



San Carlos Pumping Station Rehabilitation

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the San Carlos Pumping Station do?

The San Carlos Pumping Station propels wastewater from south Tampa to the Howard F. Curren Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, located at the Port of Tampa. Wastewater comes to the San Carlos Pumping Station by underground gravity pipelines. The wastewater is collected in the pumping station's wet wells, then pumped to a nearby 48-inch sewer force main which carries the wastewater to the treatment facility. Wastewater is not treated at the pumping station.

What is the San Carlos Pumping Station Rehabilitation Project?

The San Carlos Pumping Station Rehabilitation Project includes designing, permitting and installing upgraded systems to handle and convey wastewater. Improvements include new pumps, motors, valves, piping and electrical components to replace aging equipment. New emergency generators will also be installed for continued service during power outages.

Why is the project necessary?

The San Carlos Pumping Station handles about one quarter of the City's wastewater and is nearly 40 years old. Several of the facility's components are near the end of their useful lives. The facility is being renovated and updated to continue reliable wastewater service for City of Tampa customers.

What is the construction schedule?

Construction began in November 2019 and is scheduled to be completed in mid-2021. Crews work weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Night and weekend work may occur on rare occasions, and if this occurs, the project team will provide advance notice to residents.

Why do you have to work on nights and weekends?

The San Carlos Pumping Station must stay in service during the rehabilitation, so crews must perform certain work during dry times of the year...and when residents are sleeping and not using as much water. That work will likely be short in duration, and residents will be notified in advance.

Does the project include improving the pumping station's exterior?

Yes. In fact, the project team changed the exterior design after hearing residents' ideas in 2018. The facility's river rock exterior will be covered with stucco and painted. The entrance for crews and maintenance vehicles will be moved to Manhattan Avenue. Other upgrades include a more modern exterior, cement plaster (stucco finish) accents, color-coordinated garage doors, updated paint and trim, and a sloping metal roof overhang with gable-end element.

How will the neighborhood be affected by construction?

Renovating the San Carlos Pumping Station will have many long-term benefits for the community, but there will also be short-term construction-related inconveniences. City-owned property has been fenced and used for staging and bypass pumping. These locations include:

- 2601 S. Manhattan Ave., where temporary odor control facilities have been installed
- The east half of San Jose Park, which is closed and used for offices and staging
- The small piece of property at the corner of Manhattan Avenue, West San Jose Street and Henderson Boulevard

Additionally, there is some increased traffic to and from the site.

Why did you close half of San Jose Park?

The city and the project team worked diligently in an effort to avoid San Jose Park, but could not find enough suitable, city-owned property near the pumping station. The eastern half of San Jose Park will remain closed for the duration of construction, but the western half remains open for residents.

The project team understands the value that this park brings to the community and is committed to fully restoring the eastern half of San Jose Park to equal or better condition before it re-opens in mid-2021. We will work closely with the City Parks Department to ensure this important community amenity is returned to residents in excellent condition.

Will there be traffic impacts?

The project team is working to reduce traffic inconvenience and keep the roads safe for all travelers. Throughout the 18-month construction schedule, it may be necessary to close one lane of West San Carlos Street or Manhattan Avenue for short periods of time. Road closures and lane closures will be clearly marked. Lane closures will be scheduled to avoid school drop-off and pick-up times.

Will there be sidewalk impacts?

A small section of sidewalk on the corner of San Jose and Manhattan is closed, but pedestrians can still use the open sidewalk to get from Henderson to Manhattan. Detour signs will direct pedestrians to the crosswalk on San Jose across Manhattan and to available sidewalks.

After construction, will the landscaping be improved? Will trees be added?

Yes. Florida-friendly landscaping will be added to enhance the pumping station's appearance. The project team is planning to use the same kinds of plants that were used in San Jose Park.

Once the pumping station is rehabilitated, will it be staffed?

No. The San Carlos Pumping Station is fully automated, but it does require regular maintenance to ensure reliable operations. Typically, crews conduct routine inspections on a daily basis to check system performance and make necessary adjustments. Crews also remove anything that has collected on the screening system that prevents debris from entering and damaging the pumps. Maintenance work and other activities are performed on an as needed basis.

What is the life expectancy of the renovated facility?

The City of Tampa expects the renovated facility to last 40-50 years, similar to the life expectancy of the original facility.

Is it possible for most of the regular maintenance traffic to use the Manhattan Street driveway instead of San Carlos?

Yes. The project team heard this concern at our 2018 public meeting and redesigned the building to move all access to Manhattan Street.

Can the project team completely seal off the area near the wet well so that there are no openings?

Some wet well openings will be sealed off to reduce odors, but access openings are needed for maintenance and service purposes. These openings will be sealed with covers that prevent the release of odors from the wet well.

How deep are the wet wells? How do you access them?

This facility's wet wells are approximately three stories underground and are accessed by stairwell. The wet wells and stairwells are being renovated as part of this project.

Are you coordinating your construction with the Upper Peninsula stormwater project?

Yes. Although the Upper Peninsula project construction is north of the San Carlos Pumping Station, we that understand construction north of West Estrella Street could impact the community. The project team is communicating with the Upper Peninsula project team to minimize the impact we may have on West San Carlos Street or Manhattan Avenue. More information on the Upper Peninsula project can be found at tampastormwater.com.

How will you keep residents updated on the project?

The project team will post regular updates to the project website, sancarlospumpstation.com, and the City will post project news in the Sunset Park Neighborhood of NextDoor. Residents can also call a dedicated project hotline at (813) 486-0361.

How much does the project cost and how is it being funded?

Construction of the San Carlos Pumping Station Rehabilitation Project will cost approximately \$25 million and is being funded through the City's capital improvement budget.

Who is working on the project?

The City selected Garney Companies, Inc. through a competitive process to design and build the San Carlos Pump Station. Garney is responsible for all aspects of the project, including design, permitting, public outreach, construction and operations during the construction phase.