

Skyway Community Recreation Center Project Frequently Asked Questions

Why is King County Parks working on a community center for Skyway?

The Skyway community has requested a community center for many years. The community vision is that a community center would be a unifying hub for all ages in the area, providing a "home away from home" and acting as the glue that holds the community together. This project is part of a broader community-driven effort aimed at enhancing the quality of life in Skyway. This community center planning and design project moved within King County from the Department of Local Services to Parks in 2022.

How is King County learning about what Skyway community members want from a community center?

Since 1994, Skyway-West Hill community members have been actively involved in discussions and planning for a future community center. King County is committed to using this input as we move forward with this project. [The design team has reviewed community input from previous studies, community center designs, and public surveys.](#) King County also works with local organizations like Skyway Coalition to understand community priorities and concerns.

King County has continued to engage with the community. In July/August 2024, over 200 community members provided [input](#) on programming and on Skyway Park as a potential site at a public meeting and in an online survey. In January/February 2025, over 200 community members provided [input](#) on possible community center layouts and on amenities that could be developed along with a community center within Skyway Park in an online survey. In June/July 2025, community members provided input on conceptual building and park designs.

There will be more opportunities for the community to provide feedback. For updates on the project, [sign up for the Skyway Park e-newsletter.](#)

Why is Skyway Park the proposed site for the Skyway Community Recreation Center?

In 2023-2024, the design team evaluated 10 different locations in Skyway, looking at availability, size, access to parks and transit, location in the community, and site characteristics. Skyway Park came out on top in their assessment. The southern portion of Skyway Park is a prime site for a community center, serving as a natural hub with strong neighborhood connections. It offers multiple access points, linking residential areas, schools, and nearby amenities. With its central location, accessibility, and potential for thoughtful improvements, the park provides a strong foundation for a vibrant and inclusive community center. 86% of survey respondents were supportive of siting the community center at Skyway Park. A well designed and run community center could help activate Skyway Park and increase community use of the park's green spaces.

King County has gathered technical information to better understand site soil, groundwater, and wetland considerations in the south end of the park. The community center will require deep foundation supports but construction is feasible. The [Concept Development Report](#) contains more information about site selection and site analysis (*see pages 13-15 and 32-38*).

What spaces will be included in the community center?

Community feedback has informed the floorplan. There will be multipurpose spaces including a gym, various sizes of community meeting rooms, a kitchen, an art and computer classroom, a fitness-weights room, a studio, a kids room, and outdoor plazas that connect to indoor spaces. As design progresses, the design team looks

forward to continuing to work with community members and artists to ensure the design reflects the needs and desires of the diverse Skyway community. The [Concept Development Report](#) contains more information about spaces that will be included in the community center (*see page 44*).

What programs will be offered at the community center?

A variety of flexible multipurpose spaces will accommodate a wide range of recreational programs serving all ages, and provide space for wide ranging events such as parties, workshops, or community meetings. The [Concept Development Report](#) includes a Recreation Demand and Program Plan with more information about potential programs (*see pages 9-12 and Appendix A*).

How will community center construction and operations be funded?

Approximately \$8 million has been allocated to start planning a community center. The design team estimates Parks needs an additional \$32 million to construct the community center. If voter approved, \$13 million of funding for a construction and initial funding for operations will be provided through the [2026-2031 Parks Levy](#).

When will the community center be completed?

There is no planned completion date at this time. There is still a lot of planning work to be done and significant funds to be secured before a community center can be constructed.

How will community concerns about safety at Skyway Park be addressed?

Placing a community center at Skyway Park provides an opportunity to address several community safety concerns. The design team is prioritizing improved access to and through the park and installing additional lighting. Adding a community center to Skyway Park would increase both Park staff and visitor presence on site.

King County Parks has launched [a Park Ranger program](#) to increase staff presence at parks, making these locations safer and more welcoming spaces. Rangers provide a positive presence and educate users about park rules. Parks deputies will continue to patrol Skyway Park to address safety concerns, and Park's Mobile Engagement Team (MET) will continue to activate the park by encouraging community use of the space during summer months.

Will there be adequate parking, transit, cyclist, and pedestrian access for increased use that would be associated with a community center at Skyway Park?

This project includes access improvements, such as a driveway extending through the site to facilitate faster emergency response, additional parking spaces, and improved trail access to roads and bus stops. As design and permitting move forward, the design team will work with King County Roads to identify appropriate access improvements on and around the site, such as traffic control features. The [Concept Development Report](#) includes a preliminary Parking and Trip Generation Estimates Memorandum (*see Appendix F*).

Will the community center have a swimming pool?

There is no plan to construct a swimming pool as part of the community center. Skyway Park has limited space where structures, driveways, and parking can be placed and cannot accommodate a pool along with a community center. Adding a pool to the community center would double anticipated construction costs and add high ongoing operation costs.

There are several indoor and outdoor seasonal pools and aquatic facilities a short distance from Skyway:

- The outdoor seasonal Lakeridge Swim Club in north Skyway serves 320 members and offers summer swimming lessons for non-members.
- The indoor Ranier Beach Pool aquatic center is a 10-minute drive or 11-minute bus ride from Skyway.
- The indoor Tukwila Pool is an 11minute drive from Skyway.
- Renton’s outdoor seasonal [Henry Moses Aquatic Center](#) is a 13-minute drive or 35-minute bus ride from Skyway.
- Several apartment complexes on the south side of Skyway have outdoor pools for resident use.

King County does support equitable swimming access. Parks has provided grants to community-based organizations providing swim lessons to youth. To address the recent lifeguard shortage in our region, Parks developed a paid lifeguard training program to help increase the skilled workforce to meet the regions needs for lifeguards, which was a huge success. Parks hired 82 individuals into the paid training program (60% of whom were BIPOC). 57 individuals successfully completed American Red Cross certification training.

What about the Skyway Resource Center?

To meet the community’s growing needs, the Department of Local Services awarded the Renton Innovation Zone Partnership (RIZP) and King County Housing Authority (KCHA) \$2 million for the development of the Skyway Resource Center in the former US Bank building in Skyway. This resource center opens in May 2025 and will serve as a HUD EnVision social services hub and provide place-based housing, health, and economic resources to the community. The community center will focus on recreational and social activities, while the Skyway Resource Center is dedicated to providing other essential community support services. [Skyway Coalition operates the Skyway Resource Center.](#)

What about the West Hill Community Center?

After a community center was identified as a priority in the West Hill Community Plan in 1993, the West Hill Community Recreation Center was designed in partnership with the community based on planning sessions conducted in 1996. The 5,200-square-foot Westhill Community Center was opened in April 1998 on the grounds of Dimmitt Middle School. An innovative partnership between King County and the Renton School District made it possible for this project to be completed in less than one year. Through the partnership, the school district supplied the land, and the county funded construction of the building. King County Parks operated a Teen Program out of the Community Center until 2002, when the lease was assigned to the Boys and Girls club due to unprecedented KC budget shortfalls. The building is no longer adequate to support the needs of the Skyway community. The Boys & Girls Club has not used the facility since July 2024. In 2025, King County Parks will host a summer Teen Program at the West Hill Community Center.

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