



Cave Creek Drainage Master Plan

July 2007

Introduction

Since its inception, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District) has provided flood control services to County residents in order to ensure public safety and to protect residences from flooding.

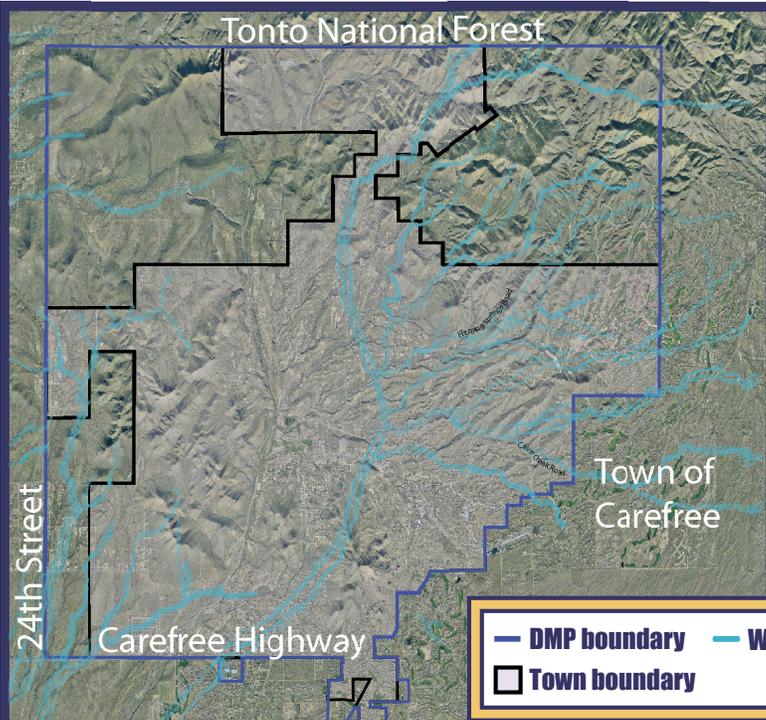
The Cave Creek Drainage Master Plan was started in 2006 after a request from the Town of Cave Creek (Town) to create a standard for managing the drainage system within the town limits.

Drainage master plans are conducted by the District to provide minimum criteria and standards for flood control and drainage relating to land use and development. Once it is completed in October of 2007, the DMP will identify flooding problems, sources, and hazards within DMP boundary limits from approximately Carefree Highway to the south, 24th Street alignment to the west, the Tonto National Forest to the north, and the town of Carefree to the east. It will also identify drainage alternatives for alleviating the flooding problems and hazards.



Sediment has clogged this culvert at Cave Creek Road.

Development is rapidly occurring in this area, and existing and potential flooding problems need to be identified, as the floodplain has the potential to change. Possible alternatives that may help reduce flooding includes identifying flooding hazards through floodplain delineations, managing development by producing drainage guidelines or constructing structural facilities.



Study Area

The DMP boundary limits are approximately Carefree Highway to the south, 24th Street alignment to the west, the Tonto National Forest to the north, and the town of Carefree to the east. This area encompasses approximately 50 square miles.

Figure 1. Existing mapped floodplains in the Cave Creek area



After heavy rainstorms, access is an issue in Cave Creek.

Proposed DMP Elements

The study team has developed the following alternatives to address identified flooding concerns, while maintaining the area's natural and unique beauty.

- **Flood Response Plan**—identifies specific area flooding hazards and institutes a flood response system to allow for efficient and timely emergency response units
- **All-weather access**—provides a safe route for crossing flooded washes
- **Removal of obstructions in washes**—obstructions may include walls built across washes, piles of debris, or anything substantial enough to alter the flow of water.
- **Erosion hazard setbacks**—determines minimum distances that new structures should be located from a wash bank or if additional methods, such as bank protection, should be used. (This would not apply to existing structures.) The purpose of erosion hazard setbacks is to prevent houses from being located too close to wash banks, where erosion could compromise their stability.
- **Drainage guidelines**—will contain information about what a property owner can and cannot do with respect to drainage.
- **Floodprone Properties Acquisition Program (FPAP)**—a voluntary property buyout program sponsored by the District.
- **Education program**—will assist residents in recognizing potential flooding and erosion hazards and will inform them on how to protect themselves and their property.

Next Steps

The final recommended DMP will be presented at a public meeting in September 2007. The final DMP will be presented to the Town to be presented to the Town Council for potential adoption.

Contact Information

For more information on the Cave Creek DMP and Flood Response Plan, please visit the project Web site at:

www.fcd.maricopa.gov/ads/CaveCreekDMP.htm.

You can also visit the Town of Cave Creek Web site at www.cavecreek.org, or contact:

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