

The Plan For Trees

Mercer Island: On Mercer Island, the work zone along the I-90 Trail will be at least 26 feet wide, and even wider in some places.

This will require the removal of a large number of trees. The project's restoration plan calls for replacing these trees in ways that will provide a variety of important benefits:

- The size, species and placement of replacement trees will be chosen to reduce tree impacts on the trail and its users.
- Root barriers along the edge of the trail will help prevent future root damage to the trail.
- Finished tree placement will provide a greater clear zone for users along the sides of the trail and alleviate current concerns about sight distance.

Bellevue:

Some trees close to the bike trails will be removed to enable construction access. All removed trees will be replaced.

Tree replacement will meet all City of Mercer Island, City of Bellevue, and Washington Department of Transportation permit conditions.

What's Next?

Final design of the project is now underway. Our team is working with the cities of Mercer Island and Bellevue, Sound Transit, the Washington Department of Transportation, and other agencies to coordinate efforts, obtain permits, and ensure a smooth transition to construction.

Between now and the start of construction, our team will be in your community sharing information so neighbors know what to expect during construction and beyond. Here is what you can expect from us this year:

- Attendance at community events
- Project newsletters, fact sheets, and field work notifications
- Monthly project web updates
- Online and in-person open houses in the fall



NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI Sewer Upgrade Project

Talk to us!

Questions? Concerns?

Contact the project team:

Contact Kristine Cramer at 206-477-5415 or kristine.cramer@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 relay: 711

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NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI Sewer Upgrade Project

Spring 2019

Construction and restoration on the I-90 Trail

King County is upgrading three miles of sewer pipeline across north Mercer Island and south Bellevue. On Mercer Island, much of the work will follow the I-90 Trail between 81st Avenue SE and the I-90 East Channel Bridge. The route following this trail was favored by community input early in the project. It also best addresses various technical considerations for the work. In Bellevue, much of the work is at Enatai Beach Park and up Mercer Slough, but access to some work elements will be along the I-90 trail.

King County recognizes that the I-90 Trail is heavily used by bicyclists and pedestrians. We know construction on the trail will be an inconvenience to those users. We are committed to keeping you informed so that you can plan ahead for construction.

What to Expect During Construction

Mercer Island:

Pipeline work that affects use of the I-90 Trail on Mercer Island is expected to begin in mid 2021 and should be finished in late 2022. As the work progresses over that timeframe, portions of the trail will be closed for construction, with the rest remaining open for use.

Construction details are not yet completed, but it's expected that the Mercer Island work will close sections up to about 1,000 feet long—possibly multiple sections at any one time. Sections where construction is underway will be closed for up to five months at a time.

Crews will use "open-cut" trenching to lay the pipe along the trail. In open-cut construction, crews dig from the surface to the pipe depth, lay the pipe, then cover the pipe and restore the surface. Although the trenches will be covered with steel plates when work is stopped overnight, public safety will require that each in-work section remain closed around the clock. No section will be reopened until at least a temporary pavement has been laid on top of the refilled trenches.

Depending on the approach chosen by the contractor, the final pavement and landscaping may be completed as a single work item after the pipe installation is finished in all sections. If so, then users may find that the trail is not fully restored when any one section is reopened, with signs of the trench still apparent and the trail surface not smoothed to a finished quality.

Bellevue:

The I-90 trail and Mercer Slough trail in Bellevue will be affected by construction access for maintenance work on an existing sewer along Mercer Slough and

