

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the reservoir used for?

The two existing underground tanks are filled with drinkable water (18,000 gal. capacity) and service water (170,000 gal. capacity). They provide drinking water to West Point Treatment Plant, the lighthouse and drinking fountains in the park, and also provide service water for treatment processes at the plant. The reservoir was built in the 1960s.

### Why does the reservoir need an upgrade?

The upgrade ensures a safe and efficient way to do annual inspections of the reservoir and meet requirements from Seattle Public Utilities for water protection standards. Right now, there is no way to access the tank with drinkable water for cleaning or inspection without first draining the service water tank, then placing a ladder in the empty tank and sliding through a 24-inch space between the top of the tank wall and the roof to reach the other side, which makes access for staff difficult and potentially unsafe.

This project will isolate the two tanks, build hatches for above-ground access, add above-ground backflow preventers (or air gaps) for each tank, and install a new pipe and diffuser in the unlikely event of an overflow.

### What is the construction timeline?

Construction is expected to begin in late Summer 2019 and last about three to five months. Work hours will generally occur between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays. We will notify the surrounding community before construction begins and will be available to answer your questions or concerns at every step of the process.

### Which trails will be impacted at Discovery Park?

A section of Loop Trail about 0.2 miles long (from Discovery Park Blvd to the reservoir) will be used by construction vehicles and remain open to trail users, as long as everyone is able to safely use the trail. Flaggers will escort work vehicles on Loop Trail.

Part of the new Capehart Trail will be temporarily closed during construction and contractors will create a detour. Any construction access here will also be escorted by flaggers. Trails affected by our work will be restored after construction is done. King County has coordinated temporary trail closures with Seattle Parks and Recreation.

### How many trees are you removing? Are you also replanting?

We plan to remove approximately 26 trees. Trees anticipated to be removed range in size from a few inches up to 26 inches in diameter. We will replant two trees for each tree removed, as required and approved by the City of Seattle.

### What about birds and wildlife? How will this affect them?

We recognize that removing trees in the construction area around the pipe and diffuser may affect birds. To lessen potential impacts to birds, construction in that area will take place after the nesting season. A survey for nesting birds may be conducted prior to construction, as required by Seattle. There are no known threatened or endangered species or associated habitats in the project area. We will plant a variety of native trees

and shrubs after construction, which will enhance bird and wildlife habitat. The project restoration plan outlines a shrub and native seed mix palette to support the park's wildlife and has been reviewed by Seattle Parks and Recreation.

### **What else will I see and notice during construction?**

An excavator will dig a trench to install an approximately 460-foot long pipe and diffuser. Concrete hatches on top of the existing reservoir will be demolished. Any additional construction required on weekends and holidays will comply with the City of Seattle's noise regulations.

### **What are you doing to protect cultural resources?**

The project was reviewed by the King County Historic Preservation Program in April 2015, which included a review of historic maps and state database records for areas near the project site. King County has an Inadvertent Discovery Plan in place for this project, which describes what we will do if cultural resources are discovered during construction. There are no significant above-ground historic properties in the project area.

### **Will drinking fountains at the park be shut off?**

Drinking fountains will function as normal.

### **Where are the reservoirs located?**

The reservoirs are located southeast of West Point Treatment Plant, near Loop Trail, just north of where the path splits off at South Beach Trail in Discovery Park.

### **What is the size of the pipe and diffuser?**

The overflow pipe is 460 feet long and 15 inches in diameter. The 16-inch diffuser at the end of the pipe will be covered with ballast rock.

### **How unlikely is an overflow?**

Previously, the reservoir had one overflow in a 40-year period. The new pipe will carry water away from people and equipment if an overflow occurs. It should be noted that the reservoir holds only drinkable water and service water. It does not hold wastewater.

### **Will permits be required for this work?**

WTD is coordinating with Seattle Parks and the City of Seattle to obtain the necessary permits and easements before construction.

### **How can I stay updated?**

To receive project updates by email, leave us your email address. For more information about this project, visit the West Point Treatment Plant website at [www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/wtd/system/west/projects.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/wtd/system/west/projects.aspx) or contact Eunice Lee at [elee@kingcounty.gov](mailto:elee@kingcounty.gov) or 206-263-1614.