



# Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project

## IDYLWOOD COMMUNITY MEETING NOTES – SOUTH AUDUBON ELEMENTARY NEIGHBORHOOD

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*Date:* February 3, 2016

*Time:* 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

*Location:* Audubon Elementary  
3045 180<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Redmond, 98052

### Attendees

#### South Idylwood Neighborhood

8 community members

#### King County

Jennifer Kauffman, King County project manager  
Monica Van der Vieren, King County community relations lead  
Robert Gilmore, King County property lead  
Jeff Lykken, HDR project manager  
Vera Hoang, PRR community relations

### Purpose of the meeting

King County’s Lake Hills/NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project team hosted a community meeting for residents in the north Idylwood Neighborhood. The southern end of the project alignment runs through the neighborhood. The meeting was an opportunity for project neighbors to see the recommended alignment for the new pipe, ask questions and continue a dialogue with the project team.

### Project overview

Monica Van der Vieren, King County community relations lead, introduced herself and welcomed everyone.

Jennifer Kauffmann, King County project manager, provided a project overview beginning with introductions of the other project team members in attendance. She thanked the audience for attending and for their willingness to discuss the project. Jennifer explained that this project is needed to replace old pipes and increase capacity.

### Existing system (Jennifer Kauffman)

The sewer pipes in this area were built in 1959. The pipe is located in backyards within the neighborhood. Due to the pipe’s close proximity to residential property, King County wants to work closely with homeowners and project neighbors to explain the project’s likely impacts, understand the area and address concerns.

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The pipe to be upgraded by this project is 4.5 miles long starting at the Bellevue-Redmond city limit and going north to Redmond City Hall. The pipes in this neighborhood used to bring flows to a small treatment plant on Lake Sammamish, sometimes discharging them directly into the lake. That treatment plant was eventually decommissioned and the County took over the existing pipe system. Today, sewage from this area flows from homes to Redmond’s local pipes, to the County’s pipes, and is treated at the county’s Brightwater Treatment Plant in Woodinville.

## Project status and schedule (Jennifer Kauffman)

The project team conducted an alternatives analysis in 2015. The team will conduct design and field work, including surveying, soil investigations, and permitting, from 2016 to 2017. Construction is projected to begin in 2018; King County will not have details on the construction timeline or sequencing until a contractor is hired. The County expects the project to be completed around 2021. The project team is starting to work with neighbors early since residents are the experts on the area – neighbors’ expertise will help King County in project design and planning for construction.

## Recommended alignment (Jeff Lykken)

The recommended alignment follows the existing sewer pipeline with a few exceptions due to technical challenges.

There are significant technical challenges to replacing a pipe in an area that has grown around it. Redmond has grown a lot since the pipe was installed in the 1960s. The current pipe flows by gravity, and the new pipe needs to do the same. The team worked hard to reduce impacts to neighbors while maintaining flows.

The current pipe runs through backyards and a county parcel down 180th Avenue Northeast. The team considered locating the new sewer out of the ravine and along 179th Avenue NE, but the rise of the slope on 179th Avenue NE would require a 20-to-30 foot trench. Despite this, the team has tackled something similarly deep before so that route remained under consideration. After a few site visits, however, the team observed boulders that are remnants of the last glacial period. After seeing those Volkswagen-



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sized boulders, the team determined that tunneling under homes may not be feasible and would include significant risk. Though large boulders will still be a challenge during open cut construction, risk can be better managed with this method. So far, the team has determined that the route will be approximately 20 feet deep in some sections.

Another option under consideration is using pipe bursting to break the existing pipe and replace it with a larger diameter pipe. This will be a challenge with hard ground and boulders, but is something the team is considering to reduce impacts to property owners in this area.

On Northeast 24th Street, the team anticipates that the contractor will likely shut down one lane of traffic and keep one lane open. The County’s contractor will be required to provide emergency access at all times. The current estimate is that construction in the ravine neighborhood may take several months.

