



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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WAPA to Upgrade Water Infrastructure in Blackbeard Hill Community

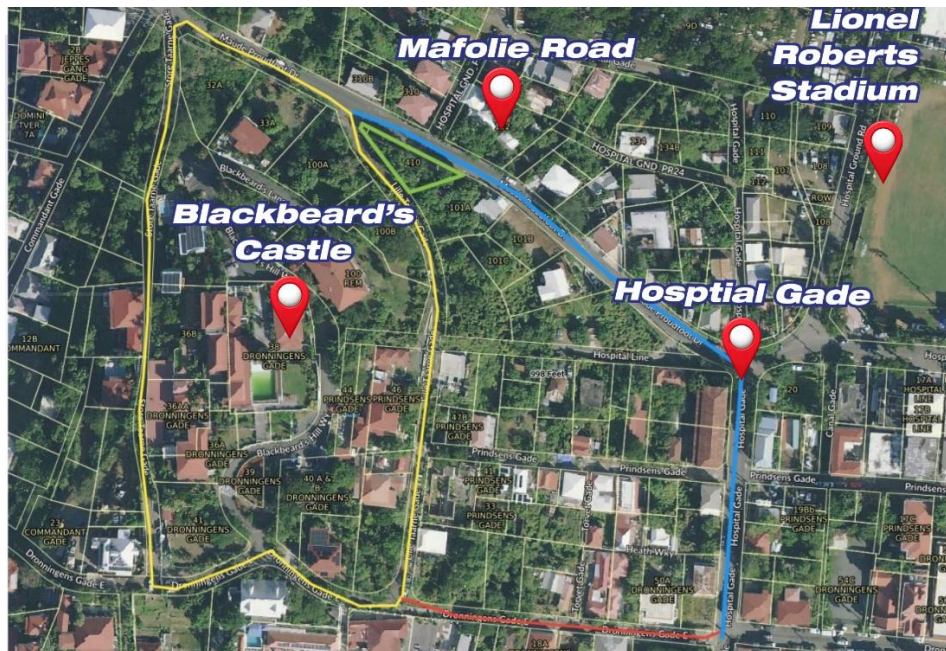


Fig. 1: Map of the Blackbeard Hill Waterline Rehabilitation Project area on St. Thomas

ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (May 21, 2026) – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or the “Authority”) is advising the public of the upcoming Blackbeard Hill Waterline Rehabilitation Project, which will improve and modernize water infrastructure in the Blackbeard Hill community on St. Thomas. Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR), construction is scheduled to begin on June 1, 2026.

The project includes a comprehensive waterline main replacement featuring approximately 2,800 linear feet of new water pipeline, along with upgraded valves and fire hydrants. The work also includes construction of a new pump station to improve system pressure and operational performance. Existing waterlines within the project area will be properly decommissioned, and all affected roadways, paved surfaces, and landscaped areas will be restored upon completion.

Island Roads Corporation has been selected to execute the project on behalf of WAPA. Initial activities will include mobilization, material delivery and staging, and work area preparation ahead of construction. Work will then proceed in phases throughout the Blackbeard Hill community to minimize disruption.

Upon completion, the project will improve water distribution reliability, stabilize system pressure and flow, reduce long-term operational and maintenance costs, and strengthen overall system performance. These upgrades will provide a more resilient and efficient potable water system for Blackbeard Hill residents and businesses.

To support construction activities, traffic management measures will be implemented, and motorists should expect intermittent and phased impacts within the project corridor. Appropriate detour signage will be posted to ensure safe and efficient movement through active work zones. Customers may experience temporary water service interruptions during construction and will receive advance notice through [WAPA Alerts](#).

WAPA thanks the community for its cooperation and support as the Authority continues to advance critical infrastructure improvements across the territory.

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Communication's department is committed to reaching, informing, and connecting with the youngest members of the community to the eldest, through meaningful, transparent and effective communication.

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About WAPA: The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is an autonomous agency of the Virgin Islands Government which produces and distributes electricity and drinking water to residential and commercial customers in the territory. WAPA was created by the Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands in 1964 through Act No. 1248. Today, WAPA generates electrical power at production plants on St. Thomas and St. Croix and distributes electrical service through smart grids to customers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Hassel Island, and Water Island. Potable water is distributed to almost 13,000 customers through water lines and standpipes. WAPA also has the responsibility of installing and maintaining streetlights.