



Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project

Friends of Marymoor Park Briefing Summary

Date, Time, and Location

Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 7 p.m.

Marymoor Park, Art Barn

6046 West Lake Sammamish Parkway N.E., Redmond, WA 98052

Overview

King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) outreach staff briefed Friends of Marymoor Park about the Lake Hills/NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project. The presentation included a high-level project overview and anticipated construction impacts to Marymoor Park and the surrounding area, including the Sammamish River Trail, West Lake Sammamish Parkway, vegetation, and the park entrance. King County WTD staff also provided information about restoration plans and how community members can stay updated as construction nears. The project team answered questions during the presentation and received feedback from Friends of Marymoor Park members.

Attendance

Approximately 10 members and park neighbors attended the meeting.

Summary of feedback

Attendees asked questions and provided comments on Sammamish River Trail closures and detours, traffic impacts on West Lake Sammamish Parkway, tree removal and replacement, and coordination with other projects in the area such as the Sound Transit Downtown Redmond Link Extension.

Attendees were interested in further reviewing project planting plans and details for the sidewalk improvement at the Marymoor Park entrance.

Attendees had the following questions and comments for King County WTD outreach staff:

General

Does wastewater flow through the pipe using gravity all the way to Brightwater?

No, between N.E. 85th Street and the Brightwater Treatment Plant in Woodinville, there are sections of the pipe that require pump stations to move the flows through the pipe. However, wastewater in the 4.5-mile-long section of pipe we are upgrading for this project flows through the pipe using gravity.

How are you coordinating with the Sound Transit Downtown Redmond Link Extension project?

King County is meeting regularly with Sound Transit and their contractor to coordinate between the two projects. While overlapping construction is unavoidable, we will work with Sound Transit and the City of Redmond to reduce compounding construction impacts to you whenever possible.



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What to expect during construction

What do you do to keep dust down during construction?

King County's contractor will use best practices to control dust during construction, as necessary. One example is spraying down exposed soils and soil storage areas with water and/or covering them during dry periods.

Can you avoid work near Marymoor Park in the summer?

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that work won't occur near the park in the summer. There are a number of constraints along the 4.5-mile-long project alignment that the contractor will need to work within. For example, groundwater tables are very high near the Sammamish River. Our contractor may need to work in the drier months in these areas to reduce the amount of groundwater that has to be removed from the trench.

Traffic and access

Will there be full closures on West Lake Sammamish Parkway?

Wherever possible, we will maintain thru-traffic lanes on West Lake Sammamish Parkway. In narrow sections of the roadway, we may need to close West Lake Sammamish Parkway to thru traffic (local access would be maintained). We're working closely with the City of Redmond to identify the best way to manage traffic during construction. King County is required to manage traffic during construction as permitted by the City of Redmond. We will provide advance notice of construction activities that are likely to cause traffic delays to help you plan ahead.

Will the Sammamish Rowing Club have access to their parking lot during construction?

Yes, King County will maintain access to the Sammamish Rowing Association driveway during construction. However, we do expect to impact the parking area closest to West Lake Sammamish Parkway.

There are two entrances to the parking area and driveway to the Sammamish Boathouse. Each entrance will be closed for a few days while the pipe crosses each location. Access to one entrance will be maintained at all times. Parts of the parking lot may be closed off for staging construction equipment when the pipe is being installed in this location. King County is coordinating directly with SRA about these impacts and will provide them as much advance notice as possible ahead of parking restrictions.

Tree removal and replanting

How many trees will you need to remove to complete your work?

Many trees have grown up around the sewer pipe since it was installed 50 years ago. Our crews need an area 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 that is removed that has a trunk diameter of at least 6 inches. For trees that are removed and are 30-inches-wide or larger, at least three new trees will be planted. These requirements are set by the City of Redmond's land use regulations.



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Will the large cottonwood trees adjacent to the west entrance to Marymoor Park be removed?

King County WTD outreach staff were not certain if the cottonwoods were scheduled for removal but committed to following up after the meeting with additional information.

It was confirmed after the meeting that the cottonwood trees directly adjacent to the Marymoor Park entrance on the south side of the road are not scheduled for removal. However, there are numerous trees scheduled for removal further south, including a stand of large poplar trees.



Map showing approximate location of cottonwood trees currently scheduled to be protected.

Will the large Douglas Fir tree in the parking lot near the entrance to the Sammamish Rowing Association be impacted by this work? What if people using the parking lot start driving over the root system to better access the boathouse when the south entrance is closed?

King County WTD outreach staff were not certain if this Douglas Fir tree would be impacted by projected activities but committed to following up after the meeting with additional information.

After the meeting, King County staff confirmed that the project will not impact the Douglas Fir trees in the parking lot near the kiosk. These trees are outside of King County’s working area. Traffic will not be directed through these trees when the south entrance is closed. Rather, vehicles will still have access to the boathouse through the west side of the parking area.

Please note that there are numerous other trees in or near the parking area scheduled for removal, including six smaller Douglas Fir trees on the south side of the south entrance of to the Sammamish Rowing Association.



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Approximate location of large Douglas Fir trees in parking area near Sammamish Rowing Association.

