



Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project

Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Winter 2020 Neighborhood Meeting Summary

Date, Time, and Location

Tuesday, January 8, 2020 | 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Redmond City Hall Council Chambers
15670 N.E. 85th Street, Redmond, WA 98052

Purpose:

The neighborhood meeting provided an opportunity for the community to learn about the project and to ask questions of both City of Redmond and King County project staff. In addition to this neighborhood meeting, there were two community open houses in fall 2019, and an online open house that shared similar information for those who could not attend in person. The January 2020 neighborhood meeting fulfills the City of Redmond permitting requirement under RZC 21.76.060. Those who attended the event were able to:

- Learn about the project
- Ask King County and City of Redmond staff questions
- Provide input prior to the City acting on project permits

Attendance

Sixteen people signed in at the event.

Advance notification

King County sent a postcard invitation to 4,273 parties of record. The parties of record list was provided by the City of Redmond and included individuals who received the Notice of Application along the project alignment or have expressed interest in being a party of record.

Meeting notification was posted on the Lake Hills/NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project webpage, the City of Redmond's city planning website and the City of Redmond eNews email. King County also sent out an email invitation to over 1,100 project subscribers two weeks in advance of the event.

Format

The neighborhood meeting was designed to allow visitors to come and go at times convenient to them, review project materials, and ask questions of project and City staff. There was not a formal presentation. Comment forms were available for visitors to encourage participation and feedback. Light refreshments were provided.

Staff arranged project videos, information boards, and roll plots to cover topics of interest to the community, including:



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- Project need and timeline
- City of Redmond permit process
- Detailed maps of the sewer pipe route
- How community priorities have informed the project design
- What to expect during construction, including construction methods
- Restoration plans for the Sammamish River Trail, roads and sidewalks
- How we restore landscaping and seek to improve habitat during restoration

Summary of feedback

Below is a summary of questions, comments and discussion from the neighborhood meeting:

Project timeline and sewer route

Are there any project updates?

We recently completed preliminary restoration plans for the project. Over the next year, we'll refine plans for managing traffic and continue to submit permits needed to complete the work. We plan to complete design in 2020, hire a contractor in early 2021, and begin construction in 2021. We expect construction will take three years to complete.

Construction was previously scheduled to begin 2020. Construction has been pushed back to allow more time for developing restoration plans and designing a fish-passable culvert at Country Creek. A culvert is a tunnel that allows water to flow past or beneath a barrier, in this case, from Country Creek under West Lake Sammamish Parkway.

Construction

What is the construction schedule?

Construction is expected to begin in 2021 and we expect it will take three years to complete. The full 4.5-mile alignment will not be under construction at once. The contractor will complete the work in sections. There may be multiple crews working on different sections of the sewer pipe at any given time during construction.

How will I know when construction will impact my neighborhood?

We won't know the exact construction schedule until a contractor is selected in early 2021, but we will be sure to share that information with you as it becomes available. After the contractor is hired, we will provide an opportunity for you to speak with the construction team and ask questions before construction starts.

Throughout construction, King County is committed to sharing information with the public via continued community meetings, project newsletters, and online resources.

Will my sewer service be interrupted?

King County does not anticipate interruptions to sewer services during construction.



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Will noise be mitigated during construction?

We expect most of our work to occur during daytime hours. We will follow the City of Redmond's daytime construction noise ordinance. If nighttime work is required, we would need to obtain special permission from the City of Redmond. That permission would detail noise mitigation requirements.

In addition to requirements set by the City of Redmond, we will require our contractor to put together a plan for managing noise during construction. Such a plan might include reducing the use of noisy generators, turning off trucks when not in use, and installing noise barriers if needed.

Will King County plan to work in coordination with other regional projects?

