

2023 Combined Sewer Overflow Annual Snapshot

We protect public health and the environment by collecting and cleaning wastewater while recovering valuable resources for a healthy and resilient Puget Sound.

Combined Sewer Overflows

Most of King County has a network of pipes that sends sewage directly to treatment plants to clean the water. However, in older sewer systems, rainwater flows into the same pipes as sewage. Heavy rainstorms can sometimes fill these pipes, causing combined sewer overflows (CSOs) at specific relief points. These relief points—or outfalls—are designed to prevent backups into homes and businesses by releasing some of the combined stormwater and sewage to nearby bodies of water.



The Ship Canal Water Quality Project is a joint effort between King County and Seattle Public Utilities. The project will capture and store 29 million gallons of polluted water during heavy rains. An underground storage tunnel is being built to hold the stormwater and sewage until there is room to send it to the West Point Treatment Plant. It will control four CSO outfalls for the City of Seattle and two King County outfalls at 3rd Ave W and 11th Ave NW. Construction is ongoing.

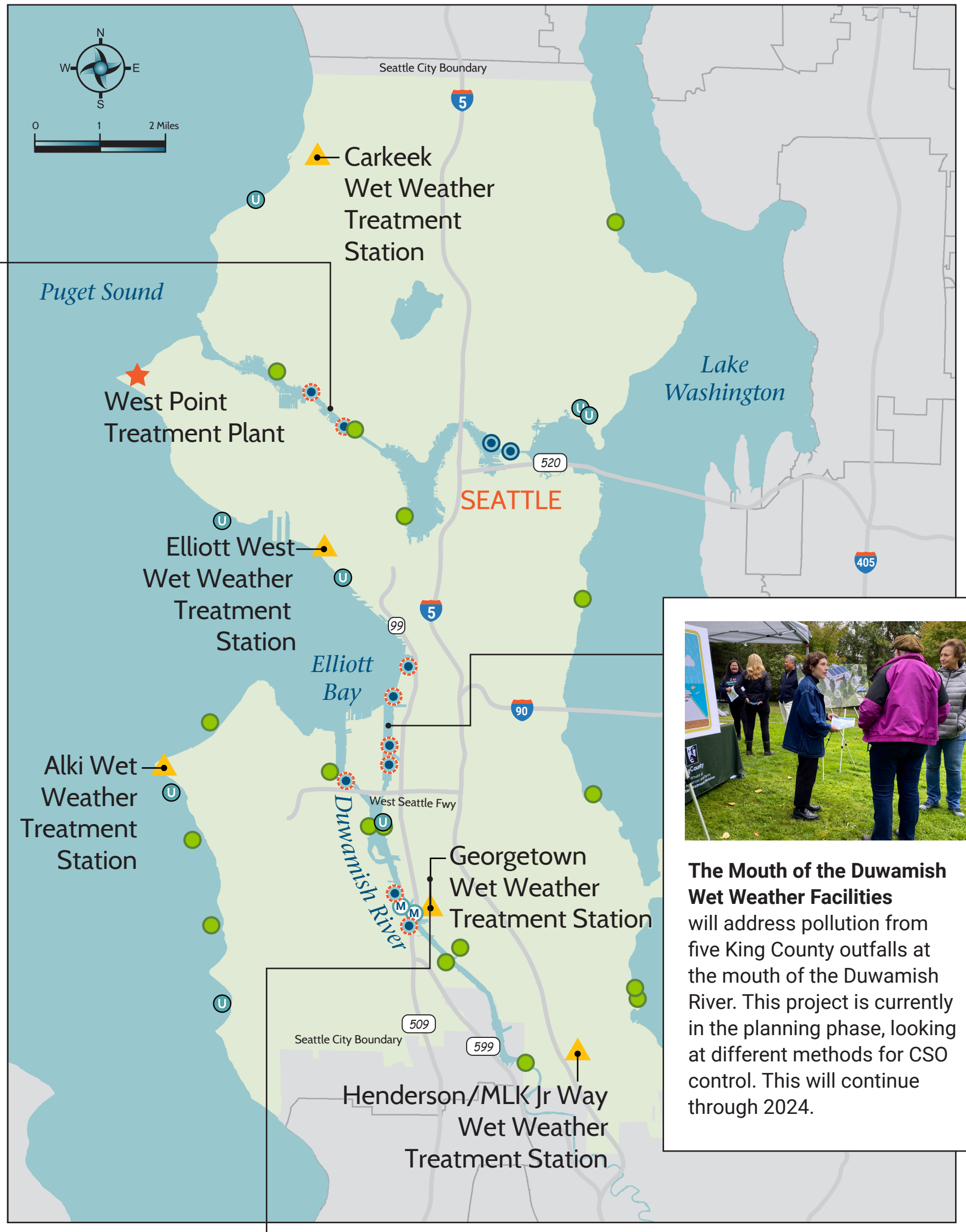
King County is committed to reducing CSOs in accordance with state and federal law. We accomplish this by building better infrastructure to manage wastewater, by using green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to keep rainwater out of the system, and by coordinating with Seattle Public Utilities to reduce CSOs. We are committed to controlling the frequency of overflows at each of our CSO outfalls to no more than one per year over a long-term average. Learn more about our projects at kingcounty.gov/cso-projects.

