

Several weeks of repair will restore park's paths

The digging and pipe laying is finished, but bicyclists and joggers will have to wait several weeks before the bike paths in Alton Baker Park are back to normal.

Construction of a huge six-mile sewer line from Springfield to the new regional wastewater treatment facility on River Road in Eugene has left some of the bike and jogging paths little more than gravel-strewn mud holes for the past few weeks.

But the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission — the agency in charge of the project — says the 60-

78-inch pipe has been placed and the ditches are being filled.

"Contractors are continuing backfill and grading," says a MEMC representative. "As soon as they have the equipment out, they will do landscaping and path repair."

The project is divided into five separate contracts. The contract deadline primarily covering pipe laying in the park is scheduled to be completed by July 31.

Officials say the entire project, which began last February, will be completed in December.

Contractors began work this month on another section of the pipe that officials say will cause the greatest traffic disruption.

The contract includes the placement of pipe from the entrance to Alton Baker Park along Club Road and Country Club Road to the Finesse Bridge Center, 734 Country Club Road.

Country Club Road from the park entrance, under the Ferry Street Bridge to the Interstate 105 off-ramp, will remain closed through June 15 while pipe is being placed.

The project also calls for widening and repaving of Country Club Road.

Once completed, the pipe will carry sewage from Springfield to the metropolitan treatment plant and should allow both Eugene and Springfield to meet 1983 treatment standards established by Congress.

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