



King County

Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project

Online Open House Summary

Nov. 14, 2017 – Jan. 31, 2018

KCredmondsewer.com

Purpose

The purpose of the online open house was to provide an opportunity for people who live, work and recreate in the project area to review and comment on plans for an upcoming sewer upgrade project at a time and place convenient to them. Information available on the online open house was the same information that was shared during fall 2017 in-person drop-in sessions. Information available included:

- Detailed maps of the sewer and recycled water line alignment
- Preliminary trail closure and detour information
- What to expect during construction on West Lake Sammamish Parkway
- Environmental considerations
- How public feedback has informed the project design

A comment form was available for visitors to ask questions and provide suggestions for how King County can be a good neighbor during construction. While the online open house is now closed, an archive is available on the [project library webpage](#).

Advance notification

The following tools were used to advertise the online open house:

- Flyers: Residents and businesses along the project alignment received flyer invitations
- Email notices: Listserv subscribers received two email notices
- Postcard: A postcard was sent to over 12,000 people in the Redmond community
- [News release](#): Posted on Dec. 11, 2017
- [Clean Water Blog](#): Posted on Dec. 8, 2017
- King County social media pages
- [Project webpage](#)



Postcards were sent to over 12,000 people in early Jan. 2018 as a reminder that the online open house was live.



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Visitors

A total of 375 visitors engaged in 574 online sessions from Nov. 14, 2017, through Jan. 31, 2018. Visitors spent an average of just over four minutes on the site per session.

Format

The online open house was available between Nov. 14, 2017, and Jan. 31, 2018. Visitors were able to log on at times convenient to them, review project materials and track their comments and questions as they reviewed information. A comment form was available for visitors to ask questions of the project team and provide feedback for how King County can be a good neighbor during construction.

Summary of feedback

The project team received 29 comment form submissions. Many participants were interested in Sammamish River Trail closures, impacts to traffic on West Lake Sammamish Parkway and finding safe, short detour routes. Other topics of interest included construction sequencing, coordination with other projects in the area, including East Link, and the project timeline.

After the online open house closed, the project team reviewed comments and suggestions from community member. Below is a summary of this feedback and project team responses:

[Project purpose and schedule](#)

What is this project and why is it needed?

The Lake Hills and Northwest Lake Sammamish sewer pipe was built in the 1950s and 1970s. King County needs to upgrade about 4.5 miles of the sewer line to meet the needs of the growing Redmond and Bellevue communities as the existing sewer line nears the end of its service life.

Construction is expected to begin in 2020. While the sewer pipe is under construction, King County will also install 1.5 miles of pipe to carry recycled water. When complete, the new pipes will provide reliable sewer service and an important connection for the potential future use of recycled water in the area.

What is the construction schedule?

Construction will begin in 2020 and take three years to complete, however, the full 4.5 mile alignment will not be under construction at once. The contractor will complete the work in sections. There will likely be two or three crews working on different sections of the sewer pipe at any given time during construction. We won't know the exact construction schedule until a contractor is selected in 2020, but we will be sure to share that information with you as it becomes available and provide an opportunity for you to speak with the construction team and ask questions before construction starts.

Why is additional capacity needed in the sewer pipes?

The existing pipes are aging and nearing their capacity. The new pipes will be upsized to carry 2060 projected peak flows. Much of the need for additional capacity is coming from increasing density in the area. As sewers age, we also see excess water in our system from infiltration and inflow, which is



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groundwater and stormwater that enters our system through leaky pipes, improper storm drain connections and others means.

Where is the sewage from this pipe treated?

Wastewater from this sewer line runs north to King County’s Brightwater Treatment Plant in Woodinville.

What is the requirement for relative placement of the sewer and water pipes?

The Department of Health requires a standard minimum horizontal separation of 10 feet and a vertical separation of 18 inches between water lines and sewer lines. The purpose of this separation requirement is to avoid cross contamination in the event of a pipeline failure or leak. If a sewer and water line cannot meet these separation distances, additional protective measures are required such as pipe encasement, the use of materials and joints that are pressure tested to ensure water tightness, installing a casing pipe, or installing impermeable barriers.

