

Spring Lake Park:

A sewer separation project that revitalizes the park

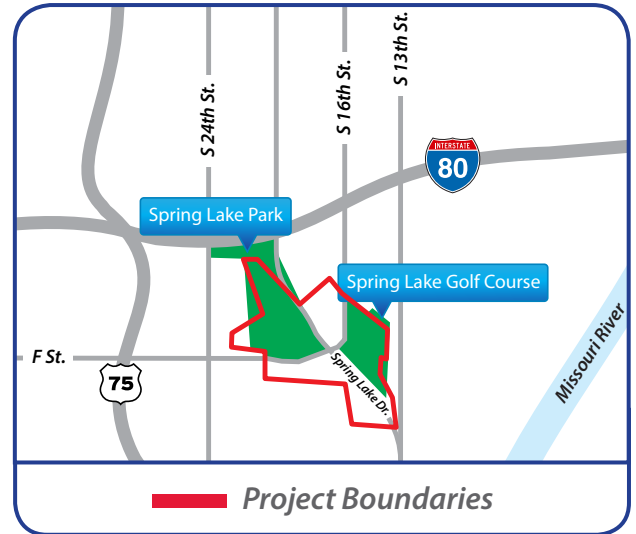


The purpose of the Spring Lake Park Project is to provide sewer separation to the surrounding area through installation of both new storm and sanitary sewer pipe and eliminate overflows to the Missouri River.

In addition to sewer separation work, the park will be revitalized and the former 'lake' will be re-established. Spring Lake Park, established during the 1870s, originally contained three small ponds. However, due to concerns with disease, the ponds were drained in the 1930s.

Since then, two unsuccessful attempts were made to renovate the park. In 1939, a plan was developed but work was not fully implemented due to World War II. Then, in the 1990s, the Spring Lake Park Habitat Restoration Team initiated a plan to restore one or more ponds, develop trails through the park, and create a nature learning center. The plan was never carried forward due to lack of funding.

Through three grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and resources from Omaha Parks, Recreation, and Public Property; Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District; Keep Omaha Beautiful; Spring Lake Neighborhood Association; and the Spring Lake Park Habitat Restoration and Preservation Team, park renovation work including pond re-establishment can now be accomplished. Incorporation of green infrastructure elements will not only expand the park's wildlife diversity and increase recreational opportunities, but also provide detention of stormwater runoff that will eliminate the need for new larger downstream storm sewer conveyance piping.



Phase 1 construction commenced May 5, 2014

Sewer pipe installation in the residential neighborhoods and green infrastructure construction work in Spring Lake Park are complete

Phase 2 is in design

Construction will complete all sewer separation in the basin





A Water Quality Improvement Program

Omaha is a national leader among the more than 772 cities who have an unfunded, federal mandate to improve the water quality in their rivers and streams. In 2006, the Clean Solutions for Omaha (CSO) Program was initiated to study and plan changes required by 2025 under the Federal Clean Water Act. In 2014, the timeline was extended to 2027 because of the Missouri River Flood.

Improved Water Quality Has Benefits

While the challenges facing the CSO Program are significant, there are also benefits. Many of the projects offer opportunities to improve and enhance neighborhoods. Where streets and curbs are removed for construction, new streets, curbs, handicap ramps and driveway approaches will be built. Where trees are removed, new trees or other plants will replace them. Green infrastructure options such as bioswales, rain gardens or the creation and expansion of ponds for water retention all add beauty and recreation to some of the projects.

Funding the Program

The CSO Program is funded through sewer fees which will increase throughout the life of the program. The program will be financed primarily with 30-year revenue bonds issued in periodic increments as approved by the Mayor and City Council. Sewer fees will be used to pay off the bonds, with 60 percent coming from Residential customers, 30 percent from Industrial and commercial users, and 10 percent from regional customers who use the City's sewer services.

Calculate your estimated sewer fees on the Omaha CSO website:
www.omahacso.com/funding/rates

Ratepayer Assistance Program

The CSO Program recognized that increased rates could be a hardship for some residents, so the City took a proactive role in finding a solution and created an assistance option for fixed and low income residents which was implemented in 2011. Residents will qualify for this assistance if they are receiving low income energy assistance (LIHEAP) from the State of Nebraska.

Get assistance on the Ratepayer Assistance Program by calling the CSO Hotline:
402-341-0235

Job Creation: Local Labor and Materials

The City and the CSO Program actively encourage the use of local labor along with locally purchased or locally available materials. Through the Small and Emerging Business program of the City, businesses of many sizes have the opportunity to work on contracts or to bid on projects for their company. Over the course of the 18-year CSO Program, it is anticipated that over 2000 existing and new jobs will be part of the workforce.

Get more information about Small and Emerging Business opportunities:
402-444-5055



Hotline: 402-341-0235

www.omahacso.com

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