We understand that there are many construction projects underway and planned for this area including but not limited to King County's Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Project, Sound Transit's Downtown Redmond Link Extension, Microsoft Refresh, and Lake Washington Audubon Elementary School access improvements. We are working closely with neighbors, community groups, local jurisdictions, and partner agencies to anticipate any potential overlaps in planned construction projects. While overlapping construction is unavoidable, we will work with these groups and the City of Redmond to see if there are ways we can work together to reduce compounding construction impacts to you.

Will the project require pump stations along the alignment?

No, the project will not require the addition of pump station. The existing 4.5-mile-long pipe uses gravity to move wastewater through the pipes. The upgrade was designed to continue using gravity to move wastewater.

Will the project improve the smell of sewer by West Lake Sammamish and the entrance of Marymoor Park?

We anticipate that the sewer upgrade will reduce odors that are sometimes noticeable along the Sammamish River Trail. We believe these odors are related to slow moving sewage through the pipes, particularly in the summer months when flows are lowest. We've designed the sewer upgrade so sewage can move more quickly through the pipes.

What is the size of the pipes proposed in the replacement?

The smallest sections of the new pipe will be 27 inches in diameter (primarily south of the intersection of West Lake Sammamish Parkway NE and 177th Ave NE). The pipe diameter increases to 42 inches near the intersection of the Redmond Way and Sammamish River Trail. The largest sections of the new pipe will be up to 54 inches in diameter near N.E. 85th Street.

Environment and restoration

What are the environmental assessment requirements of this project?

King County performed an environmental review as required by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The SEPA review process involves evaluating how the project will affect the environment. Additionally, King County follows federal and state permitting required for work in wetlands, streams and shorelines, as well as permitting requirements from the City of Redmond.



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King County issued a [SEPA Determination of Non-significance \(DNS\)](#) for this project on August 15, 2018. This determination means the County’s SEPA review found that the project will not have significant adverse impacts to the environment.

Will trees be removed?

Many trees have grown up around the sewer pipe since it was installed 50 years ago. Our crews need an area, called a working limit, that is approximately 30 to 45 feet wide along the entire pipe route to safely install the new pipe. Plants and trees will be removed in these working limits. Over the length of the 4.5-mile-long sewer route we expect to remove several hundred trees.

When work is complete, we will replant at least one tree for every tree removed that has a trunk diameter of at least 6 inches. For trees that are removed and have trunks that are at least 30 inches in diameter, three new trees will be planted for every tree removed. Additionally, trees removed from the shoreline jurisdiction will be replaced based on the diameter of the tree removed, up to a maximum of six trees planted for every tree removed. These requirements are set by the City of Redmond’s land use regulations.

Have trees been tagged for removal?

Trees were tagged in 2017 and 2018 for a tree inventory audit but have not yet been tagged for removal.

Trees located within project construction limits, that have been approved for removal, will be tagged and removed by the contractor closer to start of construction.

How will old growth trees be replaced? Can landmark trees be preserved?

In general, King County will replant a similar tree for every tree removed that has a trunk larger than six inches in diameter. If trees have trunks that are larger than 30 inches in diameter, King County is required to plant three new trees. Additionally, trees removed from the shoreline jurisdiction will be replaced based on the diameter of the tree removed, up to a maximum of six trees planted for every tree removed.

We understand that several new trees are not the same as an old growth tree. We do our best to preserve as many trees as we can, particularly landmark or old growth trees. Unfortunately, we will have to remove some large diameter trees to safely build the new sewer pipe.

How quickly after construction will project areas be restored?

We expect the entire project to be complete in 2024. Once we hire a contractor, we’ll know more about the construction schedule, sequencing, and the timeline for restoration.

When is the fish window and will project construction work around that window?

The fish window is from July 1 to August 30. King County will follow rules and regulations set by regulatory agencies to protect wildlife during construction. For example, we’ll only do in-water work during approved times of year to avoid direct conflicts with fish.

The Country Creek culvert will be constructed during an approved fish window. The trenchless construction method used to install the pipe at Sammamish River and Clise Creek, adjacent to the



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Marymoor Park entrance, will be not be limited during the fish window since this method of construction will not directly impact fish.

