

2022 Combined Sewer Overflow Annual Snapshot

King County's sewer system protects people and the environment by collecting and treating the region's wastewater.

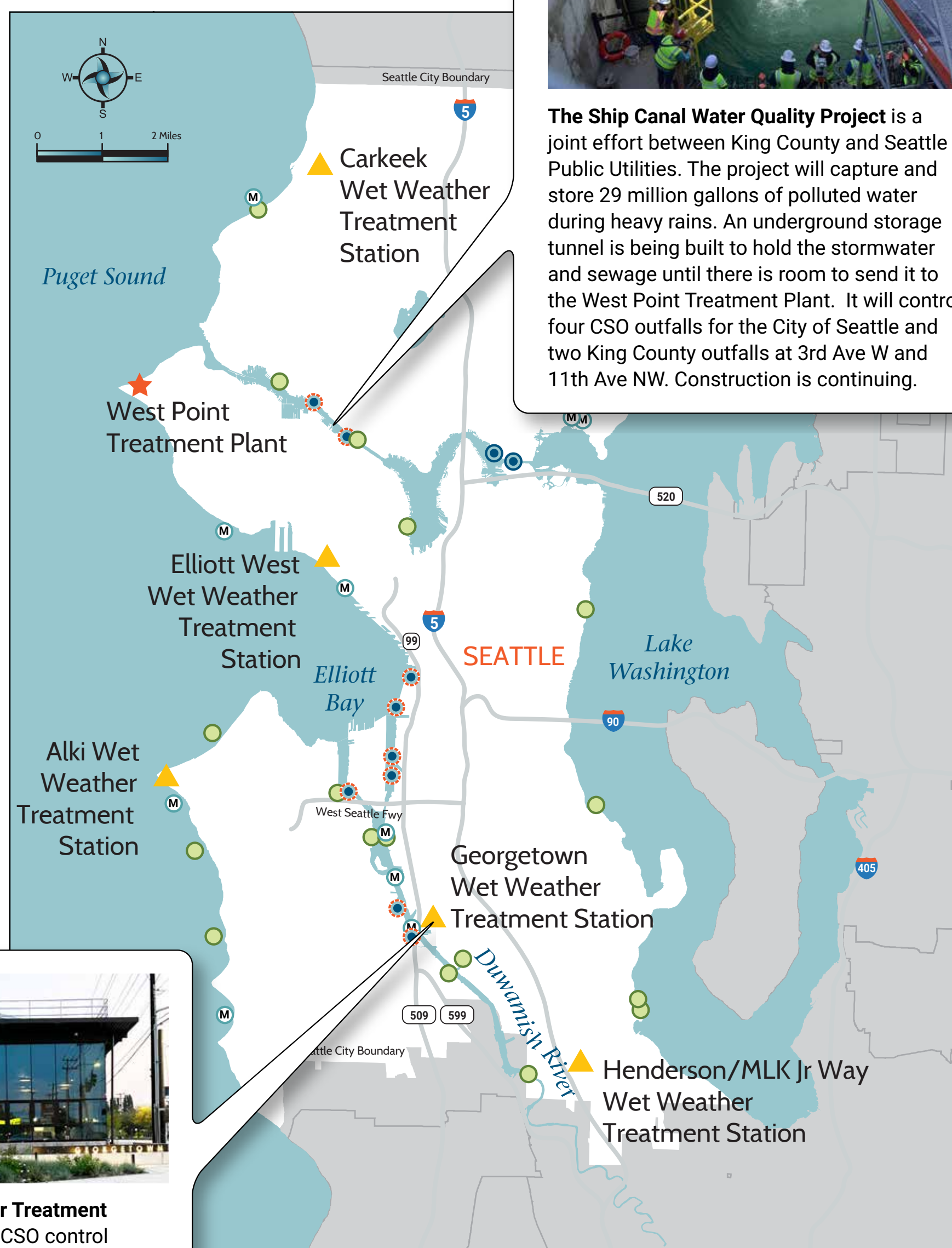
Combined Sewer Overflows

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 rain storms 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.

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.

