



**FACT SHEET**

# 30TH AVE NE SIDEWALK & NATURAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM

March 2017

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION – WHAT’S HAPPENING?

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) are partnering to provide new sidewalks and a natural drainage system (NDS) along the east side of 30th Ave NE between NE 130th St and NE 137th St in 2017. This project will make it safer, easier, and more pleasant to walk along 30th Ave NE by replacing an existing dirt path with a new sidewalk. The NDS will help capture and treat polluted stormwater to help prevent pollution runoff into Thornton Creek. The NDS will be designed and constructed by SPU, who will maintain the NDS.

This project was selected for 30th Ave NE as part of the Sidewalk Development Program to improve conditions for walking along and across the road in this area. Many people in the area depend on walking as a form of transportation and use this corridor to access bus facilities. This installation of natural drainage systems (NDS) was selected as part of SPU’s Integrated Plan to provide treatment of polluted stormwater within the Thornton Creek basin. The projects were combined in order to capture efficiencies in design and construction and to foster better coordination between City departments.

## SCHEDULE AND FUNDING

This project is a joint SDOT/SPU project.

**SDOT funding** is through the [Sidewalk Development Program](#), with funds from the Levy to Move Seattle. Approved by voters in 2015, the 9-year \$930 million Levy to Move Seattle provides funding to improve safety for all travelers, maintain our streets and bridges, and invest in reliable, affordable travel options for a growing city. Learn more about the levy at [www.seattle.gov/LevytoMoveSeattle](http://www.seattle.gov/LevytoMoveSeattle).

**SPU funding** is through the NDS Partnering Program, which provides funds to integrate NDS into other City projects within the larger creek watersheds.

## WHAT IS A NATURAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM?

Natural drainage systems (NDS) are constructed depressions along the road in the right-of-way or “planter strip”. They are a type of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) and are built to capture runoff and filter pollutants. When it rains, large volumes of polluted stormwater flow into Thornton Creek, but NDS can help slow and clean the stormwater before it reaches the creek, improving water quality and reducing pollution in Lake Washington.



Figure 1: Sidewalk and Natural Drainage System Project

design may include elements shown in the picture above.

- 1. New sidewalk
- 2. Retaining Wall
- 3. Cell Wall
- 4. Underdrain
- 5. Natural drainage system area
- 6. Driveway
- 7. Stormwater runoff
- 8. Curbless edge, no parking

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

People walking and biking will have a safer, more accessible, and more comfortable route along the street, separated from traffic.

Reduced polluted stormwater runoff to Thornton Creek

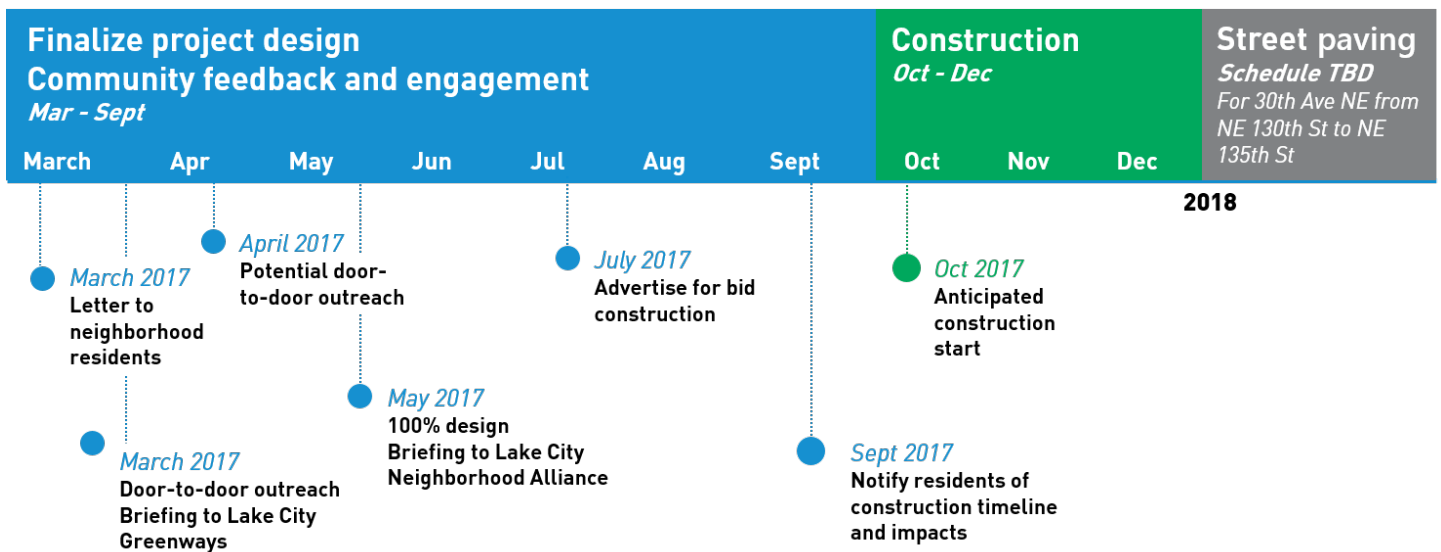
**PROJECT FEATURES – WHAT CAN I EXPECT TO SEE?**

This project will build a new sidewalk along the east side of 30th Ave NE between NE 130th St and NE 137th St. The project will also incorporate new sidewalk infrastructure including retaining walls and new curb ramps. Natural drainage systems will be located adjacent to the new sidewalk.

- What will happen to existing trees in the right of way? The planned improvements in the public right-of-way will affect some trees. Trees are important to reducing stormwater pollution and will be preserved where possible. Licensed landscape architects will conduct a full tree assessment on all blocks to determine which trees should be protected and which may be replaced or transplanted. It is a priority to retain and protect trees throughout the project area. Any tree removed will be replaced with two young trees in the project area, however, not necessarily in the same specific locations as the removed trees. SPU will also prune trees or shrubs located in the natural drainage system as needed. SDOT will maintain any new trees for two years after they are planted. After that time, homeowners are responsible for tree upkeep.
- Who will be responsible for the maintenance of the natural drainage system? SPU is responsible for the watering, weeding, and general upkeep of the natural drainage systems to ensure proper function. Residents are not required to pay for or perform any maintenance. In fact, it is important for residents to stay out of the natural drainage system areas to maintain their function.
- What kind of plants will I see? The project team selects plants that help the natural drainage system do its job: clean stormwater and allow it to slowly seep into the ground. We also select plants that are easy to maintain and able to withstand wet winters and dry summers. We will keep you updated on plant palettes throughout the design process.
- Will this project cause me to lose parking in front of my house? We understand that parking is very important to residents. SDOT conducted a parking study over multiple time periods to estimate the number of parking spaces available and the use of parking space in your neighborhood. This project will remove on-street parking from the east side of 30<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, but there will be no changes to parking on private property and existing driveways will remain at their current location.
- Will transit lines be impacted? The bus stop at NE 133<sup>rd</sup> St will be removed. We are working with King County Metro to determine the impacts project construction will have on Routes 64 & 65 that service this area. We will continue to keep you updated as we move closer to the project construction phase.

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

We are currently in the design phase, and we anticipate construction will begin in Fall 2017. This project is part of several improvements being made to 30<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. SDOT’s Arterial Major maintenance will be repaving 30<sup>th</sup> Ave NE between 130<sup>th</sup> to 135<sup>th</sup> after the completion of this project. We anticipate this work to begin in 2018 and continue through 2019.



Si usted necesita esta información traducida al español por favor llame al (206) 727-3575 0.



**Seattle**  
Department of  
Transportation