

OPWC grant to help city finally upgrade major drainage ditch

Project moved off contingency list, but because the projects ahead of it came under costs it moved up the list.

By [Doug Page](#), Staff Writer

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ENGLEWOOD — The city is spending almost \$350,000 to upgrade more than one-half mile of its major drainage ditch, with the majority of the money coming from the Ohio Public Works Commission.

The city had sought money for the project from the OPWC this year, but failed to make the cut, landing instead on the contingency list.

Because the projects ahead of it came in under estimated costs, the OPWC worked its way down the contingency list.

“Because of the economy, many projects came in under budget,” Eric Smith, city manager, told the City Council last week.

The city will receive a \$78,637 OPWC grant, plus a \$235,913 no-interest loan to install a 6-foot wide concrete bottom to 3,400 feet of drainage ditch behind Englewood Hills Elementary School. Much of that section of ditch — it drains around 640 acres — is overgrown and hard to maintain.

Smith said with a concrete bottom, city workers will be able to mow with moderate ease the sides of the ditch.

The hard bottom also will promote better drainage.

“It will make a big improvement in appearance,” Smith said. “It’s the city’s major drainage ditch.”

The city has started the engineering for the project with hopes it can get started this spring.

Contact this reporter at (937) 225-2290 or dpage@DaytonDailyNews.com.

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