

MEMORANDUM

To: City of Seguin Mayor and Council
Steve Parker, City Manager

From: Jack Jones, Director of Parks & Recreation

Through: Rick Cortes, Deputy City Manager

Subject: Presentation and update regarding the project status report for repairing the breached dam and bank stabilization at Walnut Springs Park including the flooding event that occurred on October 14, 2021.

Date: December 21, 2021

On May 18, 2021, after a rain event, a large American Sycamore tree fell into the downstream side of the small dam in Walnut Springs Park. The tree had been undermined by an underground tunnel that traversed around the dam on the north side and under that Sycamore tree. This undermining caused the tree to fall with the large root ball causing damage to the bank. The tree was removed, but the large root ball has remained in place for bank stabilization purposes until a long-term solution for the area is finalized.

Please note that this area is governed by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) given the historic Hugman walls and dam, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE) as this agency oversees the waters of the United States. Staff immediately began looking at several steps to mitigate the damage.

The options were as follows:

- Repair the breach on the north side of the dam and possibly replace the dam, along with the needed bank stabilization in the area.
- Extend the limestone blocks on both sides of the creek to address the bank erosion in the area.

On August 2, 2021, at a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, a possible timeline for repairs/improvements was presented to the Board as follows:

- Environmental Permitting Preparation/Submittal to Agencies (THC, COE)
 - 4 months (Currently in progress as the City Council approved a contract with TRC Engineers to do the Environmental work on September 7, 2021.)

- Agency Review for Correctness, Re-Submittal if needed:
 - 2 months
- Permit Decision by Agencies:
 - 2 months
- Topographical Surveying, Engineering Design, Bid Documents Preparation:
 - 4 months
- Bid Period, Bid Award, Contract Preparation, Construction Notice-to-Proceed:
 - 3 months
- Construction:
 - 6 months
- Total:
 - 21-month project timeline from start to finish – This is probably a best-case scenario as things typically happen along the way to delay things given a project of this type and possibly magnitude, but staff will do everything possible to expedite the process. To date, TRC has been working diligently on the contracted Environmental Permitting Preparation. Staff advised publicly at the Board meeting that the upcoming topographical surveying, engineering design and bid document preparation, along with the actual construction, could be expensive depending how much work is authorized.

On October 14, 2021, the Seguin area was inundated with heavy rains and flash flooding. This major flooding event caused further erosion issues along the Walnut Branch in Walnut Springs Park north of the Nolte Street bridge and behind the Seguin Public Library on the east side of the creek south of the Nolte Street bridge. Several of the limestone blocks that are along the creek have been undermined with some blocks coming loose and some blocks have fallen in the creek behind the library. The undermining has caused a large hole to appear on the north side of the creek bank near the small pedestrian bridge. The rock riprap in that area fell under the undermined limestone blocks and was swept away. It appears that the blocks behind the library were also pushed in from the east due to drainage off of West Washington Street and South Camp Streets. Staff has mitigated public safety concerns in the area by removing exposed rebar from the fallen limestone blocks and added warning signage (in both English and Spanish) and caution tape to areas of flood damage.

Staff walked the area with TRC Engineers on November 1, 2021. It is the intention of staff to incorporate the flooding event with the scope of work needed for the Walnut Springs Dam/Spillway Repair. Please be advised that any flood damage repairs needed, along with the dam repairs, etc., noted above could be expensive depending how much work is needed and authorized. On November 30, 2021, TRC submitted the attached Project Status Report regarding the Walnut Branch Dam/Spillway Environmental Permitting.