

# **Stormwater Ballot Items for the Stonehedge and Butler Farms / Oak Creek Village Neighborhoods**

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Voters headed to the polls on March 1, 2011 will see two articles related to stormwater projects on the ballot. Article IV asks voters to consider creation of a Special Assessment District (SAD) in the Stonehedge neighborhood for the purpose of funding a stormwater improvement project. Similarly, Article V asks voters to consider the creation of a SAD in the Butler Farms and Oak Creek Village neighborhoods for the purpose of funding a stormwater improvement project.

Residents in these neighborhoods have been working with the Stormwater Utility to design stormwater treatment practices for a number of years. A positive vote on March 1 will authorize the Stormwater Utility to collect the neighborhood's share of project construction costs. It is important for voters to realize that only those properties located within the defined boundaries of the SADs will be assessed this additional fee. Properties located outside of the defined SADs will not see their Stormwater Utility fees increase due to a positive vote on these ballot items. A list of properties inside the proposed SADs is available for review at the City Clerk's office during normal business hours.

## **Stonehedge Project Information**

The Stonehedge neighborhood began working with the Stormwater Utility in 2006 when the two groups worked together to obtain a Transportation for Livable Communities grant to begin the planning process. At that time, the neighbors decided to form the Greater Stonehedge Stormwater Committee (GSSC). The GSSC includes a representative from each of the homeowner associations that make up the neighborhood (Stonehedge North, Stonehedge South, and Cedar Glen North). The GSSC met regularly to plan and design a new stormwater management system that would improve water quality and maintain the value of homes in the neighborhood. The final design includes construction of a stormwater treatment pond, construction of bio-retention facilities, replacement and installation of stormwater piping, and swale maintenance and construction.

Once initial planning was complete, the Stormwater Utility began working with the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) to complete engineering designs and construct the proposed stormwater treatment systems. The Stormwater Utility entered into a project agreement with ACOE in which ACOE agrees to cover 65% of project costs. The remaining 35% of project costs will be split between the property owners in Stonehedge and the Stormwater Utility based on the percentage of impervious surface that each owns. The total project cost is estimated to be \$933,000. The neighborhood portion of the project is estimated to be \$245,000 and this is the amount of the proposed SAD. There are 201 property owners in Stonehedge and if the ballot measure is approved the cost will be split equally between them and paid back over a period of ten years. This would result in an annual cost of \$155.14 for each property owner in the Stonehedge neighborhood.

This amount would be billed on the quarterly utility bills that homeowners already receive. South Burlington residents living outside of the Stonehedge neighborhood will not see a change in their monthly bills due to this project.

### **Butler Farms / Oak Creek Village Project Information**

Residents in the Butler Farms and Oak Creek Village (BFOCV) neighborhoods began meeting with the Stormwater Utility and the City's Department of Planning and Zoning to discuss stormwater management in 2005. City staff obtained a grant from the U.S. EPA to study the neighborhood's existing drainage system, quantify the impacts that the neighborhood was having on Tributary 7 of Potash Brook, and design stormwater treatment practices that would improve water quality and reduce the negative impacts that historically poor stormwater management was having throughout the neighborhood. As the project moved forward, the Stormwater Utility was able to obtain two additional grants to help pay for construction of stormwater treatment practices. These additional grants were obtained from the Vermont Agency of Transportation and totaled \$400,000.

Since 2005, the project team has held regular meetings to keep residents informed of results. At these meetings the project team presented a number of different plans to improve stormwater management in the neighborhood. In early 2011, the group settled on a plan that included: construction of a stormwater treatment pond on City owned land between Marcy Street and Hinesburg Road, construction of a stormwater diversion swale to the west of the neighborhood, renovation of two defunct detention ponds and replacement of associated drainage pipe in Oak Creek Village, and stream and floodplain restoration work along Tributary 7 of Potash Brook.

The Stormwater Utility estimates that it will cost \$1,391,000 to construct the proposed stormwater management practices in the BFOCV neighborhood. The portion of these costs that are not covered by grants will be split between residents in the BFOCV neighborhood and the Stormwater Utility. The purpose of the proposed SAD is to enable the Stormwater Utility to collect the neighborhood's share of project costs (\$255,000). There are 257 properties located in the BFOCV neighborhood and if the ballot item is approved the cost will be spread equally among them. BFOCV property owners would pay this amount back over a period of ten years and this will result in an annual cost of \$126.29 for each property owner. This amount would be billed to property owners in BFOCV on the quarterly utility bills that homeowners already receive. South Burlington residents living outside of BFOCV will not see a change in their monthly bills due to this project.