hooffs Run subsided in just an hour, which is a significant improvement. Despite the progress made, there is still much work to be done to make Alexandria truly flood resilient. Large infrastructure projects to expand the stormwater system's capacity have started, but as residents of Alexandria, we must continue to keep the spotlight on the [City's Flood Action program](#).

We are fortunate that City Council re-affirmed the need for resident involvement and oversight of Alexandria's flood mitigation efforts. On July 5, City Council unanimously voted to extend the [Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group](#), which is made up of 10 volunteers from across the city. The Ad Hoc Group collaborates with City staff and elected officials to shape the Flood Action Alexandria program to reduce the impact of future flood threats.

We will continue to push for continued investment of the stormwater fee into projects that have the greatest impact on Alexandria's flood resilience, especially as rainstorms become increasingly frequent and severe.

STORMWATER STEWARD

Daniel Sori is an inspector specializing in Best Management Practices (BMPs), which are proven structures and practices that reduce stormwater pollution. Sori began his career as a developmental inspector, and in 2022, he moved to Public Works Services (PWS) to become a BMP inspector. His primary responsibility is to review the conditions of stormwater BMP systems and prevent significant malfunctions. In his new role, he has gained extensive knowledge about the structure, agility, and functionality of BMPs and stormwater systems.



Daniel has over 20 years of experience in this industry. He started his career in Ethiopia, working with a design group to develop roads, utilities, and water pipes and establishing center lanes for highways. In 2012, he migrated to the United States and worked with a private consultant, providing quality assurance for construction activities. In 2017, he joined the City to continue his work in the industry.

Sori takes pride in his work and, of his recent projects, he is particularly proud of his contribution to the completion of a BMP at an Alexandria recycling facility. He and his team worked tirelessly to bring the sand filter to a functional status.

"Daniel consistently demonstrates dedication, professionalism, and innovation in his work," says Mary Alice Winston, Division Chief of Public Works Services. "His expertise in Best Management Practices and his passion for positively impacting this field are truly admirable."