



2023 Outreach Summary

Construction Community Outreach and Communications Plan for Lower Duwamish Waterway Upper Reach

In the spring and summer of 2023, the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG) developed a draft construction Community Outreach and Communications Plan (COCP). The draft COCP detailed community priorities and how LDWG plans to communicate with the public during sediment cleanup construction in the upper reach of the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW), scheduled to begin in fall 2024.

To develop the COCP, LDWG took past feedback from community members, EPA's LDW Roundtable, and interested groups on previous Duwamish Waterway projects and/or studies and incorporated it into the draft COCP. LDWG then conducted a variety of outreach activities, described below, and collected new feedback from the community on elements of the draft COCP. The new community feedback is now captured in the COCP as part of the 100% remedial design for the upper reach. **The COCP can be found on LDWG.org.**

Below is a summary of LDWG's 2023 community outreach efforts during the development of the draft COCP.

Goals of Outreach

- Identify what matters most to the community during sediment cleanup to inform and advance the COCP and a future plan called the Community Impacts Mitigation Plan. Understanding community concerns about cleanup construction will help LDWG plan to reduce impacts, where possible, on the community during construction – these “mitigation strategies” will be outlined in the forthcoming Community Impacts Mitigation Plan.
- Understand the ways Duwamish Valley communities prefer to receive construction communications and communicate their concerns to LDWG during construction.
- Provide the community with information about sediment cleanup construction and how it relates to greater LDW Superfund cleanup efforts.

Summary of Outreach Efforts

1. Hosted online in-language survey

LDWG developed an online survey to collect feedback about community preferences for communications during construction and concerns regarding construction impacts. The survey was available in English, Spanish, Khmer, and Vietnamese from Aug. 1 to Sept. 15. You can read a summary of the survey results in Appendix A.

2. Attended community events in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

LDWG's outreach team attended eight community events between May and August in 2023. These efforts reached more than 230 people. In coordination with EPA, we advertised the community survey, had copies of the COCP summary available in multiple languages, and provided handouts in a variety of languages.

3. Held informal interviews with community-based organizations and businesses

In the spring, LDWG held four informal conversations with businesses and community-based organizations. During these conversations, the outreach team asked about their priorities for cleanup construction and ways they prefer to receive updates during construction.

4. Sent a mailer to the South Park and Georgetown communities

LDWG sent a mailer to about 1,300 addresses (residents and businesses) within the local area including South Park and Georgetown communities to advertise the survey. This mailer was available in four languages (Spanish, Khmer, Vietnamese, and English). The mailing area is available in Appendix C.

5. Distributed multi-language flyers at community locations

To reach community members during their daily routines, LDWG distributed flyers to businesses, community centers, places of worship, and libraries in South Park. The flyer described the COCP and directed audiences to the ldwg.org website to take the survey.

6. Sent emails to neighbors, organizations, and businesses

LDWG sent an introductory and follow-up email to 88 interested parties including information about the cleanup of the upper reach and the survey opportunity.

7. Hosted LDWG boat tour

LDWG hosted a free two-hour Duwamish River boat tour on Saturday, Aug. 26. The vessel welcomed 125 community members of all ages. Guests mingled and interacted with agency and partner organizations to learn about Duwamish Waterway cleanup

efforts. Copies of the COCP summary and the survey were available on the boat tour, and interpreters were on hand to provide interpretation in Spanish, Khmer, and Vietnamese.

Key Community Concerns and Priorities

The COCP includes community concerns and priorities for cleanup construction. The COCP reflects robust input provided by the community in previous outreach efforts and through the engagement conducted in 2023 (listed above). *Please refer to Appendix A below to see detailed survey results.*

Environmental Concerns

Numerous environmental concerns came up during outreach. A frequent concern is related to the potential for contamination of habitat and recreation sites along the LDW during cleanup construction, and recontamination of the river after the cleanup occurs.

Community feedback resoundingly communicates the desire for the project team to ensure that contaminated sediment is properly contained and managed to prevent spills or releases that could impact habitat and recreation sites along the waterway.

The community also notes concerns about less access to green space compared to other areas in Seattle and would prefer to maintain access during construction. Community members suggest that the project team work to address local issues related to climate change in the cleanup design if possible.

