

## Design Concept Preferences Feedback Summary

### Overview

From June 22 to July 15, King County gathered feedback from the community on preliminary design concepts for the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station. The County hosted an online open house, which included a survey. Efforts to gather survey responses from the community included:

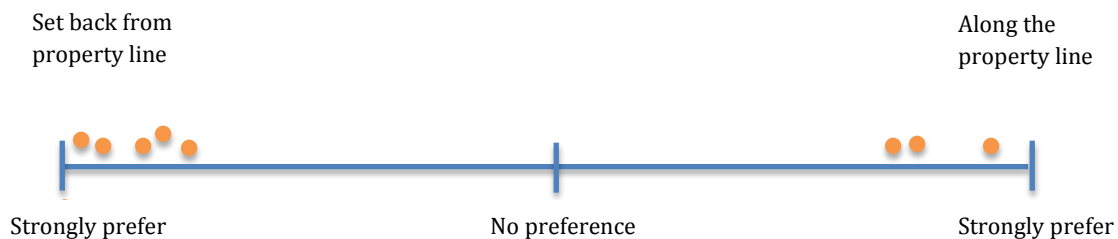
- Sharing email reminders with the Georgetown listserv
- Requesting that advisory group members share the online open house with their networks
- Distributing posters and business cards advertising the online open house in local businesses
- Gathering feedback through a survey dot exercise from the advisory group at Design Advisory Group Meeting #4, and from the community at community events (Georgetown Art Attack and Georgetown Garden Walk) and an in-person open house

### Methodology

The survey questions gathered preferences on preliminary design concepts (e.g., location of fences/walls, use of lighting, and potential building materials) using a scale (example below).

#### Example

**Question: Preference for location of fence/wall on Michigan Avenue?**



The project received 64 unique visitors to the online open house and 36 responses to the survey questions. The survey responses were received from the following outlets:

- 2 from the in-person open house
- 12 from the online open house
- 14 from community events (Garden Walk and Art Attack)
- 8 from the Design Advisory Group\*

\*Eight advisory group members responded to the design concept preferences, but it appears that some advisory group members emphasized their responses to certain questions by using more than one dot per question.

## Feedback Overview

The community and the advisory group indicated the following high level preferences.

- The facility should incorporate as much community accessible space as possible by setting the property line back.
- The facility can be a learning opportunity for the community – the inner workings should be visible where possible.
- The community and the advisory group indicated a slight preference for a modern industrial style, but there was no clear preference for how the facility should incorporate elements of translucent and metal materials.
- The community and the advisory group indicated a very strong preference for the use of lighting to indicate facility operation.
- The community and the advisory group have strong interest in a community meeting space to be used for various community meetings (e.g., Georgetown Community Council, Design Advisory Group).

## Detailed Feedback

The community and the advisory group shared the following design concept preferences for each question. *Please note that not all respondents answered every question.*

**Question 1: What is your preference for the location of the fence/wall on Michigan Avenue?** (29 total responses)

	Along the property line	No preference	Set back from the property line
<b>Community</b>	6 responses	2 responses	11 responses
<b>Advisory Group</b>	3 responses	0 responses	7 responses
<b>Total</b>	9 responses	2 responses	18 responses

**Question 2: What is your preference for visibility through the fence/wall?** (28 total responses)

	Open (visibility into the site)	No preference	Solid (low to no visibility into the site)
<b>Community</b>	17 responses	1 response	1 response
<b>Advisory Group</b>	9 responses	0 responses	0 responses
<b>Total</b>	26 responses	1 response	1 response

**Question 3: What is your preference for the exterior of the processing building? (25 total responses)**

	Modern industrial, translucent material	No preference	Conventional industrial, translucent material
Community	11 responses	0 responses	5 responses
Advisory Group	3 responses	1 response	4 responses
<b>Total</b>	14 responses	1 response	9 responses
	Modern industrial, metal	No preference	Conventional industrial, metal
Community	10 responses	2 responses	5 responses
Advisory Group	3 responses	2 responses	3 responses
<b>Total</b>	13 responses	4 responses	8 responses

**Question 4: What is your preference for the exterior of the operations building? (33 total responses)**

	Modern industrial	No preference	Conventional industrial
Community	13 responses	4 responses	8 responses
Advisory Group	4 responses	1 response	3 responses
<b>Total</b>	17 responses	5 responses	11 responses

**Question 5: What is your preference for the use of lighting to signify facility operation? (37 total responses)**

	Full illumination	No preference	No illumination
Community	19 responses	6 responses	3 responses
Advisory Group	9 responses	0 responses	0 responses
<b>Total</b>	28 responses	6 responses	3 responses

**Question 6: What is your interest in a community meeting space? (34 total responses)**

	High interest	No preference	Low interest
Community	17 responses	5 responses	3 responses
Advisory Group	7 responses	1 response	1 response
<b>Total</b>	24 responses	6 responses	4 responses

**Additional Comments**

The community and the advisory group shared the following additional comments to each question.

