

Holden Natural Drainage Systems (NDS) Project



Enhancing our communities with natural drainage systems



Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) will be building natural drainage systems in your neighborhood that will deliver multiple community benefits including improved creek water quality, roadway and pedestrian safety improvements, and more landscaping.

Project Overview

More than 12 million pounds of pollution are carried into our water bodies through stormwater runoff each year. Stormwater that falls on roofs, streets, and parking lots in your neighborhood can pick up harmful pollutants before entering Longfellow Creek, which flows into Puget Sound. These pollutants can harm fish, wildlife, and our ecosystems.

To address water quality in Longfellow Creek and Puget Sound, SPU is working to minimize pollution at its source by installing natural drainage systems. Natural drainage systems, also known as roadside rain gardens or bioretention, are designed to capture and slow stormwater, filtering pollutants before they can reach our waterways.

The Holden Natural Drainage Systems Project is part of the [Plan to Protect Seattle's Waterways](#), an initiative that aims to improve water quality by reducing polluted stormwater runoff.

Location

SPU is installing natural drainage systems on SW Holden St west of 16th Ave SW and half a block west of 17th Ave SW. This site was chosen from community feedback and in coordination between SPU and Seattle Department of Transportation.



Benefits to the Community

The Holden Natural Drainage System Project will offer multiple benefits to local neighborhoods and ecosystems including:

- Stormwater/drainage water quality improvements
- Addressing localized flooding
- Increased landscaping diversity and street trees
- Pedestrian safety improvements
- Roadway improvements for
- Healthier creek ecosystems
- NDS will be maintained by SPU

Project Contact

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www.seattle.gov/utilities/HoldenNDS



Schedule

We would like to thank community members for their participation and thoughtful comments throughout the design process. We gathered feedback from the community and permitting agencies that directly informed the project's final design. SPU's team reached the final design phase in March 2025.

- Spring 2024: Design Finalized
- Summer 2025: Construction Contract Awarded
- End of 2025: Construction Begins
- End of 2026: Construction Ends

Stay Informed

SPU will provide regular updates as the project progresses. Learn more and sign up for the project email list by visiting: www.seattle.gov/utilities/HoldenNDS

Questions? We want to hear from you!

Contact Wan-Yee Kuo, Senior Project Manager, at Wan-Yee.Kuo@seattle.gov or (206) 684-3957.

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