



Tidal Basin Ideas Lab

Public Feedback

Collected Survey Results
February 2021

“I grew up in DC so I have memories
of spending time in the District around the
basin on weekends. Such a unique
and special place. It must be saved.”

—Survey Respondent

Public Feedback from the Tidal Basin Ideas Lab

Initiated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Trust for the National Mall, and the National Park Service, the Tidal Basin Ideas Lab, presented by American Express, brought together five leading Landscape Architecture firms to address complex challenges facing this extraordinary cultural landscape and to envision a better future. This work has been curated into a virtual online exhibition (www.tidalbasinideaslab.org) that invites the public to share feedback on design ideas and personal experience at the Tidal Basin. Over four months, more than 1000 survey participants responded. Surveys remain open and will be continuously collected. Here is a sample of public feedback as of February 24, 2021.

Participating Landscape Architecture Firms

DLANDstudio
GGN
Hood Design Studio
James Corner Field Operations
Reed Hilderbrand

NUMBER OF SURVEY QUESTIONS

9

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES

1600

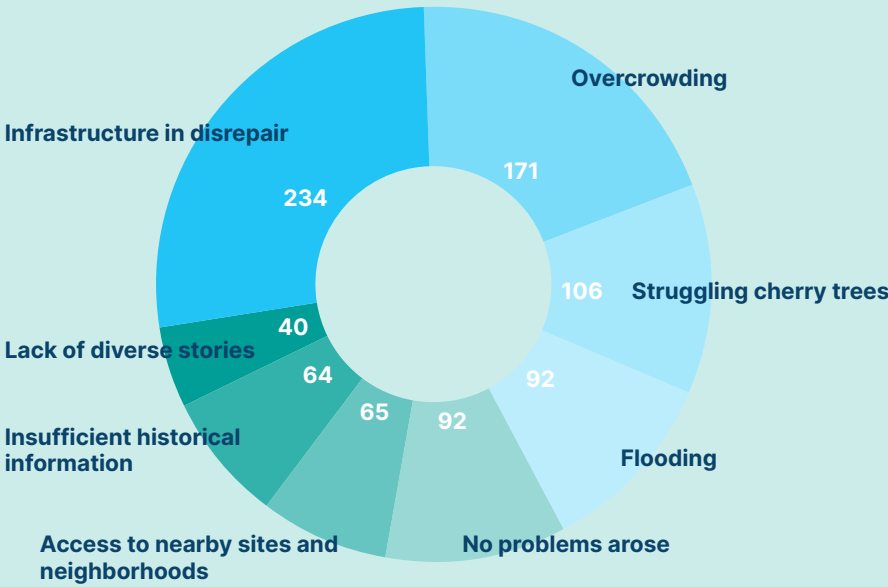
Your Thoughts: Visitor Experience

492
respondents to this
survey

How often do you visit the Tidal Basin?

