

Solid Waste Division

Focused Site Screening Community Survey Results Summary

Background

King County plans to site, design and build a new transfer station to replace the aging and limited Houghton Transfer Station. A new recycling and transfer station will serve the growing communities of Kirkland, Redmond, Woodinville, and Sammamish, as well as unincorporated East King County. Community input and knowledge is an important part of the site selection process. The County is considering community input and knowledge as it seeks a location for the station. For more information, please visit kingcounty.gov/northeast.

From January 20 – February 18, 2021 an online survey was available in English, Spanish, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Arabic, Farsi, Russian and Hindi. Survey respondents were asked to share community knowledge about the top four sites by answering questions about traffic, local businesses, schools and community centers, bicycle routes and other concerns. Respondents were also asked to rank the community criteria developed by the Siting Advisory Group (SAG) from most to least important.

The SAG is a group of community representatives brought together to advise the County on where to site the new station and what to consider when making that decision. The Siting Advisory Group (SAG) has 23 members that represent community, business and city interests and perspectives. For more information on the SAG, please visit kingcounty.gov/northeast

Survey Results

By the numbers

2,431 responses, 31 in-language responses (Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, Russian, Farsi)

Note: Responses in languages other than English were translated into English to be included with full survey data and considered along with English responses for the following themes. Full survey data is available in pdf form at kingcounty.gov/northeast

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Community Knowledge for Top 4 Sites

In the survey, King County asked respondents to share community knowledge about the top four sites. For each site, community members were asked the following questions:

- What do you know about nearby schools, playfields, daycare centers, or other places children might be present?
- What do you know about nearby churches, community centers, or other gathering places?
- What do you know about frequently visited small businesses or other establishments?
- Have you experienced nearby traffic congestion? Where? What time of day has greatest traffic congestion?
- What do you know about pedestrians and cyclists in the nearby area?
- Do you have any specific concerns about putting a transfer station at this site?

Below are key themes that emerged for each site, and the number of responses for each question. Respondents were able to skip questions if they did not have any information to provide.

16111 Woodinville-Redmond Road NE, Woodinville 98072:

- Chrysalis High School is located across the street from the site. There are concerns about student pedestrian and vehicle traffic. (886 responses related to impacts on nearby schools).
- The Sammamish River Trail is nearby, which is popular for cyclists and pedestrians. (849 responses related to pedestrian and cyclist impacts).
- Concerns over noise and increased traffic, especially for nearby schools and condominiums. (992 responses related to traffic impacts).
- Proposed site is close to Woodinville wine district, which is a large tourist destination for the city of Woodinville. (838 responses related to local business impacts).
- Site access is constrained already and would impact family-owned businesses.

"This is in the 'wine country' in Woodinville, which is becoming a key attraction of Woodinville. There are restaurants and many other businesses on this road too."

"Chrysalis School is directly across the street with many new drivers."

SW Corner of Willows Rd NE and NE 124th St., Redmond 98052

- The site is very close to 60 Acres Park Soccer Fields, which is a large and widely used soccer field (789 responses related to nearby parks and playfields).

"The site is steeply sloped on the western side of the Sammamish Valley watershed."

"There is lots of traffic congestion at this location, especially during peak traffic hours in the morning and early evening. A transfer station at this site would be concerning. This area of Willows Road is an important location connecting Kirkland, Redmond, and Woodinville."

- Concerns about peak-hour traffic. Respondents are worried that trucks and haulers coming and going would increase traffic issues. (1,124 responses related to traffic concerns).

- The route is also used by commuting and non-commuting cyclists accessing the Sammamish River Trail. (856 responses related to pedestrian and cyclist activity).

- The proposed site poses environmental concerns due to its location on a hillside and proximity to a protected wetland area. (25 responses related to hillside location concerns).

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7024 116th Avenue NE, Kirkland 98033:

- Lake Washington High School and Benjamin Franklin Elementary Schools are nearby. (584 responses related to local school impacts).
- Concerns over loss of the Park and Ride. (641 responses related to the existing Park and Ride).
- It is a densely populated area and there are concerns about traffic, especially during rush hour. (711 responses related to traffic concerns).
- Site proximity to the freeway was considered a benefit but could increase traffic congestion. (343 responses related to freeway proximity).
- The area surrounding the site experiences high levels of pedestrian traffic with nearby schools and is a frequent cycling route. (515 responses related to pedestrian and cyclist traffic).
- Site size is very small compared to other sites. (164 responses related to site size).

"This site has great access to the highway. It is just down from the current site but will remove the parking lot for the park and ride. That has the potential to cause traffic issues for the park and riders using that lot. This site is the furthest away from schools, bike paths and other tourism sites."

"Given its smaller size, it seems like it might not be the best choice if the problem with the current transfer station is that it's too small."

11724 NE 60th Street, Kirkland 98033:

"There are numerous schools in the area-elementary, private and high school. The high school is just north of 70th and much of the traffic is generated goes through that interchange. There is a daycare center next door."

"Bike & pedestrian traffic, mostly neighborhood-related."

