COYOTE CREEK FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

Upcoming Work at Neighborhood Parks
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

PRIORITY E Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways.

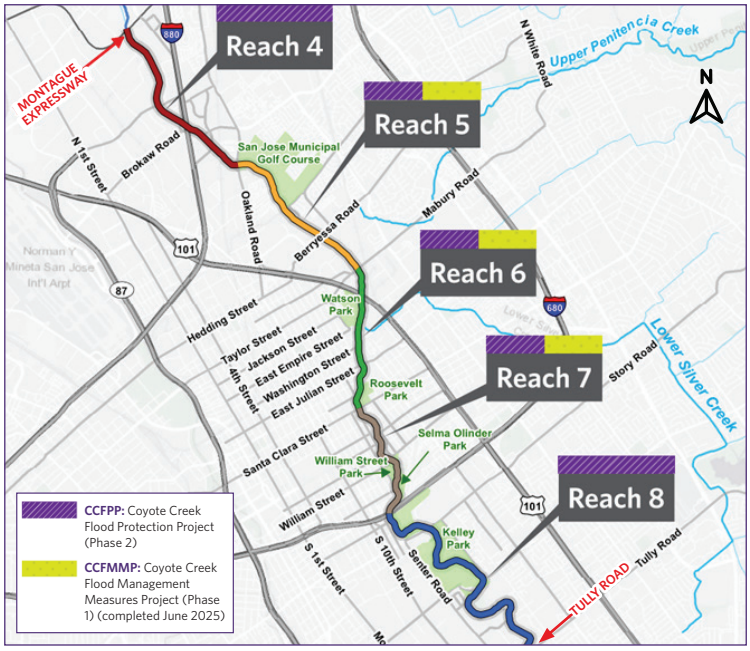
YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

Valley Water

Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection

Escanee este código QR o visite *delivr.com/29her* para leer sobre este proyecto en español.

Quét mã QR này hoặc truy cập *delivr.com/2yf88* để đọc về dự án này bằng tiếng Việt.



The Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project spans a 9-mile section of Coyote Creek, between Montague Expressway and Tully Road. The project goal is to protect surrounding homes and businesses against floods up to the level experienced in February 2017, which has an approximately 5% chance of occurrence in any given year. The project is being constructed in two phases:

- Phase 1 construction was completed in June 2025, and
- Phase 2 is anticipated to start in early 2027.

There will be temporary park closures to allow crews to begin constructing the flood risk reduction measures. The length of the closures will vary by park. This mailer provides answers to common project questions and the upcoming activities. Please note that all renderings of planned efforts will look slightly different when constructed.

FAQs

1. What's happening at the parks?

Flood risk reduction measures will be built along sections of Coyote Creek and in nearby parks. Passive barriers that lie flat on the ground and rise with stormwater will be built, forming a wall to contain floodwater in the park and away from the neighborhood, along with floodwalls and berms. The passive barriers will be lowered once floodwaters recede.



At William Street Park, located along South 16th Street, there are plans for a passive barrier that, once completed, will retain floodwater in the park and prevent it from entering the surrounding neighborhood.

2. Do you have a timeline for which parks will be impacted by project activities?

Valley Water will **share an updated timeline** once the construction schedule is developed in early 2027.

The following parks will have closures in 2027.

- Rocksprings Park
- Selma Olinder Park
- William Street Park

Project work will occur at the following parks **without park closures**:

- Watson Park
- Kelley Park

Construction will continue through the end of 2028. While Valley Water strives to complete the work as quickly as possible, please be aware that unforeseen circumstances and/or poor weather conditions could modify the project schedules.

3. Is the City of San José's Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services involved and supportive?

Yes. The City of San José's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) has been an active partner of Valley Water's project team over the past eight years. PRNS has clear expectations and project construction requirements, and Valley Water designed the project to comply with PRNS' goals of:

- Minimizing loss of recreational space
- Avoiding loss of access to the parks
- Sustaining clear lines of sight into the parks
- Designing infrastructure to reflect the parks and trails' character

Valley Water recognizes that park spaces and access areas need to be maintained and any project measures must blend in with the parks' existing aesthetic. The approved project design incorporates these ideas while mitigating the risk of flooding.

4. Where will the sports leagues and park events be held?

Valley Water is coordinating with PRNS on all aspects of the park closures, project construction, and temporary relocation of neighborhood events and sports leagues. PRNS is actively working with representatives who host events and sports leagues at the above-referenced parks to help secure alternative parks for their events and leagues.

5. Will the parks have less space when the project is done?

No. The completed project will have minimal impacts on existing park space. Valley Water will return all park areas (playgrounds, basketball courts, baseball fields, gardens, parking lots, etc.) to their existing use and condition.

6. Why is this project needed?

Neighborhoods along Coyote Creek have experienced seasonal floods for many years, including the most recent one in 2017. The planned measures will reduce risk of flooding to properties from a similar storm event.

Further upstream on Coyote Creek is the Anderson Dam. Valley Water is retrofitting the dam as part of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project to reduce seismic risk and comply with today's seismic standards and regulations.

