

The Brightwater North Mitigation Area

In response to increased growth in our region, King County built a new regional wastewater treatment system called Brightwater. Construction started in 2006. Treatment plant start-up and operations will begin in 2011, with the entire system scheduled to be completed in 2012. Brightwater will serve portions of King and Snohomish counties and support our mission to protect public health and the environment.

The 114-acre treatment plant site is located just north of the intersection of State Route 9 and SR-522. In addition to the treatment plant facilities, the site includes more than 70 acres of publicly accessible open space, trails and natural habitat designed to fit into and enhance the surrounding neighborhood.

The northern 43 acres of the treatment plant site—also known as the “North Mitigation Area” or “North 40”—have been redeveloped as a restored and enhanced natural habitat and reforestation area. In constructing this area, King County used many green or sustainable building practices, including:

- Using excavated soil on the site to create hills within the habitat area instead of trucking it off site, reducing traffic impacts, fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Adding more than 22,000 plants including 5,000 seedling trees using only native plant species that were grown and purchased through the King County Native Plant Salvage Program.
- Re-using more than 200 trees and root wads cleared from the site and gathered from Route 9 highway construction for stream and pond salmon habitat reconstruction and enhancement
- Recycling approximately 15,000 cubic yards of compost material found on-site, eliminating the need for importing material while also reducing cost.
- Restoring approximately 1,350 feet of stream corridor and adding an additional 350 feet of new stream corridor
- Creating 29,000 sq. ft. of pond habitat with an amphibian shelf and ladder that connects two open wetland systems
- Constructing more than 4 acres of additional enhanced emergent and forested wetland habitat
- Using large sprinklers to provide infiltration for the storm water runoff from the treatment plant construction area located to the south.



The Brightwater project also includes an Environmental Education & Community Center, a multi-purpose facility for environmental education opportunities and community events that was designed with the help of community members.

For more information or to arrange a tour of Brightwater, please call 206-684-1280 or 711 TTY, or email Brightwater@kingcounty.gov