

Hickory Circle Flooding Issue Hilltop Area of Jonesboro

Photos of water from most recent
event on March 17, 2021.

Photos and brief explanation of what
is causing the majority of our
flooding issues.

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The residents of Hickory Circle have been contending with flooding issues over the last 7 years. With each building permit issued in the Hilltop area of Johnson Avenue, the conditions have worsened. Water runoff from area businesses is being directed into a drainage ditch installed 30 years ago never anticipating this quantity of water would be run through it. Several residents have lived in the Circle for more than 25 years and first hand know the history of the lack of flooding issues.

It is the position of the City that we should simply take out flood insurance and place our properties in a flood risk zone through FEMA. Our properties were not in a flood risk zone according to a 2012 city report that identified repetitive flooding areas in Jonesboro. This alone should substantiate our claim that prior to the commercial development of the Hilltop area flooding in our circle was not an issue.

Over the last 4 years, the residents of Hickory Circle have met with our Councilmen, Bobby Long and David McCain, in our homes and on our properties, met with Roy Ockert and Michael from Engineering at a table in the Mayor's office. We have spoke out on rezoning requests due to the flooding issue and the

rezoning was denied. We have been to a handful of City Council meetings.

We also know that in the fall of 2018, engineering students from ASU were assigned an evaluation of our water issues. We were not given a copy of the final report, but understand that a copy was provided to the City for consideration. In speaking recently with the academic advisor for the study, he was unable to locate a copy of the final evaluation and recommendations. However, he did say that best he could remember the recommendations included a larger tile on Hickory Circle and work on the retention pond to make it functional.

Currently, there is a proposed plan to build a Starbucks on the corner of the Fat City lot and 100% of that run off water will flow into our system. There is not enough room on the proposed site to build a retention area. We have been told over and over again by Engineering that no building permit is approved that increases the amount of water run off the property has prior to building. As of 4/5/2021, no drainage plan has been submitted by Starbucks developers per a phone call with the Engineering department. So, how will this be evaluated for this permit?

We implore you as a Council and Mayor to listen to your constituents. Protect our properties and property values. What businesses will be attracted to a city with known flooding issues that simply tells property owners to take out flood insurance, remove fences, and let homes flood twice and the city can request FEMA money to purchase the property?