A new tunnel was constructed, which can release more water into Coyote Creek during the construction of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit

Project. With more water flowing into the creek from the outlet tunnels, flood risk reduction measures are needed.

7. How will the project impact the parks?

After years of seeking feedback from the community, the project team evaluated and analyzed options and plans to reduce flood risk to the neighborhoods. These flood risk reduction measures require utilizing these parks— given their frontage along the creek and the space they have to contain stormwater.

• Kelley Park

The construction area will be at the south end of Kelley Park near the Phelan Avenue parking lot entrance. Some of the trees in this area will be removed so the flood risk reduction measures can be built.



The project activities include construction of a floodwall atop the slope along the city's Kelley Park property.

• Rocksprings Park

Crews will replace and extend a sheet pile floodwall that was installed soon after the 2017 flood. Due to the limited space and the park's proximity to the top bank where the new floodwall will be installed, the park and basketball courts will be closed during construction.



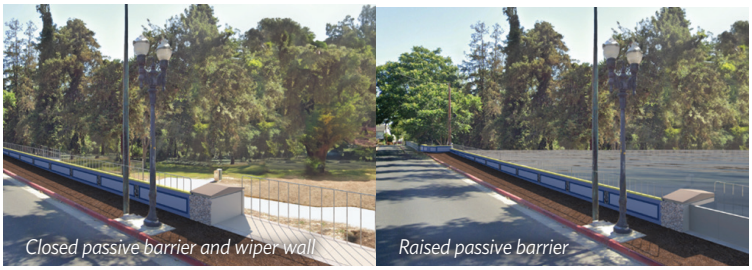
The existing floodwall will be replaced by a taller wall to reduce the risk of flooding at Rocksprings Park.

• Selma Olinder Park & William Street Park

At Selma Olinder and William Street parks, passive barriers, floodwalls, and wiper walls (similar to concrete columns) will be constructed. The wiper walls will connect sections of passive barriers to form a continuous wall should they be activated during a flood. The passive barriers will be constructed along the edges of the parks, adjacent to the sidewalks. Some trees and vegetation will be removed to facilitate the work and installation of these flood risk reduction measures.

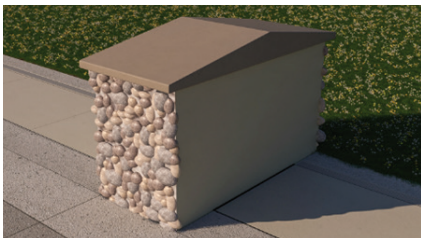


- **Selma Olinder Park:** The passive barriers will begin at the park's south end and run north along Woodborough Drive. The barrier will then connect to a floodwall near the tennis courts, followed by passive barriers, which will continue past the parking lot and connect with another floodwall at the baseball field. The floodwall will continue, reaching the playground and basketball courts near the Olinder Community Center. Another passive barrier will extend from the floodwall to East William Street, turning towards the creek and connecting to a floodwall near the bridge. The basketball courts, tennis courts, baseball field, and playground at Selma Olinder Park will be closed during construction. The dog park will remain open.
- **William Street Park:** Passive barriers and wiper walls will be installed along the park's edge along South 16th Street, starting at the south end and continuing east from the corner garden at William Street. The passive barrier will connect to a short floodwall, with a connection to the William Street Bridge headwall at the north end.



• Watson Park

The work at Watson Park will be west of the soccer fields along the existing sound wall of the homes that overlook this area. A passive barrier will be installed at the entrance to the Jackson Avenue parking lot. The dog park and park use will remain open during construction. A floodwall will also be built on the north side of Empire Gardens Elementary School. The Taylor Street entrance will be regraded. The trail will be closed from the north end of Watson Park to Mabury Road.



This is a rendering of a wiper wall. Once installed, it will connect sections of passive barriers and work as a seal to keep floodwater away from the neighborhood.



A flood barrier will be installed at the Jackson Street parking lot entrance.

8. Is this a new project? Why haven't I heard of this project?

During the project's planning and design phase, over 30 public meetings were held, during which the public gave input on the flood risk reduction measures. Valley Water also coordinated extensively with the City of San José on measures, including park preservation and integrating aesthetic treatments that match existing park aesthetics.

Valley Water reached out to neighborhood groups and neighbors using multilingual mailers in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. In addition, meeting details were posted to Nextdoor and social media, targeting the neighborhoods where the flooding occurred and where project measures are being built. Interpreters were made available at all public meetings. All meetings were held in the impacted communities and included eight at Rocksprings, Selma Olinder, Watson, and William Street parks to discuss impacts to those parks specifically.

9. Will we get future updates? Can I sign up to get updates?

Yes. Valley Water will continue to provide project updates and details before and during park closures. You can sign up for email updates or view the latest project information by visiting the webpage at valleywater.org/coyote-creek. The webpage also has staff contact information, maps with details of the flood measures for each area, presentations, and recordings from past public meetings.

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