

Ashland Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Relocation Project

Fall 2018



Project Overview

The City of Ashland is relocating the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) outfall from Ashland Creek to Bear Creek to comply with new water quality regulations. The outfall is a pipe that is used to release treated wastewater into the Creek. Bear Creek has higher water flows than Ashland Creek which will allow treated wastewater to mix and disperse quickly resulting in fewer impacts to water quality and improved habitat for fish and other animals that live near the creek. The City is conducting design and permitting for the relocation of the outfall and will construct in Summer 2020.

This design process follows a series of studies that considered different treatment approaches, outfall locations and pipe alignments. When complete, the Wastewater Treatment Plant outfall will meet environmental compliance standards while minimizing impacts to sensitive habitat and the Bear Creek Greenway.

The City will be required to obtain several permits associated with the outfall relocation from state and federal agencies.

Outfall Relocation

The proposed outfall relocation site is in Bear Creek, approximately 135 feet downstream of the confluence of Ashland Creek and Bear Creek. The site is located on City property, has natural conditions that promote rapid mixing, and avoids spawning areas in Bear Creek. The pipeline alignment from the WWTP to the new outfall site follows the Ashland Pond access road/trail and was selected because it avoids impacts to the Bear Creek Greenway, Ashland Creek, and sensitive habitat along the creek.



Existing outfall into Ashland Creek

Ashland Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Relocation Project

Fall 2018



The new outfall pipeline will be routed around Ashland Pond and along the access road/trail to Bear Creek.

Ashland Pond and Trail Impacts

Because the new pipe from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to Bear Creek will follow the Ashland Pond access road and trail, construction in Summer 2020* will impact trail users. While temporary trail closures are likely, the City will work with the contractor to keep these closures as short as possible. The City will use news releases, social media and signage to alert trail users of any upcoming closures or detours. At the end of construction, the City will restore the Ashland Pond trail to its preconstruction condition including replanting natural areas that are disturbed.



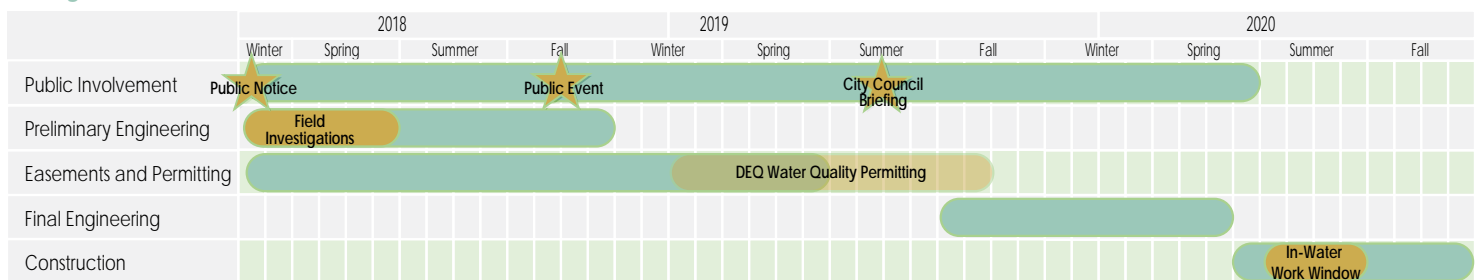
Ashland pond will be drained during construction and will be refilled with Ashland Creek water at the completion of construction and returned to existing water levels with an improved intake, spillways, and improved water quality for native plants and animals.

Public Involvement

As the City proceeds with the design and permitting process, they will provide information to the public and coordinate with stakeholders. The City plans to hold an open house in Fall 2018 to share information about the project and collect input on how to minimize disruptions to trail users during construction. More information will be available at www.ashland.or.us/healthycreeks.

For more information on the project or to get added to an email list for project updates, please send an email to the City of Ashland Public Works Department at healthycreeks@ashland.or.us.

Project Schedule



* The project is planned for summer 2020 construction. However, DEQ water quality permitting could delay the construction to summer 2021.