Ship Canal WATER QUALITY PROJECT | Seattle Public Utilities | King County

Project Overview

Investing in the Health of the Sound and the Future of Our Region

April 2023

How we're working with the community

Keeping the community informed is one of our top priorities and there are multiple ways we share what is going on.

Keeping our website updated

Check out our What's Happening Now section for recent news and upcoming project milestones.

Available to listen and connect you with the right person

We have a team monitoring our hotline 24 hours per day, Monday through Friday, and email inbox business days from 8 AM - 5 PM and we're happy to connect you with the right person to answer your questions.

Staffing drop-in and community events

We'd love to get to know you better at in-person events and to hear your thoughts and questions about the project. Keep an eye out for us in your community!

Working with community groups

We want to make sure you are familiar with the construction taking place in your neighborhood, including road closures and detour routes. Give us a call or email us if you'd like for us to brief your organization about upcoming construction!

Sending biweekly program emails

Don't forget to sign up for our email listserv on the website for program updates about each neighborhood!

Contact

For questions or comments about this project:

Call: 206-701-0233

Email: SPU_ShipCanalProject@seattle.gov

Website: spushipcanal.participate.online/

For interpretation services please call **206-386-9778**

如需要口譯服務　請撥電話號碼 **206-386-9778**

통역 서비스를 원하시면 **206-386-9778** 으로

Wixii turjubaan afka ah ku saabsan ,fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka **206-386-9778**

Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al **206-386-9778**

Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag tumawag sa **206-386-9778**

This project is funded in part by the Washington State Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection Agency through State Revolving Fund and Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loans

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY State of Washington

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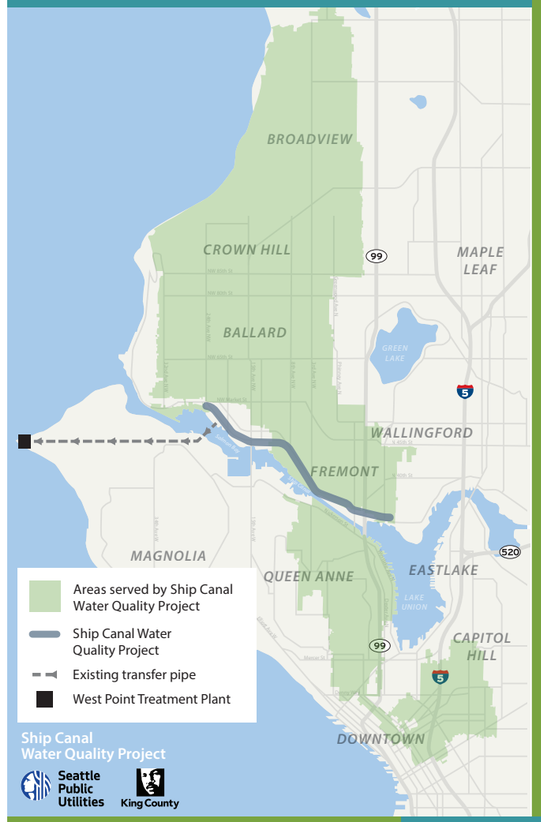
Seattle Public Utilities | King County

Project Overview

Seattle Public Utilities and King County Wastewater Treatment Division are building an underground storage tunnel to significantly reduce the amount of polluted stormwater and sewage that flows into the Lake Washington Ship Canal, Salmon Bay, and Lake Union from our sewer system.



Project areas:

Ballard | East Ballard | Fremont | Queen Anne | Wallingford

Project Background

In some parts of Seattle, sewage and stormwater (rain) share a set of pipes; this is called a combined sewer. During heavy rains the water often exceeds the pipes' capacity (known as an overflow to us sewer nerds), sending untreated sewage (yep, that means poop) and stormwater into the Ship Canal. These overflows can harm fish, wildlife, and the environment, and can contain pollution.