Bicyclist and pedestrian facilities and detours

Will the Sammamish River Trail be closed during construction?

While this entire length of trail will not be closed at one time, we do anticipate significant closures and detours during construction. We recognize that this is a heavily used section of trail for both commuting and recreation. Our pipeline runs under or adjacent to the trail from NE 85th Street to NE 51st Street.

The work will be completed in sections. Because there are limited access points to the trail, we will likely be closing the trail between major access points (e.g. between NE 85th Street and the Redmond Way) to complete our work quickly and safely. Detour routes will vary in length from a half-mile to a few miles.

The preliminary detour routes we are considering are available in our [trail study memo](#). Once construction is complete, we will restore the trail and surrounding landscaping and signage. We are working with the City of Redmond and permitting agencies to develop restoration plans and will share those as they become available. We won’t know the timing of section closures until a contractor is selected for the project in 2020.

How long will construction on the Sammamish River Trail take?

We anticipate that work along the Sammamish River Trail will take approximately two years to complete, but the full length of the trail will not be under construction at once.

Detour route suggestions

A number of innovative solutions were suggested as potential modifications to detour routes. A list of these suggestions and County responses are listed below:

- *Create short, temporary paths around work areas on the Sammamish River Trail to avoid off-site detours*

While we did consider this in areas where the area around the trail is wider, we determined that this is not a safe option due to limited access points along the trail. Access points to the trail are primarily at bridges and trestles (e.g. the Redmond Way, Leary Way, Redmond Central



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Connector). Our crews will need to use these access points to move large construction equipment to and from the work zone. In an effort to protect public safety, these access points will be closed to the public and traffic will be detoured off-site.

- *Complete work between Leary Way and Marymoor Park after the connection between the Redmond Central Connector and East Lake Sammamish Trail is complete*

Construction for the connection between the Redmond Central Connector and the East Lake Sammamish Trail is not yet scheduled. However, we are working closely with the City of Redmond, Sound Transit and the Washington Department of Transportation to understand scheduling constraints for this project. Should construction on this schedule of trail begin prior to 2020, we will consider potential adjustments to our construction schedule on the trail.

- *Working in smaller, shorter sections along the Sammamish River Trail*

While we are limited by access points to the trail, we are looking at ways to work in shorter sections, when possible. One area where we are looking at is between Leary Way and the entrance to Marymoor Park. Finding safe places for construction equipment to access these areas while providing a safe connection point to the existing trail for trail users is limiting factor in providing a detour route for this work area. We are looking at ways to reduce the length of time that pedestrians and bicyclists will be rerouted through the park and over to Bear Creek Parkway.

- *Paving the gravel path on the west side of the Sammamish River*

We did consider paving this gravel path as a potential detour route for work on the Sammamish River Trail. However, the trail would need to be widened and regraded in some locations to be accessible according to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. This would result in a significant environmental impact to the area due to the large amount of trees that would be required to be removed. As a result, the gravel path on the west side of the river would only be shown as an optional detour route.

- *Convert parking lanes to temporary two-way protected bike lanes*

The preliminary detour routes for work on the Sammamish River Trail primarily follow other trails or existing bike lanes. There are limited, intermittent parking lanes along West Lake Sammamish Parkway. However, our work within the vehicle lanes will require us to shift vehicle lanes over. Once traffic is shifted over, there will not be enough space for a temporary, two-way protected lane.

- *Separate temporary detour routes from vehicle traffic for pedestrian and bicycle safety*

While there may not be space for a two-way protected bike lane on our detour routes, we are looking at ways that bicycle and pedestrian traffic could be sectioned off from vehicle traffic on West Lake Sammamish Parkway and other streets identified as potential detour routes.



