

Why Treat Stormwater?

When it rains, oil and other pollutants are picked up in stormwater and can flow untreated into local waterways and ultimately Puget Sound. These pollutants have negative immediate and long-term impacts on surface water quality and fish habitat. Green stormwater infrastructure projects filter rain and stormwater runoff, benefiting the health of our waterways and the animals that live within them.

Sprague Enhancement

The vision for this project came from city council members and a citizen steering committee which included several members of the Central Neighborhood Council.

The gateway improvements on South Sprague Avenue included landscape and bioretention improvements to the Highway 16 offramp that enhanced visual buffers to the adjacent residential street to the east, known as residential Sprague. A new median was constructed on the arterial South Sprague Avenue to provide traffic calming and a new neighborhood gateway sign was also installed.



Location

Sprague South from S. 19th Street to S. 25th Street Tacoma, WA



Cost

Total Cost: \$1,902,650

Partners

Department of Ecology Tacoma Public Utilities Tacoma Water Public Works ES Wastewater/Surfacewater

Design: KPG and GeoDesign

Contractors: Westwater Construction Company and Northwest Cascade, Inc.



Continuing Success

Continued education with the residents along the project are ongoing as the project's visibility reminds individuals the impact they have on stormwater, and gives them a vested interest in protecting stormwater.



For More Information

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Project Description

The Sprague Enhancement project improved Tacoma's Central Neighborhood by utilizing green stormwater infrastructure to reduce flooding and bioretention to improve stormwater quality. It reduced the street surface area lessening the road's stormwater impacts on the Thea Foss Waterway. Environmental Services worked with the Public Works Department to design a roadway that met the needs of the neighbors on this street and discouraged unwanted activities. Pervious concrete was constructed in the parking lanes and sidewalk areas. Overflow from these areas is treated by a sand filter. On the west side of the road a bioswale treats stormwater. Overall, the project created a livable neighborhood with new sidewalks, parking lanes, sewer, water and trees.



Project Benefits

- 2,000 ft of new roadway with pervious concrete parking lanes, sidewalks, trees, and bioswales replaced a roadway that continually flooded and discharged sediment-laden water into the Foss Watershed.
- Approximately one acre of arterial roadway were treated with bioretention rain gardens.
- Landscaping improvements contributed to the City's tree canopy and reduced rainwater runoff into the Foss Watershed.
- Aging sanitary sewer and water lines located underneath the roadway were replaced through utility partnerships.