During a heavy storm, the new tunnel will capture and temporarily store more than 29 million gallons of untreated stormwater and sewage until the treatment plant is ready for it. The tunnel will improve water quality regionally by keeping more than 75 million gallons of polluted stormwater (from rain) and sewage on average each year from flowing into the Lake Washington Ship Canal, Salmon Bay, and Lake Union. Based on data from the last five years, the Ship Canal Water Quality Project would have removed about 70% of SPU's total combined sewer overflow volume.

Investing in Puget Sound's health and the Region's future

Want to know more? Visit our website and sign up for our email list at spushipcanal.participate.online.

April 2023

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Project Areas

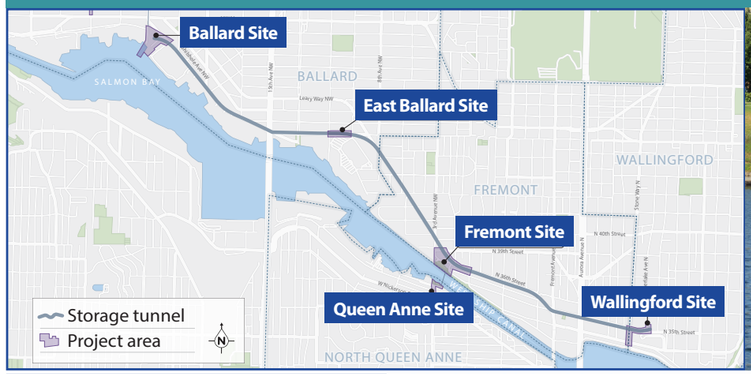
Ballard is home to the western end of the tunnel. Improvements here include above-ground facilities, new pipes to connect the tunnel to the existing sewer and stormwater overflow pipes, and a pump station that will pump flows to the treatment plant. Tunnel boring began at this site and will end in Wallingford.

East Ballard will have structures below the street to house mechanical, electrical, and odor control equipment. Construction here involves building the underground structures and installing connecting pipes.

Fremont will have structures below the street and be host to one end of an 8-ft diameter tunnel that will carry flows from Queen Anne to the storage tunnel. Construction here involves building underground structure and tunnel and installing connecting pipes.

Queen Anne will have structures below the street and be one end of an 8-ft tunnel that will carry flows to Fremont. Construction here involves building underground structures and tunnel and installing connecting pipes.

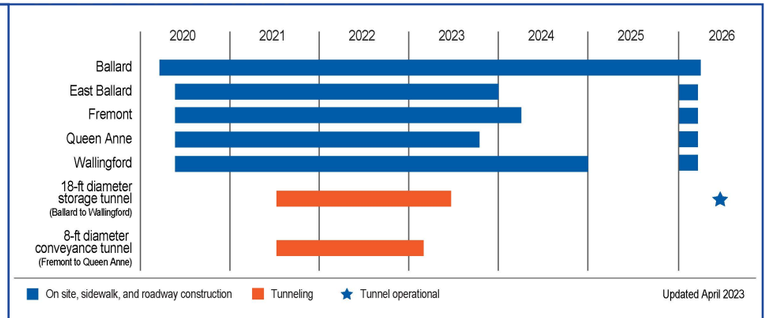
Wallingford marks the eastern end of the Ship Canal Water Quality Project and the location where the storage tunnel will end. The site will have underground structures, as well as an above-ground maintenance and odor control building near 3500 Interlake Ave N. New pipes will be built to connect Wallingford's existing sewer and stormwater overflow pipes to the storage tunnel.



Construction schedule

The Ship Canal Water Quality Project will be delivered over time and in phases.

We encourage you to take a look at neighborhood fact sheets on our website for additional details about each site.