How will the Sammamish River bank be impacted with the construction?

Some trees will need to be removed adjacent to the river for construction. Construction work limits will be established to avoid direct impact to the river bank. The project will restore and enhance wetlands and the buffer areas along the river bank between Redmond Way and Leary Way by planting native species and enhancing wildlife habitat.

How is the project addressing the impacts to wetlands and native creatures along West Lake Sammamish Parkway by the Sammamish River?

Measures have been taken during project design to avoid or reduce impacts to critical areas and wildlife. We have developed a wetland and stream mitigation plan which includes measures to restore all impacted areas. Wetland areas that are impacted during construction will be restored and replanted with native vegetation. The mitigation plan also includes measures to enhance existing habitat along the Sammamish River. Some trees removed during construction will be reused as wildlife habitat features.

Trails and parks

How will the Sammamish River Trail be impacted during construction?

Much of the existing sewer pipe is located underground, directly under the surface of the Sammamish River Trail between N.E. 85th Street and N.E. 51st Street. We will have to close the trail to safely upgrade the pipe. There will be limited detour routes available for closures on the Sammamish River Trail. We've developed detour routes based on direction from King County Parks, the City of Redmond, and your feedback. [Preliminary detour routes](#) are available for you to review on our website.

How will the Sammamish River Trail be restored after construction?

Once our work is complete, we'll rebuild the trail to at least the existing width. The trail surface will be restored to pre-construction conditions or better.

As part of our project restoration, we plan to:

- Relocate as many maintenance holes off the trail as possible
- Plant new trees and shrubs to replace those removed
- Repave affected areas to the trail to at least the current footprint
- Partner with King County Parks to widen the trail between N.E. 85th Street and Leary Way. In this section, the paved area will be widened to 14 feet, except under bridge and trestle crossing where the trail is constrained.

How will construction impact access to Idylwood and Marymoor parks?

We are aware that Idylwood Park is very busy during the summer months. Construction will not be permitted during the summer in front of Idylwood Park or the overflow parking lot off of 177th Avenue N.E. When work is underway, there will be lane closures on West Lake Sammamish Parkway and 177th Avenue N.E. Street parking near the park will likely be limited during construction.



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The sewer pipe runs along the west side of Marymoor Park under the Sammamish River Trail. There will be trail closures and detours when work is underway. The sewer pipe also crosses under the west entrance to the park off of West Lake Sammamish Parkway. We will use a trenchless construction method at the park entrance to maintain access. We do not anticipate impacts to other park facilities, such as soccer fields.

Traffic and detours

What will King County do to mitigate traffic disruptions on West Lake Sammamish Parkway during construction?

While we will complete work in sections to limit disruptions, we do anticipate vehicle lane closures and detours during construction. We may not be able to maintain a thru-traffic lane in the narrowest sections of West Lake Sammamish Parkway. We're working closely with the City of Redmond to identify working hours and safe detour routes for each section of roadway. We will provide advance notice of construction activities likely to cause delays so you can effectively plan ahead.

How will bicycle and pedestrian facilities on West Lake Sammamish Parkway be impacted?

King County looked at impacts to sidewalks and bike paths as part of the project's [traffic study](#). While we will complete work in sections to limit disruptions, we do anticipate temporary bike lane and sidewalk closures on West Lake Sammamish Parkway during construction, particularly during work in the narrower sections of the road. Bicyclists may need to ride in the vehicle lane with traffic or use detour routes during bike lane closures. Accessible pedestrian 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 bike lane closures may remain in place outside of construction hours. The City of Redmond is reviewing and approving all detours on West Lake Sammamish Parkway.

How will we learn about detours and project updates?