Are cottonwood trees part of the planting plans for restoration?

Yes, there are cottonwood trees included in the planting plans, but King County WTD outreach staff were not certain if cottonwoods would be replanted near Marymoor Park. Staff committed to following up after the meeting with additional information.

After the meeting, staff confirmed that Black Cottonwood trees are included in the planting plans for Marymoor Park.

Please share the planting plans for the segment of the project closest to Marymoor Park with Friends of Marymoor Park.

King County will share planting plans with Friends of Marymoor Park members. While King County WTD welcomes feedback on the planting plans, there are limitations to making changes in certain planting areas this far along in design. Some planting plans are guided by requirements set by permitting agencies and cannot be changed.



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Is habitat a key consideration you use when developing planting plans?

Yes, habitat restoration and enhancement are key considerations guiding King County’s planting plans. Other considerations for planting plans include native plant species, water quality benefits, and species-appropriateness.

How big will trees and shrubs be when planting?

The trees and shrubs that we replant will not be as mature as the ones removed in most cases. Most trees and shrubs will be planted in 1-gallon (ferns, for example), 2-gallon (dogwoods or elderberry, for example), or 5-gallon (maple, cottonwood, or alder trees, for example) containers. Below is an example of one of our project sites at the time of replanting.



Restoration plantings from King County’s Kent-Auburn Conveyance System Improvements.

Samamish River Trail

How long is the planned closure between Leary Way and the Marymoor Park entrance?

We estimate that we will need to close the Sammamish River Trail between Leary Way and the Marymoor Park entrance for approximately a year. The closure may not be in one consecutive year. We may need to close the trail for several months, temporarily repave it and open it, and close it again. We will have a better idea of the schedule for trail closures after we hire a contractor in early 2021.

Can pave a temporary path or add a sidewalk to West Lake Sammamish Parkway for pedestrians?

We did investigate whether this would be possible. Unfortunately, there is not space on the east side of West Lake Sammamish Parkway to add a temporary path or sidewalk. In some places, there is a retaining wall that runs directly adjacent to the bike lanes.

Did you consider adding a bridge over the Sammamish River north of 520 and adding a temporary trail on the east side of the Sammamish River in Marymoor Park?

Yes, this was discussed early on in the project with King County Parks. However, this option was ruled out because of the anticipated environmental impacts, stringent permit requirements, potential conflicts with Sound Transit light rail construction, and anticipated costs.



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Could you shuttle pedestrians between the Marymoor Park entrance and Leary Way, particularly residents who live along the trail between Leary Way and SR 520?

King County WTD Outreach Staff committed to following up with the project team about this suggestion.

After the meeting, King County WTD's project team considered a shuttle option alternative to the current proposed pedestrian detour route. However, this option was eliminated as a viable alternative for two reasons:

- King County conducted a traffic study as part of the project's design. We know our project will cause increased congestion and delays on West Lake Sammamish Parkway. Adding shuttles to an already congested area could worsen this issue.
- The current proposed detour route meets permitting requirements for safety and accessibility. King County cannot volunteer public funds for shuttle accommodations when there is a safe and accessible detour route that meets permitting requirements.

New sidewalk on N.E. Marymoor Way

Will the existing sidewalk on the bridge be improved?

King County WTD Outreach Staff were not certain if the sidewalk along the bridge needed to be upgraded or if the new sidewalk would connect to this existing sidewalk. Staff committed to following up with additional information.

After the meeting, staff confirmed that there are no planned changes to the sidewalk along the bridge. The new sidewalk will connect to either side of the bridge.

Could you add crosswalks on the north side of the NE Marymoor Way traffic light to cross West Lake Sammamish Parkway and/or on the east side of the NE Marymoor Way bridge?

No, King County WTD cannot make these improvements unless they are required for purposes of the project construction. We are not allowed to volunteer public funds to make improvements above and beyond existing conditions when we restore. The new sidewalk is a project requirement. It is needed to provide an accessible detour route when the Sammamish River Trail is closed between Leary Way and the Marymoor Park entrance.

Does King County have detailed drawings of the planned sidewalk improvements that could be shared with Friends of Marymoor Park?

Yes, King County will share the latest design drawings of the planned sidewalk improvements with Friends of Marymoor Park.

Communication

How will you communicate about trail closures ahead of the work starting?

We will be sharing information about trail closures to our project email list and will work closely with King County Parks and the City of Redmond to share information. In response to public feedback, we also plan to provide signage along the trail and detour routes.



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How will you communicate to park users who do not receive regular project updates?

We have heard that the best way to reach park users is to work closely with King County Parks and the City of Redmond to get the word out. We are also interested in having signs near or in the park for those who may not be a part of those existing communication channels.

King County's project team welcomes any suggestions for how to best communicate about project activities during construction.

Please plan to brief Friends of Marymoor Park again once you've hired a contractor and are getting ready to start construction.

King County will reach out to Friends of Marymoor Park in 2021 to schedule another briefing once we've hired a contractor and are getting ready to start construction.

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS AVAILABLE

206-477-5371/ 711 (TTY Relay)