



# Environment

## Protecting the environment

WSDOT is committed to enhancing safety and delivering transportation solutions while minimizing effects on the community and natural surroundings. As we move forward from planning to construction, we will continue to comply with regulatory requirements and avoid, minimize or mitigate potential project effects.

## Why is the environmental review process important?

Environmental review is a critical step in the process of designing and constructing an SR 520 program that minimizes effects on the community and the environment. The environmental review process also provides agency decision-makers with important environmental information needed to issue permits for construction.

## Which environmental topics does WSDOT evaluate?

- Air quality
- Community effects
- Construction effects
- Economics
- Energy
- Environmental justice
- Fisheries
- Geology and soils
- Hazardous materials
- Historical and archaeological resources
- Land use
- Mitigation
- Navigable waterways
- Noise
- Public services and utilities
- Recreation, including parks
- Transportation
- Tribal fisheries and cultural resources
- Visual quality
- Water resources
- Wetlands
- Wildlife

## What are the key environmental benefits of the I-5 to Medina project?

- Improves water quality in Lake Washington with the addition of stormwater treatment.
- Provides noise reduction strategies along the highway.
- Connects communities with lids spanning the freeway in the 10th Avenue E. and Montlake areas.
- Provides enhanced pedestrian and bicycle connectivity throughout the corridor connecting to existing regional and local facilities.
- Provides reliable transit connectivity throughout the corridor.
- Improves parks and natural resources within the Arboretum.
- Enhances wetlands and aquatic habitat in the Lake Washington watershed.



*The new SR 520 will provide improvements to the Arboretum and a new park along the north side of the Ship Canal to mitigate for effects to project area parks and trails.*



*Water lilies beneath the existing SR 520 ramps. The ramps will be removed as part of the I-5 to Medina project, allowing us to restore the park area and reduce traffic through the Arboretum.*