



King County

Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project

EASTSIDE AUDUBON CONSERVATION COMMITTEE BRIEFING SUMMARY

Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Eastside Audubon Office
308 4th Ave S., Kirkland

Attendees:

Eastside Audubon

10 Conservation Committee members

King County

Ann Grothe, King County Project Manager
Hillary Jones, King County Environmental Planner
Kelly Foley, King County Community Relations

Meeting purpose

King County's Lake Hills/NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project team attended Eastside Audubon's monthly Conservation Committee meeting on April 11, 2018. The pipeline route for the sewer upgrade follows the Sammamish River Corridor between NE 85th Street and Marymoor Park, West Lake Sammamish Parkway to 177th Ave NE and residential streets and private property in the VueLake neighborhood. Vegetation along the corridor provides habitat for birds and other wildlife. Construction will be disruptive to this habitat.

King County met with the Eastside Audubon Board in 2016 and the Executive Director in 2017. Through those conversations, King County understood Eastside Audubon's key priorities to be as follows:

- Understanding construction impacts
- Protecting nesting birds and bird habitat
- Conservation of critical habitat in Marymoor Park
- Being engaged in restoration plans for the project

The purpose of this meeting was to share anticipated construction impacts and preliminary restoration plans. The meeting also provided an opportunity for board members to share observations they have about bird habitat in the project corridor and suggestions for how King County can best coordinate with their organization moving forward.

Overview (Kelly Foley)

Kelly Foley, King County Community Relations, provided an overview of King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) and why the sewer upgrade is needed. She explained that King County WTD is a regional wastewater utility, with three regional treatment plants in the area. There are hundreds of

miles of sewer pipes in our service area that carry sewage to treatment plants before being safely discharged into Puget Sound.

The Lake Hills/NW Lake Sammamish sewer pipe runs from the Bellevue/Redmond City boundary on 177th Ave N.E. north to King County's Brightwater Treatment Plant in Woodinville. A section of this pipe, located between NE 85th Street and 177th Ave NE in Redmond, is aging and is too small to hold anticipated future wastewater flows. King County is going to upgrade this 4.5 mile section of the pipe. When complete, the new pipe will provide reliable sewer service for another 50 years or more.

While construction is underway, King County will also install 1.5 miles of recycled water line between NE 85th Street and Marymoor Park. Installing this section of pipe during sewer construction allows us to reduce future impacts to this community.

Planning for the project began in 2014 and King County's team is now working on the final design. Final design is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020. Construction is likely to begin in mid-2020 and take about three years. The majority of the pipe will be installed using open-trench construction, a method in which a hole is dug from the ground surface to lay the new pipe. Some short segments will be installed using trenchless technology, which will allow King County to limit impacts to environmentally sensitive areas.

Existing conditions and anticipated impacts (Hillary Jones)

Hillary Jones, King County Environmental Planner, reviewed the findings from the project team's inventory of the natural area near the project. There are 18 wetlands and 7 waterbodies in the project vicinity, and the project will impact 5 wetlands and two waterbodies. Vegetation is primarily native and ornamentals with some large, mature deciduous trees. Invasive species can be found along the northern section of the project, along the banks of the Sammamish River. The Sammamish River is an important migration route for salmon. The area is also part of the Pacific Flyway for migrating birds.

In an effort to limit habitat impacts, King County plans to use trenchless construction technology in environmentally sensitive areas, limit work spaces, and seek to protect large, significant trees wherever possible. However, some impacts are unavoidable within the work limits, which will be approximately 30 to 40 feet wide in most places. Within these limits, plants and trees will be removed. Space is needed beyond the width of the trench to stage construction equipment.

Restoration and enhancement (Hillary Jones)

King County is required to replant native plant species where vegetation has been removed. Hillary explained that for every tree removed, King County would plant a new tree in its place. For trees larger than 30-inches-wide, three trees would be replanted for every tree removed. King County is also required to restore wetlands, streams and buffers to their pre-construction conditions.

