

2/10/2023

Seattle Public Utilities

Options Analysis Survey Findings

Chief Seattle Trail Green Stormwater
Infrastructure

Presented by



Table of Contents

Background.....	2
Respondent Characteristics.....	3
Trail Mode Preferences.....	3
Trail Use Frequency.....	3
Community Benefit Features.....	4
Important Community Benefits.....	4
Public Art Preferences.....	4
Landscaping Preferences.....	5
Options Preferences.....	5
Results Synthesis.....	6
Demographic Information.....	7

Background

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) plans to build new [green stormwater infrastructure](#) at the intersection of S Kenyon St and the Chief Sealth Trail to manage stormwater runoff in the Othello neighborhood. This project will be a green space that uses special soils and deep-rooted plants to temporarily hold and filter stormwater. There will also be opportunities to incorporate art, open space, and other identified community benefits.

This project is in partnership with Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and their [Safe Routes to School program](#). SDOT will build a new sidewalk in this location as early as the spring of 2023; after SDOT completes their project, SPU will install the green stormwater infrastructure as early as 2024.

In January 2023, SPU engaged with the Othello community about how this future project can incorporate community priorities and local insights. Engagement included:

- Online survey available in Chinese, English, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese
- Mailed postcards to area residents (containing translated material)
- Street signs (containing translated material) placed throughout the Chief Sealth Trail corridor near S Kenyon St
- Partnerships with Wing Luke Elementary PTO and the New Holly Housing Authority.
- Attendance and pop-up presentations at community events

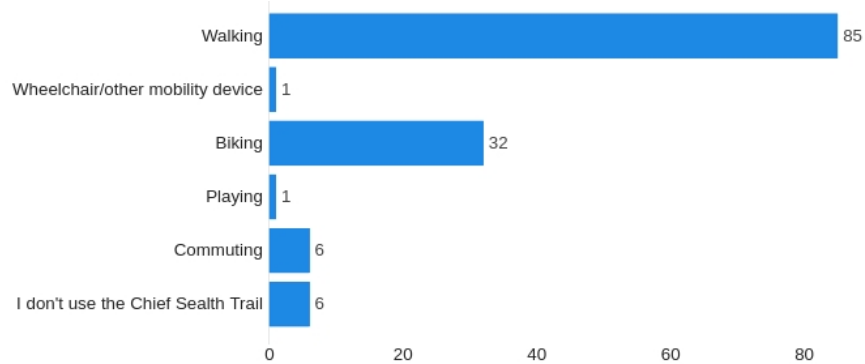
Between January 3rd and January 31st, 2023, we received 141 survey responses. Key findings generally aligned across all engagement activities, including survey responses (which are documented in-depth below). For more information and project updates, visit SPU's [project website](#), sign up for the [project listserv](#), or contact the SPU project manager at Thomas.Hoque@seattle.gov.

Respondent Characteristics

The survey asked two preliminary questions to gather information about the respondents' relationship with the Chief Sealth Trail and the surrounding area.

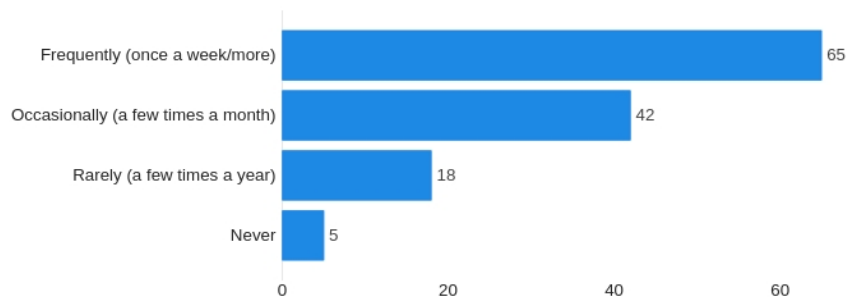
Trail Mode Preferences

Respondents were first asked how they typically use the Chief Sealth Trail and/or S Kenyon St. 65% (85) of respondents indicated that they use the area for walking, which was a clear characteristic of this population. The second most selected mode was biking, which was selected by 25% (32) of respondents.



