

1. *How big is the existing culvert under 35th Ave NE? How big will the new one be?*

The existing culvert is an elliptical corrugated metal pipe arch, approximately 4 ft high and 6 ft wide. The new box culvert will be 30 feet wide by 4 feet tall concrete structure.

2. *What is a street vacation?*

A street vacation is the process by which an abutting property owner can petition the City to acquire the adjacent street right-of-way.

3. *Why couldn't the dredging of Meadowbrook Pond be accelerated to happen before the 2011-12 winter/rainy season?*

The dredging of the pond requires special construction methods provided by a limited number of contactors. In order to acquire these services, State Law dictates that the City must engage in a Public Works Advertising/Did process. This process can take up to six months to execute upon completion of plans.

4. *How much water can Meadowbrook Pond currently hold? What is the volume of the pond compared to volume of the floodplain?*

The volume of water in the pond ranges from about 350,000 cubic feet (2.6 Million Gallons) during dry summer months to about 650,000 cubic feet (4.9 Million Gallons) during the most extreme storm events. The reconfigured floodplain will add approximately 123,000 cubic feet (0.9 Million Gallons) of flood storage.

5. *What is the cost of this project? Is it funded?*

The cost of the Meadowbrook Dredging and Improvements project (2012) is \$3.4 million. The Thornton Creek Confluence Project (2013) is \$6.4 million. Both projects have approved funding.

6. *We visit the pond daily. In the warm months it smells and is stagnant. What aspect of the proposed work might improve this?*

The primary cause of the odor and stagnation is the decay of plant material. In this case, it is the algae that grow on the pond's surface during the warm summer months. The depth of the water in the pond and contributing flows from the creek/ rains influence the rate at which this process occurs by serving to regulate the temperature of the water. The more sediment in the pond, the more groundwater is displaced, reducing the open water depth. Dredging the pond will establish a deep water column less susceptible to warm temperatures and thus will provide a more stable environment for fish and wildlife.

7. *What kinds of plants can neighbors plant to absorb more water and improve the overall system?*

Trees are the best plants for improving the functionality of the Thornton Creek watershed. In particular, our native trees (Douglas-fir, Western Red Cedar, and Sitka Spruce) are very important to the storage of water in summer months, the intake of water in winter months, and the reduction of impacts to the ground when raining.

8. *We don't have a sidewalk along 105th Ave NE; instead we have a trail through the park that parallels the road. I'm concerned because the path is dark and unsafe. I would like to see safety of this path improved during design, including lighting.*

SPU maintenance has made some improvements in opening up the vegetation along this corridor to increase visibility and improve public safety. SPU Security & Maintenance are working together to evaluate this area for further ways safety can be improved.

9. *I'm concerned about safe walking paths for children attending John Rogers (to and from school, as well as to and from swimming lessons at Meadowbrook Community Center) during construction.*

The contractor was made aware that public access to the NE 105th Street path must be made available during construction.

10. *I'm concerned about how dredging and construction will affect wildlife (nesting birds, beavers, etc...).*

SPU has developed a comprehensive plan to relocate and minimize impacts to fish. Most nesting birds will see little disruption as most songbirds will be done nesting by time of construction. Waterfowl young will be able to move away from areas under immediate impact to avoid injury as the project will rotate through the pond cells. Beavers and other large wildlife will likely relocate during construction.

11. *The intersection of 110th and 35th (eastside) always floods. Will this be addressed with this project?*

Meadowbrook Pond Dredging & Improvements will not address flooding impacts to NE 110th St at Thornton Creek. There are two primary reasons for localized flooding in this area:

1. Street contour (managed by Seattle Department of Transportation) and the proximity of the bridge (height) relative to the creek surface.
2. The creek immediately downstream of the bridge is constricted (heavily channelized on private property and currently on SPU property as well). High flows backwater at NE 110th causing some over road flooding during large storm events.

The Confluence Floodplain should reduce some of this bottle-neck and allow the flow to spread out slowly over the floodplain.

12. *Walking through the pond one recent Sunday we met two teen or pre-teen girls picking up empty beer cans from the water and along the banks. Has SPU tried to harness this energy through clubs at Hale or Adams for work parties to clean up the area?*

SPU currently does not have a formal volunteer process for these and similar activities. We are also limited in staff for developing & adopting a program. The site manager, Deb Heiden, is open to meeting with the "Friends of" group and others to discuss possible opportunities to for volunteering.