

SEPTEMBER 16, 2019



## RESIDENT RESPONSE MEMORANDUM

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### REQUESTOR: FAQ BY TRAIL USERS

**STAFF PREPARER:** Katy Phillips, Public Works & Environmental Services Director

### INFORMATION OR RESPONSE REQUESTED:

**QUESTION:** WHY DO THE SPRINKERS BEHIND SUNSET VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER RUN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY SATURATING THE TRAILS WITH WATER? CAN THE SPRAY BE REDIRECTED TO NOT HIT THE TRAILS?

**RESPONSE:** Sunset Valley is located over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. Development in Sunset Valley requires the installation of stormwater treatment facilities such as "Re-Irrigation" to remove pollutants from runoff and allow water to soak back into the soil. Re-irrigation collects storm-water in a pond and then redistributes the storm-water over natural areas after a rain event. The area behind the Sunset Valley Village Shopping Center is part of a storm-water control facility that uses re-irrigation to treat storm-water. This facility is regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The design and sprinkler lay out is required for compliance with Sunset Valley regulations and the shopping center's TCEQ permit.

A portion of the Cougar Creek Greenbelt trail passes through the re-irrigation field for the Sunset Valley Village Shopping Center. Within 12 to 24 hours of a rain event the system kicks on and distributes collected stormwater runoff over natural areas. If it rains for several days the system will run for several days after a rain event saturating the trail and natural area.

These stormwater re-irrigation systems do not work like a traditional lawn irrigation system. They are not set to run at prescheduled times of day or on specific days of the week. The spray heads are designed to rotate 360° to maximize soil infiltration. Spray heads cannot be adjusted to avoid the trails. The system will run each sprinkler 10 to 20 minutes depending on the location. The system will then cycle through the sprinkler zones until all of the water is removed from the storm-water ponds.

Trail users will encounter wet conditions on this trail for a several days after it rains. This system is designed to protect Barton Springs and the Edwards Aquifer. It does not utilize potable water to irrigate the area.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED/BY: N/A

ACTION REQUIRED:

The city is in the process of installing some educational signage to inform trail users that they are entering a stormwater treatment facility. Additionally, staff is investigating options for modifying the TCEQ permit requirements for this facility.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS PROVIDED: YES/NO