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PRESS RELEASE
November 17, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY ANNOUNCED FOR BONIFAY DOWNTOWN RESILIENT STORMWATER PROJECT

Bonifay, FL — The City of Bonifay and DHM Melvin Engineering are pleased to announce the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Downtown Resilient Stormwater Project, scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony will take place at the project site (near Memorial Field) in downtown Bonifay, celebrating the completion of an innovative infrastructure effort designed to improve water quality, increase stormwater capacity, and enhance flood protection for the community.

Funded through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida program, this \$2.1 million project was designed to strengthen the city's ability to withstand heavy rainfall and flooding events. The Northwest Florida Water Management District played a vital role through support and permitting assistance to make this project a reality. The project's design carefully considered the surrounding residential area and the adjacent Middlebrooks Park, ensuring that the new stormwater system integrates seamlessly into the community setting.

Mayor Larry Cook and the Bonifay City Council have provided strong leadership and support throughout the project, helping to guide the City's ongoing commitment to community resilience and downtown revitalization.

Legislative leaders Senator Jay Trumbull and Representative Shane Abbott were instrumental in supporting the Resilient Florida legislation, which has helped provide much-needed resources to strengthen rural communities across the state.

The project was made possible through collaboration among many partners. The City of Bonifay team included Sierra Smith, Grants Coordinator, and Aaron Taylor, Public Works. The DHM Engineering team was led by John Udochi, Ryan Huges, and Paula Weeks, with Clearview Land Design providing subconsultant support.

In addition, the City and DHM partnered with the Florida State University College of Engineering, where a Senior Design Class of engineering students assisted in completing preliminary designs for the stormwater pond—offering students valuable real-world experience in community resilience.

"This project truly demonstrates the power of partnership," said Brent Melvin of DHM Melvin Engineering. "Through collaboration between the City, state leaders, and engineering teams, Bonifay now has a stronger, more resilient foundation for the future."

The ribbon cutting ceremony is open to the public, and community members are encouraged to attend to celebrate this milestone in Bonifay's continued commitment to sustainable infrastructure and resilience.

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850.482.3045
info@melvineng.com
Marianna - Tallahassee
www.melvineng.com
EST. 1989