**Question 1: What is your preference for the location of the fence/wall on Michigan Avenue? (14 total comments)**

Additional comments for this question included interest in accessible community green space but concern for safety due to transients. Other comments suggested that more greenery would improve air quality. Regardless of where the property line goes, the comments suggest creating a buffer of trees between the facility and the street.

Additional comments received from the **community** are shown below (11 comments).

- *“Create a bus stop for #131 to Top Hat / Burien.”*
- *“Georgetown desperately needs more trees to filter air pollution and improve stormwater. Even though we will be separated from it, it will be more of an overall benefit.”*
- *“Having a little green space that people could enjoy would be nice.”*
- *“More trees help to filter air in our polluted Georgetown. It would be nice to still have public access to the green space, but it might not be possible with crime.”*
- *“Prefer the fence set back but concerned about transients. Keep the area open and well lit.”*
- *“Put up wooden chairs.”*
- *“Setting the fence/wall back will allow for a better transition from the street to the facility.”*
- *“The overall feel of the whole project will be improved if there is a 'buffer' between the building and the street.”*
- *“Want people to be able to walk among trees.”*
- *“We need as much greenery and walkability in Georgetown as we can get. Having a large green buffer that we can walk along and enjoy will greatly benefit the community.”*
- *“While I like the idea of more accessible green space, I worry that it would become magnet for homeless encampments.”*

Additional comments received from the **advisory group** are shown below (3 comments).

- *“More trees will help with air quality and reduce the number of transients.”*
- *“More, bigger mature trees.”*
- *“Public green space.”*

**Question 2: What is your preference for visibility through the fence/wall?** (11 total comments)

Additional comments for this question included interest in visibility into the site to allow for educational opportunities about the purpose of the facility. Other comments suggested that the facility should be open and unique to express Georgetown’s unique character and move away from the style of the closed, industrial buildings in the area.

Additional comments received from the **community** are shown below (9 comments).

- *“I think this openness will allow for the telling of the story of water and wastewater treatment.”*
- *“I’d like to see more green! I live in the neighborhood, drive by here every day on my commute, art and nature is important to me and my family.”*
- *“I liked how green Georgetown was when I was growing up.”*
- *“Looking at trees makes people relax. If the fence is set back, a more solid fence to separate from the buildings would be preferred.”*
- *“Something similar to the West Point Plant with terraced native plant areas would be nice.”*
- *“The building should include quirky, irregular triangles, like mountains with concrete walls that connect to the theme. Avoid flat concrete because it will be defaced.”*
- *“The fence should transition when you drive your car past; it should change from one thing into another.”*

- *“There are already many walled-in warehouse buildings in the area.”*
- *“We need more open space in Georgetown. We are tired of our space being walled off by giant industrial zones.”*

Additional comments received from the **advisory group** are shown below (2 comments).

- *“Meet the City of Seattle’s Green Factor (program) for commercial development.”*
- *“Open feels welcoming.”*

**Question 3: What is your preference for the exterior of the processing building?** (13 total comments)

Additional comments for this question included a desire to see unique buildings that fit into the character of the neighborhood. Some comments expressed interest in a conventional industrial style because it would be the most cost effective, and will age well in the community.

Additional comments received from the community are shown below (11 comments).

- *“Artful yet practical. Something nice to look at that represents environmental progress.”*
- *“Daylight part of it. Use the Ballard fish ladder window as inspiration. The South Seattle Transfer Station is also a good example. Cranks and sprockets should be visible. Steam punk inspired to signify the facility is on.”*
- *“Educate people about water and wastewater.”*
- *“How can you make it look like not just one big building? Include simple pictures that are Native American inspired on the concrete.”*
- *“I like conventional industrial, metal partly because it might be the most cost effective, saving money for the mitigations.”*
- *“I prefer it not look industrial.”*
- *“I prefer the open look. It will make the street feel more lived-in and make the building feel like it is part of the fabric of the larger community.”*
- *“I think you should consider the history of Georgetown by using materials that would age nicely and add to our historical hard working aesthetic.”*
- *“Let’s not build any more giant concrete boxes. Let’s add some art and character to the neighborhood!”*
- *“Modern design begins to look dated at a more rapid rate.”*
- *“Modern industrial, translucent material looks nicer and gives the area a new feel.”*

Additional comments received from the **advisory group** are shown below (2 comments).

- *“Daylighting helps with sustainable operation.”*
- *“Love the perforated metal – we could do the design of the original Duwamish in perforated iron, also light comes through nicely.”*

**Question 4: What is your preference for the exterior of the operations building?** (12 total comments)

Additional comments for this questions included various suggestions for ways to make the design “unique” industrial, while still maintaining a connection to the character of the neighborhood.

Additional comments received from the community are shown below (11 comments).

