



City of Seattle
Seattle Public Utilities

Venema Creek Natural Drainage System
SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)

Description of Proposal

The objective of the proposed Venema Creek NDS Project is to reduce peak flows and water quality impacts to Venema Creek, a tributary to Piper's Creek in northwest Seattle. The project would meet this objective by constructing a series of cascading raingardens (natural drainage swales) for biofiltration and bioretention along five blocks of residential streets. Treated runoff from the raingardens would be directed to underground injection control (UIC) wells for infiltration into deep glacial outwash layers located approximately 30 feet below the ground surface. The raingardens would only provide water quality treatment of runoff and would not be designed to infiltrate all runoff. Runoff volumes that exceed the capacity of the raingardens and UIC wells would be returned to the constructed storm water conveyance system that now discharges to Venema Creek. The project would treat a portion of storm water runoff from an 80 acre storm water catchment basin, which currently has no designed surface water drainage improvements.

The project would reconstruct five blocks (1,600 linear feet) of residential streets to accommodate the raingardens, while also rebuilding the right-of-way with new drainage and transportation infrastructure. The project includes the following major elements:

- Raingarden swales on one side of each block
- Conversion of two UICs, originally installed to assess the potential for this technology, from research status to permanent status for the infiltration of treated, collected storm water
- Possible installation of a third UIC for the same purpose in a westerly portion of the public right-of-way of NW 122nd Street (exact location not yet determined). Each UIC is/would be approximately 80 feet deep
- New 6 foot wide concrete sidewalks on one side of each block
- Curb and gutter on both sides of NW 122nd Street and on the uphill side of NW 120th Street
- New landscape strip (planting strip) between sidewalk and curb with street trees as per SDOT requirements (one side of each street only)
- Removal of existing road surface and installation of newly aligned, asphalt roadway
- Adjustment of underground utilities (e.g., potable water, storm drainage, natural gas, etc.) as required to accommodate proper depth clearances with swale construction and new roadway improvements
- Adjustments to other street infrastructure such as mailboxes, signage, etc., as needed
- Installation of approximately 750 feet of new storm water drainage pipe to connect the raingardens and provide a high-flow bypass route
- Repair of damaged culvert located under 3rd Avenue NW at NW 120th Street
- Construction of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant ramps at street intersections as per SDOT requirements

- Installation of battery-powered monitoring equipment within the UIC wells to capture data on discharge flows and water table elevations

Proponent

Seattle Public Utilities
Seattle Municipal Tower Suite 4900
P.O. Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

Location of Proposal

The project area is in the Broadview-Bitter Lake-Haller Lake neighborhoods of the City of Seattle, King County, Washington, within Section 2, Township 25 N, Range 5 E. The project is located entirely within the following improved street rights-of-way:

- NW 120th Street, from 1st Avenue NW through 3rd Avenue NW
- NW 122nd Street, from Palatine Avenue N through 3rd Avenue NW.

Lead Agency

Seattle Public Utilities, the lead agency for this proposal, has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This Determination of Non-significance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for fourteen (14) days from the date below.

A copy of the environmental checklist is available at:

- Seattle Public Utilities, Director's Office Main Reception Area, Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4900, 700 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, Washington
- Seattle Central Library, Public Review Documents, Level 5 Reference
- www.seattle.gov/util/VenemaCreek/

Public and Agency Comments

Comments must be submitted by March 27, 2014 and must be sent to:

Betty Meyer, SEPA Responsible Official
Seattle Public Utilities
Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4900
P.O. Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018
betty.meyer@seattle.gov

Signature:


Betty Meyer

Issue Date: March 13, 2014

Appeals

Appeals of this DNS must be accompanied by a \$85.00 filing fee and must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on April 3, 2014.

- Written appeals must be sent to:
City of Seattle Hearing Examiner
700 5th Avenue Suite 4000
P.O. Box 94729
Seattle, WA 98124-4729
- Appeals can be filed electronically. Details on electronic filing procedures are available under “e-File” at the Office of the Hearing Examiner’s web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/examiner/>
- Filing fees must be paid by the appeal deadline and can be paid *via* check (made payable to the City of Seattle) or credit/debit card (Visa and MasterCard only). Credit/debit card payments can be made in-person or over-the-phone.

You should be prepared to make specific factual objections. Please refer to the Hearing Examiner Rules of Practice and Procedure for rules that govern appeals. These rules are available on the Hearing Examiner’s website at www.seattle.gov/examiner/rules-toc.htm or by calling 206-684-0521.