

Willamette Water Supply

Our Reliable Water Future

Cornelius Pass Road Area Pipeline Project (PLW_ 2.1) Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: August 31, 2023

About the Willamette Water Supply

The City of Hillsboro currently has one source of water—the Tualatin River. To secure an additional water source for reliability – the Willamette River - Hillsboro is partnering with the Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) and City of Beaverton to build the Willamette Water Supply System (WWSS). Design and construction of the new WWSS is underway, and includes a modified water intake in Wilsonville, a state-of-the-art water treatment plant east of Sherwood, water supply tanks in Beaverton, and more than 30 miles of pipeline from Wilsonville to Hillsboro. Learn more at **OurReliableWater.org**.

About 3.3 miles of this water transmission pipeline will be constructed between SE Frances Street in Hillsboro and just south of Highway 26. Visit **OurReliableWater.org/Cornelius-Pass-Road-Pipeline-Project** for more information about this section of the WWSS' pipeline.

Where within the old rail corridor will the WWSS pipeline be located?

The WWSS project team considered two pipeline route options through the WWSS property (approximately center line in the old rail corridor and another option further east). The eastern route option was selected because of these benefits:

- *Reduces construction impacts to neighboring homes.*
- *Shortens construction duration as the eastern alignment requires less digging.*
- *Preserves trees and shrubs along the western edge nearest adjacent homes.*

When will construction begin and how long will it last?

Initial construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2023. WWSS anticipates pipeline installation under a small section of Orenco Woods Nature Park (OWNP) and the old rail corridor to be completed late in 2024. As with all construction projects, the schedule is subject to change.

How many trees will be removed in the old ODOT rail corridor (or berm)?

Approximately 60 trees, located mainly along the eastern side of the berm property, will need to be removed. Some other trees outside the work area were identified as a hazard by either an arborist or a homeowner and will be trimmed or removed. Other trees and landscaping outside the construction work area will be protected during construction. Large diameter trees in good condition will be delivered to the City of Hillsboro, at no charge, for reuse in creating habitat improvements at Jackson Bottom Wetlands. The tree removal plan can be viewed https://www.ourreliablewater.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/wwsp-cpr-plw_2.1-tree-removal-plan.pdf.

What are TVWD and City of Hillsboro planning to do with the property long term?

WWSP partners – including TVWD and the cities of Hillsboro and Beaverton – bought this property for the pipeline. This portion of the pipeline will be serving TVWD and Hillsboro customers. The site will permanently be

used for this purpose. A gravel road in the old rail corridor will provide access for pipeline and landscape maintenance into the future.

TVWD, the WWSS managing agency, will be responsible for operations and maintenance of the site once the WWSS is complete and delivering water in 2026. Until then, WWSS staff will coordinate with TVWD to address maintenance needs, including mowing and tree trimming, as needed.

Is it possible for neighbors to continue to use WWSS property for play structures and/or gardens?

No. Due to liability and security issues, WWSS offered neighbors limited use of the WWSS property immediately behind their homes.

Is it possible to install a Cornelius Pass Road traffic noise barrier “wall” once construction is complete?

The WWSS will not be installing a sound wall or fencing due to costs, site security risks, and implications for wildlife movement opportunities.

Where will equipment and supplies needed to construct the pipeline be stored during construction?

The City of Hillsboro Development Review has approved the open field south of the City of Hillsboro’s Cherry Lane Fire Station as the contractor’s staging area during construction. The site will be used for equipment, trailers for construction personnel, and materials storage, including pipe, crushed rock, and soil.

What are the normal working hours for the construction crew?

The City of Hillsboro allows construction work every day from 6 am to 9 pm. Standard WWSS work hours are 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Weekend work is not anticipated but may be necessary to stay on schedule.

Will security style fencing be installed?