In addition to restoration along the project corridor, King County will be enhancing habitat along the Sammamish River between Luke McRedmond Landing and Leary Way. In this area, King County plans to remove invasive species, plant a higher density of trees and shrubs and place large woody debris on the river bank. This segment of the project was chosen for habitat enhancement to provide connectivity to

areas to the north and south that have already been restored or have been targeted for other restoration projects.

Our commitment to you and next steps (Kelly Foley)

Kelly explained that there is still work to be done to complete the project design. In particular, King County anticipates releasing its State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) determination in June 2018. King County will notify Eastside Audubon when the determination is released. There will be a formal public comment period associated with the SEPA determination.

King County recognizes that our construction projects can be disruptive to those who live, work and play nearby. Kelly explained that King County's commitment during design is to keep the community informed of project progress and to incorporate public feedback into our design whenever possible. The SEPA determination is one opportunity to provide feedback, but she encouraged attendees to reach out at any time with comments or suggestions. Kelly can be reached at 206-477-8621 or kelly.foley@kingcounty.gov.

King County will continue to share design updates with Eastside Audubon through regular mailings, fliers, emails, attendance at future monthly meetings as well as via social media. During construction, our goal is to be a good neighbor, let the community know what to expect ahead of our activities and provide prompt response and resolution to questions and concerns.

Summary of feedback

The following questions and comments were asked by Conservation Committee members:

Design

Why is the pipe being installed in approximately the same location as the existing pipe?

King County staff completed a thorough alternatives analysis of potential routes for the new sewer. The new sewer line will be installed in roughly the same location as the existing line because there were no alternative routes that would allow the County to keep wastewater flowing efficiently with gravity without negatively impacting the natural environment and infrastructure that has built up around the sewer line.

How far under the river will the pipe be installed?

The pipe will be installed approximately 40 feet below the ground level of the river bank.

Where are the pump stations along this sewer line?

There are no pump stations along this segment of the Lake Hills/NW Lake Sammamish sewer line. Gravity moves wastewater through the pipe, north towards Brightwater Treatment Plant in Woodinville.

Does King County WTD design sewer pipes to withstand earthquakes?

This pipe is not considered to be critical infrastructure and is not designed to withstand a specific seismic event. However, the Department of Health requires sewer pipes maintain 10 feet of separation from potable water lines to avoid potential cross-contamination in the event of a pipeline failure or leak.

Construction

What order will you build each segment of the new sewer?

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. 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.

How many significant trees will be removed during construction?

We do not yet have a full count of significant trees that will be removed, but will share this number with Eastside Audubon as it becomes available.

There is a bird nesting area near the Sammamish Rowing Association boathouse on West Lake Sammamish Parkway in the spring. Please consider avoiding construction in this area during the spring or identify other ways to limit impacts to this nest if springtime construction is unavoidable.

This is helpful information for our team to know in advance of construction. We will research this location and consider options to limit our impacts, as necessary, such as completing this work outside of springtime.

An Eagle's nest has been observed in Idylwood Park. Please be aware of this nest when you construct in this area.

Thank you for sharing this information with our project team. We do not anticipate any impacts to vegetation within Idylwood Park as our pipe will be installed in the roadway. However, we will continue to observe this area for any new nests within our work areas near the park.

Restoration

What size of trees will you plant during restoration?

We will have a better idea of plant sizing later this summer or early fall, when planting plans are better defined. We will share this information with Eastside Audubon as it becomes available.

Construction

Action items

- Attendees expressed an interest in having King County staff attend another meeting in late summer/early fall when King County anticipates having updated planting plans. King County will coordinate with the Conservation Committee Chair to schedule this briefing.
- King County will follow-up with Tereza Marks, Eastside Audubon Director, regarding data of bird sighting at Marymoor Park.
- King County will also explore <https://e-bird.org> for additional information about bird sightings in the project area.