



**Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division**
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LOOK INSIDE!

- ▶▶ West Point Treatment Plant 50th Celebration
- ▶▶ Road Access Repair & Biogas Flare Replacement
- ▶▶ New Hours for Loop Biosolids Trucks
- ▶▶ New Parking Enforcement at West Point/Discovery Park
- ▶▶ Upgrade to Water Reservoirs near the Loop Trail



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King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

SEWER NEWS

West Point Treatment Plant

www.kingcounty.gov/wtd

FALL 2016

GOOD NEWS!

Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Employees Celebrated West Point Treatment Plant 50th Anniversary on August 18, 2016



King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division



At WTD, we have a legendary success story to tell. Fifty years ago, we started operating our first two regional wastewater treatment plants.

In the 1950s, wastewater flowed largely untreated into Lake Washington and Puget Sound and many rivers and smaller lakes, fouling water and making a sullied mess of local beaches.

In 1958 the voters created Metro and developed a regional wastewater treatment system based on watersheds as opposed to political boundaries.

Shortly after Metro was formed, construction began on the county's two regional treatment plants, West Point in Seattle's Magnolia neighborhood and South Treatment Plant in Renton, which were officially up and running by 1966. By the late 1960s, regional water quality began improving dramatically.

Today, WTD treats wastewater for 34 local jurisdictions and local sewer agencies and has continued award winning operations.



NEW PROJECTS

As part of its mission to protect public health and the environment, WTD constantly works to maintain and improve its facilities and insure safe, reliable service. At the County's treatment plants, inspection, maintenance, and repair projects occur routinely.

Several projects are planned for West Point Treatment Plant (WP) to improve plant efficiency and operations and insure compliance with regulations. Two of these are featured below.

Road Access Repair

In 2016, King County began coordinating with the City of Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation to evaluate section of the access roadway to WP, the beach area, and lighthouse. Based on the findings, WTD will work on alternatives analysis to help inform the design and repair of the project. More information about the roadway repair will be shared as the project becomes more defined.



Biogas Flare Replacement

King County is planning to replace aging equipment that helps to burn off excess biogas that cannot be used in the energy recovery system. Crews will be replacing three existing biogas flare units that have provided service for 20 years and have reached the end of their useful life. King County anticipates construction in 2017-2018, with temporary beach and trail closures. We will be working closely with Seattle Parks Department and provide updates to the community during the upgrade work.

OTHER UPDATES

New hours for Loop biosolids trucks approved

The City of Seattle approved new hours for the Loop biosolids trucks entering and leaving the WP in Magnolia. The new approved hours are from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

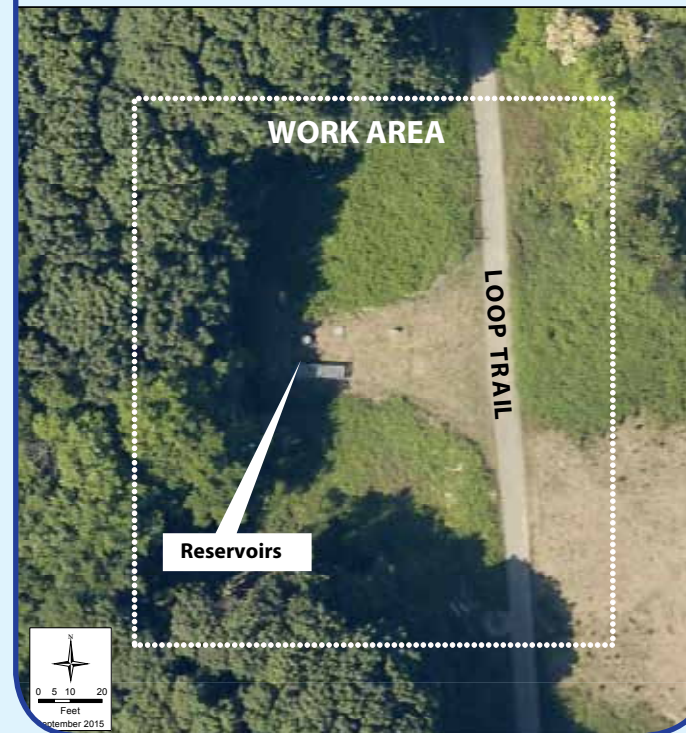


Towing at the West Point's emergency turnaround areas

King County will continue to tow illegally parked vehicles in the emergency turnaround areas of the WP indefinitely.



Since April 2015, King County stepped up parking enforcement outside the WP in Discovery Park. This was done to help prevent vandalism and ensure emergency access. Vehicles are currently not permitted to park in the emergency access areas next to the beach, on the walkways, in fire lanes or in the turnaround area. Illegally parked cars will be towed at the owner's expense.



Upgrade to Water Reservoirs near the Loop Trail in Discovery Park

In the fall 2015 newsletter, King County provided information about the need to make modifications to the existing underground water reservoirs located above the treatment plant near the Loop Trail in Discovery Park. The reservoirs provide drinking water to the WP, the lighthouse, and the water fountains in the park. Some of the water is also used for treatment plant processes. The project is still being designed by King County project team. We will share more information and updates as they become available.