

Little Walnut Creek Flood Risk Reduction Frequently Asked Questions

What traffic impacts to the neighborhood are expected during construction?

Construction is expected to take three years. We will do our best to minimize disruption to the neighborhood. Please expect the following traffic impacts at a minimum.

- Lane and street closures on Mearns Meadow Boulevard between Metric and Rutland. The street may be rough to drive on before it is repaired at the end of the project.
- No parking in work areas on Mearns Meadow Boulevard. Notification will be made 48 hours prior and then cars will be towed.
- Bus routes may be detoured.

How will utility services be impacted?

- Water will need to be shut off on several occasions during the project. You will receive 48 hours' notice along with a timeframe for the shut out.
- There is always the potential for temporary, unexpected disruptions to services (ex. water) if a line is inadvertently cut. We will take care to avoid this.

What other impacts should be considered?

- Some digging at the edge of yards to install more than 30 new inlets. The digging will be in the right of way. The right of way extends about 10 feet behind the curb line.
- Possible noise and dust during work hours from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Closure of the soccer fields and other areas within Quail Creek Neighborhood Park. The exercise equipment will be removed during the project. Brownie Park may be used as an alternative for residents.

What do I do about my garbage?

Please continue to set out your garbage, composting and recycling as normal, even when your road is closed. We will coordinate with Austin Resource Recovery.

How will safety be addressed during this project?

Safety is a key concern, and we are taking all appropriate precautions. In any construction project, there are inherent dangers. We ask that you stay aware of safety fencing and signage and keep children and pets away from the construction area and equipment. We will coordinate with emergency workers to ensure that they will always have access to the area. The contractor will meet all current City COVID-19 safety requirements. Contractors will wear masks when unable to maintain appropriate physical distancing.

How will I be kept informed about this project?

We will send occasional email updates to keep you informed of our progress. To be placed on the distribution list, email Outreach Coordinator, Matthew.Hart@austintexas.gov. We will also notify you by letter if we are upgrading an inlet at your property. In addition, project information will be posted at the Little Walnut Creek library and local community groups.

How are you going to protect trees?

A City of Austin arborist will evaluate the trees before construction begins and determine which trees need to be protected with fencing or planking and if any low-hanging branches need to be trimmed. This is to help prevent any damage to trees from construction equipment.

Will my house still be in the floodplain?

Many houses will be much less likely to flood due to this project, but some of them may still be in the floodplain. After the project is finished, we will submit information to FEMA to revise the official floodplain maps for Little Walnut Creek. Please be aware that the reduction in the floodplain from this project may be offset by a separate effort to remap floodplains citywide. This effort, called Atlas 14, will show increases in floodplains, including Little Walnut Creek. It is hard to know at this time how this project and the Atlas14 floodplain mapping effort will affect each other. There is more information at AustinTexas.gov/Atlas14.

How will this affect my flood insurance policy?

Your need for flood insurance will not change while the project is in construction. Once the project and the new floodplain mapping is completed, if your home is no longer in the floodplain, your mortgage company may choose to drop this requirement. However, we would generally recommend keeping your flood insurance policy. The cost should be lower for homes that are no longer in the floodplain. When the floodplain mapping is complete, you should check with your mortgage company and homeowner's insurance company.

What are your plans for repaving the streets?

We will repair trenches during construction of the utility lines. Following completion of all work on all streets, pavement will be restored.