



Longfellow Creek Natural Drainage Systems

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) bringing this project to your neighborhood?

This project will help reduce polluted runoff from entering the creeks and lakes in your neighborhood that flow into the Puget Sound. It's estimated that more than 12 million pounds of pollution are carried into our water systems by stormwater every year; SPU wants to build natural drainage systems (NDS) to help solve this problem.



WHAT ARE THE PROJECT GOALS?

- To improve water quality and help manage stormwater flows by constructing natural drainage systems alongside the road in your neighborhood.
- Partner with Seattle Department of Transportation to build new sidewalks.
- To improve your neighborhood by providing street trees, calming traffic, and reducing localized flooding where possible.

SPU is planning to build natural drainage systems in the roadway shoulder (the space between the street edge and property line) of several blocks in your neighborhood. This project is part of the **Natural Drainage Systems Program in the Plan to Protect Seattle's Waterways**. See the following link for more information:

www.seattle.gov/utilities/documents/plans/drainage-and-sewer-plans/waterway-protection

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

What can I expect during construction?

Construction hours and impacts will not be set until a contractor is under contract. However, typical construction working hours in Seattle are 7 am to 6 pm, Monday – Friday. In the unlikely event of night or weekend work we will reach out to let neighbors know ahead of time. The contractor will be required to maintain access for emergency vehicles at all times. Typical construction impacts may include noise, dust, equipment being stored in the right of way and restricted street parking.





Will I have to relocate my fence, bushes, or sheds if they are within the public right-of-way?

We are working with each resident that will have NDS, sidewalks, or other improvements installed in front of their property. Items in the right-of-way where NDS and sidewalks are being installed will need to be removed by property owners at their expense, or they will be removed by the contractor and placed on the private property.

How will this work affect existing plants and trees?

We work to protect trees and maintain or improve the tree canopy where possible. This project is likely to affect some trees on your street, but we will replace any one tree removed with two new trees. Some smaller or unhealthy trees in the construction area may need to be replaced. Smaller trees, plants and other landscaping may be removed if we are not able to work around them, residents interested in preserving plantings and other landscaping features in the public right-of-way should may relocate them onto their property.

Will my driveway be impacted by this project?

NDS and sidewalk improvements will require some driveway cuts and aprons to be restored to the City's 10-foot width standard, per code requirement, within the public right-of-way. We are working with each resident that will have impacts to their driveway. This work will not change the width of the existing driveways on private properties.

Will my utilities be impacted by this project?

Some gas lines, side sewers, and water utilities will need to be adjusted during construction. We will work with each resident that may be impacted by utility relocation due to this project.

How will my garbage be collected during construction?

The contractor will be responsible for coordinating garbage, recycling, and compost pickup during construction. We will reach out with more information once we have a contractor on board.

Are mailbox locations going to be impacted long-term after construction? If so, who is responsible for coordinating these changes?

Some mailboxes will be relocated from the current location for installation of the new curb along 24th. Typically the mailboxes will be set back away from the new road edge and located per the direction of the United States Postal Service. Some mailboxes may also be temporarily relocated during construction to maintain safe site access and avoid delivery disruptions. We will reach out with more information once we have a contractor on board and USPS has determined the new location.

I have an upcoming construction project. How do I find out where my property line is?

Call the Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections (SDCI) Help Desk for more information at (206) 684-8850. More significant work will require a survey. SDCI will be able to help you identify what is needed and how you determine your property boundary.





WHAT TO EXPECT

What can I expect the NDS to look like after it is installed?

Because natural drainage systems are built with growing plants, the way they look will change over time and they will take up to two years to fully develop. The grasses, shrubs, and trees installed at construction will grow as the garden matures. In the first few years, the stormwater collected in the natural drainage system will be more visible. The plants will also look different as seasons change throughout the year.

How will stormwater be directed to the natural drainage systems?

Rainwater off the street will be conveyed to the NDS and/or new drainage collection structures through a new curb and gutter system along the road. This new road edge treatment will convey water across driveways and down the street. In addition, the new sidewalk and planting strip will be designed to slope towards the street so that water flows into the road's new gutter.

Will this project affect street parking?

This project will likely affect street parking. Seattle Public Utilities knows that parking and access from the street to the sidewalk are very important to residents. We carefully considered and worked to address the impacts to parking in every potential project location. We also look at alleys and assess the condition and availability of off-street parking nearby.

Who is responsible for maintenance of the project?

SPU is responsible for all maintenance needs of the NDS elements of this project including watering, weeding, and general upkeep. The City will also prune trees and shrubs, as needed. You will not be asked to pay for or perform any maintenance of the NDS. In fact, it is important for residents to stay out of the project area to maintain their function. Plants will mature over time and the mix of plants will likely change, but this doesn't affect its function. The planting strip that is not part of the NDS will be the responsibility of the adjacent property owner as typical for streets in Seattle.

See the following link for more information: www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/maintenance-and-paving/property-owners-responsibilities

Will I see water in the natural drainage systems?

During storms, each project site will temporarily hold up to 12 inches of water and then drain within 24 hours after the rain ends. When there are back-to-back storms or a larger storm, the water level will rise and fall, which is a sign that the project is functioning properly.

What if it rains so much that the project site overflows?

The natural drainage systems are designed to completely drain within 24 hours of the storm passing. If there is more water than the project can hold at one time, you will see any excess stormwater flow out of the system and into the nearest pipe, ditch, or storm drain.

What happens if the site does not drain within 24 hours?

SPU's Operation Response Center maintains a 24/7 hotline for people to call and report drainage issues. If the completed project near your home isn't draining properly or requires maintenance, please call (206) 386-1800.





Will this project attract mosquitoes?

This project will not attract mosquitoes. Mosquitoes need stagnant water (found in bird baths, old tires, dog water bowls, etc.) and natural drainage systems are designed to constantly drain and keep water moving. For more information on mosquitoes and prevention, please visit: www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/westnile.aspx or www.seattle.gov/environment/WestNile.htm.

Will this project cause my basement to flood or drainage problems around my house?

NDS helps to better manage stormwater ponding and drainage issues in the public right-of-way. This project is designed to carry stormwater straight into the ground, not toward yards or basements. SPU uses soil testing information in order to locate these projects where the conditions are good for infiltrating stormwater straight down into the ground. If needed, the design of the site may provide an underground liner for extra protection.

Will my children and pets be safe when the water is collected and stored here?

Natural drainage systems are designed with safety in mind. They will typically drain within 24 hours following a storm and, in most cases, it will be even faster.



COMMUNITY INPUT

How much input do you want from residents?

Community involvement is important to us. We consulted residents through location selection and design process. We will continue to coordinate with residents through late design and throughout construction so that we can understand specific concerns and interests from you and your neighbors.

STAY IN TOUCH

SPU is happy to answer questions and provide any information you need to be informed about this project.

Contact: Jonathan Brown, Project Manager

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Phone: 206.386.4027

Learn more & subscribe to updates: www.seattle.gov/util/longfellownds

