



NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI

Sewer Upgrade Project

The Plan for Trees

 King County is upgrading four miles of sewer pipeline across north Mercer Island and south Bellevue. It's a big project that's been years in the making and will involve years of construction. Some of the work will be in heavily used public spaces, and some will be in residential areas. The end product will provide great public benefit, but the work to get there will involve inconveniences to residents and users of public spaces.

We are committed to keeping you informed about what's happening and why, in order to minimize impacts on the community. This is one of a series of fact sheets that explain the North Mercer/Enatai Sewer Upgrade Project and what the public should expect—during construction and after the work is done.

What's happening... and why

While design team works to protect sensitive environments and trees, impacts can't always be avoided. Sometimes, our projects require removal of trees and other landscaping. During project design, our teams worked to reduce the number of trees that will be removed during construction. Arborists evaluated trees in the project area for species, size, and health. They recommended how to protect trees during construction. Permit teams worked closely with permitting agencies that set conditions for removal and replacement of trees.



Tree removal and replacement along the new sewer pipeline

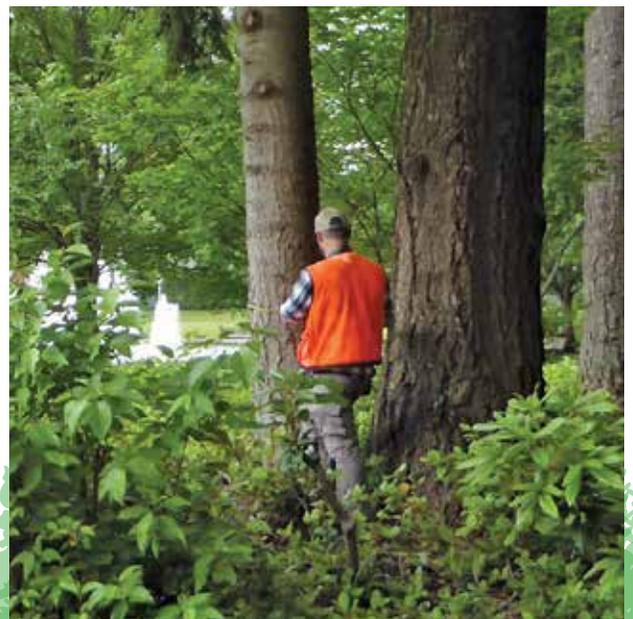
Across Mercer Island, nearly 400 trees will be removed, but more than 600 new trees will be planted. In Bellevue, nearly 30 trees will be removed, but approximately 50 new trees will be planted. Most of the trees proposed for removal are young (less than 16 inches diameter) and removal is required because construction will cause irreparable damage to their roots. In addition to removing trees directly in the path of the new sewer pipe, the project will remove trees to widen the I-90 Trail on Mercer Island. The trail will be widened to meet Washington State Department of Transportation guidelines for trail widths.

Tree removals will be mitigated with new tree plantings. Many of the new trees will be planted in areas where trees are removed, but this is not always possible due to the widening of the I-90 trail. To replace trees that cannot be replanted where they are removed, there will be additional tree planting areas around the island in locations currently lacking in tree canopy. In Bellevue trees will be planted close to the areas of removal.



Tree planting is a priority for the project, with the goal of a future tree canopy that is equal to or better than what exists today. The project team aims to improve tree health in a variety of ways:

- Planting a wide variety of species that include conifers and broadleaf trees that exhibit drought tolerance and are well adapted to the local climate
- Improving soil conditions so that trees remain healthy through time
- Improving habitats along the shoreline using native species for fish and wildlife
- Installing irrigation along the I-90 trail on Mercer Island to support survival during the establishment of newly planted trees and shrubs



Arborists examining the trees.



Restoration and maintenance

Once segments of the pipeline are installed, King County's contractors will begin restoration on that segment during the first planting window (October 1 through March 15) following the completion of pipe installation. Contracts will specify measures that will start the landscape on a healthy path to recovery, including the planting, soil amendments, and irrigation. During the warranty period, the contractor will maintain the plantings by watering, weeding, and replacing plants and trees that do not survive.

After the contractor's maintenance period, landscapes will be maintained by King County for a period of time designated by permits. The property owner (City of Bellevue, City of Mercer Island or Washington State Department of Transportation) will take over maintenance at that point.



Future I-90 trail with 3 years of plant and tree growth.



What's Next

Final design of the project is now underway. Our team is working with regulatory and permitting agencies to coordinate efforts, obtain permits, and ensure a smooth transition to construction.

Here's what you can expect from King County:

- Project newsletters, fact sheets, and field work notifications
- Monthly project web updates
- Online briefings for interested community groups
- In-person briefings and attendance at community events only when it is declared safe by Public Health and Safety to do so

We are committed to continuing to be a good neighbor during construction. We will share information about construction and impacts on our website, project emails, and through posted information at North Mercer Island Boat Launch, Enatai Beach Park, and the Mercer Slough Boat Launch in Bellevue.

We are available to talk to you and your neighbors. Just let us know.

Guided by Sustainability



King County recognizes the value trees bring our environment and future. King County's 1 Million Trees program recently met its goal and has planted 1,000,000 trees to protect our waters, host our wildlife, and store carbon. We bring our sustainability values to each construction project, working to meet or exceed green building guidelines. Our project teams work closely with cities, agencies, and communities when construction will affect the environment.



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Talk to us! Questions? Concerns? Contact the project team:

Contact Kristine at **206-477-5415** or kristine.cramer@kingcounty.gov, or

Bibiana Ocheke-Ameh at **206-477-5604** or bibiana.ocheko-ameh@kingcounty.gov

Sign up for text alerts. Text **KING MERCERSEWER** to **468-311**.

Visit the project Web page at www.kingcounty.gov/MercerEnataiSewer



Alternative formats available
206-477-5371 or TTY replay: 711

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