



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

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 work will be in heavily used public spaces, and some will be in residential areas. The upgrade 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. This is one of a series of fact sheets that explain the North Mercer/Enatai (NME) Sewer Upgrade Project and what the public can expect—during construction and after the work is done.

What's happening... and why

King County works to protect sensitive environments and trees when doing large projects like this one and impacts can't always be avoided. Sometimes projects require removal of trees and other landscaping. During project design, our teams work to reduce the number of trees that will be removed during construction. Arborists evaluate trees in the project area for species, size, and health. Then they recommend how to protect trees during construction.



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 as part of this project are young (less than 16 inches in diameter). Removal is needed 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 with the goal of a future tree canopy that is equal to or better than what exists today.

King County aims to improve tree canopy health in a variety of ways:

- Planting a wide variety of species that include conifers and broadleaf trees that can handle dry summer months and are well adapted to the local climate.
- Improving soil conditions so that trees stay 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. Tree plantings will start during the first planting window (October 1 through March 15) following the completion of pipe installation. Contracts for this project specify measures that will start the landscape on a healthy path to recovery, including the plant choices, soil improvements, 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 ends, landscapes will be maintained by King County for a period 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

King County is currently bringing contractors onboard. Once all documents and paperwork are finalized, construction is expected to begin early 2022. Overall, construction will take four years, though most work locations will see shorter durations.

Our team will share information so neighbors know what to expect during construction and beyond.

Here's what you can expect from King County:

- Attendance at community events*
- Project newsletters, fact sheets, and field work notifications
- Monthly project web updates
- Online/in-person open houses*
- Briefings online/in-person for interested community groups*

We are committed to continuing to be a good neighbor during construction. We will share information about construction and impacts on our website, in project emails, and through other methods as appropriate.

**In accordance with Seattle/King County Public Health guidelines.*

NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI Sewer Upgrade Project

Este boletín informativo brinda información acerca del proyecto de actualización del alcantarillado en el norte de Mercer/Enatai. Para obtener más información, llame al 425-305-3578, deje un mensaje con su número de teléfono e indique su idioma. Se proporcionará un intérprete sin costo.

本时事通讯为您提供有关 North Mercer/Enatai 下水道升级项目的信息。请致电 425-305-3578, 留言和您的电话号码并选择您的语言。我们将免费提供口译服务。

本通訊為您提供有關北 Mercer/Enatai 下水道升級項目的資訊。如需更多資訊，請致電 425-305-3578, 使用您的電話號碼留言 並選定您所講的語言。我們將免費提供口譯員服務。

Talk to us! For more information, or to schedule a virtual meeting, please contact:

The community services team at **425-305-3578** or **NMEsewer@kingcounty.gov**

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

Sign up for email and text alerts on the project Web page.



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

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