King County's communication team is committed to making sure you are informed of project activities well in advance so you can plan ahead. We will continue to work closely with those living along the project alignment by providing updates through mailings, fliers at your door, community events, project webpage updates, and project emails. We do plan to provide more frequent updates during construction and can adjust frequency of updates as needed. Our goal is to make sure you are never surprised by our work.

Will the project be improving the southeast corner of NE 51st Street and West Lake Sammamish to address pedestrian safety?

No, King County does not plan to make pedestrian improvements at the intersection of N.E. 51st Street and West Lake Sammamish Parkway. While we will replace sidewalks that we disrupt to install the new sewer pipe, our sewer pipe construction will be to the east of the intersection.

Will the Sammamish River Trail be extended south of N.E. 51st Street or north of Leary Way as part of this project?

No, we will not be extending the Sammamish River Trail as part of this project. When our work is complete, we plan to restore affected sections of West Lake Sammamish Parkway to its existing configuration in compliance with current City of Redmond requirements. The City does not require



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addition of a trail as part of restoration efforts for this project and we are not allowed to volunteer public funds to make improvements above and beyond existing conditions when we restore.

Will private property access be closed off during construction?

We are required to maintain private property access during construction, but sometimes vehicle access may be limited. If we need to block driveways, we will provide advance notice to those affected.

Project communication

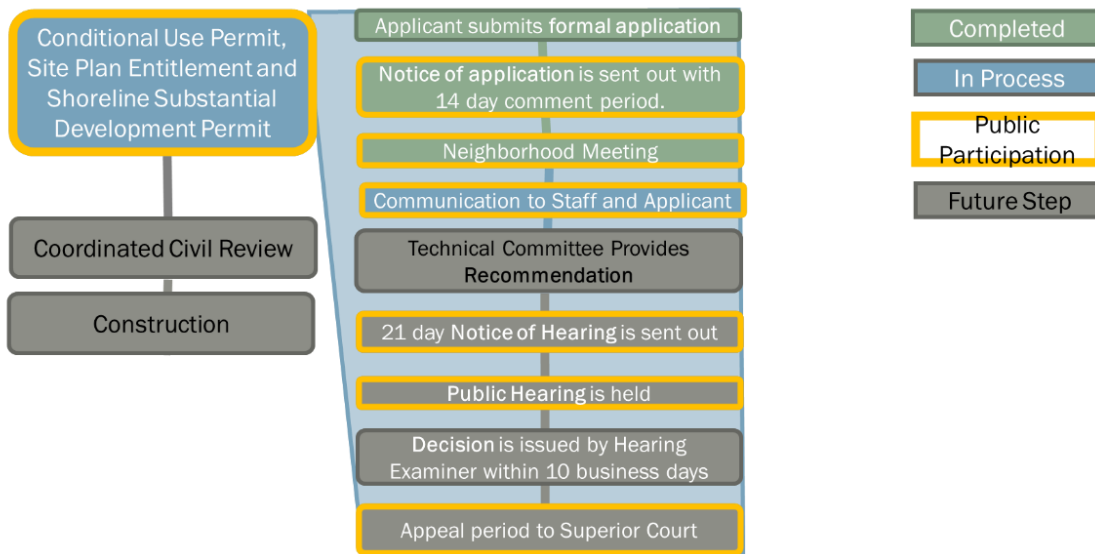
Project staff received requests to create an information sign to place near the project site at Country Creek. This would help educate and inform on how King County plans to replace the culvert and help to improve fish habitat.

City of Redmond permitting process

The City of Redmond and King County are hard at work to ensure we are encompassing community feedback into the project. Once the City of Redmond has prepared a recommendation on the project’s permit application, a public hearing will be set up and shared with all parties of record for a decision by the hearing examiner at a yet to be determined date.

The City of Redmond permit process flow chart on the next page covers the next steps for the permit process in more detail. The permit process diagram was available at the meeting.

Type III Process Flow Chart



City of Redmond permit process flow chart

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS AVAILABLE
206-477-5371/ 711 (TTY Relay)