

Black Diamond Sewer Upgrade



Frequently Asked Questions

About the project

What is the Black Diamond Sewer Upgrade project?

Black Diamond is growing fast. In 1992, the City of Black Diamond built a regional sewer pipe with help from King County. This pipe carries wastewater from the city to South Treatment Plant in Renton. Today, the pipe is almost full. King County plans to upgrade it to serve more people. We may repair the pipe, make it bigger, or add new pipes.

What are the project's goals and benefits?

The Black Diamond Trunk Sewer carries wastewater from the City of Black Diamond to King County's South Treatment Plant in Renton. There, the water is treated and released safely into Puget Sound. Upgrading the sewer will help the system work. It will also support the city as it grows.

Where is the project located?

This project covers about six miles of pipe between:

- the Lake Sawyer Road SE and Ten Trails Parkway Southeast intersection
- the Southeast Timberlane Boulevard and 185th Avenue Southeast intersection

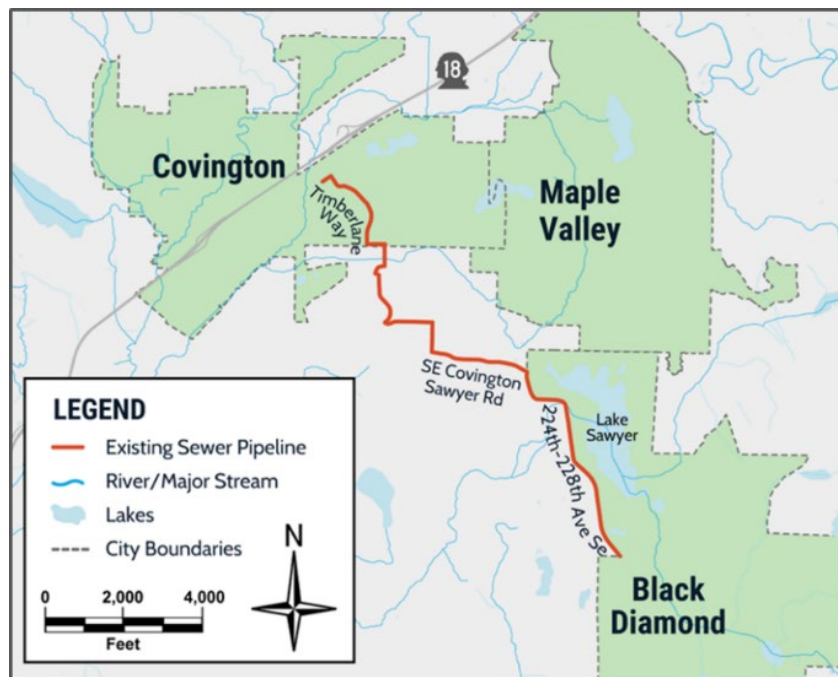


Image Description: The sewer pipe starts in Black Diamond. It runs north under 224th Avenue Southeast, 228th Avenue Southeast, Southeast Covington-Sawyer Road, streets in the Winterwood Estates neighborhood, and Timberlane Way Southeast. It ends on Timberlane Boulevard Southeast in Covington.

What is the project timeline?

We are designing the project now. We should be finished in 2027. We will start construction after that. It should take about five years. We will share updates with the community if the schedule changes.