Key Engagement and Communication Themes

In addition to understanding community concerns and priorities, LDWG conducted an online survey to understand the best way to engage and communicate with the public during cleanup construction. Key themes are reflected below. *Please refer to Appendix A to see detailed survey results.*

Fishing Community and River Access

Community feedback suggests that the most effective outreach method for engaging with the fishing community and addressing river access concerns involves in-person outreach with interpretation services available. Educational signage at parks with river access is identified as a valuable tool for providing information, particularly for individuals without internet access. This reflects a desire within the community for informative visuals in these locations.

Construction Notifications

The community indicates the need for ample advance notice for night work and transparent communication of cleanup details. The community requests specific project information, including the exact location, dates, and hours of construction operations. These notifications are particularly important when traffic is going to be impacted. There is a suggestion to provide a

real-time map showing the movement and direction of the barges involved in the construction effort.

Communications Tools

The community's preferred communication tools prioritize ease of access to information. Email and newsletter updates emerged as the top choices for communication. Community members also favor traditional mail. They express an interest in educational signage at public waterway access points and parks, as well as the distribution of flyers in community hubs.

Community members recommend that the project team provide materials to organizations for distribution and suggested that LDWG actively participate in community events and regular meetings with community-based organizations (Environmental Coalition of South Seattle, Georgetown Community Council and South Park Neighborhood Association were mentioned). Additionally, the community suggests using existing blogs (e.g., the West Seattle Blog), news channels (e.g., South Park news channels), social media groups (e.g., Yahoo Listservs), and newsletters from community and recreational organizations as means of communication.

Coordination with Other Groups or Projects

The community expresses an interest in LDWG maintaining close coordination with other groups and cleanup projects. This includes ongoing discussions with other capital projects and the City of Seattle's active involvement in planning for new spaces.

Many community members suggest LDWG keep in close communication with the Duwamish Tribe, the Duwamish River Community Coalition, the Concord Elementary Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and the Duwamish Valley Resilience District.

Next Steps

The project team submitted a draft COCP to the EPA in July 2023 as part of the 90% remedial design package for the LDW upper reach cleanup. LDWG revised the draft COCP based on community feedback and EPA comments. The revised draft was submitted to EPA in December as part of the 100% remedial design package for the cleanup.

The COCP will guide the communications during construction. Construction communications will begin prior to the start of construction in fall 2024. The COCP will be updated if new information becomes available once the construction contractor is hired or based on lessons learned after the first season of construction.

Community feedback will also inform a separate Community Impacts Mitigation Plan. This plan will present the actions the project team will take during construction to reduce impacts, where possible, to the community (e.g., residents, businesses, fishers, waterway users) from the cleanup construction activities. The project team will develop the Community Impacts Mitigation Plan prior to the start of construction.

APPENDIX A – SURVEY SUMMARY

The survey was open from Aug. 1 to Sept. 15, 2023, and was available in English, Spanish, Khmer, and Vietnamese. Below is a summary of data from the survey.

Question 1: What is your level of interest in the Lower Duwamish Waterway cleanup? (Select one)

Total responses: 21

Level of Interest	Count
High	19
Minimal	2
None	0

Ninety percent of respondents had a high interest in the Lower Duwamish Waterway cleanup, 10% of respondents had minimal interest in the cleanup.

Question 2: Please tell us on a scale from 1 – 5, with 1 being the least concerning and 5 being most concerning, how concerned you are about the following impacting you or your community?

Total responses: 23

Anticipated Community Impacts	Weighted Average
Noise	2.78
Truck Activity	3.09
Odors	2.82
Artificial Lighting	2.18
Additional vessels and machinery in the waterway	2.81
Restricted access in the waterway around the area where construction equipment will be working	3.05

Higher weighted average means most concerning anticipated impacts and lower weighted average means least concerning impacts.

Respondents indicated truck activity and restricted access in the waterway as the most concerning impacts. The least concerning impact was artificial lighting. Respondents were also given the opportunity to answer the question below.

