



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

plan for seismic risks

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 a combination of sewage and stormwater.

Seattle’s drainage and wastewater systems are made up of many pieces that work together to protect public health and safety, including:

- 485 miles of stormwater pipes
- 1,300+ miles of sewer pipe
- 379 miles of separated sewers
- 33,733 catch basins
- 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, the SPU expects to continue investing about \$200M per 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 this will impact Seattle's rainfall. Our city is also vulnerable to earthquakes. Both of these will have an impact on 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 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 Information Gathering & Analysis (2017-2020)

We are collecting and analyzing information about the current drainage and wastewater systems. We are also predicting how climate change and seismic events 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 Visioning (2020-2021)

Through engagement with our community, other city departments, and partners, we will develop a shared vision for our future including 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 Planning (2020-2021)

We will combine our analysis and visioning findings to develop and evaluate solutions and to plan implementation.

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.

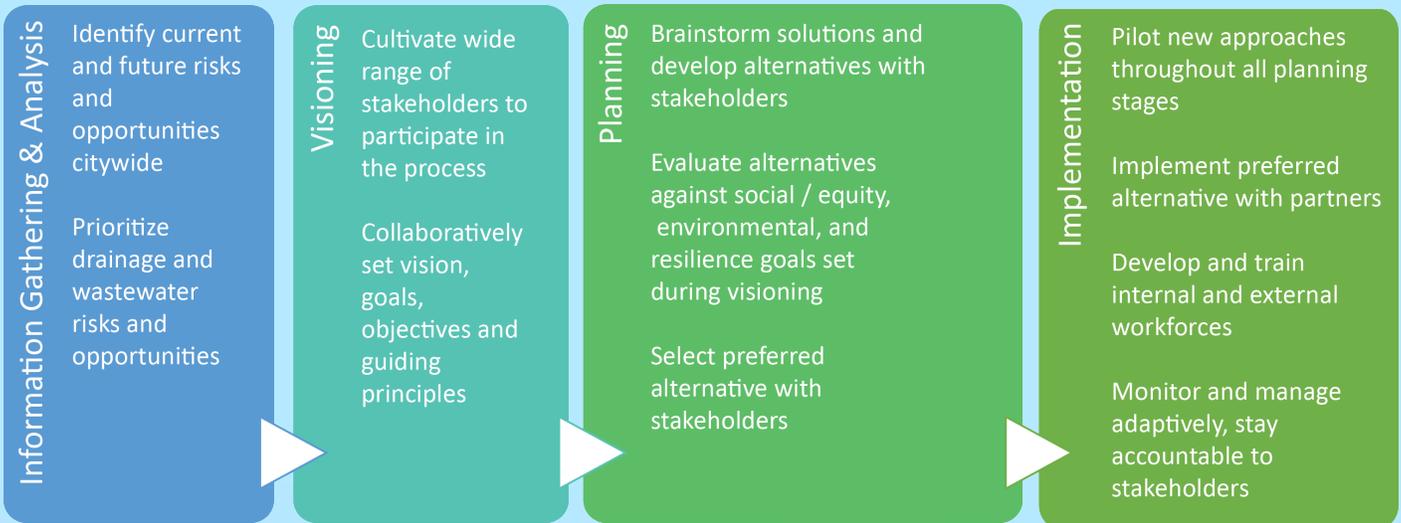
4 Implementation (2023-beyond)

Implementation of the ISP will begin in 2023 when the plan is complete. In order to account for future uncertainty, we will adaptively manage implementation over the 50-year planning horizon.

Why is this important? Plans reduce uncertainty for SPU and customers. We'll know what work is a priority and approximately when we'll be able to complete it.

Drainage and Wastewater Integrated System Planning Process

The integrated system plan will reflect shared values and will be completed by 2023.



Madison Valley