



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

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UPPER VALLEY LEVEE REHABILITATION IN EL PASO: ACCESS TO RIO GRANDE RIVER TRAIL AT MARY FRANCES KEISLING PARK TO CLOSE TEMPORARILY

The [United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission](#) (USIBWC) is temporarily closing public access to the Rio Grande River Trail at one location due to ongoing rehabilitation of the flood control levee from Borderland Road to Country Club Road.

The current construction schedule indicates access will be closed at Mary Frances Keisling Park beginning on December 14 but is subject to change. Specific closure dates will be posted at the access point, however, the trail access will be open from December 25, 2020 through January 3, 2021. On January 4, access will again be closed until work at this site is completed. The total closure period will be approximately two weeks.

Although the Mary Frances Keisling Park access to the river trail is closed, access remains available at Borderland Bridge. No official park access exists at Country Club Road. This area is closed due to construction.

While the levee is being rehabilitated, the USIBWC requests citizens to remain on the concrete river trail. The construction equipment in the area weighs upwards of 50 tons and can travel at 25 mph. Every effort is being made to ensure the local community can enjoy the river trail during construction using the open access points and staying on the trail, which are essential for safety.

The [levee rehabilitation project](#) extends approximately 2.8 miles along the west levee of the Rio Grande from Country Club Road to Borderland Road. USIBWC contractors are using heavy equipment to place impervious clay on the levee to improve flood protection.

Construction should be completed by June 2021.

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Current access point from Mary France Keisling Park. Parking lot to the park can be seen to the right side of photo.



Example of equipment being used to perform levee rehabilitation. Height of levee can hide equipment from view and equipment path can cause it to quickly come over the top of the levee.



Example of equipment being used to perform levee rehabilitation. Scrapers can carry on average 25 cubic yards of soil or around 70,000 lbs of soil.