Other impacts or concerns related to cleanup construction: (Write in)

Total responses: 8

- One comment noted concerns regarding access to local marinas and impacts on liveaboards.
- One comment mentioned concerns regarding continued contamination to the upper reach of the LDW from Hamm Creek’s storm drain outfall pipe.
- Two comments noted concerns regarding the spread of pollutants while dredging, including sediment resuspension and improper containment during extraction and transport.
- Numerous comments noted suggestions for spreading information about the project, including the burden of seeking information and increasing the outreach area to include West Seattle.
- One comment noted concerns regarding the impact on local wildlife populations.
- One comment expressed concern about the increased traffic and parking in the project area.
- One comment noted that the cleanup project is taking too long.

Question 3: Tell us more about your concerns: (Write in)

Total responses: 12

- Numerous respondents provided suggestions on how and with whom the project team should continue their communication through the construction project.
 - One comment suggested implementing “push” notifications for construction impacts.
 - One comment suggested communicating with and involving the tribes and West Seattle.
- Numerous respondents noted concerns about how the construction project and schedule will affect recreational use of the Duwamish River.
 - One comment noted concerns regarding continued small boat access on the Duwamish River.
 - One comment noted a desire for public access to the waterfront to be maintained during construction as much as possible.
- Numerous respondents noted concerns on the potential for continued pollution of mishandled toxins from the remediation process.
- One comment noted a concern about the ongoing pollution at the Hamm Creek outfall pipe.

Question 4: A majority of the construction activities will take place within the waterway. However, we'd like to know if there are events or activities that take place in your community that might be affected by construction activities. For example, are there any gatherings, festivals, or other events that take place between October to February in or along the river that we should know about? What else should we know? (Write in)

Total responses: 4

- One comment noted that the Duwamish Rowing Club's season is from February to Oct. 31.
- One respondent requested continued access to the Duwamish riverfront due to the lack of public parks, noting that the river serves as the community's connection to nature and healthy outdoor space. This respondent requested that the project team consider increasing accessibility to Westcrest Park to offset the loss of any outdoor space during construction.
- One comment mentioned that the salmon run that happens each year on the Duwamish River is the busiest time at this part of the river.

Question 5: How do you prefer to receive updates and information about cleanup construction? (Select all that apply)

Total responses: 16

Communications Method	Count
Electronic newsletter updates	11
Mail	9
Informational signage at points of public waterway access or parks	7
Flyers or notices posted in public locations and community hubs	6
Social media	5
Project websites	5
From trusted community organizations	4
Local media outlets (newspapers, radio shows, etc.)	3
Other (write in)	3

Over half of respondents noted that they preferred to receive construction communications via electronic newsletters (61%) and via mail (56%). Forty-four percent of respondents preferred informational signage, and 38% preferred seeing flyers in public locations or community hubs.

Respondents who replied "Other" noted:

- Suggestion to post information at marinas on the waterway.
- The community center will be closed, so they prefer flyers at cafes and restaurants nearby.
- A preference for receiving emails secondhand or forwarded.

Question 6: Do you have any other questions or concerns about construction activities and impacts that you would like the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group to consider? (Write in)

Total responses: 6

- One comment supported the project and effort to accommodate the neighboring residents and communities.
- Several comments indicated concerns about the project timeline and the impact on recreational use due to sporadic construction schedules.
 - One comment asked for additional communication during the project construction.
- A few comments indicated concerns on the construction impact to the neighboring community.
 - One respondent was concerned about construction impacting public parking within the neighboring communities.
 - One respondent was concerned about barge movement on the Duwamish River and the impact to recreational users on the Duwamish River.
- One comment highlighted the need for additional planning and construction to address long-term climate resiliency, such as the potential for increased extreme weather.

Question 7: Are you interested in receiving more information about the project's construction updates? If yes, please provide your email address below.

Total responses: 14

Responses are withheld due to personal information.

Question 8: What languages do you speak at home? (Select all that apply)

Total responses: 17

One respondent noted speaking Northern Arapaho. All other respondents reported speaking English.

Question 9: What is your zip code? (Write in)

Total responses: 18

Zip Code	Count
98108	14
98126	1
98118	1
98106	1
98122	1

14 respondents (77%) came from the 98108 zip code, with 98126, 98118, 98106, and 98122 zip codes producing one respondent each.

