

An Urban Stormwater Initiative

Returning the Rain to the Lake

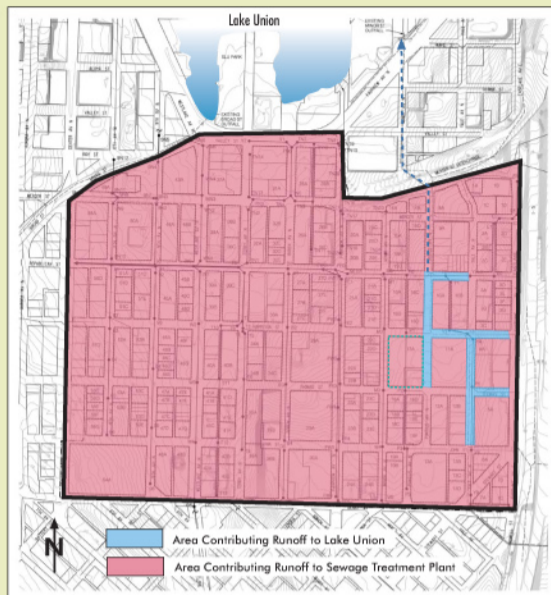
A Sustainable Neighborhood

The South Lake Union neighborhood of Seattle, located in the heart of the city between the downtown core and Lake Union, is undergoing a period of rapid development. It is estimated that 70% of the neighborhood will be re-developed within the next 20 years, with the remaining 30% in the following 30 years. Local neighborhood groups, land owners, and city officials all want to create a model sustainable neighborhood in this highly desirable area.



South Lake Union Site

Disconnected Watershed



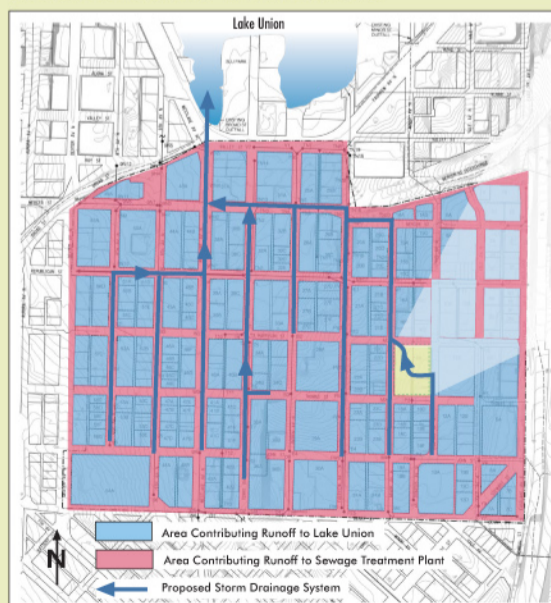
While this area historically shed its rainfall to Lake Union, now less than 5% of the rain that falls here ever reaches the lake. Instead it is combined with raw sewage and polluted street run-off and travels 8 miles to a sewage treatment plant. The south edge of the lake is stagnant with high temperatures that discourage migration of native salmon.

Conceptual Sustainable Infrastructure



MKA has developed a conceptual storm drainage system that allows all parcels in the neighborhood to direct their flow to Lake Union. The proposed system location was chosen to take advantage of existing urban planning initiatives, topography, proposed development, and existing utility infrastructure (including outfall).

Reconnected Watershed



The proposed storm drainage system is designed to convey only site runoff. Polluted waters from the street would continue to flow to the combined sewer for treatment. Developers would be encouraged to use non-pollution-generating construction materials and develop landscape management plans that minimize pollutant contribution to the lake. In return, developers would be released from the burden of building large, expensive detention tanks under their buildings.

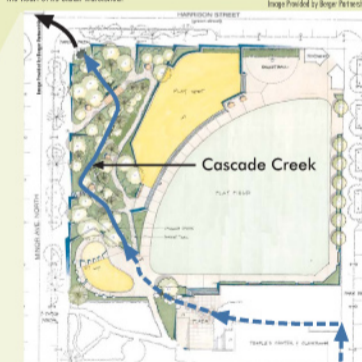


Sustainable infrastructure planning links individual sites to the larger community, contributing to the greater good and often enabling less expensive buildings with a smaller ecological footprint. It is important to look beyond

your front door and realize how your site fits in to the bigger picture.

Cascade Park The First Sustainable Segment

Completion of the storm drain system will connect this neighborhood to Lake Union, the heart of its watershed.



Cascade Creek was designed to collect and convey the park's rainwater as well as flow from adjacent and upstream properties as they are redeveloped. The first site will be connected in late 2005.



Cascade Park pre-construction



Cascade Park under construction - completion scheduled for late 2004

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