



Waller Creek tunnel to relieve flooding in city's core

By [David Scott](#)

Published: July 18, 2014, 8:00 pm | Updated: May 21, 2015, 3:25 pm



Related Coverage

[Photos: Flash floods sweep over Austin](#)

[Mayor says Austin won't pay for Waller Creek Tunnel mistake](#)

[Capitol corridor snag fault of engineers and designers, mayor says](#)

AUSTIN (KXAN) — The kind of watery mess created by Thursday night's storm in the 28-acre flood plain of Waller Creek should soon be a thing of the past.

Downtown Austin's \$106 million tunnel project will be operational by the end of the year, on time and on budget. Including surface projects, the total cost hovers near \$147 million.

City approves \$1.8M to pay legal fees tied to issue with Waller Creek Tunnel project

The tunnel runs a little more than a mile, curving from 12th Street down to Lady Bird Lake. With three intake shafts, the tunnel will be expected to handle the severest of storms, like the 1915 flood that killed 35 people.

“Should we get a hundred year storm the tunnel is designed to convey that amount of flow through the tunnel, under downtown and safely past to Lady Bird Lake,” said Joe Pantalione, deputy director of Austin’s Watershed Protection Department.

Such a storm would mean 10 inches of rain within 24 hours, creating a flood wall of 3.7 million gallons of water per minute.

Best of all the tunnel operates naturally, without mechanisms, electronics or the chance of human error.

“The way the engineers designed it is to work by simple gravity, just like your bathtub drain,” Pantalione explains. There are even mechanics involved to clear the debris screens located by the drain shafts at 12th, 8th and 4th streets.

The flood plain protection covers one million square feet, 42 current buildings and 12 roads in the area, running from 12th Street to the lake, and from Red River east to Interstate 35.

And as a bonus, the perpetually filled underground tunnel will always maintain water in Waller Creek, making for better aesthetics, attractive to business, good for the ecosystem and eliminate that dry creek bed stench that occasionally arises in the dry summer months.

Share this:



Related Posts



Millions of additional dollars approved for Waller Creek Tunnel Project



Council member stresses accountability for bond money



City monitoring Waller Creek for possible flooding



Barton Creek Greenbelt closed due to weather conditions

More Headlines



Mess left behind in Central Austin after flash flooding

Austin



Campers graduate from gang resistance summer camp

Austin

KXAN.com provides

commenting to allow for constructive discussion on the stories we cover. In order to comment here, you acknowledge you have read and agreed to our Terms of Service. Users who violate these terms, including use of vulgar language or racial slurs, will be banned. Please be respectful of the opinions of others. If you see an inappropriate comment, please flag it for our moderators to review.

blog comments powered by Disqus

Advertisement

Trending on KXAN.com

Dallas Officers Targeted



Hundreds of hours of police footage captured Dallas attack

July 11, 2016

The Dallas police chief says they will dissect the new body cameras as well as dash camera footage to get a better understanding of how thin...

- Funeral arrangements for officers killed in Dallas
- Dallas PD Chief: We just need to stick together
- DART reflects on officer killed in Dallas
- Support pouring in for officers at Dallas PD headquarters
- Timeline of events leading to Dallas officers being targeted
- Texas Republican slams Obama for Dallas killings
- Everything we know about Dallas shooting suspect
- Dallas transit officer killed in ambush married just 2 weeks ago
- Videos document the terror through downtown Dallas
- Obama says America is horrified over Dallas attack
- Remembering the officers who were killed in Dallas
- Austin police moves to 100 percent staffing in response to Dallas
- Images of the Dallas attack
- The deadly shootings that led up to Thursday's rallies
- Twitter reaction after 5 officers shot dead in Dallas

Top Stories



Temperatures reaching 97 degrees inside Lockhart Animal Shelter



Slaughter Lane Wells Fargo robbery suspect leads police on chase



Personal stories help school police with students with mental illness

Photo Galleries

Advertisement

Powered by WordPress.com VIP

Sections

[News](#)
[Austin Weather](#)
[Traffic](#)
[Investigations](#)
[Report It](#)
[Sports](#)

Station

[About Us](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Contests](#)
[TV Schedule](#)
[Email Alerts](#)
[Text Alerts](#)
[Work for Us](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)

Business

[Privacy Policy](#)
[Terms of Use](#)
[FCC Public File](#)
[Children's TV Programming](#)
[EEO Report](#)
[Media General](#)

Follow



KXAN-TV

908 W. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Austin, Texas 78701

Ph: 512-476-3636