Trail Use Frequency

Respondents were then asked how often they use the Chief Sealth Trail/surrounding project area. 50% (65) of respondents reported using the area once a week or more, and 32% (42) of respondents use the area at least a few times a month, suggesting that our survey population are regular users of the project space.

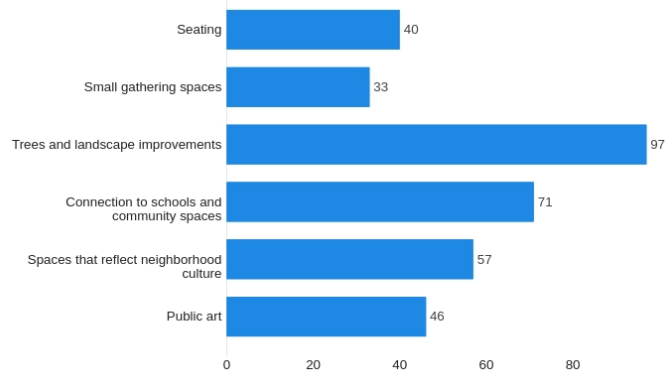


Community Benefit Features

The survey asked four key questions to gather information about what community benefits and site features were most appealing to the community. These results will help shape SPU's option selection and project design.

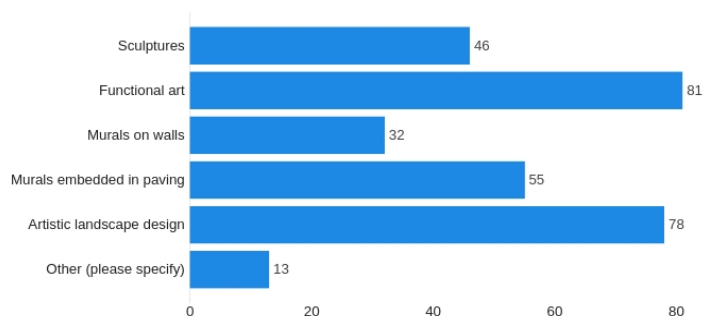
Important Community Benefits

When asked which community benefits are important at the project site (multiple selections allowed), there were a variety of priorities reflected in the survey data. The top preferences (78% of respondents selected trees/landscape improvements and 55% of respondents selected connection to schools/community spaces) are strongly aligned with this project's intended outcomes. Seating and small gathering spaces were relatively less popular (31% and 25% of respondents, respectively).



Public Art Preferences

Public art was also a somewhat neutral preference in the responses above. When further asked about what kinds of artistic elements should be incorporated into the site (multiple selections allowed), respondents indicated a clear preference for functional art (63% of respondents) and artistic landscape design (61% of respondents). This suggests that users value a functional space and art incorporated into other elements of the project design rather than a stand-out artistic component of the site.

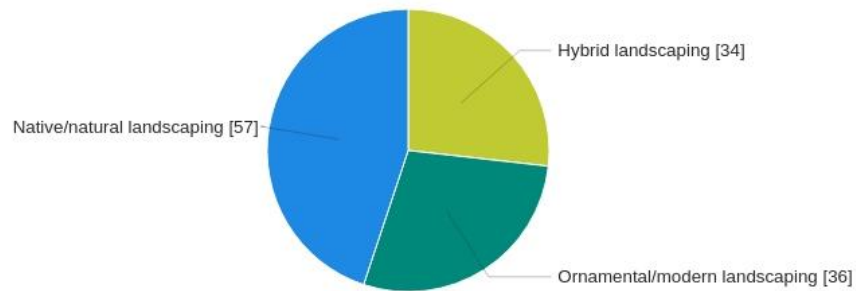


Landscaping Preferences

Respondents were presented with three potential design styles for green stormwater infrastructure at this site: native landscaping (below, left), ornamental/modern landscaping (below, middle), and a hybrid landscaping option (below, right).



