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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI



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Rain delays reopening of engineer jogging trail

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Just as unusual amounts of rain have wreaked havoc on installation sports schedules and other aquatic activities, soaked earth is responsible for washing away this month’s scheduled reopening of the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence/Engineer Jogging trail.

The new expected completion day of the popular exercise route is projected for Sept. 28, depending on the cooperation of Mother Nature.

“Work is still heavily weather dependent,” said Travis Lynch, Fort Leonard Wood South Resident Office engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District. “Less than anticipated rain will shorten, or more rain will extend the projected opening.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working in coordination with Fort Leonard Wood’s Directorate of Public Works to replace more than three miles of sanitary sewer main.

“This project represents the single, largest underground utilities upgrade project for the post in decades,” said Bobby Rakes Jr., DPW director.

Work on the nearly \$9.2-million project began in early March.

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A partial closure of the trail was scheduled until this month, with additional partial closures for demolition of existing manholes once flow was in the new lines, according to Lynch.

He said, for safety reasons, as runners were not complying with safety barricades and partial-track-closure signs, the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Leonard Wood commander directed closure of the entire trail in April.

“Weather delays forced us to extend the closure and have continued to the point where we’ve had to alter our demolition and construction objectives,” Lynch added.

In the last 30 days, there have been 10 to 15 inches of rainfall in the area, according to the National Weather Service.

“All sewer work is essentially in or adjacent to the creek bed, with several water mains crossing through the creek,” Lynch said. “The creek area stays very wet after higher areas dry out.”

One day of rain equates to three day’s impact — one day actual rain delay, two days of dry out period prior to continuing with productive work, explained Lynch while noting that, according to the weather forecast, his crews are expecting at least 21 weather-impact days.

The engineer gave examples of the soaked earth’s impact on the project. “We dug a trench that immediately filled with ground water and must pump out the water in order to get the equipment in the hole,” Lynch said.

He said there have been cases of hill slides filling already dug trenches. “We have to work cautiously in such saturated soil conditions,” Lynch added.

Replacing the sewer lines with larger pipes will alleviate large amounts of water entering the sewer system during heavy rainfalls, according to J.D. Bales, Engineering Design Branch, DPW.

“There is a large inflow and infiltration problem, due to the small size of the current sewer main trunk lines,” Bales said. “There is the danger of causing an overflow in the sewer lines. This project will decrease the chance of overflows and double the flow capacity.”

Rakes explained the project was funded, in addition to the post’s normal sustainment budget, entirely by the Army’s Installation Management Command, and the project enables future growth and expansion, if required.

“I would like to personally thank our community members for respecting the continued closure of the engineer trail for their own safety and for the safety of our contractor and government employees who are working extraordinarily hard to complete this project, despite some very challenging terrain and weather conditions,” Rakes said.

“Continued closure of the trail is a small price to pay for such a large investment in the future viability of our installation,” Rakes added.

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For more information, contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563.4145

Encl.: Photo

Photo outline: Workers observe the excavation of earth to house a machine for boring a hole under First Street, in order to install sewer main pipes. Excessive rainfall caused holes to fill with groundwater and delayed the project, affecting the reopening of the engineer trail.

About Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains about 80,000 military and civilians each year.

Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, and the Army's largest Noncommissioned Officers Academy.

Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting a colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.
