



NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI Sewer Upgrade Project

Mercer Island Farmers Market tabling event

Date: Sunday June 23, 2019
Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Mercerdale Park (77th Avenue S.E., Mercer Island, WA 98040)

Attendance

The project team engaged with more than 130 booth visitors. Two people signed up to the project listerv.

Purpose for event participation

The Mercer Island Farmers Market provided a unique opportunity to reach many Mercer Island residents at a fun event. King County Wastewater Treatment Division community relations team hosted a booth at the event to share information about the North Mercer/Enatai sewer upgrade, answer questions about the project, and educate booth visitors about wastewater use best practices.

Booth Format

Project staff setup a tent and table displaying plush microbe toys, water samples showing the breakdown of flushable and non-flushable items, and boards showing the project alignment and wastewater treatment process. The project team handed out informational materials to include the project newsletter, I-90 Trail fact sheet, Groco Loop compost information and “What not to flush” stickers. A sign-up sheet was set out on the table to encourage booth visitors to sign up for the project email list.



Community relations staff member sharing project materials at 2019 Mercer Island Farmers Market

Advance notification

Notification of the event was emailed to the project listserv on June 14, 2019, and posted on the project website under the “Project Update” section.



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Summary of feedback

The community outreach staff shared an overview of the project purpose, a project timeline and a project map highlighting the alignment of the sewer pipe. Overall, booth visitors responded positively to the project. Many visitors expressed interest about the construction along the I-90 Trail and wanted to know more about detour routes, duration and restoration plans. Many booth visitors had not heard about the project, but said that they were aware that a sewer upgrade was needed. Most questions received were about general project construction and restoration, I-90 Trail impacts and accessibility for people using bikes during construction.

Questions received during the event included:

Construction

When will construction start and when will it end?

Construction is expected to begin in 2021 and take approximately three years to complete.

How will this affect the I-90 bike trail?

There will be closures of the I-90 Trail in Mercer Island. Trail users will be detoured onto local streets. King County is working closely with the City of Mercer Island and Bellevue, Neighbors in Motion, Cascade Bicycle Club, and other I-90 Trail users to determine the best detour routes during construction.

How will you install the new pipe?

King County WTD will use several methods of construction, including open-trench construction, in-water construction and Horizontal Directional Drilling for the new pipe, and pipe rehabilitation for the segment of the Enatai Interceptor that will remain in service. Open-cut construction will be used in Mercer Island, with in-water construction for the segment of pipe that will span the East Channel of Lake Washington.

Horizontal Directional drilling is a trenchless method of pipe installation that uses a drill to create and enlarge a channel for the pipe, eventually allowing for the pipe to be pulled through. King County WTD will only use pipe rehabilitation from Enatai Beach Park to the Sweyolocken Pump Station. This will be in-water work done from barges along the shoreline.

How deep will the HDD drilling be?

The pipe will range from 95 to 140 feet deep.

Where does Mercer Island's wastewater flow get treated?

Mercer Island's wastewater gets treated at the King County South Treatment Plant located in Renton, Washington.



Project team member showing Mercer Island residents a map of the alignment



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Restoration

Residents who live along 78th Avenue S.E. stopped by the booth. They are aware of the project and expressed that they are unhappy with the restoration plans near their property. They said that the landscaping they have put on city right of way near their property line will not be restored by this project, but told the outreach team that they understood why that was the case.

Other Questions

Will part of the pipe be located underwater?

Yes, in the portion of the alignment where the pipe runs under I-90, the pipe will be installed at the bottom of Lake Washington.

Where does Mercer Island's water come from, and does this project risk contaminating it?

Drinking water is delivered to Mercer Island by Seattle Public Utilities. The source of drinking water comes primarily from two sources: the Cedar River Watershed and the Tolt River Watershed, both located in eastern King County.

The City of Mercer Island contracts with King County Wastewater Treatment for the transportation and treatment of sewage waste. The pipeline for this project carries wastewater from the North Mercer Island Pump Station to the Swaylocken Pump Station in Bellevue.

The project team is taking state required precautions as well as implementing best practices to keep the pipes separated.

Is the project funded?

Yes, the project is funded.

How will the pump stations be secured?

A portion of the pump stations will be fenced in, and facilities will be locked. The facilities include industrial doors with industrial locks, and all doors are installed with alarms that alert security to any unauthorized entry.

When treated water is not recycled, where does treated water discharge?

After the water is treated at the King County South Treatment Plant, the water is released back into the Puget Sound.

How do you pronounce Swaylocken? I've never even seen that word!

Swaylocken is pronounced "Sway-lock-en."