APPENDIX B – Summary of Events

1. Events in Coordination with EPA

Events in Coordination with EPA Summary Table				
Date	Event	Event Type	Est. Participants	Notes
May 3, 2023	EPA's Seafood Consumption Institutional Control Meeting	Online, internal	8	<p>LDWG representatives joined the regular Seafood Consumption Institutional Controls meeting to discuss how the Public Health – Seattle, King County's Community Health Advocates (CHAs), and LDWG would like to work together and best ways to reach the fishing community.</p> <p>Key takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person outreach with interpretation services is the best method to reach the fishing community. • Peer-to-peer education is important to this community. • EPA has heard that signage is also a great tool to educate the fishing community. • Educate CHAs about construction that is occurring in the LDW.
May 25, 2023	Duwamish River Community Coalition (DRCC) Meeting with EPA	Online coordination meeting	10	<p>Representatives from the City of Seattle and LDWG outreach team joined a regular coordination meeting between EPA and DRCC to provide advance notification of the opportunity to provide feedback to the draft COCP and overall project timeline.</p>
June 10, 2023	Free Fishing Weekend	In-person, flyering	4	<p>A representative from the LDWG outreach team went to Duwamish River People's Park and Shoreline Habitat to conduct in-person outreach to fishers during Free Fishing Weekend. While the rain and tidal conditions were not ideal for fishing or outreach, the representative connected with four individuals and received the comments and feedback below.</p> <p>Key takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One community member asked about the plan to decontaminate trucks hauling toxic sediment to the disposal site and if the sediment would impact nearby marshes and

				<p>riverbank improvements at People’s Park. That person also asked if there were going to be changes to the fishing and catch guidelines as currently shown on signage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another community member was curious if there was a possibility to dredge and deepen the river to address flooding. They also suggested we communicate with the Duwamish Tribe.
June 13, 2023	South Park Neighborhood Association (SPNA) Meeting	In-person, public presentation	30	<p>LDWG representatives attended the regular SPNA meeting. SPNA is a community membership organization that gives voice to residents of South Park.</p> <p>Key takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise is already a large issue in South Park, particularly at night. Any additional noise would be compounding. Children are already having problems sleeping through the night (and are anecdotally falling asleep in class), due to nighttime noise. • The community emphasizes the need for ample advance notice for night work. • Access to project information, including exact cleanup locations, dates, and hours of operation, is desired. The community suggests a real-time map for tracking barge movements. • Educational visuals in parks were suggested to cater to those without internet access. • Preserving access to traditional recreational activities and uses is important to the community. • There is a general interest in understanding how the project relates to other cleanup initiatives, particularly Jorgensen Forge. • There is an interest in resources/informational materials to give the community members the opportunity to share them.

June 26, 2023	Georgetown Community Council (GCC) Meeting	In-person, public presentation	40	<p>LDWG representatives joined the regular GCC meeting to inform the community about the upcoming release of the draft COCP, opportunities for community feedback and upcoming cleanup construction.</p> <p>Key takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members communicated a desire for an emergency plan for spilled sediment. • The community noted concerns regarding construction staging materials impacting traffic and access to nearby properties. There were questions regarding whether the community has any say or feedback in the staging areas.
July 18, 2023	El Mercadito Farmers Market (South Park)	In-person, tabling	46	<p>LDWG and EPA representatives partnered to host a table at El Mercadito Farmers Market in South Park. This table featured educational activities that were a great way to connect with families.</p> <p>Key takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities at El Mercadito preferred speaking Spanish. • The project team connected with nearby businesses, local vendors, community-based organizations, and numerous city departments who were tabling at the event. • One community member noted information can be overwhelming related to Duwamish cleanup projects.
Aug. 1, 2023	Lower Duwamish Waterway EPA Roundtable	Online, public presentation	78	<p>LDWG representatives presented at the EPA Roundtable about the draft COCP, opportunities for community feedback and upcoming cleanup construction. The Lower Duwamish Waterway EPA Roundtable is a forum for those affected by the cleanup of the LDW Superfund site to make recommendations to the EPA during the design and construction of the cleanup.</p>
Aug. 5, 2023	Duwamish River Festival	In-person, tabling	140	<p>LDWG and EPA representatives hosted a shared booth at the Duwamish River Festival. The festival is hosted by the Duwamish River Community Coalition, together with the South Park and Georgetown communities and supported by many partners. The event brings communities together to celebrate diversity and the cleanup and restoration of the Duwamish River.</p>