CSO OUTFALLS

- Controlled
- M Monitoring Underway to Ensure Compliance
- Uncontrolled - Project Underway
- Uncontrolled - Project Planned
- Uncontrolled - Additional Measures Underway to Ensure Compliance
- ★ Wastewater Treatment Plant
- ▲ Wet Weather Treatment Station
- King County Combined System

Monitoring Progress

King County monitors all outfalls, including controlled CSO outfalls to make sure they remain controlled. If we find a problem, we outline the additional steps we will take in a Supplemental Compliance Plan. We keep monitoring as we make changes.



The Mouth of the Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities will address pollution from five King County outfalls at the mouth of the Duwamish River. This project is currently in the planning phase, looking at different methods for CSO control. This will continue through 2024.



The Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station is a newly completed CSO control facility that will treat up to 70 million gallons per day of sewage and stormwater during heavy rains to protect the Duwamish River. It will control two King County CSO outfalls. The facility was completed and went into operation in 2022.

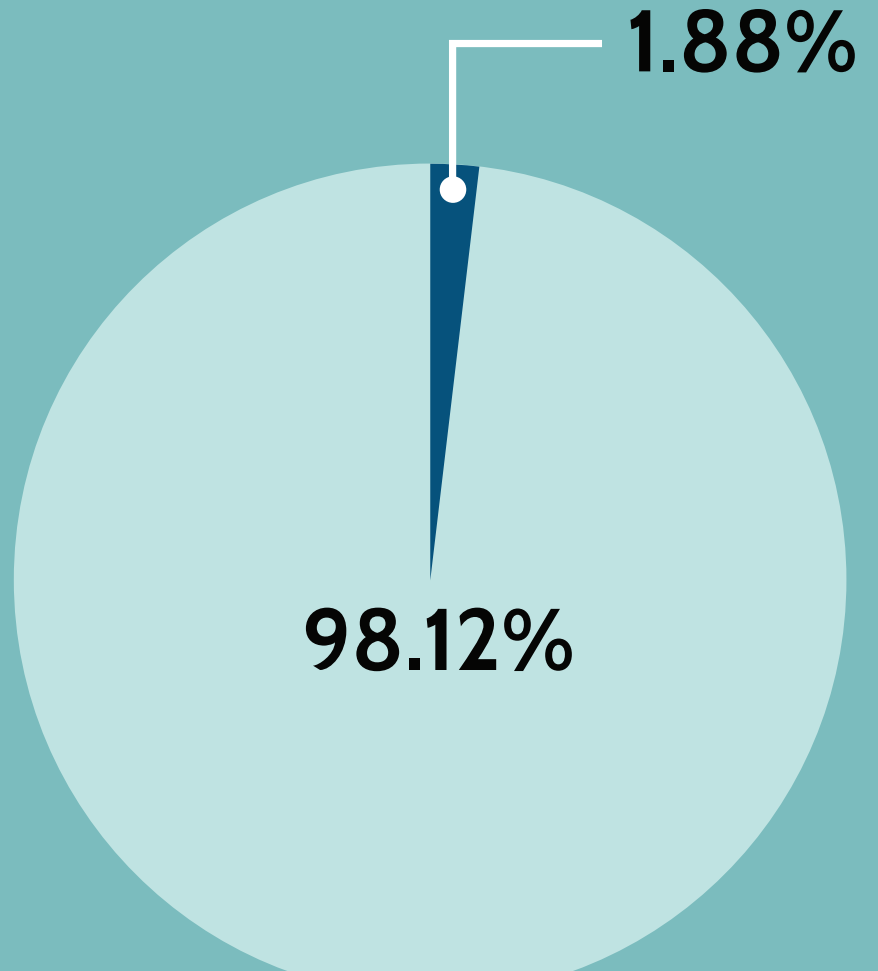
2023 CSO Outfall Statistics

- **17** CONTROLLED OUTFALLS
- M **2** OUTFALLS BEING MONITORED
- **9** UNCONTROLLED WITH PROJECTS UNDERWAY
- **2** UNCONTROLLED OUTFALLS WITH PROJECTS PLANNED
- **8** UNCONTROLLED WITH ADDITIONAL MEASURES UNDERWAY

M ● ● ● **38** KING COUNTY CSO OUTFALLS

WE TREATED **33.7 billion gallons (98.12%)** of flow in the combined system in 2023

WE DISCHARGED **0.65 billion gallons (1.88%)** of untreated flow from the combined system in 2023



2023 RainWise Program Accomplishments

The RainWise program provides rebates to private property owners living in specific combined sewer areas for installing rain gardens and cisterns on their property. King County has administered this program in partnership with Seattle Public Utilities since 2013. We continued to make progress in 2023, working with property owners to minimize overflows and prevent polluted runoff from entering our waterways.