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- *Minimize significant grade changes in detour routes*

We will consider grade changes on detour routes in addition to length and safety factors. The area around Lake Sammamish is very hilly and we will generally use existing trails or roadways to minimize detour length, so it may not be possible for us to avoid significant grade changes.

We appreciate the community's feedback on detour routes and will work to incorporate your suggestions, where possible. We anticipate that bicycle detour routes will be finalized by fall 2018. We will share this information with you as it becomes available.

Ensure that detour routes are well-marked along the route. Consider including a map of the detour route on signage and "you are here" designations to ensure routes are easy to navigate. King County is committed to safe, well-signed detour routes. We will look at options for signage and how maps can be incorporated to help cyclists and pedestrians navigate detour routes.

Will the Sammamish River Trail be enhanced during trail restoration?

Once construction is complete, the trail surface will be restored to pre-construction conditions or better. Where possible, we will relocate manholes off of the trails. Where we cannot relocate the manholes, we will evaluate the safest place within the trail for the manhole. When restored, the paved surface of the trail will be widened to 12-feet in most places. In constrained areas, or where widening the trail would result in environmental impacts the paved trail will match its current width.

Will there be bicycle and pedestrian impacts on West Lake Sammamish Parkway?

King County looked at impacts to sidewalks and bike paths as part of the project's [traffic study](#). We do anticipate temporary bike lane and sidewalk closures on West Lake Sammamish Parkway during construction, particularly during work in the more narrow sections of the road. Bicyclists may need to ride in the vehicle lane with traffic or use detour routes during bike lane closures. Pedestrians detour routes will be provided at all times and, whenever possible, we will seek to keep a sidewalk on one side of the street open. Sidewalk and bicycle lane closures may remain in place outside of construction hours in cases where it would be unsafe to reopen them outside of work hours.

Please consider adding trail connections and/or protected bike lanes on West Lake Sammamish Parkway during road restoration.

King County will restore West Lake Sammamish Parkway to its existing extents and in compliance with current City of Redmond standards. There are no plans at this time to add a trail or widen the road to include a protected bike lane as part of restoration efforts for this project.

Roadway impacts

Will there be detours on West Lake Sammamish Parkway?

We do anticipate lane closures and detours on West Lake Sammamish Parkway. Recognizing that this is a very busy corridor, we recently conducted a traffic study to better understand existing traffic volumes and patterns and how our project will impact traffic. We are using this information to identify ways to



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reduce our disruption, such as building in shorter sections or shifting lanes to maintain two-way traffic wherever possible.

West Lake Sammamish Blvd is a major thoroughfare for Microsoft and other traffic, and there are not many alternative routes. A plan for keeping at least one lane open at all times is imperative.

We will seek to maintain two-way traffic at all times. In some of the narrower sections of the road, we may be down to one lane. If this were to occur, we would use flaggers to move one direction of traffic through at a time, or detour one direction of traffic and keep the other direction moving in the single lane.

Are you taking increased traffic on West Lake Sammamish Parkway into account, particularly traffic from Microsoft?

The traffic study included traffic count data collection in the fall of 2016 on intersections in the project area and included bicycles, pedestrians and vehicles. This information was used with a conservative population growth rate to account for the increasing trend of traffic volumes within Redmond.

Please consider working outside of morning and evening rush hour on West Lake Sammamish Parkway.

We are working with the City of Redmond to identify working hours that will limit disruptions but also allow us to complete our work as quickly as possible. The City of Redmond will provide the allowable working hours within West Lake Sammamish Parkway.

Please provide clear orange signs detailing detour routes for vehicles

Traffic Control Plans with clear and safe signage will be provided for detour routes in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration standards.

Will there be parking restrictions on local streets during construction?

Parking restrictions are anticipated for West Lake Sammamish Parkway, 177th Ave NE, 179th Ave NE, 180th Ave NE, and NE 24th Street when work is being conducted in these areas. Advance notice will be provided ahead of these restrictions.

How will you deal with increased traffic and overflow on-street parking from Idylwood Park during the summer?