There was a clear preference for native landscaping (45%, 57 respondents).

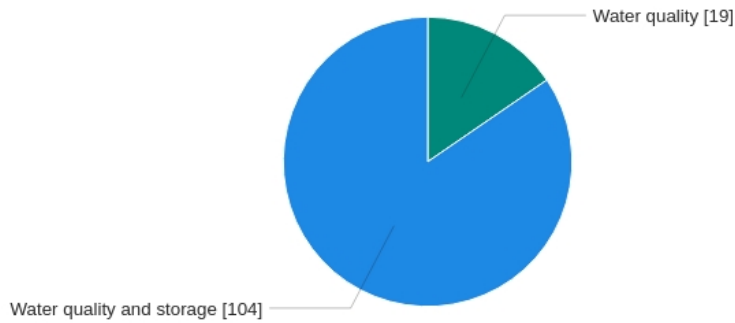


Options Preferences

Respondents were presented with two renderings of possible project options: one with water quality improvement features (below, left) and one with both water quality improvement features and increased storage potential (below, right).



There was a strong preference for the water quality and additional storage capacity option, with 73% (104) of respondents choosing this option.



Results Synthesis

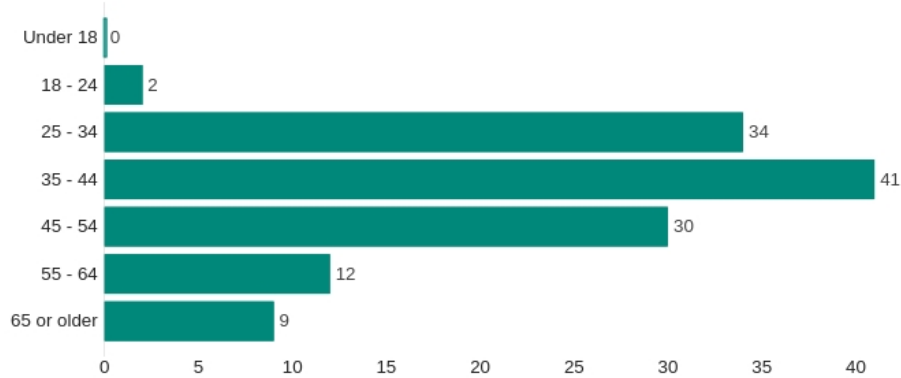
This community feedback is strongly aligned with SPU's vision for this project. The responses highlighted a clear use case for frequent trail walking as a means for connection to schools and other community spaces.

We heard that trees and landscaping improvements are among the most important community benefits within SPU's project scope and that maintaining a natural landscaping style is strongly preferred. We also heard that artistic components should be weaved into the project design, potentially in the form of artistic landscape design or other functional artistic elements. There was also a clear preference for the water quality/increased storage option, which visually included stairs, vibrant greenery, and a slightly bigger project footprint.

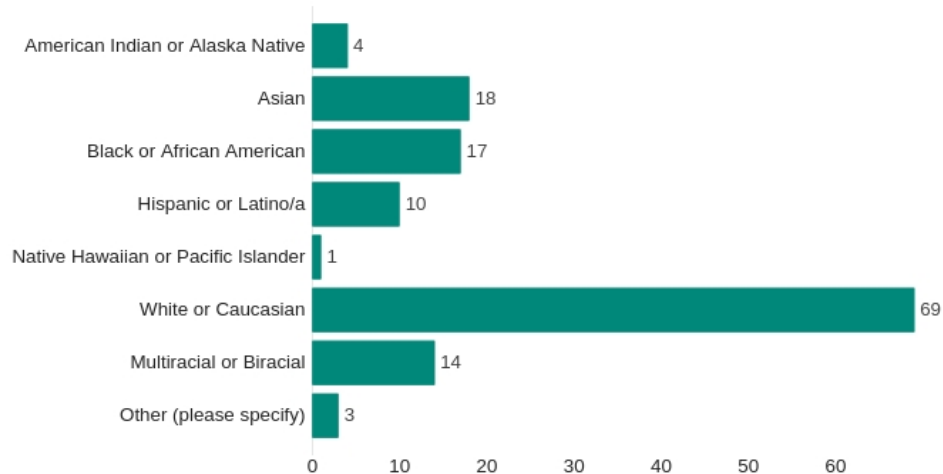
We also heard from the community about other important issues and needs in this area, including installing speed bumps on the hill connecting Kenyon Way S and 39th Ave S and incorporating waste disposal into the area.