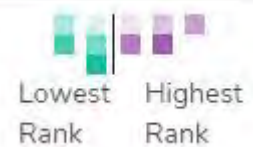
- Ben Franklin Elementary is nearby and it borders Bridle Trails State Park. Adjacent baseball fields are widely used. (679 responses related to nearby schools, parks, and recreation areas).
- The Bridle Trails Shopping Center is nearby, but the area is otherwise largely residential. (450 responses related to local businesses and neighborhood location).
- There is peak hour traffic, although the site has easy access to I-405. (684 responses related to traffic).
- The site is located in a highly residential area with pedestrian and cyclist traffic. (565 responses related to pedestrian and cyclist traffic).

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Community criteria rankings

In fall 2020, the Siting Advisory Group (SAG) developed a set of community criteria based on interests, values and concerns shared by community members in a survey. After the SAG finalized the criteria, community members were asked to rank them based on what they felt was most important to consider when siting a new recycling and transfer station. Below are the results of the aggregate community rankings.

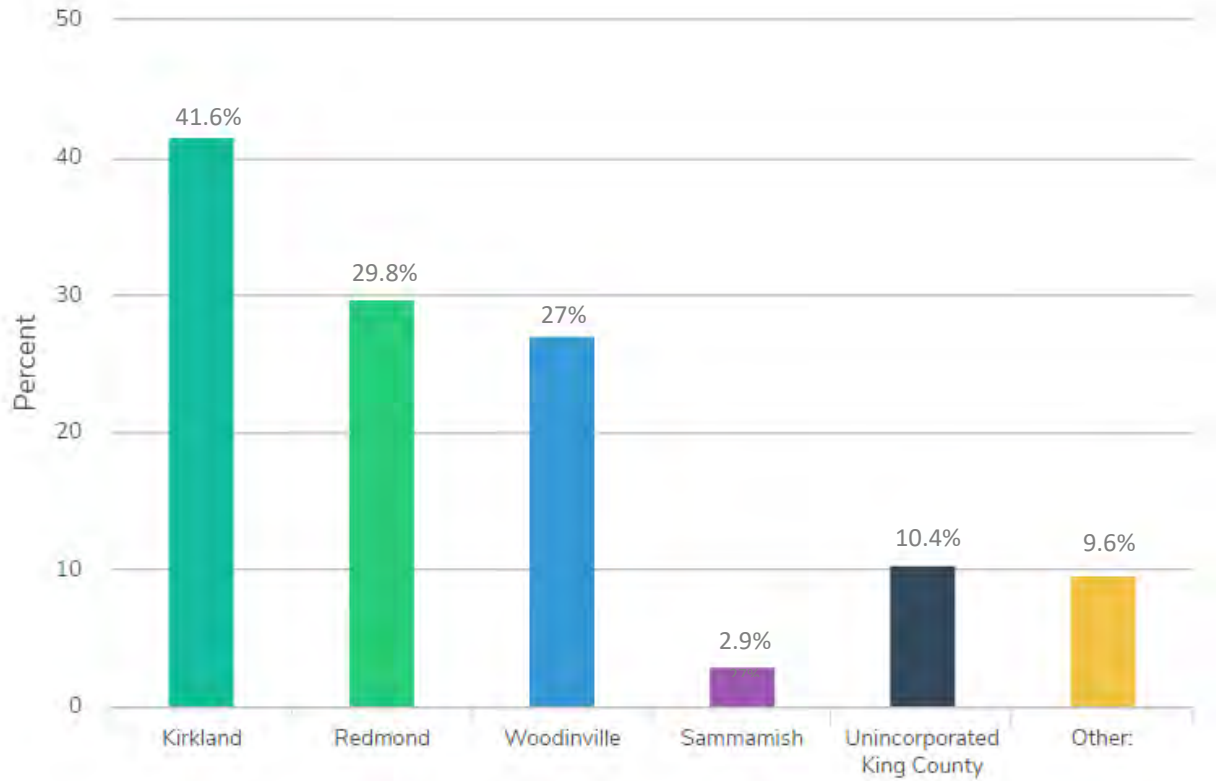
Community Criteria	Rank	Rank Distribution	No. of Rankings
Site has fewest potential local community impacts (e.g. traffic, noise, odor).	1		1,490
Site has fewest impacts to sensitive areas and avoids environmental red flags (e.g., landslide potential, wetlands, earthquake faults, aquifers that provide drinking water, etc).	2		1,462
Site acquisition has least impact on current or future residential or commercial use.	3		1,466
Location has best travel times at most times of the day within the service area.	4		1,414
Site best accommodates sustainable and innovative design.	5		1,384
Site has most reasonable cost.	6		1,391
Are there disproportionate impacts to historically and currently underserved and underrepresented communities? (includes immigrants, people of color, refugees and low-income populations).	7		1,344
Underserved and underrepresented community members and employees are able to conveniently access the site.	8		1,346
Location is within 10 miles from any point in the service area and no closer than 5 miles to any other county recycling and transfer station.	9		1,340



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Location of Respondents

Respondents self-reported where they live and work in Northeast King County. Over 40% of respondents were in Kirkland, and 29% and 26% of respondents were from Redmond and Woodinville, respectively. The remaining respondents were from Unincorporated King County, Sammamish or other locations.





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