

## VDOT to tackle Tabb Lakes Drainage Ditches

**Update - June 2024:** Completion status:

Adele Court	Not Completed	Leslie Lane	Completed 11/2022
Bridge Wood Drive	Not Completed	Monty Manor	Completed 2/2023
Conway Court	Not Completed	Naurene Court	Not Completed
Cub Court	Completed 3/2024	Richard Run	Completed 3/2023
Elise Place	Completed 3/2023	Shallow Lagoon	Not Completed
Gardenville Drive	Completed 2/2023	Tabb Lakes Drive	Completed 3/2024
Heath Place	Completed 11/2022	Tiger Paw Path	Completed 11/2022
Jonathan Junction	Not Completed	Tiger Run	Completed 3/2024

10 of 16 named streets completed.

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**Update - March 18, 2023:** The VDOT crews plan to start digging on Richard Run.

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**Update - January 27, 2023:** The VDOT crews plan to be back in the neighborhood next week. The utilities on Gardenville Dr. between Hilda Hollow and Tabb Lakes Dr. have been marked and that is where they will start. Please do everything you can to avoid parking on the street during the day in this section of Gardenville starting next week. Once they finish this half of Gardenville they will move on to the other half. Once you see those utilities marked you will need to plan your parking accordingly.

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**Update - December 2, 2022:** The next street side ditch cleanout section that VDOT will do is Tabb Lakes Dr. from Monty Manor to Jonathan Junction. The utilities should be marked by Monday (Dec 5), so work should start on those ditches next week. During the day, please avoid parking any vehicles on the street in the areas where VDOT is working.

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You may have noticed VDOT, or their contractors, in the neighborhood today (Friday) working on the ditches. This work is part of a concerted effort by VDOT to tackle all the neighborhood's roadside drainage issues at one time instead of responding to individual requests one by one. I am in frequent communication with the VDOT Superintendent of Operations who is overseeing the project. I have provided some general information below so you will know what to expect and to help the project move as efficiently through the neighborhood as possible. As I have updates for you, I will ask your Web Services Coordinator to send them out using this email list.

The two biggest things to keep in mind as the project gets started:

1. The crews cannot work on any ditch where there are cars parked on the street. As they work their way along a street, if they encounter any parked cars, they will knock on the nearby doors to see if they can find an owner who can move them, but if they can't find the owner they will have to stop and move to a different area. I'm sure you can imagine that this will greatly reduce

their efficiency. For now, the streets they are starting with are Cub Ct., Leslie Lane and Heath Place. Tiger Paw Path will be next. When the utilities on a street are flagged and painted that is your signal that the work is going to start there soon. The crews do not work on the weekends, **but on weekdays please do not leave any cars parked on the streets they are working on.**

2. The point of what VDOT is doing is to return the ditches to their original elevation and slope so water can flow unobstructed from one culvert pipe to the next. VDOT does not have the funds or the staffing to make them look beautiful once they are finished. If your ditch is one of the ones that has been continually filling in for the past 35 years and is supposed to be fairly deep, you may have some work to do afterwards to make it look nice again. You are welcome to rake the sides so they are sloped better and you should certainly put some grass seed down.

Also:

- After the ditches in an area have been regraded, the vacuum truck will come through to clean out all the culvert pipes in that area. I would not spend a lot of time cleaning up your ditch until AFTER the vacuum truck comes through. One of VDOT's vacuum trucks has been in the shop since July and they have had a few other equipment problems, so please be patient when waiting for the vacuum truck to get to you.
- If you have put rocks or any other materials in the bottom of your ditch and they determine that it needs to be lowered, they will use their equipment to scrape up the rocks and will dispose of them along with everything else they are scooping out of the ditches. If you have a headwall or some other erosion control structure around your culvert pipe that should be OK.
- In many instances, different equipment will need to be used on straight sections of road than on the tight curves of the cul-de-sacs. If you live on a court, please don't worry if most of the street gets done and then they seem to leave. A different crew will be back to finish the rest of the street.
- If we get rain after your ditch has been completed and it seems to hold water for longer than the others around you, or if you see a choke point that has developed, please send me an email. Be sure to include your address, and photos are very helpful. I will forward the information on to the Superintendent and he will have it looked at. There is no real way to test their work, so we have to just wait and see what happens each time it rains.

If at any point you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. If I don't know the answer to your question, I should be able to put you in touch with someone who does.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

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