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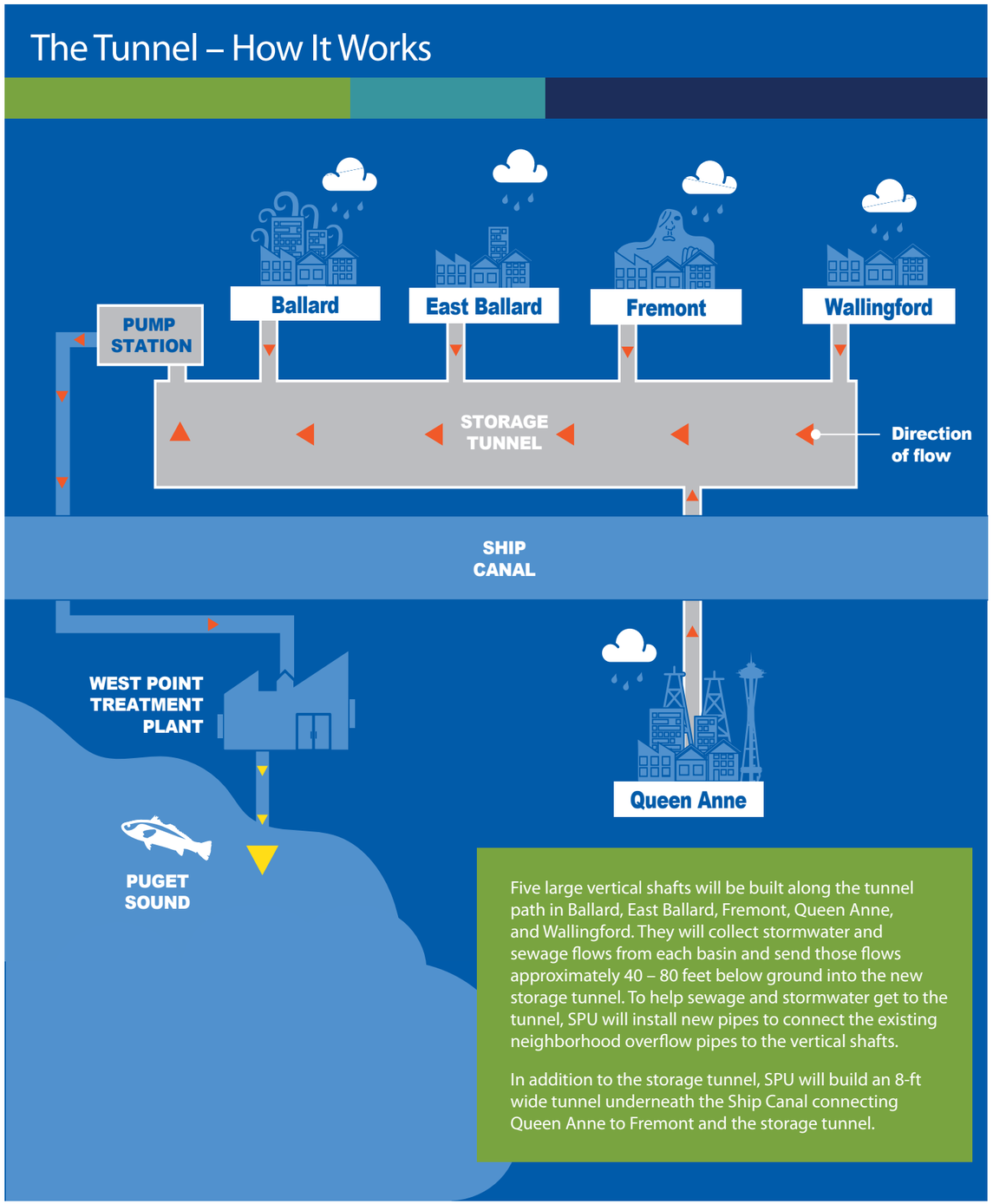
The Tunnel – How It Works



Five large vertical shafts will be built along the tunnel path in Ballard, East Ballard, Fremont, Queen Anne, and Wallingford. They will collect stormwater and sewage flows from each basin and send those flows approximately 40 – 80 feet below ground into the new storage tunnel. To help sewage and stormwater get to the tunnel, SPU will install new pipes to connect the existing neighborhood overflow pipes to the vertical shafts.

In addition to the storage tunnel, SPU will build an 8-ft wide tunnel underneath the Ship Canal connecting Queen Anne to Fremont and the storage tunnel.