



## A Long-Term Plan for Seattle’s Drainage and Wastewater Systems

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is developing a 50-year plan for managing and improving Seattle’s drainage and wastewater systems. We want to plan our future investments so that they can:

**address a changing climate**

**promote racial justice**

**provide affordable services**

**improve public health**

**improve public space**

**contribute to livable growth**

**protect water quality**

**work with our partners**

We will develop our plan through technical analysis, community engagement and an integrated approach to planning.

### What is Seattle’s drainage and wastewater system?

These systems handle rain and sewage for Seattle; the drainage system handles rain (called stormwater), and the wastewater system handles sewage and combinations of sewage and rain.

**These systems are made up of many pieces that work together to protect public health and safety, including:**

- 485 miles of stormwater pipes
- 33,733 catch basins
- 43 miles of creeks
- 379 miles of separated sewers
- 1,300+ miles of sewer pipe
- 68 pump stations
- 38 storage tanks and pipes



## Seattle's Drainage and Wastewater System Plan will:

✔ **Provide excellent, affordable services**  
SPU's Drainage and Wastewater line-of-business provides drainage and sewer services to Seattle households and businesses. We need a long-term plan to guide our service levels and rates.

✔ **Be strategic with our investments**  
In the future, SPU expects to continue investing about \$200M a year on projects and \$100M per year on operations and maintenance for the drainage and wastewater systems. A long-term plan will guide these investments through time, better aligning them with community needs.

✔ **Build a resilient City**  
Our climate is changing, and changes to rainfall will impact our drainage and wastewater services. We are committed to keeping Seattle the best place to live

for everyone into the future. Planning ensures that our drainage and wastewater systems are resilient, even in an uncertain future.

✔ **Provide the greatest community value possible**  
We are a public utility and need to know how to provide the right services with multiple benefits for our community. Our long-term plan will be built through community engagement such that our investments reflect their interests.

✔ **Promote Racial Equity**  
Each step of the system plan will promote racial equity within Seattle. This includes strategies like: utilizing technical approaches that minimize bias, prioritizing resources for historically excluded communities, and, importantly, having community-driven leadership and decision-making within the Vision Plan.

Photo: Marcela Gara, Resource Media



# a 50 year plan

## How will SPU plan for the next 50 years?

SPU will complete four major steps to build a long-term plan.

### 1 Data Collection & Analysis (2017-2019)

We are collecting and analyzing information about the current drainage and wastewater systems. We are also trying to predict how climate change will impact our systems. This includes modeling how the system works (or doesn't work!), working with our community to learn from their experiences, establishing management plans for our pipes, pump stations, and more, and studying the influence of other social and environmental factors.

**Why is this important?** We need to know our starting point to move efficiently and effectively towards our future goals.

### 2 Vision Plan (2019-2020)

Through engagement with our community, other city departments, and partners, we will develop goals, objectives, guiding principles, and measures of success for the drainage and wastewater system to guide long-range planning and investment.

**Why is this important?** Our customers and our community pay for and use the drainage and wastewater system. Our long-term plan for system construction, maintenance and operation must reflect our shared values.



Photo: Marcela Gara, Resource Media

### 3 Integrated System Plan (2019-2022)

Data Collection and Analysis and the Vision Plan will generate findings, goals, objectives and more. The Integrated System Plan will combine this information, develop and evaluate solutions, and select a preferred way to implement solutions.

**Why is this important?** Building, replacing, maintaining and operating a drainage and wastewater system is expensive, so we need to prioritize our actions. An integrated approach allows us to look at all our inputs and select solutions that provide the best value to our community.

### 4 Focus Area Plans (2018-beyond)

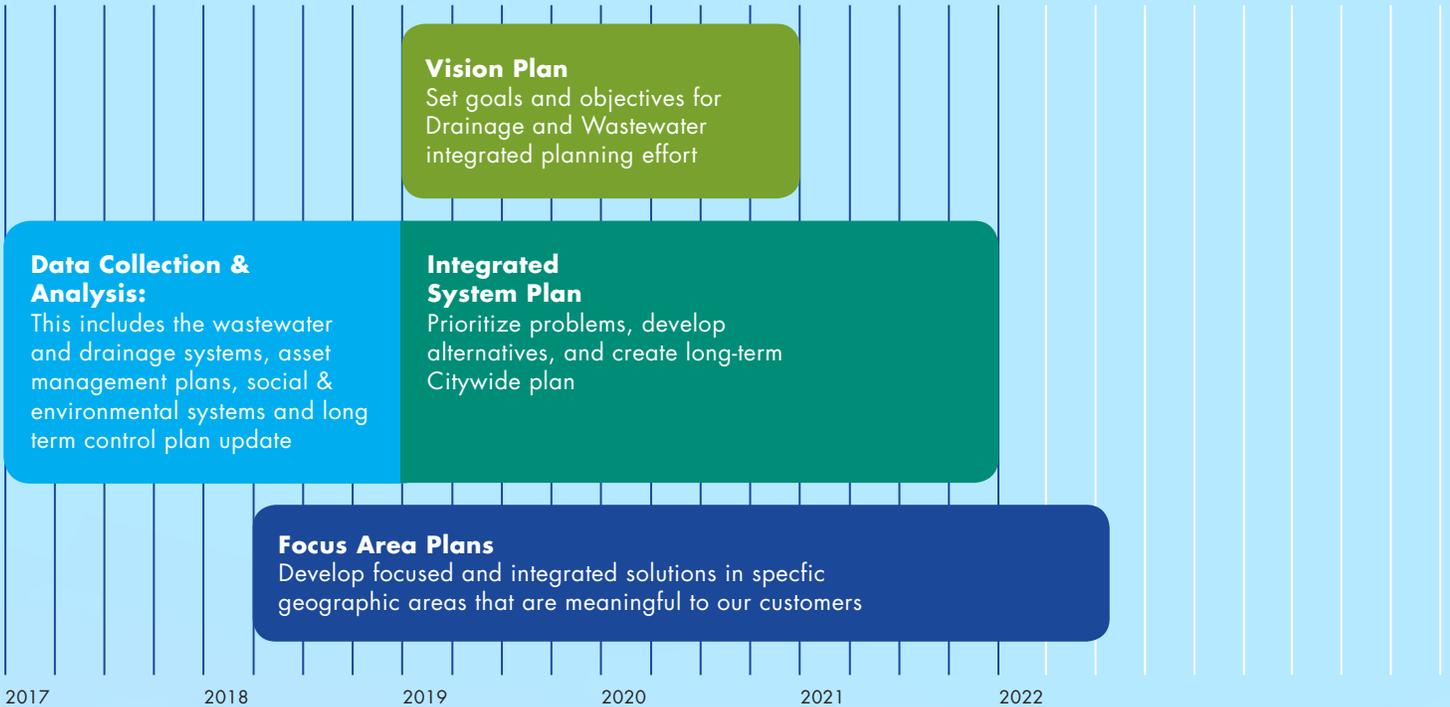
The Focus Area Plans focus on delivering integrated solutions in neighborhoods. These solutions provide multi-benefits, respond to communities, expand our tools, and work with partners.

**Why is this important?** Through focus area planning, we can prevent flooding and sewer backups by catching rainwater in green infrastructure to provide community open space and safe walking routes. We're focused on aligning investments with community-identified priorities.



## Drainage and Wastewater Integrated System Planning Timeline

The integrated system plan will reflect shared values and will be completed by 2022.



*Madison Valley*