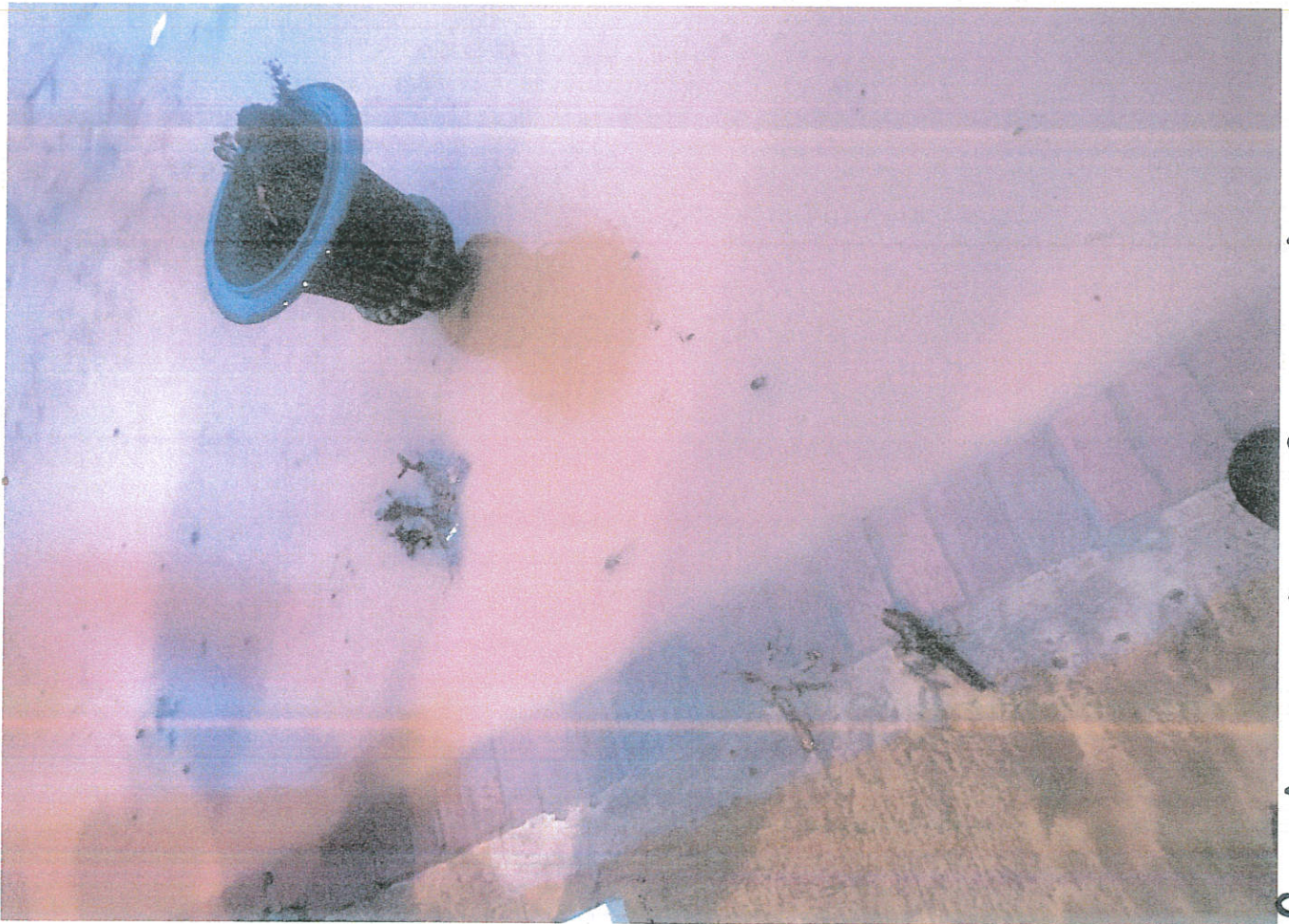
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Attached are photos of the most recent water event and an explanation of the how and why this water enters the Hickory Circle neighborhood.



