

BUILD THE LIGHT RAIL THE RIGHT WAY – NOT IN THE MERCER SLOUGH



MOVE THE LIGHT RAIL, SAVE OUR NATURE PARK

The Bellevue City Council recently learned the truth about Sound Transit's plans to build a light rail line within the entire western edge of our city's treasured Mercer Slough Nature Park. This is not what voters supported in 2008 – and not what the Council approved in 2011. Here are just a few of the facts that have recently been made public about the East Link Light Rail Line planned for Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue:

All vegetation - including 1,300 trees - along the western edge of the Mercer Slough Nature Park will be torn out of the Park to allow construction within the Slough.

The view of our park will be concealed behind 10-foot high concrete walls on the east side of Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue SE – and those walls will cut off access for people and wildlife.

The construction will last at least 7 years, closing the Historical Winters House, the Blueberry Farm store, and the Bellevue Way Park and Ride for that entire time.

A massive 5-story parking garage will become our city's new gateway– replacing our Park view.

Sound Transit needs the City Council's permission to violate our noise and environmental laws.

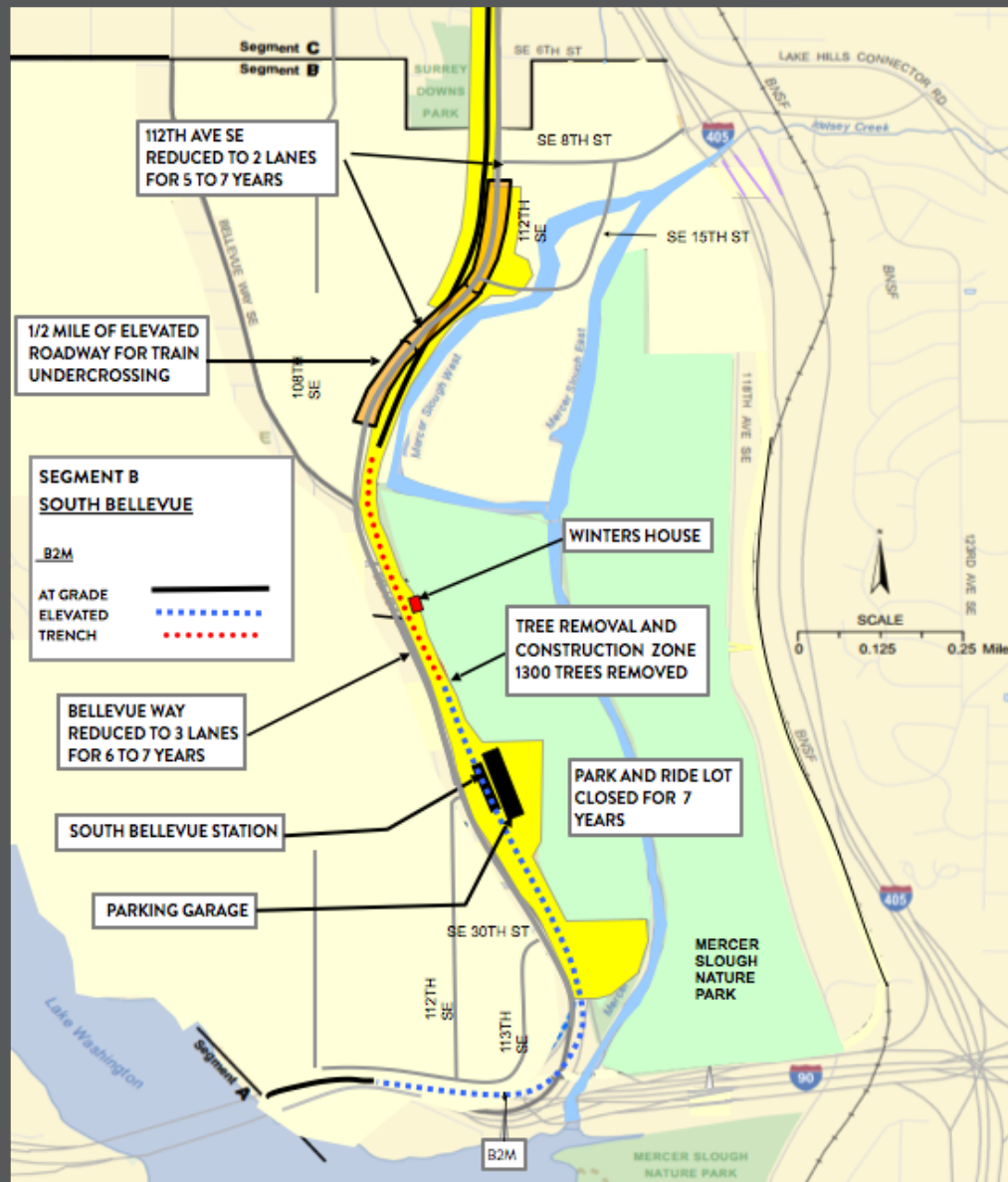
Now that our City Council knows the planned damage to Mercer Slough Nature Park, our Council members need to stand up for Bellevue and for our noise and environmental laws. *It's not too late to act!* These only recently disclosed, and previously unpublicized, damaging impacts have resulted in our non-profit and non-partisan citizens groups filing an environmental *Petition for Review* with the State of Washington, Shorelines Hearings Board. There are better ways for light rail to reach our downtown that fully protect the Slough, save costs, require less travel time, increase ridership, and avoid neighborhood noise and blight impacts. *Building A Better Bellevue* and *Save Mercer Slough Committee* are co-partners in environmental and neighborhood protection for **all** of Bellevue.

Please join us and donate to our legal fund for our Shoreline Appeal, by sending your check to:

Building A Better Bellevue, P.O. Box 40179, Bellevue, WA 98015.

Treasurer: Geoffrey Bidwell

MAP SHOWING MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON MERCER SLOUGH NATURE PARK



Sound Transit's Selected South Bellevue Route

This map shows how the delicate environment of the Mercer Slough Nature Park, and our enjoyment of the Park, will be forever compromised. Ugly 10-foot high concrete walls, and tall steel fences, will block all views of – and all access to – the Park along Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue, other than in front of the Winters House. Noise from trains running every 5 to 6 minutes for 21+ hours a day – noise amplified by the tall walls – will harm animals living in the Park, and severely diminish visitors' enjoyment of today's serene Park quiet.

All trees and vegetation will be removed in the yellow sections in the map above. The yellow area will then be excavated down to 30 feet or more below grade. This excavated channel, nearly as wide as a football field, will be filled with hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of rock and gravel. The Winters House will be endangered by the shifting soil around it. Ugly train-yard-like cables and posts will extend over the top of the concrete walls. The Mercer Slough Nature Park, which has long existed as the most iconic view of our "City built in a Park", will be forever lost for all future generations.