CSO OUTFALLS

- Controlled
- Ⓜ Monitoring or Additional Measures Underway to Ensure Compliance
- ⊗ Uncontrolled - Project Underway
- ⊙ Uncontrolled - Project Planned
- ★ Wastewater Treatment Plant
- ▲ Wet Weather Treatment Station



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 continuing.

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.



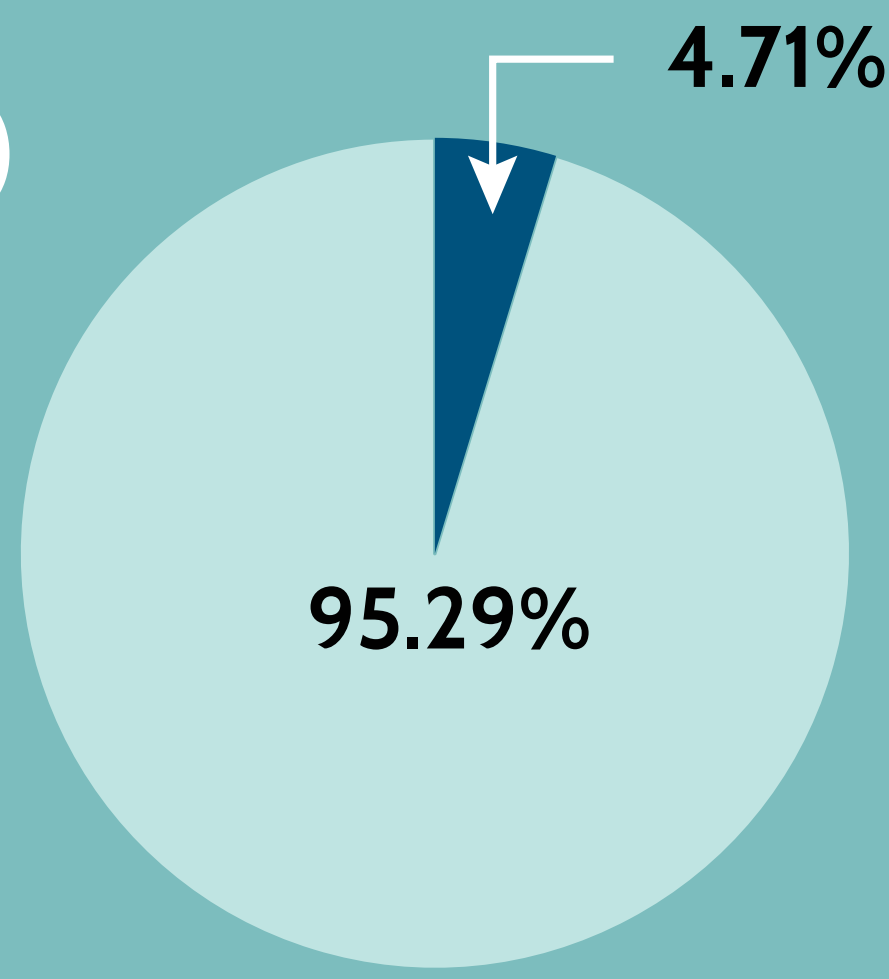
The Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station is a newly completed CSO control facility that will treat up to 70M gallons per day of sewage and stormwater during heavy rains to protect the Duwamish River. It will control two King County CSO outfalls: Brandon and South Michigan. Construction was completed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

2022 CSO Outfall Statistics

- 18 CONTROLLED OUTFALLS
- Ⓜ 10 OUTFALLS BEING MONITORED OR ADDITIONAL MEASURES UNDERWAY
- ⊙ 11 UNCONTROLLED OUTFALLS
- Ⓜ 39 KING COUNTY CSO OUTFALLS

WE TREATED
35.4 billion gallons (95.29%)
of flow in the combined system in 2022

WE DISCHARGED
1.67 billion gallons (4.71%)
of untreated flow from the combined system in 2022



2022 RainWise Program Accomplishments

The RainWise program provides rebates to homeowners living in specific combined sewer areas for installing rain gardens and cisterns on their property. King County has administered this program in partnership with SPU since 2013. We continued to make progress in 2021 working with property owners to capture stormwater before it enters the combined system.