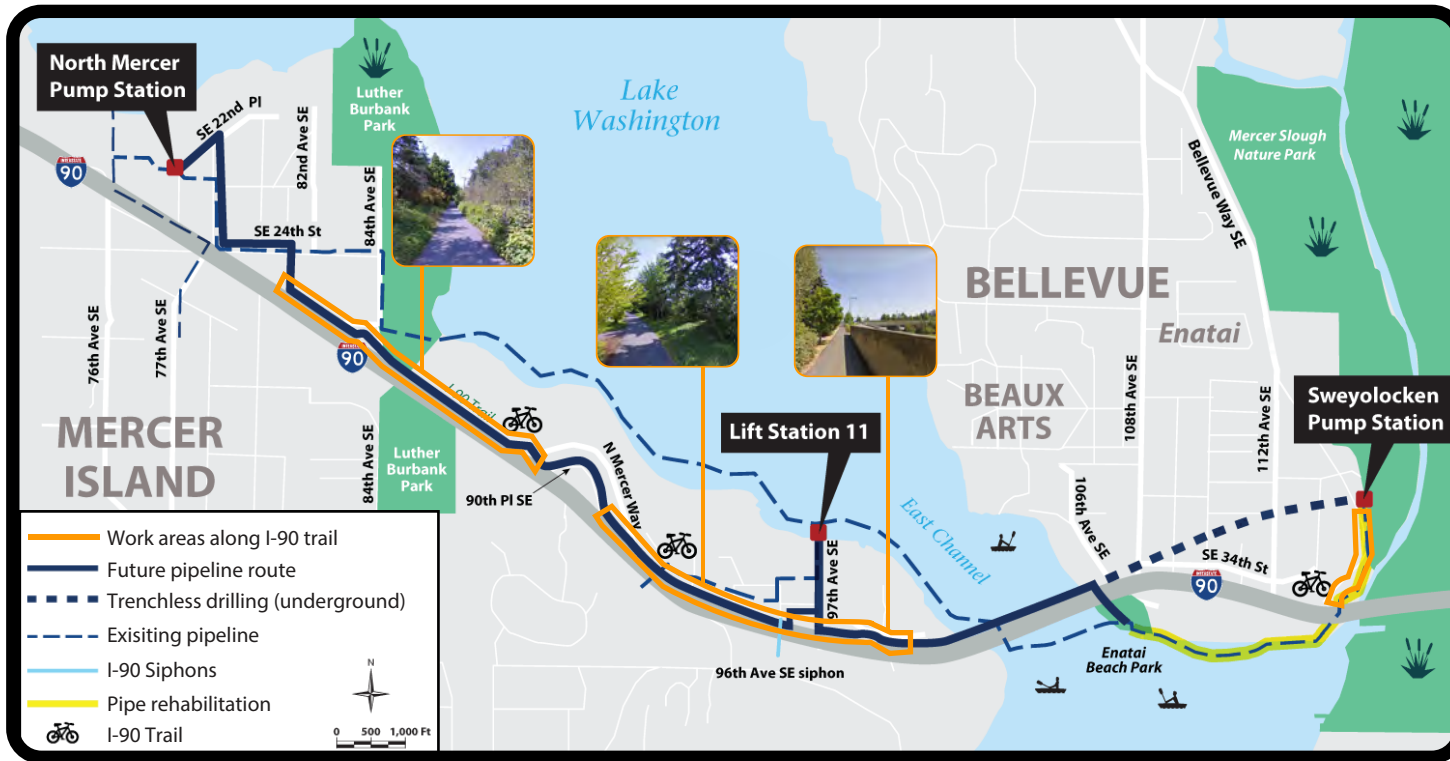
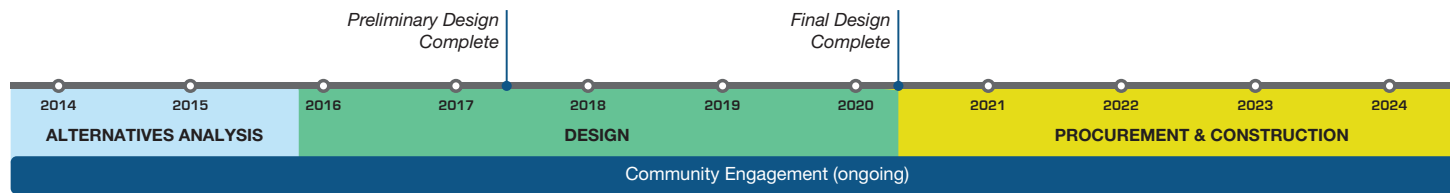
installation of new sewers at the Sweyolocken Pump Station. No pipe will be installed under these trails in Bellevue, but the trails will be used for construction access and equipment storage.

The work at the Sweyolocken Boat Launch will close access to the Mercer Slough Trail from the parking area. This work is expected to begin in mid 2021 and should be finished in the summer of 2022.

For the work along Mercer Slough, equipment will be stored adjacent to the trails from summer 2023 through early 2024. In general, the bike trail will remain open during this work. Short (less than 15 minutes) closures will occur to allow equipment access along the bike trail. Other closures to repair equipment damage to trail sections may require short walkarounds adjacent to the trail. Where space is not available for a walkaround, detour routes will be used.