driveway

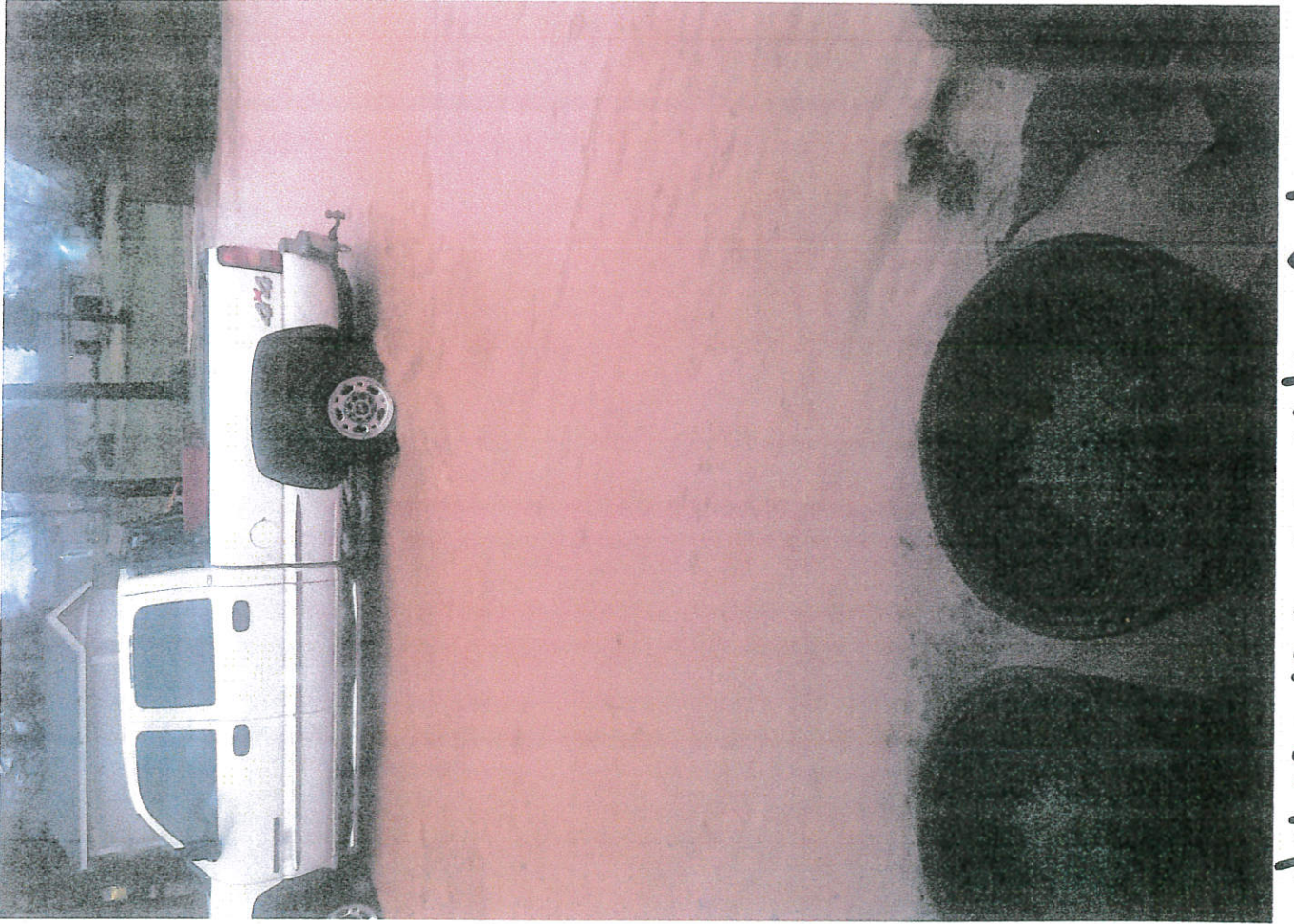
ditch
↙



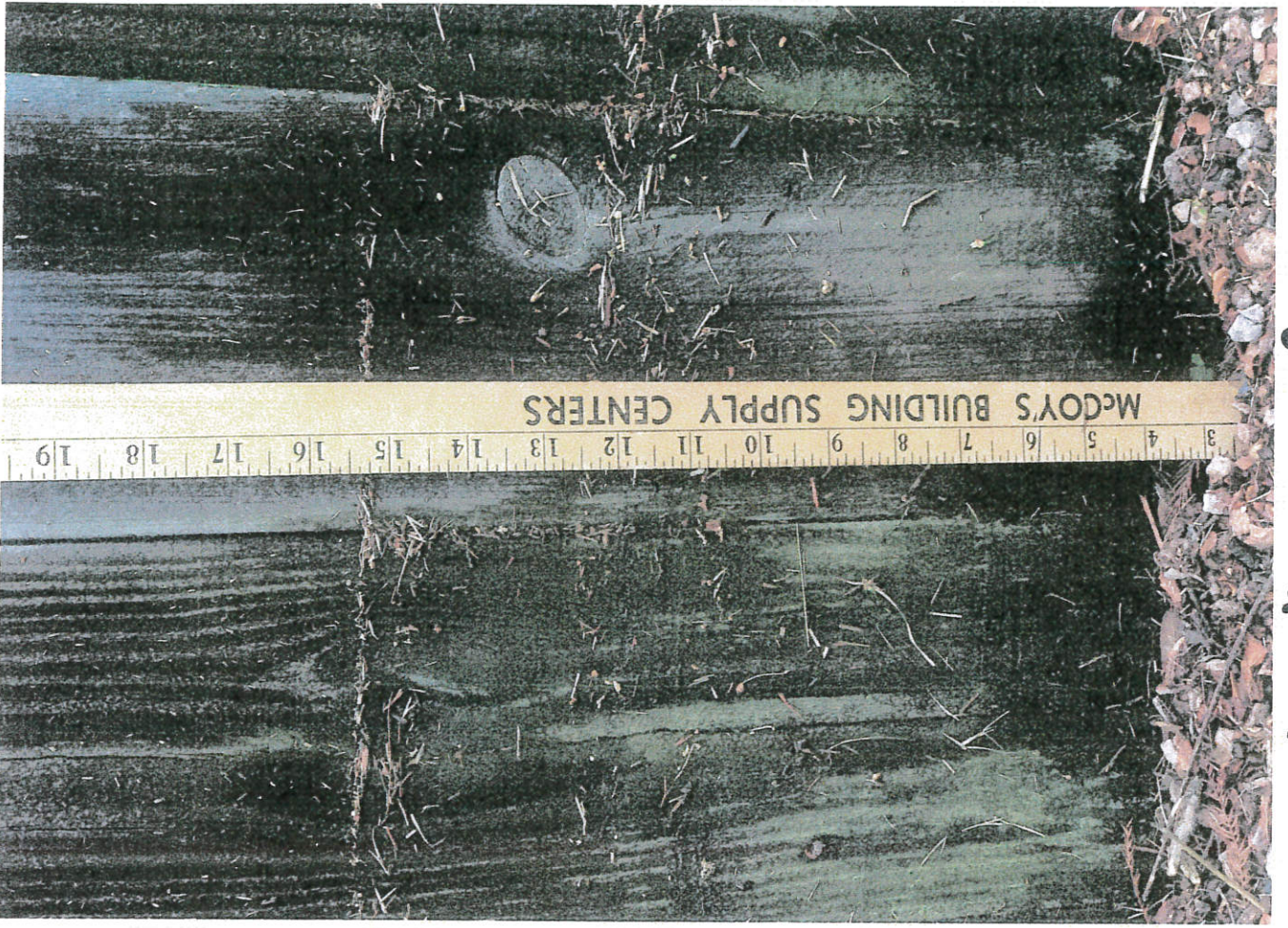
front porch after water
leaving recording



