

Immediate Release

April 24, 2019

## Plano Sanitary Sewer Overflow

The City of Plano is reporting a sanitary sewer overflow from a City manhole in the area of Glen Eagles Golf Course. The estimated overflow volume was 100,000 gallons at 10:45 am. The wastewater is flowing into White Rock Creek. Once the flow is contained, Plano Public Works Department personnel will walk the creek to verify there are no adverse effects to water or aquatic life. They are monitoring the overflow around the clock and will be performing clean-up of the affected area once the overflow is stopped. Although the City of Plano has experienced this overflow of domestic wastewater, public drinking water is not affected and continues to be safe for consumption.

## Lift Station Improvements Underway

The North Texas Municipal Water District is expanding the Lower White Rock Lift Station to convey additional flows to wastewater treatment facilities. The lift station, located south of Plano Parkway and Campbell Road, has a current capacity of 12.5 million gallons per day (MGD) and the expansion will increase this capacity to 17 MGD. These upgrades will allow the facility to transfer additional flows received during heavy rain events to the wastewater treatment facility and better manage peak flow conditions. This expansion is a \$6.5 million investment and is anticipated to be complete this year.

## Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Sanitary Sewer overflows sometimes occur when we have significant rain events. The problems are the results of “inflow” and “infiltration” of rainwater. Inflow occurs when storm water flows into the sanitary sewage system through damaged system components and illegal connections such as yard drains or downspouts. Infiltration occurs when groundwater seeps into the sewage system through defects such as holes and cracks in manholes and sewer pipes.

City of Plano public works crews respond to the overflows as quickly as possible to begin the cleanup process. If the spill enters a creek, those crews routinely walk along the creek searching for any debris, which if found, is immediately removed. They also search for signs of fish kills. In most cases, the sewage is quickly diluted not only by the water that seeped into the line, but also rushing waters of the creeks fueled by runoff/flooding.

While the sanitary sewer system is designed to handle some inflow and infiltration, when it is excessive, as during our recent rains, the system’s capacity is exceeded, resulting in overflows.

The City has an Inflow/Infiltration Reduction Program to identify and alleviate sources of infiltration and inflow. Crews conduct flow checks to identify pipes with a significant increase in flow during heavy

rains. They also use cameras to inspect sewer pipes and identify cracks. We also use smoke and dye testing to identify sources of inflow and infiltration. When the City identifies these sources, repairs are completed as soon as possible.

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**Editor's Note:** Go to the City's [Media Center](#) for comprehensive information about the City of Plano.

### **Media Contacts**

Steve Stoler  
Director  
Media Relations  
Ph. (972) 941-7321  
Mo. (972) 345-1393  
Steve.stoler@plano.gov

Gerald Cosgrove  
Director  
Public Works  
Mo. (972) 816-8146  
Gerald.c@plano.gov

### **About Plano**

Plano, Texas, is the largest city in Collin County with a population of 281,390 as of January 2018. Incorporated in 1873, the city is located 20 miles north of Dallas. Niche and AreaVibes recently named Plano as one of the Best Cities to Live in America. Forbes designated Plano one of America's safest cities. The City offers a high quality of life that includes nationally recognized schools, award-winning parks, and sustainability initiatives and a wide variety of multi-cultural neighborhoods appealing to families, young singles and retirees. Plano is home to the headquarters or regional operations of major corporations such as Toyota, Liberty Mutual, JPMorgan Chase Boeing Global Services, Fannie Mae, FedEx Office, JC Penney, Keurig Dr Pepper, Rent-A-Center, Cinemark Holdings, Denbury Resources and Alliance Data Systems. Our dynamic community features excellent restaurants, vibrant shopping and entertainment venues, a lively historic downtown district and active local arts scene. Easy access to DART light rail and major highways makes Plano a convenient place to live, work and visit. To learn more about Plano, go to our website at [plano.gov](http://plano.gov).