

Longfellow Creek meanders through the Delridge neighborhood, where it historically served as a home to a number of salmon and trout species. Over the years, the effects of urban development have introduced more hard surfaces, like streets, roofs, driveways, and parking lots. That changed the way rain naturally drains into the earth and diverted the natural channels for fish passage.



Karl Derrick has lived in his home along Longfellow Creek since 1986. Karl takes pride in monitoring the creek every day and views Longfellow as an asset and a valuable feature on his property. From the streetscape, Karl's property looks like a blossoming botanical garden, providing plenty of shade for the creek's wildlife.

Derrick reminds us, "Seattle has urban creeks. We should view the creeks as a habitat instead of just a resource." Seattle Public Utilities' (SPU) goals for the **Delridge Neighborhood Greenways and Natural Drainage**

Systems Project directly align with that vision.

SPU is currently identifying locations for roadside rain gardens to help slow the flow of stormwater and reduce polluted runoff into Longfellow creek. Derrick's street is one of the potential sites for natural drainage systems. If natural drainage turns out to be feasible there, Derrick believes "it could reduce the amount of silt in the creek and Longfellow Creek can become a viable habitat once again."

After soils analysis and input from residents, sites for the rain gardens will be selected. SPU will continue its neighborhood outreach by hosting a "Walk and Talk" in October. A "Walk and Talk" engages and informs the community by inviting residents to step outside their homes and provide input on designs and locations to members of the project team.

As the Delridge Neighborhood Greenways and Natural Drainage Systems project continues, public input from residents like Derrick will help to support the design work and will help to guide construction in 2015.