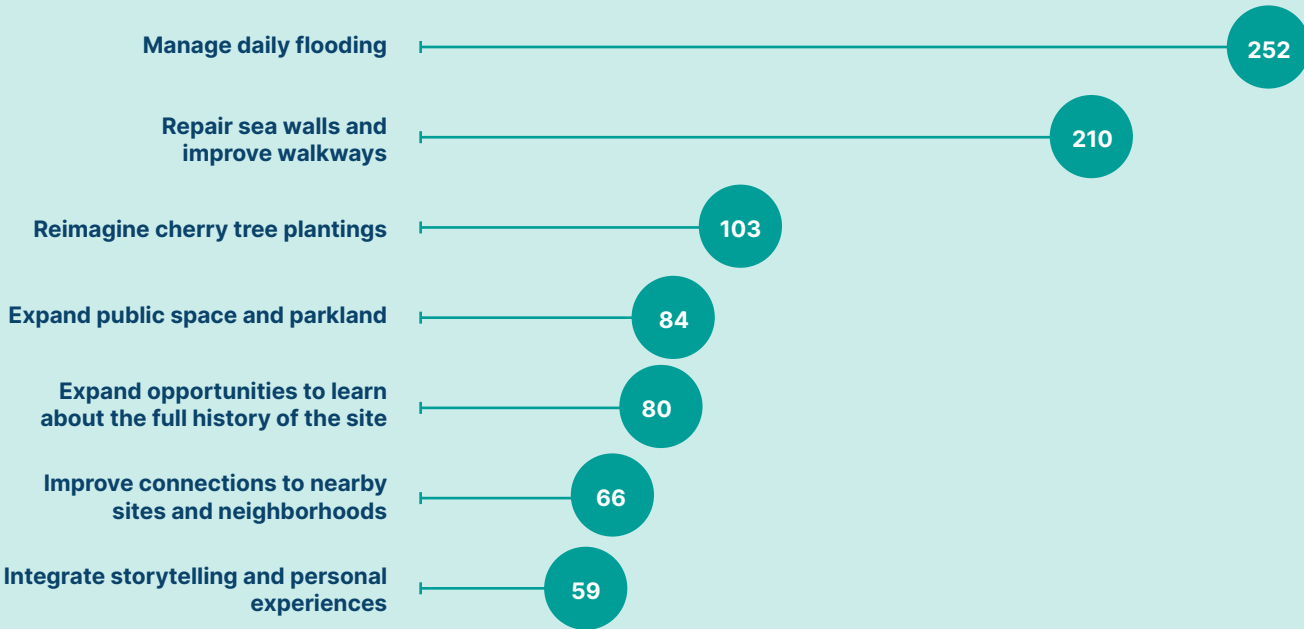


Which of the following challenges most affected your experience?



Which of the following improvements do you think are most important to the future of the Tidal Basin?

Respondents gave a ranking of 1 to the following answers:

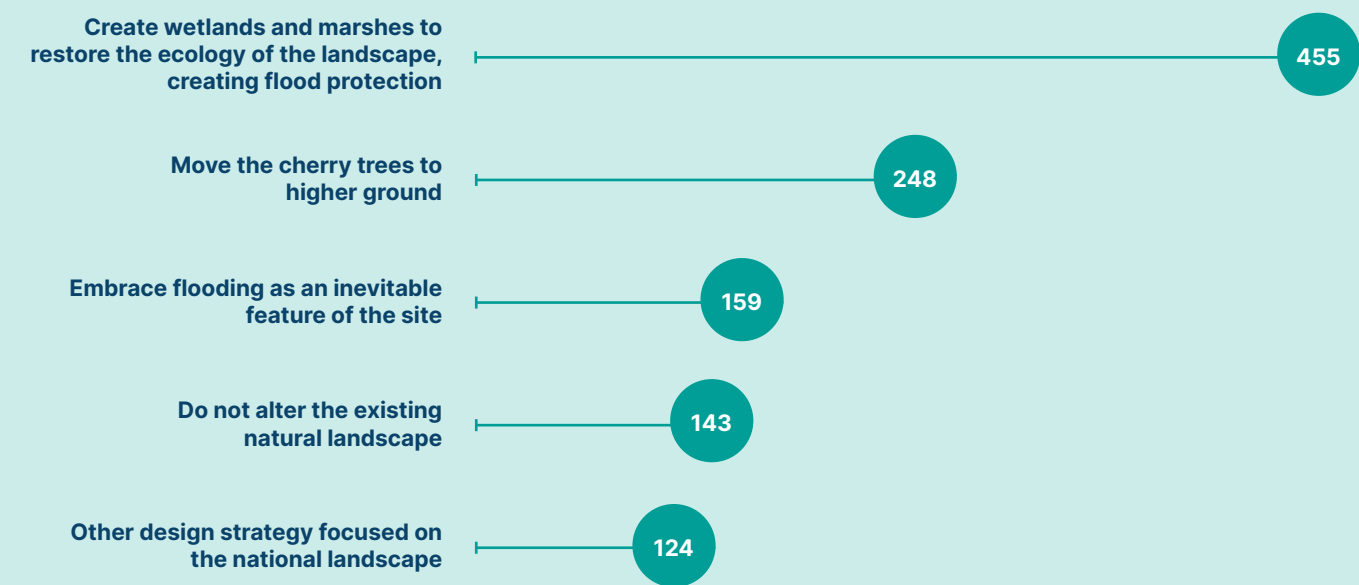


Your Thoughts: Design Ideas

985 respondents to this survey

Which design strategies focusing on the natural landscape appeal to you most?

Respondents gave a ranking of 1 to the following answers:



Greatest number of responses ranking 1 (most important):