front yard



drive way on side of house



water line on fence



debris after math



debris aftermath

Brief Explanation of How and Why Water Enters Hickory Circle:

Photo 1: Retention Pond behind Fat City

The majority of the water enters the the retention pond from the area at the top left of the picture. At point A, water enters the pond at the mouth of the pond. Point B is the mouth of the pond that does nothing to control the flow of the water. Over the years, water has cut a creek through the pond, and the pond never holds any water back. The recommendation of the residents for years has been to build a spillway at the mouth of the pond in order to control and reduce the flow of water into the drainage ditch. No other retention pond we have seen in the city has an open flow system. Flow should be less volume than the tile under Hickory Circle. See photo 5 for explanation.

Photo 2: Retention Pond behind Fat City

This is a wider view of the pond. It is very shallow and never holds any water. It is the recommendation of the residents that this be reshaped so that it will fulfill its purpose.

Photo 3: Drainage Tile under Airport Road

This is an 8 foot by 4 foot tile allowing all water to pass under Airport Road.

Photo 4: Tile under Hickory Circle

Two 42 inch water drain tiles for a total of 84 inches allowing water to flow under Hickory Circle. This reduction in size, combined with a shallow ditch, creates a bottleneck effect in the ability for water to flow. This is the point in which most water leaves the banks of the ditch and enters Hickory Circle. In addition, the two smaller tiles frequently will not allow debris that passes through the larger rectangular tile to pass. This stops the flow of water compounding the problem.

Photo 5: View Standing on Hickory Circle looking toward Airport Road

Water enters the ditch at 5 additional points beyond the mouth of the retention pond. This additional water compounds the excess water that is being released from the pond. For this reason, the spillway added to the mouth of the retention pond should release less volume than the ditch and tile on Hickory Circle can carry.

**Photo 6: Current View of Ditch Behind 4126
Hickory Circle Where Concrete Ends**

This area is littered with debris and brush overgrowth. The concrete allows the water to move swiftly with little to no restriction and then BAM! The water hits an area where it cannot flow. Engineering has told us that this area has the capabilities of carrying the same volume of water as the ditch. However, with the debris and overgrowth, this is unlikely. Compare it to a 16 ounce cup and a 16 ounce soft drink. You can pour the entire drink into an empty cup. But, once you add a few ice cubes, your cup no longer holds 16 fluid ounces. Water has moved so swiftly, that it has broken pieces of the concrete and washed it into the ditch. This area need to be cleaned out.