No. To preserve wildlife movement opportunities between WWSS property and the neighboring natural areas, there will not be a perimeter fence installed upon completion of construction. Boulders or similar natural barriers will be installed as necessary to prevent unauthorized vehicular access. Temporary fencing will be installed to protect people and wildlife during construction.

Has an environmental impact study (EIS) been done?

The lead Federal permitting agency for the WWSS determined that an EIS was not required, and instead completed an Environmental Assessment (EA). WWSS will follow all regulatory requirements, including regulations regarding impacts to nesting migratory birds and tree protections. Measures will be implemented during construction to comply with those requirements.

Where will trucks and equipment access the north and south end of the old ODOT rail (or berm)?

The contractor will be encouraged to maintain one-way traffic during construction on the old rail corridor to minimize turning movements and back-up alarms. Access to and from the north corridor will likely be between NE Cornelius Pass Road and NE Cherry Drive, and access to and from the south corridor will likely be between the Cherry Lane Fire Station property and NE Cherry Drive.

Why are you building this section of pipeline now? When will this section of pipeline connect to the rest of the system?

The WWSS is developing this \$1.6 billion, seismically resilient system to supply water to future generations of Hillsboro residents and businesses. The Program is staffed with designers, engineers, communications, permitting and other staff and has funding to build this section of pipeline. The permitting, real estate and other obligations

are also in place. Building this section of the pipeline now takes advantage of the Program resources and adheres to the current approved budget.

The remaining portion of this section of pipeline is anticipated for construction in 2029.

How will you make sure the rabbit colonies in OWP are relocated before construction?

The ecologist has routinely searched the easement areas within the OWP and determined that the rabbit colonies are currently located outside of the work area. The ecologist will continue to conduct surveys and work with the contractor to humanely remove any rabbits found within the work area and transfer them outside the work areas.

Who is the contact if we see any concerns occurring involving wildlife in OWP?

If stakeholders have questions or concerns, they are encouraged to call 503-941-4570 or email info@ourreliablewater.org. Comments and concerns will be directed to the Environmental Compliance Lead or other WWSS staff for timely response and resolution, as needed. As appropriate, concerns raised in between briefings may also be addressed at the next briefing.

How will you make sure noise limits are not exceeded?

Construction is noisy and can be distracting, but the good news is that once completed, the pipeline infrastructure will be so quiet most people won't even know it is there. We appreciate you bearing with us in the interim while this vital regional project goes into the ground.

Willamette Water Supply Program (WWSP) has set its own maximum noise limits* for their projects, out of respect for nearby residences. Those limits are as follows:

| Equipment | Maximum Decibels ¹ (Example) |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Trenchers, Pavers, Graders and Trucks | 90 (Leaf Blower) |
| All Other Equipment | 85 (Vacuum Cleaner Running) |

1 - As measured 50 feet from the equipment

Intermittent noises may exceed these decibel limits for short periods of time. The contractor will regularly check noise levels within 50 feet of equipment during the noisiest operating conditions and will strive to avoid exceeding noise limits. However, if noise limits are exceeded, the cause or causes will be identified by the contractor and corrective measures will be implemented, as appropriate. Recommendations for corrective measures may be identified by the Contractor or by WWSP staff. The WWSP will work with the contractor to implement corrective actions as necessary.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding while we work to minimize disruptive impacts. If you have questions or concerns or feel that construction noise has exceeded the parameters provided, please contact WWSP Staff.

*The City of Hillsboro's Noise Ordinance exempts sounds caused by construction activities between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Will you make sure construction lights will not be directed toward neighboring homes?

Site lights may be used and will be directed to the site, rather than nearby properties.

How will you protect nearby homes from vibration?

The pipeline construction will cause vibration. The team's independent vibration consultant will develop a vibration plan which analyzes the construction methods, existing site and soil conditions, and nearby structures. The outreach team will inform nearby property owners if further action is needed prior to construction activities. Vibration monitors will be placed on and near the construction areas and continuously monitored.