

Project Schedule Update:

Park Lane's project staff and Marshbank Construction agreed this week on a new construction schedule that will help make up some of the time the project lost during the project's first two months of construction. The new schedule could not, however, compensate for all of the time lost while Puget Sound Energy relocated its gas and power lines. Nor could it compensate for the extra time required to replace a water main that proved to be more delicate—and leak-prone—than anyone expected. Project staff now expect both blocks of Park Lane to be substantially complete by May 8, rather than April 30.

One of the strategies Marshbank is using to make up for lost time is how its crews install the brick pavers. Instead of building the street section first, then building the walking areas, Marshbank will build the walking areas first, followed by the street section. This method will require Marshbank to remove the temporary walkways before laying the brick pavers. To ensure pedestrian safety and access to each of the businesses, Marshbank will cover the gravel areas with non-slip panels.

Meanwhile, Marshbank and Park Lane's merchants made progress on both sides of the construction fence. On the inside of the fence, Marshbank continued excavating and grading the west block of Park Lane this week to prepare the one-lane street for its new storm water quality system of rain gardens, tree wells and its underdrainage.

On the fence's outside, many of Park Lane's shop keepers on Thursday mounted the results of a community art project that involved two of Kirkland's elementary schools. Those results—in the form of two 20-foot vinyl banners donated by FastSigns of Kirkland—are now on the construction fence surrounding Park Lane. They feature the artistic and verbal responses of Ben Franklin's kindergarteners to reimagine a city, and the responses of Peter Kirk's second graders to reimagine a street. Kirklandviews.com published a little story and photos Friday from that event.

Advice for the Week Ahead:

The sidewalk along the west side of Lake Street, between Central Way and Kirkland Avenue, will be closed for the next few weeks until Marshbank can pour the new concrete for the sidewalk and crosswalk. Marshbank's crews cannot achieve this until they complete other utility work. In the meantime, signs instruct pedestrians to safely cross Lake Street at either Central Way or Kirkland Avenue.

Large truck traffic will likely increase this month in the area around the project site, as the materials Marshbank will use to build the new street grade begin arriving. The traffic and pedestrian flagging team will do their best to continue assisting everyone in safely navigating the work zone.

City Project Work Status Update:

Based on the current schedule, the near-future construction activities by the City should include:

Week of March 9 to 13:

- Bioretention areas and underground retaining walls
- Concrete edging and curbs
- Foundations and electrical conduit for the new light poles
- Preliminary work for the east block of the Park Lane project

Week of March 16 to 20:

Bioretention areas

Concrete edging and curbs

Foundations and electrical conduit for the new light poles

Sidewalk grading

Removal of the temporary pedestrian walkway and construction of the brick paver surfaces nearest the buildings

Preliminary work for the east block of the Park Lane project