



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Wastewater Treatment Division

# NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI Sewer Upgrade Project

2022

## Construction and restoration on the I-90 Trail

King County is upgrading four miles of sewer pipeline across north Mercer Island and south Bellevue. It is a big project that has been years in the making and will involve years of construction. Project work will be in heavily used public spaces, and in some residential areas. While the work to get there may involve temporary inconveniences, the upgrade will provide great public benefit

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.

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 for construction.

## What to Expect During Construction

### **Mercer Island:**

Pipe construction work that affects use of the I-90 Trail on Mercer Island is expected to begin in mid 2022 and be finished in late 2023. As the construction progresses over that timeframe, portions of the trail will be closed, with the rest remaining open for use.

Work on Mercer Island is expected to take place in sections up to about 1,000 feet long. Possibly with multiple sections being constructed at the same time. Sections where construction is underway will be closed for up to five months at a time.

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

### **Bellevue:**

Crews will upgrade an existing sewer pipe along Mercer Slough and will install new sewers connecting to the Sweyolocken Pump Station near the Sweyolocken boat launch. The Mercer Slough and I-90 Trails may see intermittent closures to move equipment, but no pipe will be installed under these trails in Bellevue.

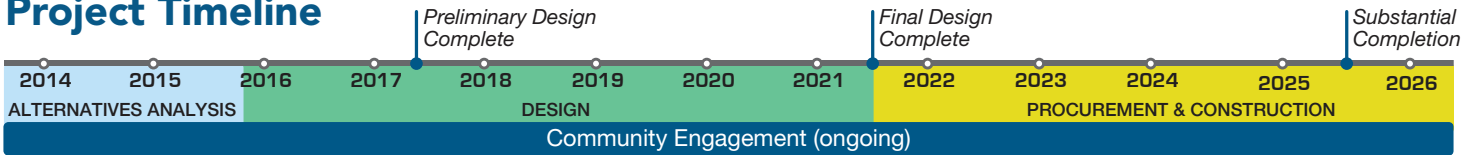
The work at the Sweyolocken Boat Launch will close access to the Mercer Slough Trail from the parking area. This work is expected to begin in mid-2022 and should be finished in the summer of 2023.

For maintenance 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. Intermittent (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*

# Project Timeline



## 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 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.

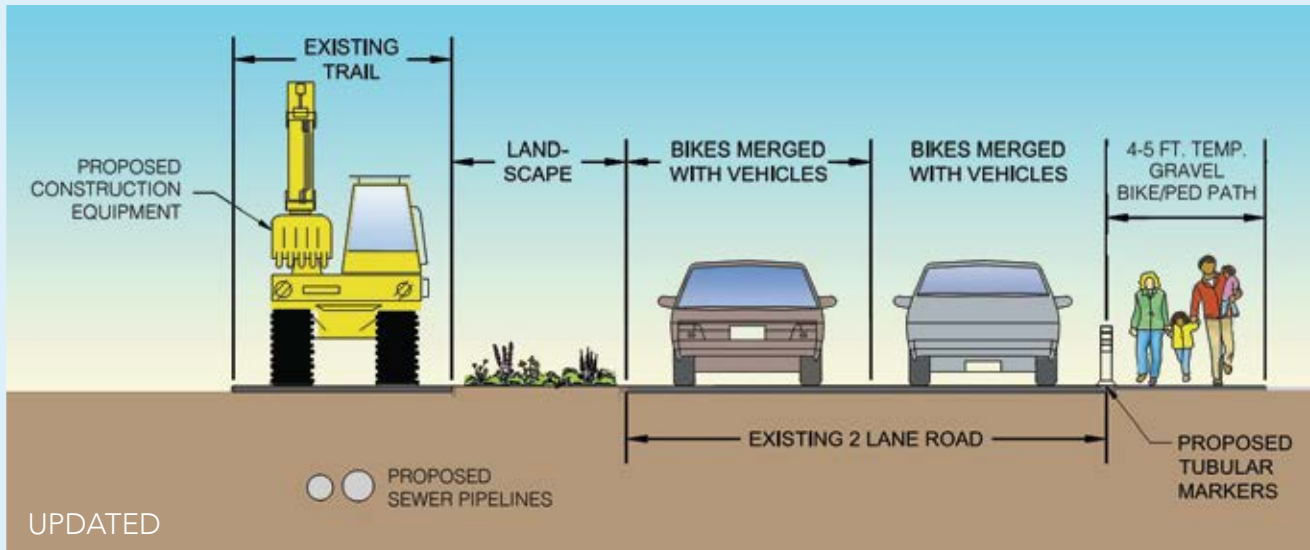
• **Only the trail sections impacted by the project will be restored.**

**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. North Mercer Way adjacent to the I-90 Trail will remain open for two-way traffic. A pedestrian path will be open adjacent to the road. Bikers will be able to dismount and walk with pedestrians or merge with vehicles through the construction zone.



**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

# 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?

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

- Attendance at community events\*
- Monthly project web updates
- Online/in-person open houses\*
- Project newsletters, fact sheets, and field work notifications
- 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 Enatai Beach Park on our website, in project emails, and through posted information at the park.

*\*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

@KingCountyWTD

