What are they and why do we need them?

When it rains in the Delridge and Westwood neighborhoods, pollution from our streets runs into Longfellow Creek untreated. This is not healthy for the creek or for people. The good news is: there is something we can do.

Natural Drainage Systems (NDS) consist of shallow depressions in the public right-of-way, or “planter strip,” filled with deep-rooted plants and spongy soils that temporarily hold and clean polluted stormwater from streets and sidewalks. These features capture and clean pollutants before they can reach the creek.

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is planning to build natural drainage systems in your neighborhood in 2021.

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is partnering with Seattle Department of Transportation on this project to provide pedestrian safety and mobility improvements in your community.

Through 1% for Arts, the Office of Arts and Culture will incorporate art into the 24th Ave SW and SW Kenyon St site design.

This project is paid for in part by the King County Flood Control District and the Levy to Move Seattle.

Community benefits

Natural Drainage Systems offer multiple benefits to local neighborhoods and ecosystems, including:

- Greener, more attractive neighborhoods
- Lower risk of flooding
- Creation of habitat along our streets
- Healthier creek ecosystems
- Calmer traffic patterns
- More street trees
- Pedestrian improvements
- Art installation through 1% for the arts at 24th and Kenyon site
Anticipated Impacts to Residents

We will be coordinating with the nearby community throughout design and construction to make sure everyone knows the changes that will be made to the streets selected for NDS. We will coordinate on the below impacts with each impacted resident. At this time, we anticipate:

- **NDS and sidewalk improvements** may require some driveways to be restored to the City’s 10 foot width standard in the public right-of-way

- **On-street parking** along 24th Ave SW between SW Barton St and SW Thistle St will transition to parallel parking

- Some gas lines, side sewers, and water utilities will need to be adjusted during construction

- Some mailboxes, fences, vegetation, and other structures may need to be relocated due to sidewalk, road, and NDS improvements