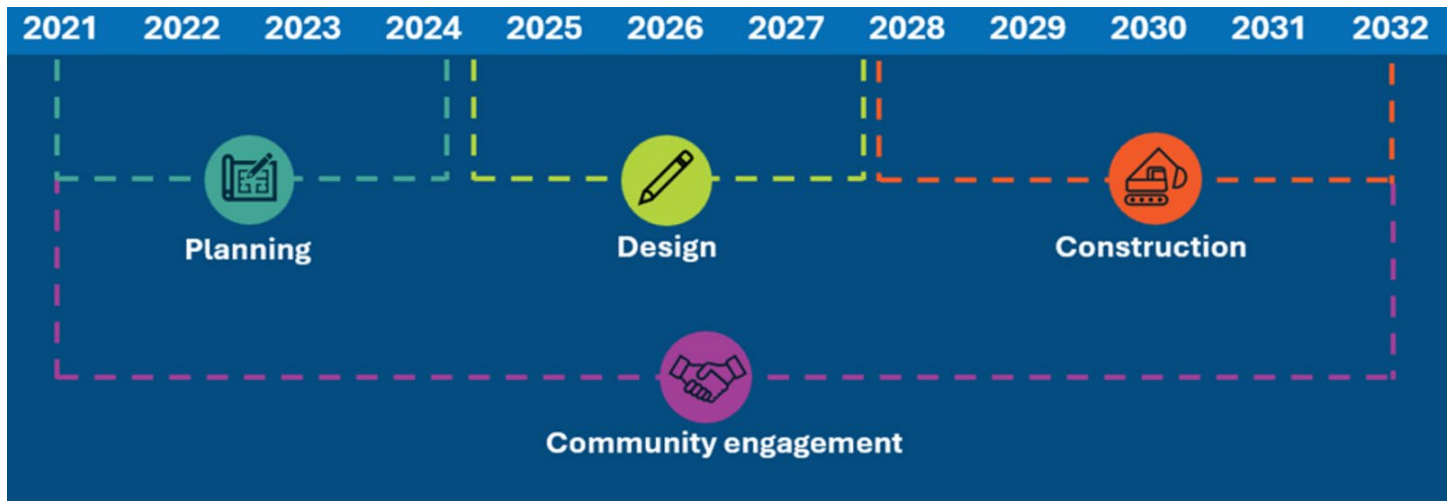


Image Description: The project schedule shows planning from 2021–2024, design from 2024–2027, construction from 2027–2032, and community engagement happening during all years.

Traffic, access and expected impacts

Where will construction start? What is the order of the work?

We will know the order of the work after a contractor joins the team in 2026. They will help us plan where to start and how to move through the project area.

How will this project affect traffic?

Much of the existing sewer pipe is built under roads between Black Diamond and Covington. Fixing or replacing the pipe will affect traffic. In 2026, our contractor will help us plan how to keep people moving. They will help us plan for:

- access to homes, businesses, and schools
- daily travel
- deliveries
- emergency services

Will I still be able to get in and out of my neighborhood?

Yes. During construction, detours or flaggers will help keep traffic moving. We will share updates about access as soon as we have them.

Will this affect school drop-off, pick-up, and bus routes?

Crews will use detours or flaggers to help cars and buses reach schools. This is most important during busy times like drop-off and pick-up. We are working with nearby schools to plan safe routes. We are also learning about school schedules. We will keep meeting with schools as we continue project design.

How will emergency services get through?

Maintaining access for emergency services is a top priority. Fire, police, and medical teams should be able to get through all work areas. We will work on how we will maintain access as we design the project and plan traffic control.

Will you ever fully close any roads?

We do not know yet. If we need to close a road, we will:

- tell the community early
- make sure people can reach their homes, businesses, and services or plan other options
- keep access open for all emergency services and deliveries

Can you build the pipe in small sections to reduce impacts?

We often build long sewer projects in small sections. We will look at this option as design continues.

Construction methods and what to expect

Will construction be as intense as it was when the pipe was installed in 1992?

In general, construction tools and practices have improved since 1992. We will do our best to reduce impacts. There will be chances for people to share feedback on our plans as we continue design.

Will you use trenchless or open cut construction?

We are considering both trenchless and open cut construction methods. The method we choose depends on what each area of the project needs. It will also depend on the space we have to work in. We often choose trenchless construction when:

- the work area is in an environmentally sensitive area
- the work area has limited space

We also look at how each method may affect people who live or work nearby.

How long will streets be dug up?

This depends on the construction method and the condition in each area. We will share timelines for each neighborhood as design continues.

Sewer service, odor, and local benefits

Can I connect to the upgraded sewer pipe?

No. People cannot connect directly to the regional sewer pipe. Local sewer agencies manage the smaller pipes near homes and businesses that people can connect to. They also decide where people can connect to new sewer service. King County moves and treats the wastewater that local agencies send to us. To ask about sewer service, contact:

- Soos Creek Water District
- City of Black Diamond
- King County Local Services (for unincorporated areas)

See the diagram on the next page that shows how this system works.

How does water move through the system?