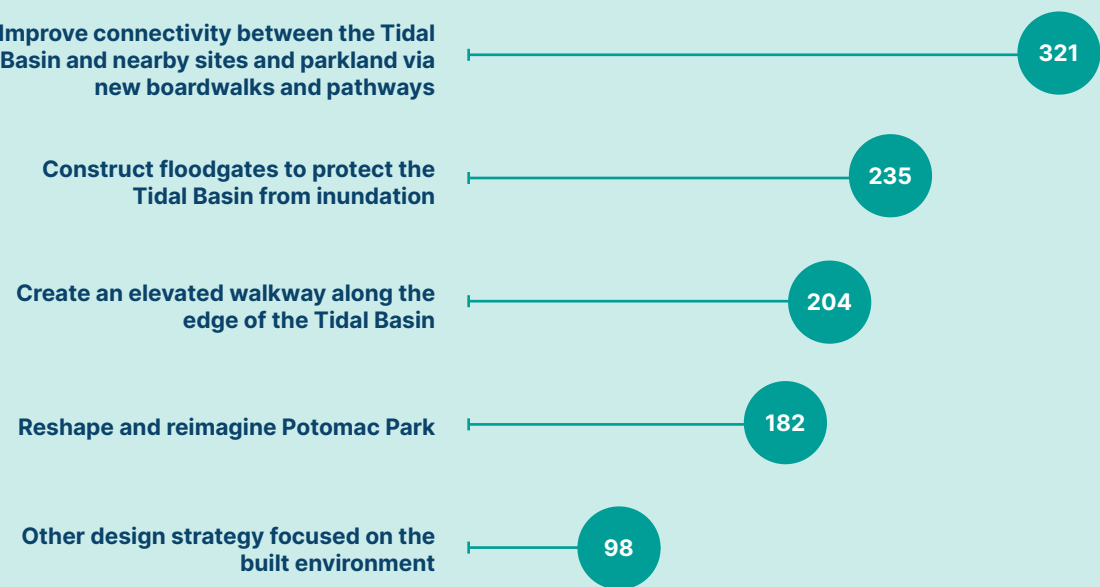
455

Create wetlands and marshes to restore the ecology of the landscape, creating flood protection.

“If we honor the past by stone structures only, we miss the bigger picture. We must honor the environment (water, native plantings, insects & pollinators) in order to have a complete picture of this area.”
— Survey Respondent

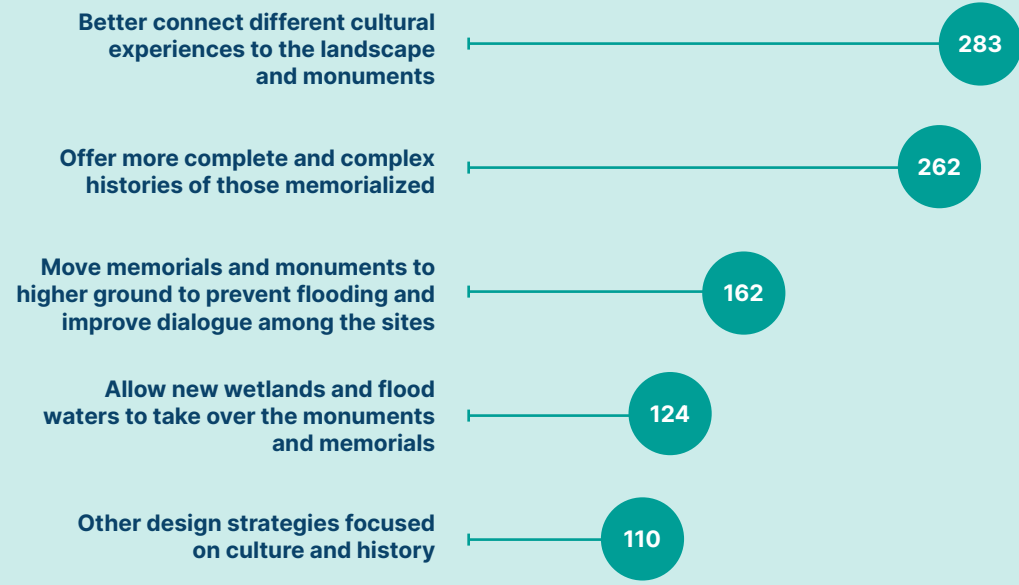
Which design strategies focusing on the built environment appeal to you most?

Respondents gave a ranking of 1 to the following answers:



Which design strategies focusing on culture and history appeal to you most?

Respondents gave a ranking of 1 to the following answers:



Your Thoughts: Culture and History

123 respondents to this survey

What aspects of the Tidal Basin's history would you like to learn more about?



How could the Tidal Basin better reflect our shared American ideals and history?



472 total number of comments

“If the tidal basin is to be a place that evidences the American experience, it needs to be much more diverse. A memorial to one person of color is not enough. Part of the problem in America today is the unwillingness to go beyond the founding fathers and point up the actions of all peoples that made and make up this country from the founding until now.”



“I’m down at the Tidal Basin frequently as I enjoy watching the seasons change and it provides a great vantage point for the city. It has been interesting to see how the Tidal Basin/West Potomac Park has changed over the recent decades: with the addition of FDR and MLK, Jr Memorials, the increase in traffic during peak bloom, and the solitude during the other 11 months of the year. Additionally, the area has some of the last sports fields on the Mall, which are frequently occupied for 8+ months of the year (pre-COVID). It’s how the locals use the park space, not just the tourists who come for a during the spring and summer.”

“The first experience I had was sitting in Jefferson’s temple at sunset contemplating his writings. The last time I was there, it was the FDR memorial which was just as moving but in a different way. America is an idea and the part the Tidal Basin can play is its ability to inspire through the monuments and the setting the importance of that idea and also the fragility of it.”



all images: Sam Kittner



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TIDAL
BASIN

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