

Frequently Asked Questions

Chisholm Trail – San Simeon Erosion Control Project

City of Plano Parks and Recreation

Why is this project taking place?

A new retaining wall in Spring Creek is being constructed because of extensive erosion that has caused the previous wall to fail. This erosion is threatening Chisholm Trail and is eroding toward a nearby office building. Without this project, extensive and costly damage would occur.

Where is the work being done?

The construction project is located between the Chisholm Trail and Spring Creek at the northwest corner of Custer Road and Spring Creek Parkway.

When did work begin?

Work began in November 2018.

What kind of impact does a project like this have on Spring Creek?

Because of the extensive erosion and height of the stream bank, not all of the construction can occur from the top of the bank; therefore, the contractor must drive equipment in the creek to complete the wall. Driving through the creek causes fine silt particles naturally present on the creek bottom to mix into the water, causing discoloration. This is similar to what happens during a storm event.

What are some erosion control methods that are being used while work on bank is taking place?

In the design of this project and during construction, the City of Plano consulted with erosion control engineers on how best to minimize the disturbance of sediment and silt. Due to the geology of the creek and high velocity flows during rain events, there are no measures that would fully keep this silt from washing downstream.

Is this why the water in the creek looks discolored?

Yes. The erosion control engineers were able to suggest some housekeeping practices to decrease the amount of sediment disturbance, which the contractor is implementing on an ongoing basis. The contractor has also installed a rock check dam.

As the erosion control work continues up the bank, less in-creek work will be required. The city continues to monitor the creek and work with the contractor to minimize impact.

What is a rock check dam?

A rock check dam is a temporary dam made of stone constructed across a channel. A rock check dam reduces the velocity of stream flow and provides some sediment storage behind the dam. Rock check dams are fairly effective in catching larger sediments during low flow events, but are not as effective removing fine silt particles.

When is the project expected to be complete?

The project is expected to be finished by the end of April 2019, weather permitting.