Demographic Information

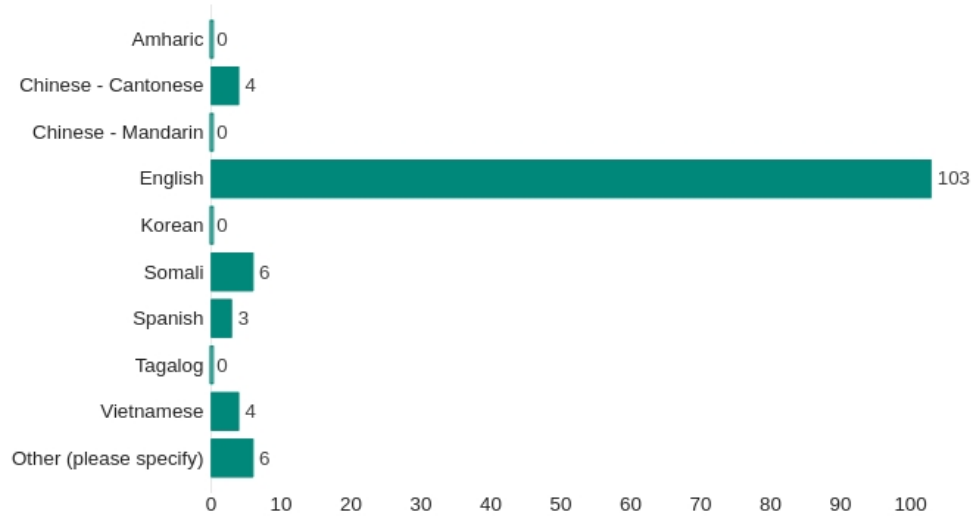
Respondents ranged from 18 to older than 65. The most common age range was 35 – 44 (32%, 41 respondents) and 25 – 34 (26%, 34 respondents). The survey was promoted through the Wing Luke Elementary PTO network, but we did not receive any responses from individuals under 18.



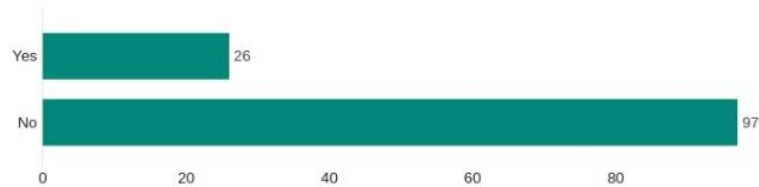
Respondents predominately identified as White (56%, 69 respondents). The next three most selected ethnicities were Asian (15%, 18 respondents), Black (12%, 17 respondents), and Multiracial/Biracial (11%, 14 respondents). The write-in ethnicities were Jewish.



Respondents overwhelmingly selected English as the primary language spoken in their household (82%, 103 respondents). The other more commonly selected choices were Somali (4%), Chinese (3%), and Vietnamese (3%). This aligns with our translated survey options. The write-in languages were Oromo, Serbian, Lakota, and French.



Most respondents (78%, 97 respondents) did not indicate that anyone in their household experiences impaired vision, hearing, or mobility.



The majority of respondents (49%, 62 respondents) indicated that they owned property in the Othello neighborhood. 30% (38) of respondents indicated that they neither rented nor owned, suggesting that they are in the area for trail use but live elsewhere.

