



## NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI Sewer Upgrade Project

### Mercer Island Farmers Market Summer Tabling Events

**Dates:** Sunday, June 19, July 17, August 21

**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM

**Location:** near Mercerdale Park on SE 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Mercer Island, WA, 98040

### Attendance

**June 19:** 40 people

**July 17:** 85 people

**August 21:** 90 people

The North Mercer Project team spoke with approximately 220 people, most of whom live on Mercer Island.

### Event Purpose

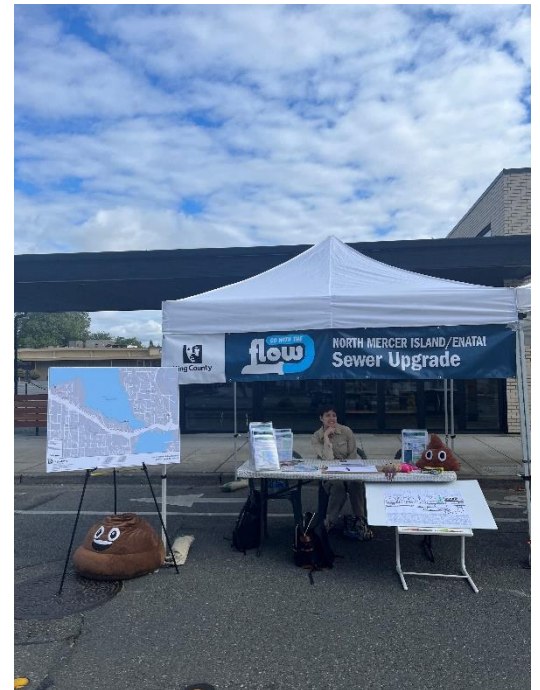
The Mercer Island Farmers Market provided a unique opportunity to reach many Mercer Island residents at a community event. The King County Wastewater Treatment Division community relations team hosted a booth to share information and answer questions about the North Mercer Enatai sewer upgrade project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

### Booth Format

The project staff set up a tent and table displaying plush microbe toys, boards with maps of the project alignment, and a community coloring sheet for children. The project team handed out the latest project updates, informational fact sheets on relevant topics, and hotline cards. Staff encouraged booth visitors to sign-up for the general or area-specific email listserv to receive timely project updates.

### Advance notification

The event notification was emailed to the project listserv and the status box on the project webpage was updated before each Farmers Market.



*Community Relations staff in front of Mercer Island Farmers Market Tent*



Coloring sheet colored in with booth visitors

## Summary of feedback

The community outreach staff shared an overview of the project purpose and sewer alignment, a project timeline, and a map showing the wastewater network within King County.

Overall, visitors responded positively to the project and understood the need for the sewer upgrade. Most people understood the project due to outreach efforts, and some said they had been receiving project mailings. Most questions were regarding :

- project construction
- tree removal
- restoration plans
- impacts on the I-90 Trail and private property
- what would happen to the existing pipeline.

Questions received during the event included:

### *When will construction end?*

Construction began in the spring of 2022 and will take approximately four years to complete. Depending on the contractor's schedule and other factors, crews will be in and out of different areas, spending about 8-12 months in each area.

### *Why have trees been removed? Why is tree removal necessary?*

Arborists working with our team recommend trees for removal when irreparable damage may be caused to the tree's roots. Significant tree root damage compromises the structural integrity of the trees. With a compromised structure, trees can become weak, die, and eventually fall, posing a public safety risk. Most of the trees to be removed are young and less than 16 inches in diameter.

### *Will you be replanting Douglas firs on Mercer Island?*

Our tree planting process will include a wide variety of species, including conifers and broadleaf trees. As Douglas firs are native to Mercer Island, they will be considered in the tree planting process. For more information, check out our [plan for trees factsheet](#).

### *What is the plan to restore trees?*

For more information, check out our [plan for trees factsheet](#). Many new trees will be planted in areas where trees are removed. However, due to the widening of the I-90 trail, this is only sometimes possible. Additional trees will be planted in areas around the island that currently lack the tree canopy. King County will plant a wide variety of species, improve soil conditions, and install irrigation.

### *Why couldn't the construction team bury the new sewer line underneath the I-90 trail and leave the trees alone?*

Locating a new underground sewer line in a dense urban environment is complex due to existing buried utilities, adjacent infrastructure, and the need for new pipes to function effectively. Furthermore, tree roots extend underneath the trail in most locations. We will need to remove trees from active construction areas so they do not pose a public safety risk during or after construction.

#### *What construction is currently happening on N Mercer Way?*

Sound Transit is currently working on North Mercer Way near the Mercer Park and Ride. The sewer upgrade project will be laying pipe underneath North Mercer Way between the Park and Ride and Island Crest Way in early 2023.

#### *Will part of the pipe be located underwater?*

Yes, a portion of the pipe will be installed at the bottom of Lake Washington across the East Channel. To learn more, read our factsheet about the [Mercer Island Boat Launch and work across the East Channel of Lake Washington](#).

#### *Why is the new pipe not following the same alignment as the existing pipe?*

The existing pipe was installed nearly 50 years ago. Back then, the island had a lower population and less traffic, and there were different environmental rules. The new pipe will stay out of the water as much as possible to limit the impact on sensitive environmental areas in and around Lake Washington.

#### *What will happen to the existing pipeline? Will it be removed?*

No, it would be more damaging to the ecosystem of Lake Washington to remove the existing pipeline. It will be decommissioned and remain in the lake for the time being.

#### *Will you be closing any roads?*

Roads may be temporarily closed or inaccessible due to construction equipment moving or other impacts. We will notify residents of any closures in advance.

#### *When will my road be impacted?*

We will send updates to residents directly impacted by construction in advance of work beginning. The best way to stay up to date on the project is to sign up for general and area-specific email updates on our website.