

# Black Diamond Sewer Upgrade



## Frequently Asked Questions

### About the Project

#### What is the Black Diamond Sewer Upgrade project?

Black Diamond is one of the fastest-growing communities in the Puget Sound region. In 1992, in collaboration with King County, the City of Black Diamond built a regional sewer line to serve the area's much smaller population at the time. Today, King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) needs to upgrade the existing sewer line because it's reaching capacity. Upgrading the sewer line may include a combination of repairing the existing pipe and installing new pipes.

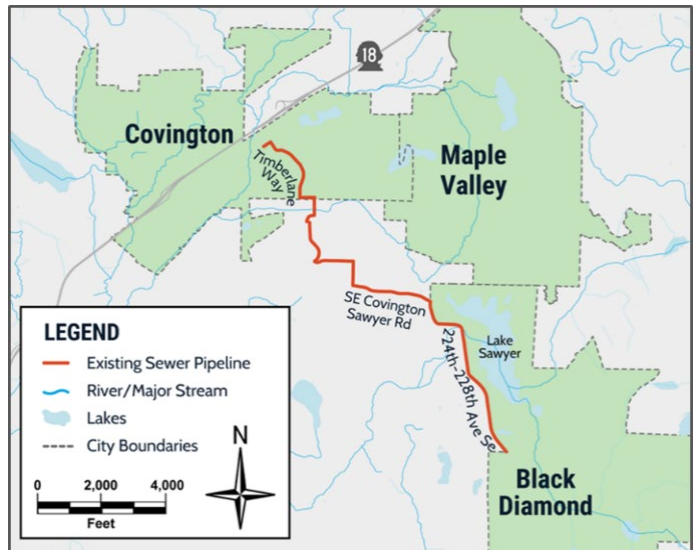
#### Where is this project located?

This project will increase capacity for 6 miles of sewer pipe between Lake Sawyer Road SE/Ten Trails Parkway SE and Timberlane Way SE/185th Ct SE.

#### What are the project's goals and benefits?

Once complete, the upgraded regional sewer pipe will:

- Serve the City of Black Diamond's wastewater capacity needs through 2070.
- Ensure reliable wastewater service to the City of Black Diamond.
- Foster a healthy and resilient community with reliable regional wastewater infrastructure.



#### What is the current status and timeline of the project?

The project is in the early design stage. We expect to finish the design of the project in 2027. Once the project design is completed, construction will begin and take about 5 years. The schedule may change as we learn more about the project and improve the design. We will keep the community updated as the project progresses.

#### What are the anticipated impacts?

During the current early design stage, impacts may include temporary single lane closures and project team members accessing private properties to conduct surveying and geotechnical work. Impacted property owners will be notified in advance of this work.

#### Can I connect to the upgraded sewer line?

King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) provides wholesale regional sewer services. This means we do not connect our regional sewer pipes directly to homes or businesses. Most King County

sewer pipes are very large and far away from buildings. These pipes aren't designed to connect with private side sewers.

Local sewer agencies decide where to build and extend service lines. If you want to connect your property to a sewer line, contact your local sewer utility. Depending on where you live, this could be the Soos Creek Water District, the City of Black Diamond, or King County Local Services (for unincorporated areas).

### **Why doesn't Black Diamond build its own treatment station?**

In general, cities like Black Diamond do not build their own treatment plants. This is because building wastewater systems and infrastructure is costly; regional wastewater systems allow cities to be more adaptive because there is access to more resources, and a regional system allows for better resiliency.

## **Community Engagement and Feedback**

### **How do I learn more and give feedback?**

- View the project website at [kingcounty.gov/BDSEwerUpgrade](https://kingcounty.gov/BDSEwerUpgrade) to find the latest updates about the project, access project materials, and join our email list by scanning the QR code.
- Contact Annie Plumley at [aplumley@kingcounty.gov](mailto:aplumley@kingcounty.gov) or (206) 263-3203 with questions or to request a briefing for your organization.



### **What feedback have you heard so far?**

- Since October 2024, the King County Black Diamond Sewer Upgrade Project team has been actively raising awareness of the project and gathering input from residents by attending community events and conducting briefings with nearby schools.
- We visited the Maple Valley Farmers Market twice to share project details and answer questions. Most people hadn't heard about the project and wanted to learn why the sewer pipeline needs an upgrade, how it affects sewer and septic households, the schedule, and where wastewater will be treated.
- This spring, we met with schools within a half mile of the proposed 6-mile pipeline route. They raised concerns about bus routes, pedestrian access, utility coordination, communication updates, and student drop-off and pick-up.

## **Additional Information**

### **Who is the King County Wastewater Treatment Division?**

King County WTD provides clean water services to nearly 2 million people across King County and parts of Snohomish and Pierce counties. Your local sewer utility manages the local network of sewer lines. WTD collects that water through a complex network of pipes and pumps, sending it to one of King County's three regional wastewater treatment plants. Learn more at: [kingcounty.gov/wtd](https://kingcounty.gov/wtd)

### **How does wastewater get collected?**

Wastewater from homes and businesses is collected in one of two ways:

- **Through local pipes:** Homeowners own their side sewers, which connect to sewer pipes owned by local utilities. Those pipes connect to King County's regional pipes.
- **Through septic systems:** Sewage/septic systems collect and treat wastewater when homes and buildings are not connected to local pipes.