			<p>The LDWG team’s goals for outreach at the event were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Outreach and Communications Plan (COCP): To educate the community about the COCP and encourage community members to take our survey and provide feedback about the plan. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Materials:</i> Project staff brought COCP survey handouts, a signup sheet for LDWG email updates, and an iPad to encourage in-person participation in the COCP survey. 2. Boat tour: To advertise LDWG’s annual free boat tour and to register up to 50 participants at the festival. <p>The LDWG partners were also exhibitors (King County, City of Seattle, and Boeing) and had handouts for the COCP and boat tour to promote at their individual booths.</p> <p>Event participants: LDWG representatives communicated directly with 140 participants at Duwamish River Fest. Nearly 25 signed up for email communications, and the team distributed 45 boat tour tickets.</p> <p>Key takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One attendee asked how LDWG is taking environmental justice into consideration in cleanup design. • One attendee asked where the sediment is being brought after it’s removed from the river. • One attendee asked if the whole cleanup (upper, middle, and lower reaches) is fully funded. • There was general interest in hosting the boat tour more than once per year.
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2. Community-based Organization Interviews

In spring 2023, LDWG representatives held four informal community interviews with businesses and organizations. The notes below are not attributed to individuals or organizations and reflect general themes across all conversations.

Cleanup construction general concerns:

- Construction months of October through February are not a concern.
- There are concerns related to impacts on people living at nearby marinas (i.e., liveaboards). Liveaboard members form a small, quiet, year-round community, including families with young children. The community is concerned about nighttime construction affecting liveaboards, particularly regarding noise, light, and wake (water movement, waves).
- There are concerns about river traffic (from cleanup) impacting the navigation of other vessels.
- One party has concerns regarding a nearby storm drain which deposits contaminated silt in a basin. They would like to work with a public agency to address this.
- There are concerns about the cleanup's impact on native fishing, which happens September through December yearly. Tribes have fishing nets across the river and boats are unable to pass during this time.
- A key concern is regarding traffic impacting local business. It is important not to close the South Park Bridge and to reduce traffic on East Marginal Way. This party is interested in the details about traffic routes.
- There is a request to maintain access to the boat ramp under First Avenue South Bridge. While access is already limited due to encampments in the area, this boat ramp is used by some community members.
- There are specific concerns related to sediment transport including ensuring the sediment is isolated during each transfer, the destination path for the contaminated material, and the proper cleaning of wheels, load covering, and spillage prevention on highways. This party noted concerns regarding attention to the whole haul route, not just the work area, to prevent contamination tracking.
- There are some concerns regarding how shores could be contaminated during construction, as they launch boats from within the construction area.
- There is a request to provide transparency for the plan to prevent contamination during dredging and access to information regarding staging areas and barge positioning.

