



King County

NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI Sewer Upgrade

Summer 2015

Upcoming Project in Your Area

Reliable sewer service is a cornerstone of healthy communities and a healthy environment.

King County needs to replace sewer pipes that serve areas in North Mercer Island, the southwest portion of Bellevue near Enatai Beach, and the Town of Beaux Arts Village. These pipes are approaching their maximum capacity. King County will maintain efficient sewer service for your communities and limit potential for sewer overflows by replacing the pipeline that runs between the North Mercer Pump Station and Sweylocken Pump Station in Bellevue. Since this project is still in early planning stages, King County's team has not determined the exact location of the new sewer pipes. Once installed, the County's new pipeline will provide service for the next 50 to 60 years.



See you at the Summer Celebration!

Join King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) staff on July 11 and 12 at the Mercer Island Summer Celebration. Kids will have an opportunity to tour King County's traveling wastewater education center, take a virtual tour of our pipes, watch our famous "rat in the sewer" video, and learn more about how all of us can protect Lake Washington and Puget Sound.



Parents and other adults can get in on the fun, too. Pick up some GroCo compost for your garden or a recipe for a Do-It-Yourself green cleaner, and learn about WTD's work in your area. We'd like to meet you if you live or recreate in the area of our upcoming sewer upgrade project.

We look forward to seeing you there!





Do you know where your wastewater goes?

The water you use leaves your property through your side sewer, travels through the City's sewer system, and enters King County's regional sewer system. Your wastewater travels to South Treatment Plant in Renton. South Plant is one of King County's three regional wastewater treatment plants.

For more information about our system, visit www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd



Why voters approved regional wastewater service

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

In 1958, 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 existing regional treatment plants, West Point in Seattle's Magnolia neighborhood and South Treatment Plant in Renton, which were operational by 1966. By the late 1960s, regional water quality began improving dramatically. In 2011, King County began operating the newest regional plant, Brightwater, located in Woodinville.

In 1994, King County assumed authority of Metro and its commitment to treat wastewater for 17 cities and 17 sewer districts.

Designing Around a Legacy

Over 100 years ago, settlers began arriving in the area that is now Metropolitan King County. Requiring few public services, they took water from the nearest convenient sources and disposed of sewage by primitive means.

As the settlement grew, water sources became contaminated and problems developed. By 1865, the need for public control became imperative and so began the construction of the first public sewers in the area. These sewers consisted of wood troughs or boxes, which discharged individually at the most convenient points.

Treatment of sewage for the prevention of water pollution was not practiced in the late 1800s, and little or nothing was known about it at that time. Between 1890 and World War II, ten cities including Bellevue and Mercer Island, were incorporated within 15 miles of downtown Seattle. This urbanization brought demand for public sewerage service and the formation of 22 sewerage districts.

In 1956, the Bellevue Sewer District proposed a program for removing sewage and sewage effluent from Lake Washington by contracting with other sewer districts and jointly financing a trunk sewer to serve the communities on the east side of the lake.

In early stages, service was provided for the Bellevue Sewer District, Three Points, Enatai and Beaux Arts, Eastgate, Houghton, Mercer Island Sewer District, and East Mercer Sewer District. In later stages, facilities were to be constructed so it was possible to serve the entire Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish area.

The hodgepodge of sewerage facilities developed across King County over the past decade are a result of new innovations, utility needs, and the leadership of elected official and community members.

The North Mercer Island and Enatai Sewer Upgrade Project team recognizes the efforts and legacy of our region's previous leaders and innovators. The team seeks to work with the community to design an upgraded system that meets the needs of the community now, and well into the future.

From this...

to this!





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Natural Resources and Parks**
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We're planning a sewer upgrade project in your area.

*Look inside to learn why
wastewater treatment is so
important to the health of our
communities and our region.*

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Working with Local Communities

King County is committed to working with the community throughout the North Mercer Island and Enatai Sewer Upgrade. We'd like to get to know you and make sure you're getting information and updates. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MercerEnataiSewer> to take a short survey and provide your contact information.

For more information

- To learn more about how King County works with the public on every phase of project development, contact us or visit www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/phases
- To find historical information on the area's wastewater systems and King County WTD, visit www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/About/History/BirthOfMetro.

For more information about this project, or to be on our project email list, contact **Monica Van der Vieren** at **206-477-5502**, Monica.Vandervieren@kingcounty.gov.