

Madison Valley Stormwater Improvements

City of Seattle



Facility type

Provides flow/flood control, it is part of the combined sewer system

Construction date

Construction completed in 2013

Facility size

The above ground storage facility at the 30th and John site is approximately 260 feet by 110 feet (0.66 acres) and is part of a half-city block public amenity. The Washington Park tank is 100 feet in diameter and 26 feet in height (0.18 acres) and creates a public plaza in a corner of the park. Earth berms around the lower lawn area allow for additional temporary stormwater storage during wet weather events.

Drainage basin area

4 million gallons total

Facility Description

The Madison Valley stormwater improvement project has two locations in Seattle's Madison Valley. Together, the two sites and underground infrastructure are capable of containing the stormwater of a 150-year event. The project greatly reduced potential for sewer backups and stormwater flooding while creating new open space for the community.

In heavy rains when underground pipelines become full, the above ground holding area on 30th Ave E is activated, storing water until the pipelines clear. At Washington Park, a 1.3-million-gallon storage tank was designed with an overlook on top to double its function as public infrastructure. Other parts of the site were transformed into a reforested park. Most

of the time, these areas serve as attractive open spaces for the community with native plants and trees, walking paths, play areas, and art.

The project was catalyzed by a storm in 2004 that flooded the area and backed up sewers. The mayor and city council were supportive of the project, as was the community. The community was concerned about the construction impacts but also understood that the project was needed to increase the safety for their neighbors downhill. The community asked for park amenities. Seattle Public Utilities worked with the community and Seattle Parks and Recreation to design these community centered facilities. All of the properties were acquired from willing sellers.

Departments involved Seattle Public Utilities was the lead and partnered with Seattle Parks and Recreation to build both sites

Contractors RH2 Engineering (30th Ave E & E John St), Stantec (Washington Park)

Public engagement

Extensive community participation was an integral part of the design process. Public engagement was led by Seattle Public Utilities.

Maintenance and monitoring

The facility is maintained by Seattle Public Utilities. A valve was replaced in both locations. At Washington Park, a gate is being upgraded to utilize the tank more frequently during storm events. Water level monitoring equipment triggers warnings to Seattle Public Utilities staff if certain levels are reached during a wet weather event.

Challenges and lessons learned

- Creative and willing partners are important for these types of complex projects. Consultants can help with creative approaches.
- Political support was key. For identifying new opportunities, talk to other departments (utilities, transportation, parks, community development, etc.) about overlapping needs and interests. Keep these opportunities in mind in planning, permitting, and developing projects.

Cost \$34.5 million (all phases and additional drainage improvements)

Funding Sources Seattle Public Utilities, King County Flood Control District

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Additional information

- Presentation with drawings:
<http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SPU//111412CDWACPresentationMadisonValley.pdf>

Lake Washington Park