Suggested Communications Channels for Cleanup Construction

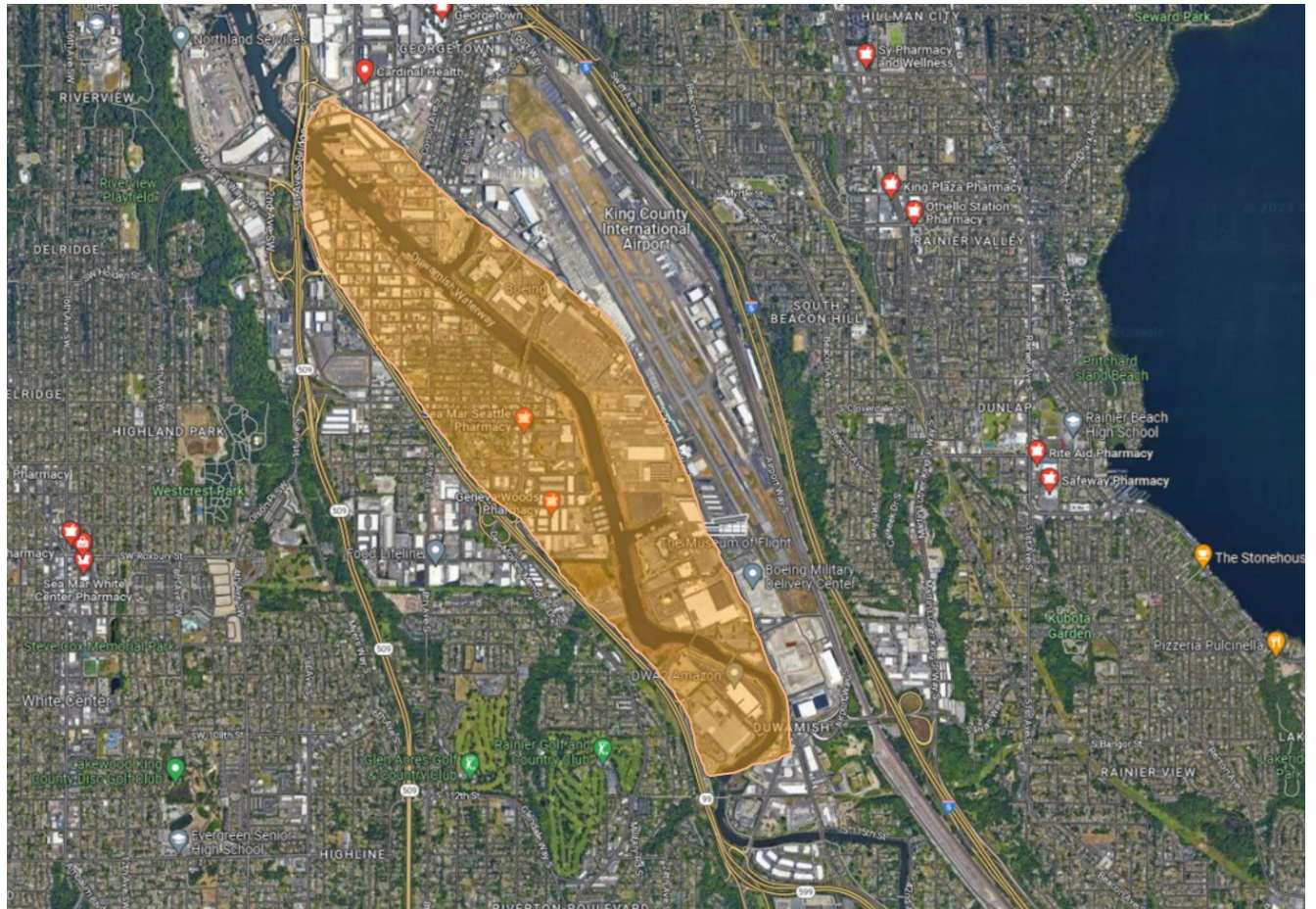
- Email
- Facebook pages

- South Park news channels, Yahoo listserv, and West Seattle Blog.
- Participate in local festivals, connect with community-based organizations, and collaborate with other capital projects and ongoing City efforts.
- One organization's communications is all done online (newsletter with subscribers, social media) and through monthly member meetings.
- The community receives information from other groups like Georgetown Community Council and Environmental Coalition of South Seattle.

Appendix C – Mail Area

The project team sent a mailer to the project area below with 1,308 recipients. USPS received the mailer on Aug. 1. The orange shaded area below shows the mail area.

Mailing Area



Appendix D - Flyer Distribution

The project team distributed a flyer describing the COCP and providing a link to the survey in the following locations. The flyer was available in English, Spanish, Khmer, and Vietnamese.

Flying Locations	
Oswaldo's Hari Salon	Loretta's Northwestern
Sahak Khemeraram Buddhist Temple Association	Pros Tires
South Park Library	Taqueria El Rincon Express
South Park Senior Center	Cowgirls Espresso
Villa Comunitaria	Southend Quality Auto Care
South Park Food Bank (Providence Regina House)	South Park Grocery
Big Top Curiosity Shop	Fruteria Sandoval
Retro Motorcycles	T&L Lavendar Spa
Muy Macho Taco Truck	Pasteleria Y Panaderia La Ideal
South Park Suds Laundromat	Bruno's Tires
Mi Fondita Del Itsmo	Aerospace Machinists District Lodge 751
Left Bank Wine Shop	Red Apple Grocery
Uncle Eddie's	Consejo Counseling and Referral Service
South Town Pie	Chevron on 14th Ave S