



NEWS ADVISORY

November 3, 2022

For immediate release

Clark Fork River Levee Repairs Begin November 8 North Riverfront Trail Detoured

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin repairs to the levee on the north side of the Clark Fork River between the California Street pedestrian bridge and Russell Street on Tuesday, November 8. A portion of the Riverfront Trail north of the river is adjacent to the levee and will be detoured during construction. A completion date for the work has not yet been established but is expected once the Army Corps representatives are on-site next week.

The levee work is necessary to repair damage to the levee caused by erosion during previous high-water events. Strong river currents displaced much of the rock, known as riprap, along the riverbank. Repairing the bank and replacing the riprap will reduce the likelihood of major bank erosion during future high-water events. Native grasses will also be planted on this section of the levee as additional help in preventing erosion with the added benefit that the grass lessens the amount of heat directed toward the water, especially during the summer.

Having the levee constructed and maintained so that it could be accredited by the Army Corps is critical for the homes and businesses protected by the levee to prevent flooding. In addition, non-accreditation of the levee would cause all businesses and residences protected by the levee to either obtain or increase their flood insurance coverage.

Because the repair work will take place adjacent to the Riverfront Trail north of the river, a portion of the trail section between the California Street pedestrian bridge and Russell Street will be detoured to nearby Cedar and California streets. The detour should add only a minimal amount of time to a trip along the trail because the California Street pedestrian bridge and the Riverfront Trail east of the pedestrian bridge will both remain fully open to trail users.

The City's Stormwater Utility will be coordinating with the Army Corps on this repair project. Project updates, as well as the estimated completion date for the work and a trail detour map, will be available at www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2673/Stormwater-Projects. Stormwater Utility Superintendent Tracy Campbell is available to answer questions about this project at 406-830-5455 or CampbellTL@ci.missoula.mt.us.

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