

# DRIVEWAY CULVERT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM QUICK FACTS



## What is the St. Lucie County Culvert Assistance Program?

A County MSBU program that offers homeowners an option for fiscal assistance in the replacement of failed driveway culverts. There are thousands of failed culverts within unincorporated St. Lucie County, causing poor drainage and water quality problems. The Culvert Assistance Program offers deferred payments to the homeowner where the expense of a culvert replacement becomes part of your yearly taxes and is spread over a 10-year period. The County hopes to assist residents through a financial mechanism that will lessen the up-front cost of this important home improvement project.

## Who Can Qualify?

The program is available to residents who live in a single-family or duplex home, on an unincorporated St. Lucie County parcel, are current on taxes for three years, and live on a County maintained roadway.

## What are the application fees?

The application fee for replacing an existing driveway culvert is \$25. Additional costs for the program are explained under "How is my assessment determined".

## Can I do the work myself?

No. All work must be performed by a licensed and insured contractor.

## Where do I find information on licensed contractors?

Please contact the St. Lucie Contractor Licensing Division at 772-462-1672 for a list of licensed contractors.

## Are any permits required?

Yes. A St. Lucie County driveway permit is needed for work to be completed.

## What are the benefits of replacing your driveway culvert?

Culverts must remain free and clear to maintain good drainage. When a culvert fails, it slows down, or can completely block the flow of stormwater through drainage swales. By replacing your non-functioning culvert, you are not only helping the drainage in your

neighborhood, but you are also helping to improve the water quality in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River.

## Why don't my taxes pay for this?

Driveways serve to access your home, and are private improvements authorized by permit. Driveway culverts are the responsibility of the homeowner and are not publicly maintained.

## How much will it cost?

Culvert replacements can range in price based on size, width, and contractor. Please submit at least two quotes along with your application.

## How long do I have to do the work?

Issued permits are good for 6 months.

## How do I care and maintain my culvert so it will last?

By keeping your culvert free of debris you allow for proper water flow and drainage.



# CULVERT MSBU

## Driveway Culvert Assistance Program

### FACTS

#### What is a MSBU?

A Municipal Services Benefit Unit ("MSBU") is a legal financing mechanism wherein a local government establishes a discrete area within which to provide for the delivery and funding of essential services or improvements such as potable water, wastewater, paving and drainage, culverts, sidewalks, street lighting, beach restoration, solid waste collection, etc. through the imposition of special assessments (sometimes referred to as non-ad valorem assessments) against real property located therein. In other words, it gives property owners a way to finance improvements or services that they desire or need by paying the cost through a special assessment.

#### How is my assessment determined?

The assessment amount levied on each property includes the construction cost quote, as provided by the contractor, and the costs incurred by the County in the annual collection and administration of the special assessments, including but not limited to fees imposed by the Tax Collector pursuant to Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, and amounts necessary to account for the maximum statutory discount for the early payment of property taxes and non-ad valorem assessments. The estimated annual payment for this project is calculated at two-point five percent (2.5%) interest for a period of up to ten (10) years.

#### How are payments made?

If created, annual payments would be collected on the property's tax bill mailed by the County Tax Collector each November for up to ten years. The special assessments would be levied and collected by the County in accordance with the procedure set forth in Chapter 40, Article VIII of the County's Code of Ordinances and as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statute. You may pay off your assessment at any time to avoid interest from that point forward.

#### Once assessments are levied can they be increased?

No. Once assessments are levied the amount would only remain the same or be reduced.

#### If I sell my property does the assessment have to be paid in full?

No, the assessment is linked with the property not the owner. The new owner will continue to make the annual payments for the remainder of the financing term.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE  
MORE INFORMATION:

[WWW.STLUCIECO.  
GOV/CULVERTS](http://WWW.STLUCIECO.GOV/CULVERTS)

(772) 462-2568

OR

[Guettlerb@stlucieco.org](mailto:Guettlerb@stlucieco.org)