

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is responsible for providing essential drinking water, drainage and wastewater, and solid waste services to the public. To deliver these services and comply with regulations, our staff need safe access to our facilities to maintain and operate our systems and infrastructure, such as pipes, pump stations, and reservoirs. SPU's Encroachment Program helps us ensure this safe access for our staff.

What is an encroachment?

An encroachment is the unlawful private use of public land. An encroachment is often thought of as a structure, such as a fence or part of a building, but any unauthorized improvement or activity on publicly owned lands may also be considered an encroachment.

Possible encroachments may include, but are not limited to:

- Installing fence posts, patios, and decks
- Landscaping and gardens
- Retaining Walls
- Buildings / Structures
- Retention Ponds
- Swimming Pools
- Playground Equipment
- Surface grade or elevation changes
- Storing equipment or parking vehicles



SPU crews need safe access to our infrastructure to ensure essential services for the public.

What is the SPU Encroachment Program?

Encroachments compromise our ability to maintain our infrastructure. SPU's Encroachment Program requires all encroachments to be either removed or formally permitted by legal agreement. When SPU identifies encroachments on public land through the Encroachment Program, we contact property owners about removing or permitting encroaching items or activities. To learn more about SPU's Encroachment Program and encroachment regulations visit our website:

www.seattle.gov/utilities/your-services/real-property-services

Questions? Contact:

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