

PLEASANT RUN TUNNEL ELLENBERGER PARK CONSTRUCTION

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ELLENBERGER PARK?

As Citizens Energy Group (Citizens) makes great progress towards nearly eliminating combined sewer overflows to area waterways, construction continues on the DigIndy Tunnel System's Pleasant Run segment. This work will require construction throughout parts of Irvington, including within Ellenberger Park.

In September, site preparation for the Pleasant Run Tunnel began within Ellenberger Park. Now that tunnel construction has begun, the southeast quadrant of the park (athletic fields) will be closed until the work is complete in 2025.

Ellenberger Park is an essential site for the construction of infrastructure necessary to capture sewer overflows currently affecting water quality in and around Pleasant Run Creek.

WHY IS THE TUNNEL NEEDED? WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CONSTRUCTING THE PLEASANT RUN TUNNEL?

The DigIndy Tunnel System is Indianapolis' solution to reduce combined sewer overflows into area waterways by up to 99 percent, and to keep Indianapolis and Citizens in compliance with a Consent Decree with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Justice Department and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Sewer overflows now going to Pleasant Run Creek will be redirected to the tunnel, thus creating a healthier, more vibrant waterway and community.

WHY IS E PLEASANT RUN PARKWAY S DRIVE STILL CLOSED?

Following the completion of work in the intersection of E Pleasant Run Parkway S Drive and Ritter Avenue, Citizens' contractor will remove barricades and reopen Ritter Avenue. However, additional sewer rehabilitation work is necessary so in an effort to minimize future disruptions to the area, we will be accelerating the schedule to complete sewer rehabilitation work between Ritter and Arlington Avenues along E Pleasant Run Parkway S Drive while existing equipment is in the area and can be utilized to complete this portion of the project. The existing detour route will remain in place.

WILL THE PLEASANT RUN TRAIL BE AFFECTED?

During sewer rehabilitation work, the Pleasant Run Trail will remain open. During future sewer construction, the Pleasant Run Trail will be detoured while a new sewer is installed to capture combined sewer overflow and redirect flow to the tunnel.

WILL THE STAIRS TO ACCESS ELLENBERGER PARK FROM RITTER AVENUE BE CLOSED?

Yes, the stairs located near the intersection of Ritter Avenue and E Pleasant Run Parkway S Drive, used to access the park from Ritter Avenue, will be closed during construction. Once construction is complete, Citizens will restore the park in accordance with Indy Parks' current Ellenberger Park Master Plan, including new stairs that connect to the walking trail within the park.

WILL TREES BE REMOVED?

Yes, while the exact number is not yet known, trees will be removed in locations where new sewers or tunnel infrastructure is constructed in accordance with the City of Indianapolis Forestry requirements and in coordination with Indy Parks.

WILL THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND TENNIS COURTS BE OPEN DURING CONSTRUCTION?

Citizens' construction will not impact access to the children's playground or tennis courts. However, access to park facilities will be at the discretion of Indy Parks.

WILL THE PATHWAY IN ELLENBERGER PARK, BE AFFECTED?

Portions of the walking path will be closed during construction.

- The walking path on the east and south side of the athletic fields will remain closed throughout construction.
- The walking paths on the south side of the park closest to Pleasant Run Creek will be closed for several months during construction of a new sewer that carries combined sewer overflow to the tunnel.

WHAT WILL THE AREA LOOK LIKE AFTER CONSTRUCTION?

Once construction is complete, Citizens will restore the park in accordance with Indy Parks' current Ellenberger Park Master Plan. Improvements will include restored trails, an athletic field, a restroom facility, and tree plantings. Questions related to the Ellenberger Park Master Plan should be directed to Manager, Felicia Dugan, at felicia.dugan@indy.gov.

WHAT ABOUT ELLENBERGER PARK PROGRAMMING THAT WOULD NORMALLY UTILIZE THE AREA NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION?

Questions related to programming within Ellenberger Park should be directed to the Manager, Felicia Dugan, at felicia.dugan@indy.gov.

WILL DIGINDY'S PLEASANT RUN TUNNEL HELP WITH FLOODING IN THE IRVINGTON AREA?

The DigIndy Tunnel System is not designed to reduce flooding in Indianapolis. If storms cause flooding on streets or sidewalks, call Citizens Energy Group's Contact Center at 317-924-3311.

HOW ARE YOU ABLE TO WORK DEEP UNDERGROUND IN IRVINGTON WITH HOUSES NEARBY?

Citizens' tunnel contractor uses a tunnel boring machine to excavate a tunnel approximately 250 feet under Indianapolis. This depth was selected because the tunnel is located deep in bedrock, thus reducing risk of any impact to the ground surface. Citizens' tunneling contractor has already mined over 20 miles of deep rock tunnel across Indianapolis with no tunneling impacts to surface structures.

WILL THE SLEDDING HILL BE IMPACTED BY CONSTRUCTION?

Access to the sledding hill may be limited during construction, but the hill will remain intact following construction.

WILL THERE BE GAPS IN CONSTRUCTION?

Yes, there will be times with little activity at the site. Construction schedules will change over time due to site conditions, and we expect some periods of downtime during transitions between contractors.

The site will remain fenced off and secure throughout the duration of the project regardless of construction activity.

WILL THIS SITE REQUIRE REPAIRS OR PERIODIC MAINTENANCE? WHAT DOES THAT INVOLVE?

Citizens will provide long-term regular maintenance at the permanently fenced maintenance access area. Most infrastructure and equipment will be maintained by access from Ritter Avenue. While we do not anticipate infrastructure repairs, if needed, Citizens will coordinate access to the park with Indy Parks.