What are they and why do we need them?

When it rains in the Delridge and Westwood neighborhoods, pollution from our streets runs into Longfellow Creek untreated. This is not healthy for the creek or for people. The good news is: there is something we can do.

Natural Drainage Systems (NDS) consist of shallow depressions in the public right-of-way, or “planter strip,” filled with deep-rooted plants and spongy soils that temporarily hold and clean polluted stormwater from streets and sidewalks. These features capture and clean pollutants before they can reach the creek.

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is planning to build natural drainage systems in your neighborhood 2020-2021.

What is the NDS Partnering Program?

The 2016-2025 Natural Drainage Systems Partnering Program is a Seattle Public Utilities multi-year capital improvement program focused on Longfellow, Piper’s, and Thornton Creek watersheds.

The program’s goal is to construct street-side natural drainage systems that filter and manage stormwater and improve neighborhoods with street trees, traffic calming, and, in some cases, a limited number of sidewalks.

We are partnering with Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Office of Arts & Culture 1% for the arts, and King County Flood Control District.

Community benefits

Natural Drainage Systems offer multiple benefits to local neighborhoods and ecosystems, including:

- Greener, more attractive neighborhoods
- Lower risk of flooding
- Creation of habitat along our streets
- Healthier creek ecosystems
- Calmer traffic patterns
- More street trees
Anticipated Impacts to Residents

We will be coordinating with the nearby community throughout design and construction to make sure everyone knows the changes that will be made to the streets selected for NDS. We will coordinate on the below impacts with each impacted resident. At this time, we anticipate:

- **NDS and sidewalk improvements** may require some driveways to be restored to the City’s 10 foot width standard in the public right-of-way
- **On-street parking** along 24th Ave SW between SW Barton St and SW Thistle St will transition to parallel parking
- Some **gas lines, side sewers, and water utilities** will need to be adjusted during construction
- Some **mailboxes, fences, vegetation, and other structures** may need to be relocated due to sidewalk, road, and NDS improvements