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The Murray Wet Weather Facility is tucked intimately into a West Seattle hillside providing a well-balanced range of community and ecological benefits.



< Lincoln Park Way SW

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Approximately the northern two-thirds of the site is devoted to public access, external viewsheds, meanwhile a screen wall with artwork transitions from public towards utility focused uses surrounding the management of combined stormwater and sewage.



King County's new Murray Wet Weather Facility project stores up to 1 million gallons of excess stormwater during heavy rain events, which much of the infrastructure strategically placed within the hillside.

Murray Wet Weather Facility General Design, Public Ownership



Episodes form along an axial connection, integrating artwork, seating and tactile features. Rock evolves from course and angular to rounded cobble and sand through the site, metaphorically showing water's journey from the Cascades to the shoreline.



The facility includes a modern interpretation of the city's hallmark hillside stairs. A two-tiered plaza atop the facility mechanical building gives way to a series of landings, each with a view of Puget Sound and Blake Island.



Lighting allows for safe and subdued use at dawn and dusk. Up lighting highlights the rammed earth strata and natural relief which emulates the surface texture of flowing water.





The low-slung structure acts as an extension of Lowman Beach Park meadow and additional thoroughfare from Lincoln Park Way SW to Beach Drive SW.



Material selection and artwork were strategically integrated through public areas, including abstracted forms of nature in rammed earth walls, tactile features including inlayed shore pebbles and sea glass, and pavers reinforcing distant views.





The facility encourages public access, improves connectivity and enhances environmental stewardship with a vegetated roof, bioretention swales and permeable pavement to infiltrate, treat and retain stormwater runoff onsite. Lighting focuses downward, reducing impacts on residential views and limiting light glare.



Improvements to local streets included an intersection reconfiguration including a road diet to convert Beach Drive to a woonerf like street, prioritizing safe pedestrian's access to West Seattle shoreline including Lowman Beach and Lincoln Parks.

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Partially screened from public areas, facility access accommodates operations while reducing visual impacts from nearby streets and Lowman Beach Park. Part of the storage tank pokes through the landscape, providing a sense of immensity when viewed from the rooftop plazas.

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The community's active involvement in the project's development, through public meetings, a charrette process and advisory groups reinforced decisions to reduce visual impacts and contributed to site improvements designed to encourage public access to the park-like facility.