

Frequently Asked Questions: Thomas and McPherson Stormwater Project

1. During construction how long will crews be on our street, can we get in and out of driveways, and will it interrupt utilities?

As the project moves through the design process, PWSA will provide residents within the project area with an estimate of the construction period and gather input to inform the construction schedule and staging activities. Once a contract is in place, PWSA will work with the contractor to establish the construction schedule. It is expected that access to homes and parking will be maintained throughout construction; utilities will not be interrupted.

During construction, PWSA is in constant communication with the contractor and provides residents and businesses with regular updates about construction related activities. This ensures that those living or working within the construction area are aware of the construction schedule, project milestones, and potential impacts.

2. Residents living within the project area enjoy the aesthetics of having tree lined streets. They do not want to lose their trees or plant new landscaping. Will the depth of digging disrupt or cut the roots of trees?

During construction, digging can impact tree roots. Until the pavement is removed the extent is unknown. However, all tree root work is supervised by a certified arborist and performed within industry standards. Contractors are required to perform work based on the arborist's specifications and will use tools and construction procedures to protect the health of the tree. We are required to replace any tree lost during construction.

3. How quickly does the underground storage drain and will it result in standing water or attract rodents and mosquitoes?

The underground storage will drain within 72-hours and will not have standing water nor will it be accessible to insects or rodents.

4. How does permeable pavement or landscaped bump outs impact street cleaning and snow plowing?

Street cleaning and snow plowing can occur as it normally does when permeable pavement is installed. During the winter, permeable pavers can reduce the amount of ice that forms in these areas.

If landscaped bump-outs are selected, we will work with the city to eliminate the street cleaning and snow plowing operations in these areas to avoid plowing or cleaning over vegetated areas.

5. Residents within the project area have paved their sidewalks and if impacted by construction will they have to repave?

No, residents will not have to repave their sidewalks. Existing sidewalks will not be impacted by this project. All work will occur within the road section, curb to curb.

6. How will construction staging take place throughout the project?

Construction within the public right-of-way will be staged to minimize and potentially eliminate impacts to the adjacent properties. Access to each property will be maintained during the construction process. PWSA will conduct another community workshop to review the construction staging options and gather input about the construction staging and sequencing plan. Residents will have the opportunity to provide input into the staging of construction activities.

7. What safety measures are being put into place to ensure the safety of pedestrians and students attending nearby schools?

During construction, safety is our utmost concern and we take it seriously. Each construction project includes a safety plan that the contractor is required to follow. It includes measure to ensure the safety of pedestrians, workers, and traffic.

8. Some of the homes on McPherson sit above street level, if PWSA digs the sidewalks will the homes or lawns subside?

The sidewalks will not be impacted by the work proposed in this project.

9. Why aren't we building a pond or pool to retain water?

When we can work in areas such as parks or vacant city-owned properties, this provides opportunities to explore the use of ponds or rain gardens to retain water. However, the topography of the neighborhood as well as the way water flows throughout it limits us to working within the public right-of-way. To get the needed capacity to reduce sewer overflows into the river, we are limited to working within the medians along Thomas and McPherson and the surrounding streets.

The Thomas and McPherson project is one of many projects needed within the sewershed. We are currently working on an A-42 Sewershed Master Plan to identify other projects that will help us meet our goal of managing 614 impervious acres. Vacant properties and parks, including Westinghouse Park, are being evaluated and will likely provide opportunities to build ponds or rain gardens to help retain water.