

Ballard Natural Drainage

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Spring soil testing

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is working to prevent sewage overflows in Ballard. Last year, 89 sewage overflows sent 57 million gallons of raw sewage and polluted stormwater runoff into Salmon Bay.

SPU is building infrastructure - such as underground storage and natural drainage systems - to reduce the frequency of these sewage overflows. So SPU is continuing to test the soils in Ballard to determine where stormwater can be absorbed into the ground. **See the map inside for testing locations.**



This Ballard rain garden - a type of natural drainage - helps to keep stormwater out of the sewer system and prevent raw sewage overflows into Salmon Bay.

Read more inside!

Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-386-1501

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See the map of locations inside!

Additional soil testing on most-promising streets

Additional soil testing

Project Update

Natural Drainage

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Ballard Natural Drainage

Spring soil tests set for most-promising streets

In March and April more tests will be done on some of the most-promising streets for natural drainage (see map below). These tests feature: 1) vacuum explorations, columns of soil removed from planting strips to verify where water can drain, and 2) infiltration tests, water pumped into excavations about four feet square to verify how quickly water drains. In both cases, the excavation is backfilled and the surface restored that same day.

From March 25 through April 30, you may see people and equipment at the locations highlighted on the map below. All soil testing will be done in the street or planting strips – part of the public right-of-way. Due to safety concerns, please do not approach the drilling equipment or personnel while tests are being performed. All work will occur on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Specific locations will be posted on the project website (www.seattle.gov/cso/ballard) in mid-March.

Flow Testing on 2010-2011 Project Blocks

Starting April 9, you may also see crews flow testing the natural drainage projects located on 28th Avenue Northwest and 30th Avenue Northwest that were constructed in 2011. To measure how well they drain, the tests include simulating a large storm by pumping water into the rain gardens using a flow meter, fire hose, and hydrant.

SPU will conduct these tests over several days to ensure that data is collected when the rain gardens are both dry and saturated. SPU also conducted this testing in September 2012 and will compare those measurements with the new data.

