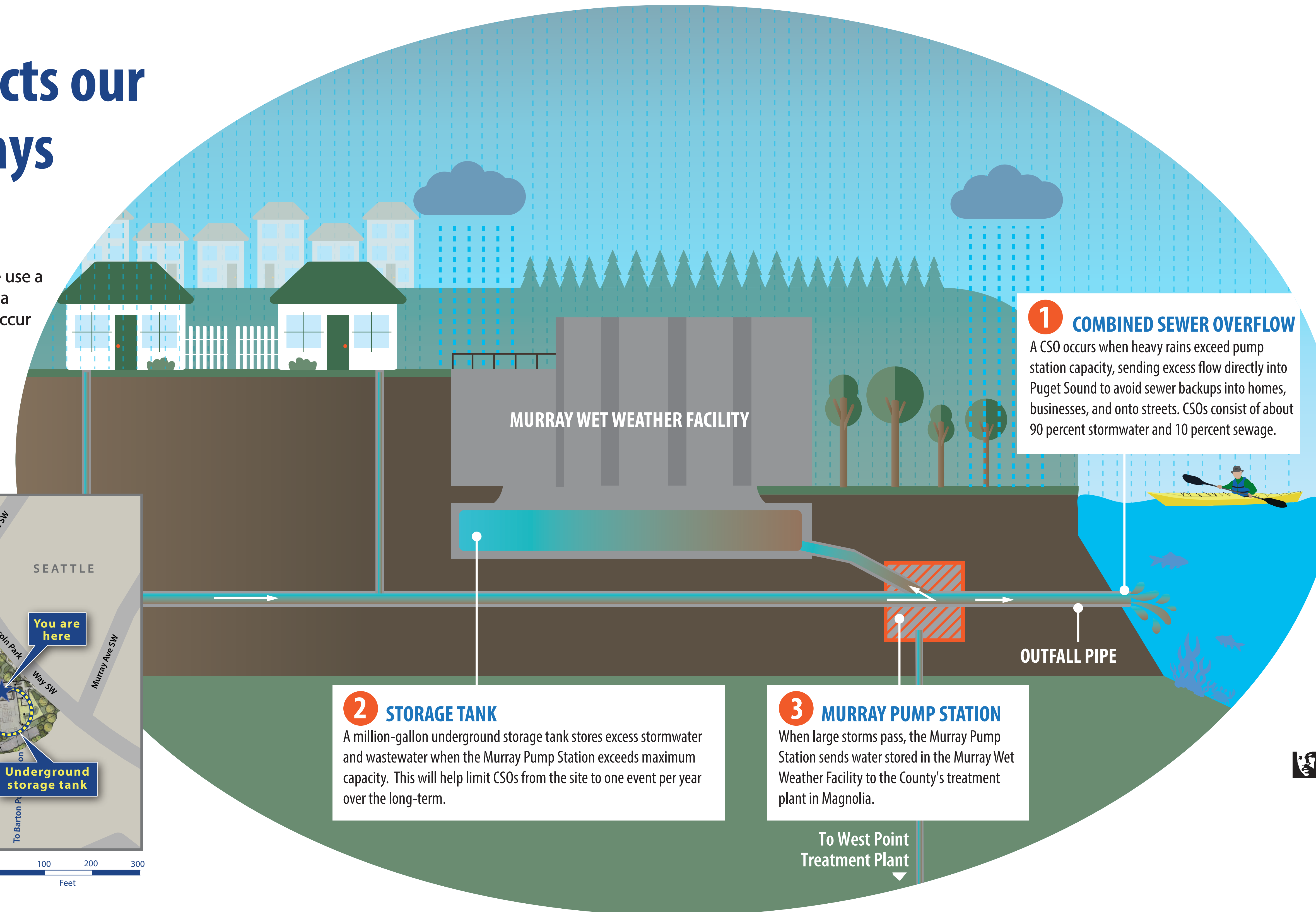


King County protects our waters on rainy days

What is a CSO?

Like many cities around the country, the older parts of King County's wastewater system in the City of Seattle use a single set of pipes to carry sewage and stormwater to a treatment plant. Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) occur when heavy rains exceed the capacity of the pipes, sending untreated stormwater and wastewater into Puget Sound. While CSOs help prevent sewer backups into homes, businesses, and onto streets; they can be a source of bacterial pollution. State regulations require no more than one untreated CSO discharge event per year on a long-term average from the outfall pipe in Lowman Beach Park.



Keeping pollution out of Puget Sound at Murray

The Murray CSO Control Facility is a Wet Weather Storage Facility. Prior to construction of the Murray Wet Weather Facility, untreated CSO events sent about five-million gallons of untreated stormwater and wastewater into Puget Sound each year. Now when the Murray Pump Station reaches maximum capacity during storms, a million-gallon underground storage tank at the Murray Wet Weather Facility holds excess stormwater and wastewater that would otherwise overflow into Puget Sound. Once the storm has passed, water is pumped from the Murray Pump Station to the County's treatment plant in Magnolia.


King County

Protecting Our Waters

Doing our part on rainy days