Photo 1

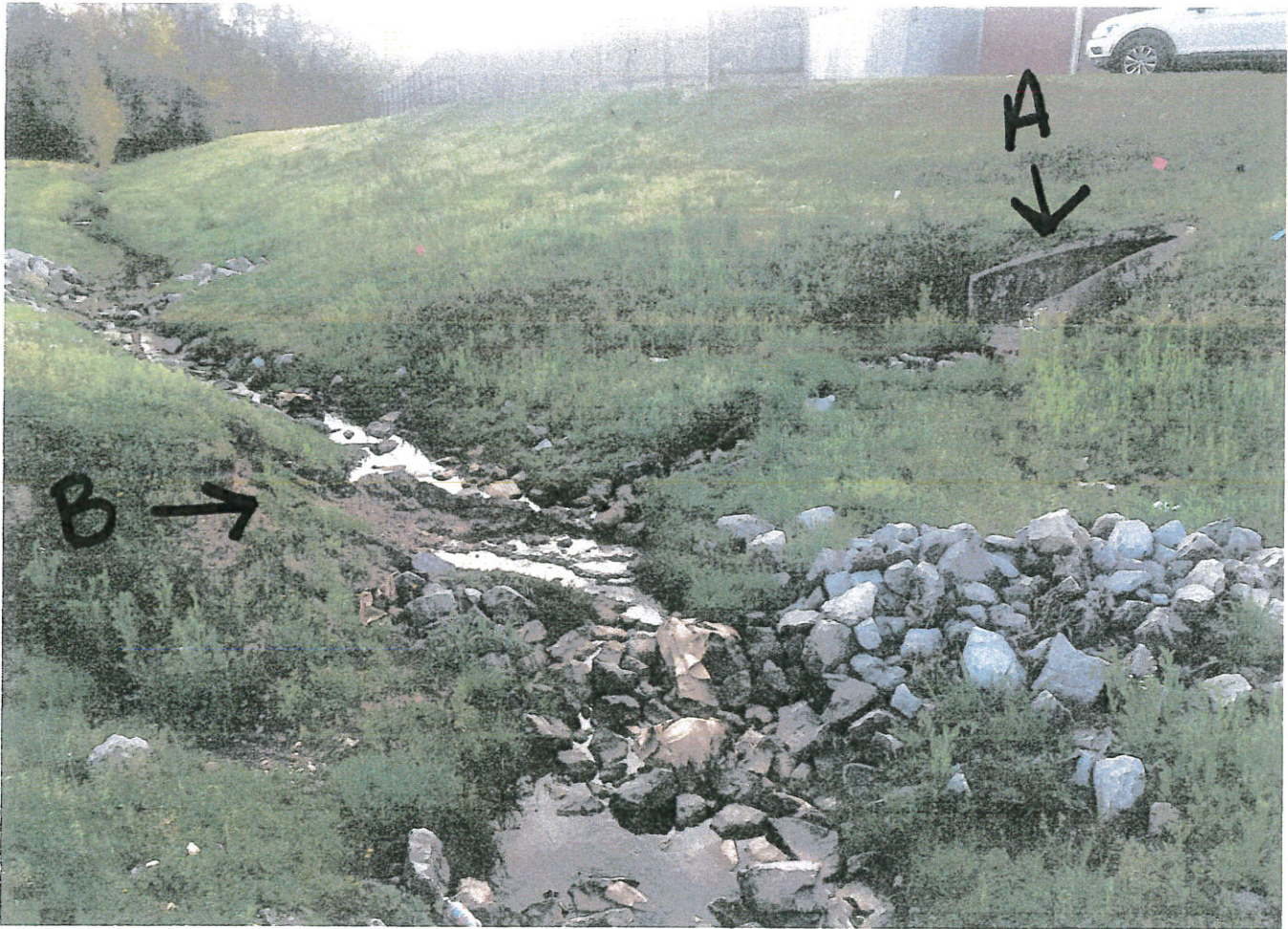


Photo 2



Photo 3