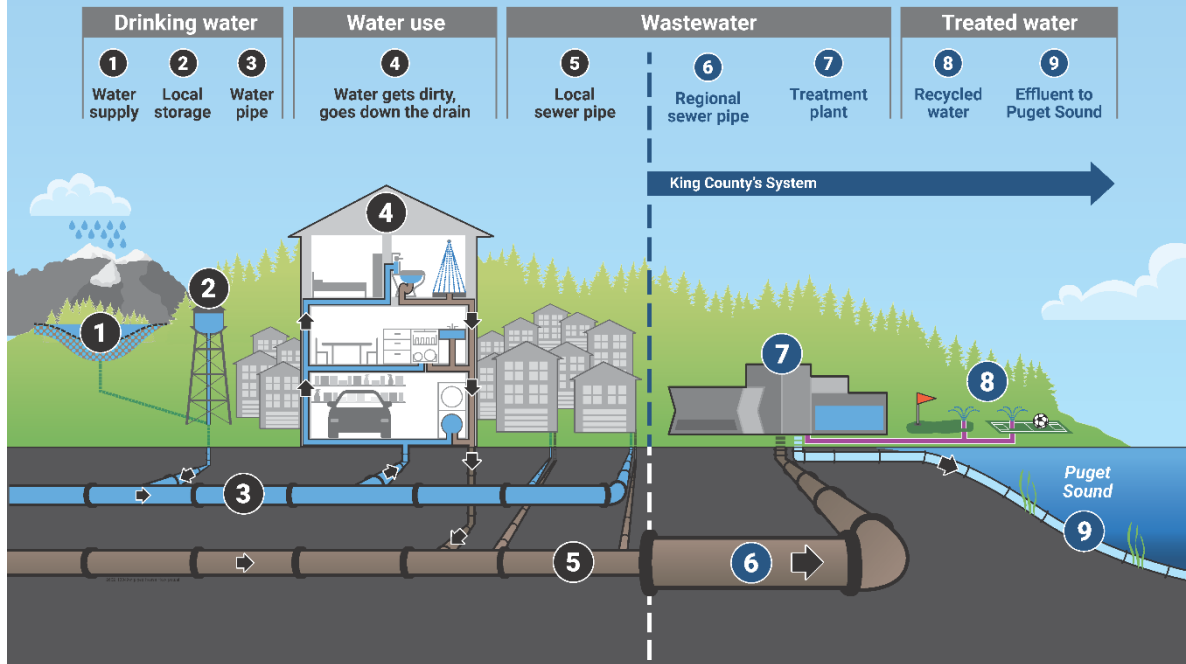


Image Description: Clean water (blue pipes) flows from aquifers to homes or businesses. Dirty water (light brown pipes) leaves and goes to treatment plants. After treatment, the treated water can be reused or safely released (light blue pipes).

Why does the pipe run through neighborhoods that are not connected to sewer?

King County builds sewer pipes where they can safely and reliably move wastewater. When we plan for new pipes, we look at many trade-offs. These help us:

- connect new pipes to the current system
- meet system needs
- lower impacts on people and the environment
- follow permit and environmental rules

Sometimes these needs mean we build pipes in areas that do not have local sewer service. These routes often help us connect to our existing system. In some cases, our new pipes can also make it easier for local agencies to add sewer service in the future.

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

Treatment plants cost a lot to build, run, and maintain. Being part of a regional system helps cities to share costs and resources. A regional system is also more resilient during emergencies, like big storms.

Will odors get worse with the upgraded pipe?

We do not expect odors to get worse. We work hard to control smells in our system. As design continues, we will share more information about how we will manage odors.

To learn more about how to report odors, [visit our website](#).

Will this project fix the smell from sewer covers?

The project may allow us to install or upgrade odor control systems in the areas we build. Upgrades can help the system work better. This may reduce smells in some places.

Cost and funding:

Who is paying for this project?

People who pay a monthly sewer bill cover most of the cost for King County's wastewater utility. This fee helps run our services and pay for projects and programs. People who use septic systems do not pay this monthly sewer fee. We also use grants, loans, and operating funds to pay for projects. We work hard to balance these funding sources.

We plan for years before starting a project. This helps us manage costs for our sewer customers.

To learn more, visit our [Investing in Clean Water](#) website.

Will developers pay for any of this?

Developers may pay part of the cost for the project through the monthly capacity charge. This charge applies to anyone who connects to the sewer system on or after February 1, 1990.

Utilities and property impacts

Will you shut off electricity, gas, internet, or phone service?

We do not expect any utility shut offs for this project. If we ever need to turn off a utility, we will tell you ahead of time.

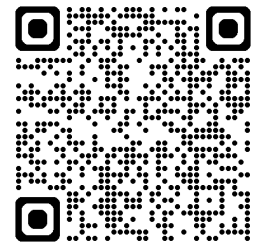
Will there be impacts to my landscaping?

We may need to move plants or soil if we work on or near private property. If we need to work on your property, someone from King County's property team will talk with you.

Community engagement

How do I learn more and give feedback?

- visit the project website: kingcounty.gov/BDSewerUpgrade
- [join the project email list](#)
- email BDSEwerUpgrade@kingcounty.gov
- call Annie Plumley at 206-263-3203



What feedback have you heard so far?

Since October 2024, our team has talked with hundreds of people. We've heard from residents, schools, businesses, and people who travel through the project area.

During early design, people told us the following:

Traffic and construction are top concerns:

- many people want to know how long construction will last
- people want to reach their homes and businesses during construction

Roads with existing safety concerns:

- Covington Sawyer Road has traffic backups near schools and neighborhoods
- Timberlane Way Southeast and Timberlane Drive feel busy, and people worry about accidents

- 216th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 272nd Street feel busy and "unsafe"

Other community wastewater priorities:

- people want healthy communities
 - treating wastewater supports this goal and public health
- people want clean rivers, lakes, streams, and the Puget Sound
 - keeping untreated wastewater in our sewer system helps with this
- people want to prevent sewer failures
 - upgrading aging pipes and making repairs helps keep the system working

How people want to learn about the project:

- most people want email updates
- people want clear and frequent information
- people want to learn more about project costs, odor control, and sewer connection options

Who is King County Wastewater Treatment Division?

King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) is a regional sewer service provider. We collect and clean wastewater for much of King County, and parts of Pierce and Snohomish Counties. We serve almost 2 million people.

Local sewer agencies manage the smaller pipes near homes and businesses. We move and treat the wastewater these smaller pipes send to us. Our work protects public health and the environment.

ALTERNATE FORMATS AVAILABLE: 206-477-5371 OR TTY RELAY: 711