



North Fork Dam Improvement Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Will this project reduce flooding?

This project aims to mitigate potentially catastrophic events through improvements to the dam's infrastructure and spillways in order to provide increased flood damage protection to the dam. Increasing storage and improving the spillways will allow the dam to function more effectively in the event of a significant wet weather event.

Will this project affect my drinking water?

This project should have no effect on the City's drinking water. The City of Asheville's Water Resources Department is dedicated to ensuring no adverse effects to drinking water will occur during the course of this project.

Will this project disturb protected habitats within the watershed? Will there be streams impacted by this project?

A portion of the construction will occur downstream of the dam and all construction activities will occur on City property. Protection of the watershed and its habitats is our #1 priority.

How much will this project cost and how is it being funded?

The project is expected to cost between \$30 million and \$35 million. Our engineers are completing the design in fall 2016, and the actual estimate will be more accurate at completion of design. The project will be funded by bonds.

I am a resident of a neighborhood close to North Fork. How much construction traffic can I expect?

The City anticipates that there will be a higher volume of truck traffic associated with construction, beginning in mid to late 2017. Some periods of construction may be heavier at times than other phases during the construction schedule. However, all of the soil needed for the embankment buttressing will be on site. Aggregate and concrete will be required from off-site, and tandem dump trucks and concrete trucks will make those deliveries.

What kind of noise can I expect?

Typical construction noise will occur and may be heard from your home or business during daylight work hours (7 am-7 pm, on average). This includes drilling, blasting, jackhammering, and safety beeping associated with heavy equipment. Notifications will be posted and distributed before construction begins.

Some blasting will be required during certain phases of the project. Notifications will be distributed to nearby homes. Blasting will occur during a portion of working hours (8 am-5 pm) and there will not be any blasting after dark.

If you live in the vicinity of North Fork Water Treatment Plant, you may also receive a pre-blast survey at no cost to you to ensure no structural damage occurs to your house during blasting.

Will this project create jobs?

The City of Asheville strives to provide opportunities for local businesses, as well as minority and women-owned businesses. The local community is expected to benefit from this project. Jobs are expected to be generated for the two plus years of construction necessary for completion. As with many construction projects, the local community should benefit from increased spending activity associated with rental equipment usage; local supplies and materials usage; fuel; local labor force used by construction companies; and an increase in hotel stays, restaurants, grocery, retail, and rental properties.

I am a contractor – how can I apply to work on this project?

The City will post a bid for this project to ashevillenc.gov/bids – at that time, contractors will be able to bid on construction services. Due to the unique construction associated with dam rehabilitation, the City will be “Pre-Qualifying” the potential contractors. The pre-qualification process presents requirements of the contractors to show that they have the experience, personnel, and equipment to perform work similar to this project. Dam construction is not an everyday type of construction, and specialty contractors are necessary to meet specific design requirements for the project so that the City can rely on a qualified contractor to construct the improvements while keeping a full reservoir. This process limits the risk to the City and its residents during construction and its proper functionality thereafter.

For more information, email northforkdam@ashevillenc.gov.