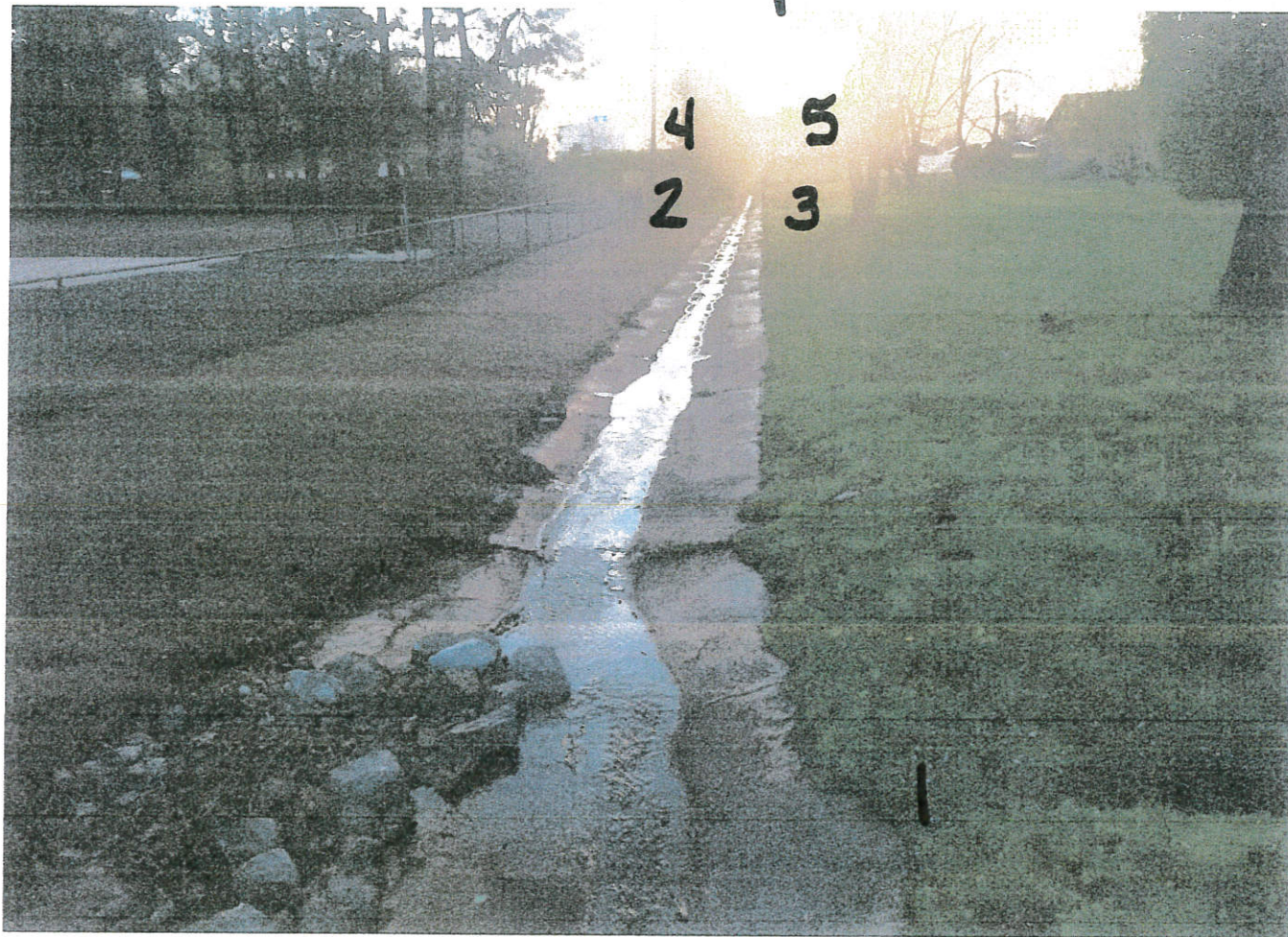


Photo 4



Photo 5

Airport Rd



Hickory Cir

Photo 6

