



45th Ave SW Culvert Replacement Project

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

WINTER 2024

Background

What is a culvert?

A culvert is a tunnel-like structure or pipe that allows water from a creek or river to flow under a roadway, trail, or railroad. Culverts are typically made of pipe, reinforced concrete, or other materials, and they come in a variety of shapes to match the road and existing stream.

Why does the culvert need to be replaced?

The culvert at 45th Ave SW is deteriorating due to age and wear. This means that the culvert may not work properly, which increases the risk of flooding and can even lead to the culvert collapsing. Repairing the culvert is not possible due to the culvert's age and condition.

The current culvert is also an obstacle for fish swimming up and downstream. Replacing the culvert is an opportunity to improve drainage in Fautleroy Creek and ensure native fish can successfully swim or pass through.

What is "fish passage" and why is it important?

Fish need to access upstream habitats. Some culverts, especially those built a long time ago, are an obstacle for the fish. By replacing the culvert, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is helping improve the habitat for fish to ensure their passage in the area. Fish passage is also a crucial part of respecting Tribal treaty rights, as many Tribes rely on fishing for cultural, spiritual, and economic purposes.

Project overview

What are the project goals?

The primary goals of this project are to restore fish passage and to prevent the failure of the roadway culvert and the associated potential impacts to public safety and the environment.

Replacing the culvert will also:

- Improve creek resiliency to higher flows from anticipated climate change
- Restore fish passage, which supports Tribal treaty rights and SPU's commitment to racial and social justice
- Enhance the community's connection to the Fautleroy Creek Watershed
- Provide safer working conditions for SPU maintenance crews

What is the timeline for this project?

Early planning for this project occurred between 2016 and 2019. The project is currently early in the design phase, which will continue through 2025. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in spring 2026.

The project timeline may change depending on feedback from the community and other related parties, permitting, and other factors.

Questions or comments? We want to hear from you! Please contact:

Jonathan Brown | Project Manager | Jonathan.Brown@seattle.gov | (206) 561-2581

What to expect

How will surrounding businesses and residents be affected by this project?

During construction, residents, businesses, and visitors may experience more noise, light, road closures, dust, and traffic than usual. SPU will take steps to lessen potential inconveniences to the surrounding community. Residents and businesses will be notified about potential impacts in advance of construction activities.

Will the roads be impacted by this project?

During construction, there may be road closures and increased traffic near the project area. SPU is committed to minimizing disruptions as much as possible during construction, and will work closely with residents and businesses to communicate any planned closures, detours, or alternative routes during construction. More information will be provided as the project nears construction.

How will this project impact parking?

There will be temporary parking restrictions near the project site during construction activities. These restrictions will be communicated to the community beforehand, allowing people to plan accordingly. Any long-term parking changes will be reviewed during the design phase, and as the project approaches final design, SPU will share any parking changes with the public.

Community involvement

What feedback is SPU seeking from the community to inform the project's design?

SPU is proposing to add public amenities to a small Fauntleroy Creek overlook space. These amenities may include seating and informational signage. SPU will provide opportunities to share your thoughts on these public amenities.

How will community feedback be used?

The feedback received from community members will help SPU make decisions about the future overlook space and its amenities. Feedback will also help SPU understand the project's impacts on the local community and how to mitigate those to the extent feasible.

How can I stay informed about the project's progress?

Please sign up for email updates at www.seattle.gov/utilities/FauntleroyCreekCulverts to stay informed about the project and learn about upcoming opportunities to engage.

SPU will communicate with residents and businesses through the project webpage, mailers, and email updates. Additionally, SPU will host events to share project information, answer questions, and gather feedback.

How is the project being funded?

This project was paid for in part by the King County Flood Control District.

Who do I contact with questions?

Have questions about the project? SPU is happy to answer questions and provide information about the project, including the anticipated impacts to the neighborhood. Please reach out to the SPU Project Manager, Jonathan Brown, at Jonathan.Brown@seattle.gov or (206) 561-2581.



For interpretation services, please call (206) 561-2581

如需要口譯服務，請撥電話號碼 (206) 561-2581

통역 서비스를 원하시면 (206) 561-2581 으로 전화하세요

Wixii turjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka (206) 561-2581

Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al (206) 561-2581

Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa (206) 561-2581

Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi (206) 561-2581

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