We are aware that Idylwood Park is very busy during the summers and that parking overflows onto 177th Avenue N.E. We are currently looking at whether restricting the work in this area outside of the summer months is feasible. However, street parking will be limited during construction.



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How will the road be restored after construction? Will there be temporary patches?

All roadways will be restored to City of Redmond standards. We won't know about temporary patches until we have a contractor and detailed construction schedule, but it is likely that there will be some temporary patches or plates used during construction.

Why can't the pipe be routed through Marymoor Park to reduce impacts to traffic on West Lake Sammamish Parkway?

The pipe is not being routed through Marymoor Park to protect this sensitive environmental area.

Coordination with other projects

How will the project team coordinate with Sound Transit's Redmond Link project?

King County meets regularly with local jurisdictions, including City of Redmond, Sound Transit and other partner agencies to get feedback on design and coordinate potential construction impacts. We are currently coordinating with Sound Transit to understand their construction schedule and how we can work together to limit compounding impacts from multiple construction projects happening at the same time.

Is this work related to the construction on NE 40th Street?

This work is being conducted by the City of Redmond to extend a stormwater trunk along NE 40th Street. An important part of our design process is to locate all existing utility lines near our planned construction zone. Our team is aware of this line and will work around it as we determine the depth and exact location of our pipe within West Lake Sammamish Parkway. There is more information about this project on the [City of Redmond's website](#).

Move above-ground utilities below ground while work is underway.

King County is coordinating with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) on how to protect above-ground utilities near our work zone. We do anticipate any relocations of above-ground utilities as a result of this project.

Private property coordination

Please work closely with the Sammamish Rowing Association to ensure uninterrupted access.

King County is coordinating with the Sammamish Rowing Association to understand their priorities and concerns. Access to the SRA facility and to homes and neighborhoods along West Lake Sammamish Parkway will be maintained throughout construction.

Will my utility rates increase?

You won't see a local rate increase on your bill as a direct result of this project. Because we operate a regional wastewater system, ratepayers throughout King County's entire service area will help cover the cost of this sewer upgrade project, and other infrastructure investments, via their monthly sewer bill.



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Additional information about the current sewer rate, how rate proposals are developed and approved, and where your money goes is available on [WTD's finance webpage](#) and our [2016 Annual Ratepayer Report](#).

Will my water or sewer service be interrupted during construction?

There are less than 10 homes in the Idylwood neighborhood with direct connections to the existing Lake Hills/NW Lake Sammamish sewer pipe where there may be limited disruptions to sewer service during construction. King County will work directly with those neighbors regarding any planned disruptions. We do not anticipate any additional widespread utility disruptions to water or sewer service during construction.

Are property owners responsible for maintaining side sewers on their property?

Side sewers are owned and maintained by property owners. The side sewers connect to the City of Redmond's local lines which then flow to King County's regional lines.

Does King County have a plan for managing rodents that could be displaced during construction?

We do not anticipate an increase in rodent activity on nearby private property as a result of our construction, but will work with private property owners on a case-by-case basis to address concerns should rodent control become an issue.

Communicating with you

What communication methods will the County use to notify businesses and residents prior to and during construction?

King County is committed to working closely with you throughout the life of this project, to answer questions and concerns and keep communities informed of project progress and what to expect during construction. We will continue to work closely with those living along the project alignment by providing updates through flyering, community events, project webpage updates and project emails.

Please ensure that those affected by construction activities are informed at least on a weekly basis. Please provide road closure information by day.

King County's communication team is committed to making sure you are informed well in advance of construction activities. We do plan to provide weekly updates during construction and can adjust frequency of updates as needed. Our goal is to make sure you are never surprised by our work. Be sure to [sign up to receive email or text updates](#) about the project prior to construction starting in 2020.

Have one place (web, phone or both) where the community can find current information about construction activities.

We will keep our website up-to-date with current construction activities and send out email notifications and fliers ahead of particularly impactful work. We will also have a 24-hour construction hotline available to you should you have any questions or concerns.