

What will the Spicewood Springs shaft site be used for?

The site will be used for construction of the Jollyville Transmission Main as part of the Water Treatment Plant 4 project. Specifically, the Spicewood Springs shaft will be used to retrieve Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM), for ventilation, installing pipe and grouting the tunnel. After construction is complete, the shaft will be used to provide access for long-term maintenance. No above-grade structures will be located on the site after construction is completed and the manhole lid will be buried approx. 4 ft. below ground.

When will work begin at the Spicewood Springs shaft site and how long will it last?

Preconstruction work should begin in mid-January with surveying, perimeter fence installation and additional archaeological surveys. Excavation of the shaft is currently scheduled to begin in March. It will take approx. 4 months to dig the shaft. Once the shaft is fully excavated, it will be ready for retrieving the TBMs. Retrieval of the first TBM is scheduled for late 2012. Retrieval of the second TBM is scheduled for mid-2013. We should begin placing pipe (approx. 350 to 400 sections of 20 ft. long, 7 ft. inside diameter pipe) around early to mid-2013. We anticipate that all construction work at the Spicewood Springs shaft site will be completed by 2nd quarter 2014.

During what days and hours will work occur at the Spicewood Springs site?

Surface construction work (excluding subterranean boring) will be limited to Mon. – Fri. from 7am to 7pm and on Sat. from 9am to 5pm. No work will occur on Sun. or on major holidays (New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day or Christmas). Truck traffic (for deliveries) will be allowed only between 9am to 3pm Mon. - Sat. to avoid interference with Canyon Vista Middle School student drop off and pick up.

How large will the shaft be?

The diameter of the Spicewood Springs retrieval shaft will be approx. 31 ft. and the depth will be approx. 125 ft.

Will there be any permanent road closures or impacts to traffic?

We do not anticipate the need for road closures. However, for safety purposes, there may be occasions where traffic could be delayed for short periods to allow trucks to enter or leave the site. In such cases, alternate routes will be available, and all emergency access will be maintained as required by local ordinances. All construction related traffic entering or exiting the Spicewood Springs site is restricted to Spicewood Springs Road, which borders the shaft site on the north and west side. In addition, we have set a schedule for truck traffic deliveries to occur at times that should not interfere with student drop off and pick up hours at Canyon Vista Middle School.

What kind of security will be provided around the construction area?

An 8 ft. high wood fence with locking gates for off-hour security will be installed around the Spicewood Springs shaft site. At this time, the project team is not planning to use security lighting at the site. If circumstances change, the public will be informed via the e-mail project updates. If lighting is determined to be necessary, the lights will be faced downward.

Where will the workers park?

No construction vehicles or personal vehicles of construction workers will be staged outside the fence line of the shaft site. Workers may car-pool from their homes or other work locations to reduce the number of vehicles staged inside the shaft site. City inspectors, project managers and/or other City representatives will park for brief periods of time adjacent to the shaft site in City of Austin Right-of-Way. They will not use the Scotland Wells Lift Station parking area.

How will you ensure the roads will be kept clean from dust and mud? Will there be a street sweeper?

Dust controls will conform to the Environmental Compliance Plan. The project team will institute corrective actions and dust control in the event that visible dust is observed leaving the site to the maximum extent practical. Only water or other approved alternatives will be allowed for dust control. Debris will be removed daily outside the construction fence line along the perimeter. A street sweeper will be available to use as needed for street cleaning.

Will electricity be provided or will contractors use generators to perform the work?

The City has reached an agreement with Pedernales Electric Company to provide electricity to the Spicewood Springs shaft site via overhead electric lines that will run from across Spicewood Springs Road. Generators will be on site as a back-up source for electricity.

When shaft construction concludes, what will happen to the Spicewood Springs shaft site?

Additional landscaping will be planted to restore the Spicewood Springs site area using native plants and grasses.

**Please note that information provided in this document is based on current project plans. As with all construction projects, timelines and detail may be subject to change.*

How will you ensure that excessive noise does not become an issue?

Construction noise will be mitigated, if needed, to meet City of Austin ordinance, Chapter 9-2 Noise and Amplified Sound, as well as other State and Federal requirements;

“A Person may not operate a machine that separates, gathers, grades, loads, or unloads sand, rock, or gravel within 600 feet of a residence, church, hospital, hotel, or motel between 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., except for the installation of concrete as authorized under Section 9-2-15 (Permit for Concrete Installation During Non-Peak Hour Periods).”

To mitigate noise, contractors may implement noise abatement measures such as enclosures or construct portable sound barriers, generators with residential silencer, equipment mufflers and broadband back-up alarms or flagging. Contractors shall perform acoustical monitoring of tunneling operations and shaft construction irrespective of implementation of any noise abatement measures at the adjacent property line.

Will the contractor use blasting to excavate the shaft?

The contractor is planning to use mechanical excavation methods (either diesel-powered excavators with a chipping hammer, or an electric-powered excavator with a rotating head) to chip the rock for excavation of the shaft site. However, the contractor has asked that blasting remain an option in case extremely hard rock is encountered. Therefore, owners of structures within 500 ft. of the Spicewood Springs shaft site will be offered a third-party, external home inspection prior to the beginning of construction. If blasting becomes the chosen method for excavation, a number of holes would be drilled into the rock, which would then be filled with explosives. After each blast, rubble would then be removed. In general, blasting would occur no more than once a day. In most cases, blasting expedites shaft construction.

Where will excavated materials be taken?

Excavated materials from the Spicewood Springs shaft will be taken to Ranger Excavating in Cedar Park. The trucks will travel up Spicewood Springs Road to US 183, and then head north to Cedar Park.

How does the Spicewood Springs shaft fit into the Water Treatment Plant 4 project?

The Spicewood Springs shaft is a key element of the Jollyville Transmission Main (JTM), a 7 ft. diameter underground pipeline that will connect WTP4 to the Jollyville Reservoir at US 183 and McNeil Drive, ultimately carrying drinking water to customers. The JTM will be installed inside of an approx. 10 to 12 ft. diameter underground tunnel.

The contractor requires four total vertical work shafts in order to construct the underground transmission main to keep workers safe, provide the appropriate access for construction, and provide access for long-term maintenance. Two shaft sites located at Four Points and Jollyville Reservoir are being used as working shafts to launch tunnel boring machines, remove rock, dirt and other excavated materials and place pipe and grout as the tunnel is developed. Work began at both of these shafts this fall.

The Spicewood Springs shaft and another shaft located on the WTP4 site will function as retrieval shafts. Work at both retrieval shafts is expected to begin during the first quarter of 2012. Construction of the JTM should be completed by the spring of 2014.

How will you control erosion into Bull Creek?

Erosion and sedimentation controls (mulch sock and silt fence) will be installed along the perimeter of the site. In addition, the entire site will be covered with 12" of mulch and the access paths will be armored (3x5 rock) for large trucks. These controls will be inspected by an erosion and sedimentation control inspector weekly. In addition, the Environmental Compliance Manager will visit the site on a regular basis to ensure all the controls are functioning and adequate.

What should I do if I have a concern?

You should contact the WTP4 Hotline at 512-498-9874 or send an e-mail to info@wtpfour.com. If it is urgent, please call the 24-hour phone line that will be monitored and answered by a designated City of Austin employee at 512-221-4732. If you feel it would be beneficial, you can send a photo via email to help illustrate any concerns you may have. Please do not go on to the work site or prevent workers from conducting their work. They have been instructed to call the appropriate authorities if any issues arise.

If you would like to receive project updates, please provide your e-mail address at the open house or email us at info@wtpfour.com. Project updates will be provided monthly or more often if construction warrants.

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