- *"I like both of these options but think for the public space a fun, well-lit option that plays with light would be fun."*
- *"I like brick!"*
- *"I suggest Mezzo-American or pre-Columbian style. You should use stone that is made to last. Create something that will still be here in 1000s of years."*
- *"I think that the conventional look fits the neighborhood more."*
- *"Link the design to the main building, making it 'different but similar'."*
- *"Neat to explore mixed heights; doesn't need to look like a hotel. Should be unique industrial."*
- *"NEITHER. Unique industrial."*
- *"Perhaps use sustainable, green architecture."*
- *"The brick, glass and metal structure in the example is a better match for the neighborhood."*
- *"We need nice buildings to look at. People are happier at work when they have a nice, safe place to go to work. It also enhances civic pride with employees and the surrounding community."*
- *"Will the space include parking for workers?"*

One additional comment received from the **advisory group** is shown below (1 comment).

- *"I like seeing into the operations building; the building would look so great with people in it."*

**Question 5: What is your preference for the use of lighting to signify facility operation?** (14 total comments)

Additional comments for this question included interest in engaging the community with lighting. Some comments indicated that lighting to signify facility operation could be an educational tool, while others thought that lighting might be distracting, expensive, and cause light pollution.

Additional comments received from the **community** are shown below (11 comments).

- *"Create something that really puts Georgetown on the map! Something iconic (such as a car monster or a big dinosaur)."*
- *"Full color is too disruptive, prefer white light."*
- *"Full illumination might not be as good as we think. More thought should be put into the architecture and design. Avoid creating an eyesore with a small piece of art in front."*
- *"Full illumination would create a crime deterrent."*
- *"I am not as excited about this illumination ideas as others seem to be."*
- *"I think lighting to indicate action would help people understand the process."*
- *"It'd be interesting to be able to actually tell when the facility is running."*
- *"Like seeing what's going on."*
- *"The operational seasons have short daylight hours."*
- *"There is no reason to spend money on lighting. Save it for landscaping and quality building materials."*

- *“Unless it is solar light or green fueled, we don’t need more light pollution.”*

Additional comments received from the **advisory group** are shown below (3 comments).

- *“Love light! Engage the area”*
- *“Solar.”*
- *“Use the flow of water from the plant to power mechanical and light art.”*

**Question 6: What is your interest in a community meeting space?** (16 total comments)

Additional comments about the use for a community meeting space included interest in using the space for community meetings, educational opportunities, and training. Other comments indicated that the South Seattle College already has adequate meeting space, or that while meeting space would be nice, another public space would be preferable (e.g., a park).

Additional comments received from the **community** are shown below (10 comments).

- *“Any club that the community attends could use the space (e.g., Toastmasters, kids club).”*
- *“Georgetown Community Council and Duwamish District meetings could be held here.”*
- *“Is there any opportunity to get on the roof? You could use a flat roof and get great views and create a rooftop park and event space.”*
- *“It is more important to show open space. Multi-purpose space would be nice but not essential. Mixed space that is already being used to train County employees that could also be used by the community would be okay. Would rather see money spent on open space.”*
- *“Make art! Neighborhood meetings! Give something back to Georgetown!”*
- *“Not needed – Seattle College has good spaces.”*
- *“Park area would be preferable”*
- *“Space could be used to show environmental issues, Duwamish education, schools, special training, etc.”*
- *“There are compatibility (olfactory) issues with sewage treatment and community meeting space.”*
- *“We need a place to have community council meetings, united artists of Georgetown meetings and maybe a community center.”*

Additional comments received from the **advisory group** are shown below (6 comments).

- *“Community groups could use the space (art, garden, social).”*
- *“Could be used for a local health food training.”*
- *“Could be used for classes!”*
- *“Educational opportunities; we need a new location for community meetings (GCC); DAG needs meeting space.”*
- *“Office spaces, incubator business, co-working, shared kitchen space for food businesses, art spaces/trades.”*
- *“We need to identify a partner to help run/lease a shared office or incubator meeting space.”*

## Additional Feedback

Visitors to the online open house also submitted 7 comment forms. Comments included additional requests for information such as questions about the project site and business relocation. In addition, some comments further expressed desire in a public meeting space. Other comments appreciated the opportunity for public comment. Comments received are shown below.

- *“I still don't understand the site selected. Why are you using eminent domain to close several existing retail & restaurant businesses when there is a huge, unused lot open and available for lease right next door? It seems like the cost/benefit of leaving the existing businesses (and incurring less cost in buying the land) by building on the vacant lot instead would more than offset the extra 20 feet of sewer piping it would take to route into the site next door. This choice makes doesn't make sense to me and I have not heard an explanation.”*
- *“Please add me to mailing list. Thank you.”*
- *“Please make future surveys mobile friendly, you will probably get more responses that way.”*
- *“Since my business will be impacted, I would like to know when the project will be in full force. What is the value that was determined for the loss of business?”*
- *“Thanks for seeking public comment. I am a resident near this area and I hope the project can improve the Duwamish.”*
- *“The fence should be set back from property line. I have no opinion about the art. My most important feedback is that the structure should include a public meeting space for Georgetown to use.”*
- *“The location of the site is unfortunate, in that it will take out three businesses. It seems like a better location would be to the southwest of the intersection, closer to pipes and with less impact to active businesses that are accessed by the public on a regular basis.”*