An example of sewer pipe installation in an open trench



I-90 Trail Restoration

Mercer Island: The restoration plan for the I-90 Trail emphasizes the importance of maintaining the aesthetic character of the trail and surrounding neighborhood. When construction is finished and trail restoration is complete, the I-90 Trail will have several improvements from its current PISE condition:

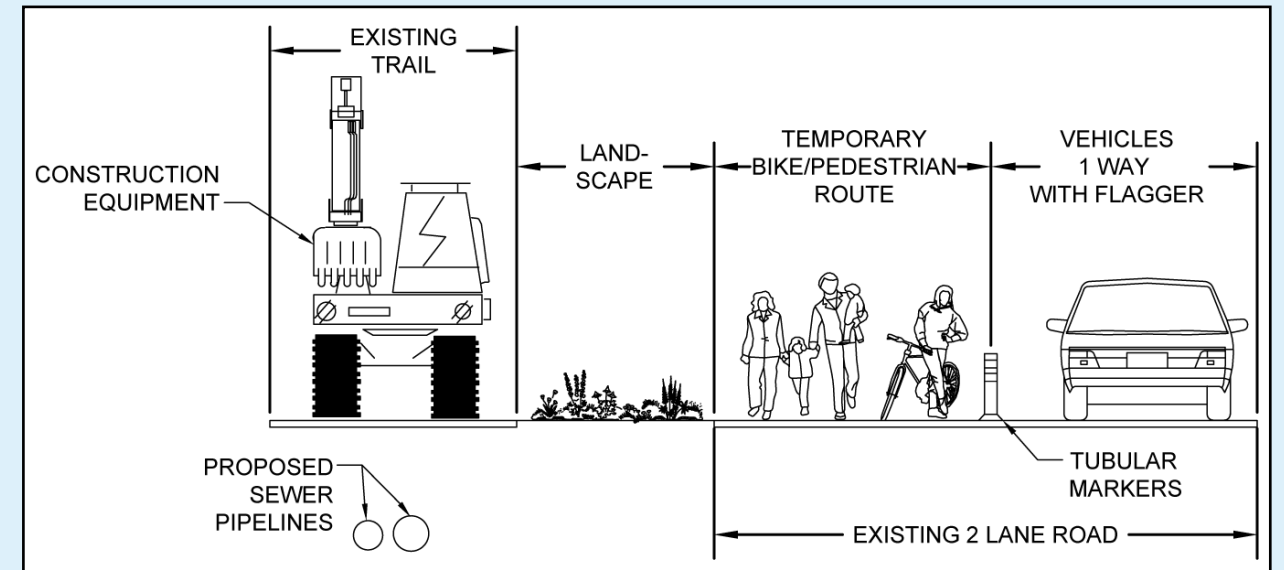
- Wherever site conditions allow, on Mercer Island the restored trail will be 12 feet wide with 2 feet of gravel on either side. This will generally increase the width, which is currently 10 to 12 feet in most places, and less than 10 feet in some places.
- The restoration will repair all trail surfaces in the work area that currently have tree-root or other damage.
- Upgraded signage and improved surface conditions will increase safety at the trail's intersections with roadways.
- Affected access points will be improved to full compliance with ADA requirements.
- The plan for tree removal and replacement will provide increased sight distances and clear zones for users.
- **We will only restore trail sections impacted by the project.**

Bellevue: Since pipes will not be installed under the I-90 Trail and Mercer Slough Trail in Bellevue, restoration will be limited to sections that may be damaged by construction equipment access. In these sections the trails will be restored to the condition they were in before construction.



Temporary trail closure detour routes

Mercer Island: Detours will be in effect when sections of the I-90 Trail are temporarily closed. **Although plans have yet to be finalized,** it is likely that a portion of North Mercer Way next to the I-90 Trail work section (on Mercer Island) will be closed to vehicles and set aside for pedestrian and bicycle use. Barriers will separate the vehicle and pedestrian lanes. The single lane left open for vehicles will be one-way, with flaggers providing traffic control.



Bellevue: Detours will be in effect for sections of the I-90 Trail and Mercer Slough Trail that are temporarily closed. Where feasible, short walkaround sections beside the trail will enable access past work sections. Otherwise, detours will likely be routed between Enatai Beach Park and 112th Avenue SE on neighborhood roadways.



For both Mercer Island and Bellevue, signage will be provided directing all users to the selected detour. If the detour crosses a street where there is no existing crosswalk, flaggers will be stationed to ensure safety and ease of crossing for bikers, pedestrians, and drivers. Initial detour routes were based on the 2018 Transportation Study. Final detour routes will be selected based on safety concerns, ease of access, proximity to the existing trail, and input from the local community and cities. Once detour routes are final, we will share them with the public through the project website, project briefings, and in person, as well as with signage along the trail.