



Discovery Park Reservoir Modification Project

Informational Open House Summary

February 23, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Discovery Park Environmental Learning Center
3801 Discovery Park Boulevard, Seattle, WA 98199

Overview

King County's Discovery Park Reservoir Modification Project team hosted an informational open house on February 23, 2019. The project team highlighted that the reservoir modification will allow the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) to meet regulatory requirements from Seattle Public Utilities and ensure that people and equipment will be protected in the unlikely event of an overflow at the reservoir.

Approximately twenty (20) members of the public attended the meeting.

This report provides a summary of the presentation, and question and answer session.

This public outreach event was co-hosted by Friends of Discovery Park.

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Presentation
 - Project overview
 - Trail closures
 - Question and answers (throughout presentation)

The event was planned as an open house where attendees could drop in during a two-hour window. The team set up six stations with informational display boards including maps, restoration plans and images about various aspects of the reservoir modification project. The six stations covered the following topics:

- Project overview
- Trail closures
- Tree removal
- Restoration plan map
- Restoration plan plant palette
- Images of the existing and future project area

Attendees requested that the project team change the format of the meeting and provide the group with a presentation. The team was able to use the boards as part of a presentation on the project.

Presentation

The WTD Project Manager gave an overview of the reservoir modification project. He explained that the upgrade will allow for safe and efficient annual inspections of the reservoir and will meet requirements from Seattle Public Utilities for water protection standards. Currently, there is no



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way to access the existing underground tanks without draining the service water tank and then accessing the drinking water tank using a ladder and passing through a narrow opening between the two tanks. The tanks hold drinking water and process water. This project will separate the two tanks, add above-ground backflow preventers (or air gaps) for each tank, build hatches for above-ground access, and install an overflow pipe. Construction will begin in late summer 2019 and will last three to five months.

The WTD Project Engineer gave an overview of construction impacts on the Loop and Capehart trails. A portion of Loop Trail will be accessed by construction vehicles but will remain open to trail users. During that time, vehicles will be escorted by flaggers on foot and signage will notify trail users of construction activity. Trails may be intermittently closed during heavy construction; however WTD is coordinating with Seattle Parks and Recreation to keep the impacted trails open as much as possible during construction.

Discussion

Members of the public asked questions about how deep in the ground the new pipe would be placed (average of 15 feet below ground), how the pipe alignment was selected (away from beach, downward slope, avoid large trees), and the material of the pipe (high-density polyethylene), and other technical aspects of the project.

There were also questions related to construction, such as whether the 20-foot width work area around the pipe and diffuser could be reduced (no, because the work area needs to fit an excavator), and whether the contractor will clear-cut the work area (this will be determined by the contractor, however WTD will conduct a walk-through of the site prior to construction with the contractor and arborists to mark trees to be removed).

Questions related to the trail included whether the newly established Capehart Trail would be restored (yes) and whether the County could proactively protect Loop Trail from construction vehicle traffic by spreading travel on non-paved sections (WTD will look into this option and remains committed to restoring any areas impacted by construction).

Additionally, members of the public were interested in the role Seattle Parks and Recreation will have in the restoration and what any funds from this project paid by WTD to Seattle Parks and Recreation (amount in negotiation) would be used for.

How to stay informed

We will work to keep you informed through the following methods:

- **Project website:** <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/wtd/system/west/projects.aspx>
- **Project contact:** Eunice Lee
- **Email:** elee@kingcounty.gov
- **Phone:** 206-263-1614



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Discovery Park Reservoir Modification Project team attendance

King County Wastewater Treatment Division

Tom Bauer, Alton Gaskill, Eunice Lee, JR Meksevanh, Wade Phillips

City of Seattle Parks and Recreation

Karen O'Connor