

## Bitter Lake Reservoir and Park Improvement Projects Community Engagement Summary | February 2024



Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR), the Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS), and the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) held a joint engagement period from February 2 - 26, 2024 to collect feedback on the updated reservoir designs, park design concepts, and public art themes.

- 361 people engaged with us at seven in-person project information tables
- 1,779 unique users visited our online open house which shared information on SPU's mid-design updates, SPR's three conceptual park designs, and ARTS's outreach progress
- 116 people responded to the survey with input on SPR's three conceptual park designs, SPU's reservoir viewpoint, and ARTS's public art theme ideas
- 253 people from nearby ethnic and faith-based communities engaged with Community Liaisons in Cantonese, Mandarin, Amharic, and Oromo
- The team collected additional insights through door-to-door outreach to neighbors adjacent to the Bitter Lake Reservoir, focus groups discussing the conceptual park designs, and in-person polling about public art themes
- 22 Bitter Lake businesses engaged

### Key themes

Neighbors prefer a site that:

- Is accessible for everyone by prioritizing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant paths and ramps as well as incorporating frequent seating options
- Maintains existing greenery and adds more by expanding the P-Patch community garden, planting trees for shade, planting native plants, and creating natural play areas
- Prioritizes year-round use by adding trees for shade, native plants for climate control, and sheltered areas for gathering and by creating a robust maintenance plan
- Considers how the design and construction will affect the growing neighborhood population, especially in terms of noise, safety, privacy, crime, and parking
- Activates the park space by creating park programming and including areas for multi-generational gathering, more benches and picnic tables, and expanded play areas for kids near the P-Patch community garden

### Survey results summary

- Open space and park design concepts: Out of the three conceptual designs, respondents rated the "Flow" concept the highest on average. Many preferred a combination of all three concepts that expands upon the existing P-Patch community garden and play area and adds new trees, plants, paths, and seating.
- Reservoir viewpoint features: The top choice for respondents was adding benches to the reservoir viewpoint.
- Public land art themes: Respondents expressed an equal preference for public art that represents the themes of local history and water cycles.

*Full engagement summary available upon request.*