



FARMERS BRANCH CREEK DISPUTE FAQs

Addison residents don't have any control over the creek decision. Why is Farmers Branch punishing us by cancelling library services and charging a \$500 annual fee at the Farmers Branch Senior Center?

We are shocked and dismayed by these actions. We believe the goal of the Farmers Branch council is to attempt to exert political pressure on Addison council members to make a decision that is not in the best interest of Addison residents.

What started the creek dispute between Farmers Branch and Addison?

In 2011, in connection with the construction of the Vitruvian development, Addison sought an amendment to an existing water use permit issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in order to allow Addison to build a new, second reservoir along Farmers Branch Creek. As part of the permit amendment, TCEQ required Addison to use well water to replace creek water that might be lost due to evaporation in the reservoir.

Addison originally planned to drill a well into the Trinity Aquifer to meet its permit obligations. However, a change in the plans at Vitruvian allowed Addison to drill a less costly well into the shallower Woodbine Aquifer. Addison's project consultants alerted TCEQ to this change in 2011, and TCEQ advised then that no additional amendment to the permit was needed in order to make this change.

In 2014, in connection with a review of complaints made by certain residents of Farmers Branch about the reservoirs at Vitruvian, the TCEQ acknowledged that the advice it gave to Addison in 2011 was erroneous, and it requested that Addison seek an amendment of the permit to allow Addison to continue using well water from the Woodbine Aquifer to replace evaporation. Addison filed the request at that time, and has been seeking an amendment of its permit with TCEQ ever since.

Farmers Branch and certain of its residents seized on the review by TCEQ, and the permit amendment process to exact a commitment from Addison to deliver a volume of water into Farmers Branch Creek that is far in excess of Addison's obligations under the permit. Farmers Branch and its residents seek this additional water from Addison for aesthetic purposes - so that they can enjoy a year-round, constantly flowing creek. The additional water sought by Farmers Branch is not only not required by the permit, but would be wasteful of an important natural resource. Addison has repeatedly attempted to resolve this dispute with Farmers Branch but to no avail. Addison takes seriously its obligations under this permit, and will continue to work closely with TCEQ to obtain the necessary amendment. Addison remains committed to acting in a fiscally responsible manner and in the best interests of the Town, the community, and the region.

Farmers Branch is saying that Addison is polluting Farmers Branch Creek? Is this true?

No. In the permit issued to Addison, TCEQ expects that the water quality will be sufficient to meet the water quality standard set forth in the permit. Testing has demonstrated that the water quality leaving Vitruvian Park is consistently of similar or even better quality than the water that comes into the park from Farmers Branch. The water is safe for its intended purpose as a creek to collect storm water runoff.

Why did Addison not drill its well to the Trinity Aquifer.

Addison originally intended to use the water pumped from the well to replace evaporation of the ponds and irrigate Vitruvian Park. When the decision was made to use city water for irrigation, the Town asked TCEQ to pursue a less expensive option and drill to the Woodbine Aquifer. Addison's project consultants alerted TCEQ of the Town's desire to dig to the Woodbine Aquifer in 2011, and TCEQ advised Addison then that no additional amendment to the permit was needed in order to make this change. In 2014, the TCEQ acknowledged that the advice it gave to Addison in 2011 was erroneous, and it requested that Addison seek an amendment of the permit to allow Addison to continue using well water from the Woodbine Aquifer to replace evaporation. Addison filed the request at that time, and is currently seeking an amendment of its permit with TCEQ.

Has Addison done water testing?

Yes. In 2015 the Town tested the water where it comes into the pond from Farmers Branch Creek and where it goes back out to Farmers Branch Creek. The results indicated that the water quality leaving Vitruvian Park is consistently of similar or even better quality than the water that comes into the park.

Is Addison pumping as much water as is required by their TCEQ permit?

Yes. The TCEQ permit requires the Town to pump a minimum of 5.82 acre-ft of water annually, which equates to approximately 1,896,452 gallons. This total could be more depending on the amount of evaporation that occurs during any given year. At the request of Farmers Branch and in order to be a good neighbor, Addison pumps much more water into Farmers Branch creek than is required by its TCEQ permit. Our pump currently runs 18 hours a day and has since 2014. During the 2017 calendar year the Town pumped 10,724,195 gallons, which is 8,827,743 gallons over the minimum amount required.