Some of the challenges in the neighborhood north of Audubon Elementary as well. The majority of the pipeline was built in 1959, and at the time, several of the residential homes in the area did not exist. The pipe was built in its current route because other routes would not allow flows to be conveyed by gravity. The project team considered several alternatives in attempts to reduce impacts to private properties, but found that they would require an additional series of pipes for a new siphon or lift stations.

At the last neighborhood meeting, several residents asked what construction would look like. The pipe to be constructed will likely be 27-to-30 inches in diameter. Crews will need 20-to-40 feet of space for set up and construction.

### Fieldwork in 2016

The team will survey the project area to create detailed base maps of property lines, utilities, and topography in the summer of 2016.

The team will also conduct environmental assessments including wetland delineations, and soil investigations including geotechnical borings. Geotechnical borings generally take one to two days per location. After the borings are complete, surveyors will periodically monitor ground water at the boring locations. This geotechnical information will help the team understand the soil and ground water conditions in the area.

### Community outreach (Monica Van der Vieren)

King County will work with neighbors throughout the life of the project. Communication from neighbors helps up build our knowledge base about the area and adjust plans when possible. The community relations team tracks comments and makes sure to address each comment. During construction, there will be two people on call 24/7. The sooner an issue is raised, the sooner it can be resolved. The team is already working with Audubon Elementary to coordinate. Community relations is happy to do neighborhood meetings at a time and place that is convenient for residents.

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### Property and permitting (Robert Gilmore)

Robert Gilmore will try to make the property and permitting process as painless as possible. He will work with individual neighbors to acquire property rights to get the work accomplished. He will work with neighbors to get rights of entry for the upcoming surveying and geotechnical work. King County will work with directly impacted properties early to define the limits of construction. On some properties, King County already has easements and will work closely with property owners to discuss the existing easements and whether additional easements will be required. Whenever the County does work on private property, crews will restore the area to the way it was or better, such as replacing a fence that crews need to remove.

### Questions and discussion

#### Project background

##### *How is this project funded?*

This project is fully funded. Since the sewer system is regional, everyone contributes into a pool of money for projects like this as part of their current bill. Ratepayers will not see an increase in their sewer bill.

#### Coordination with agencies and jurisdictions

##### *Is the County coordinating with Bellevue on other construction projects?*

There are other projects going on in Bellevue, but they will not affect this area. King County meets with all the jurisdictions involved when planning a new project. During these meetings, the team works to identify other projects in the area and coordinate construction staging and activities when possible to reduce the impacts to the community to the extent feasible.

#### Construction and fieldwork

##### *Do you know which end construction will start from?*

Contractors typically start on the downstream end of a gravity pipeline (in this case, near Redmond City Hall) and work their way upstream, but construction sequencing depends on a variety of factors, including permit restrictions. Once a contractor is hired, the team will be able to share more information about construction sequencing.

##### *To access the route from 24th Street, will the contractor need to build a road?*

The contractor may need to build a gravel access road to support the equipment. There is an arborist and landscape architects on the team, so the County will consider what restoration needs to occur and what can be protected along the way.

##### *Will any of the old pipes be replaced?*

There are asbestos sewers that need to be replaced in one area. The existing pipe that will not be used will be “decommissioned in place” which means it will be filled with thin concrete or sand to prevent its collapse.



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There are also a few homes directly connected to the County’s existing pipe in the neighborhood north of Audubon Elementary. Before decommissioning that pipe, the team identifies any direct connections to the pipe. Right now the team knows there are six properties directly connected to the county pipe in that neighborhood. Only identified one direct connection has been identified in this neighborhood.

### ***Which hours of the day will the contractors be working?***

The contractor will work with the City of Redmond to get a construction permit that will specify work hours. Work hours are generally from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### ***What will construction look like for backyards that are directly impacted?***

Many of the neighbors here are not directly connected to the County’s sewer, which means team won’t have to dig those pipelines up and stop service. The County will work with those neighbors that are directly impacted one-on-one in regards to permitting, safety, noise, etc.

### ***What happens to fences?***

If the contractor needs to remove any fencing, it will be restored to original condition or better.

### ***Will we lose water and sewer service?***

No.

### ***If the team chooses to remove the existing pipe first, what happens to the wastewater?***

King County would have to divert flows, which would not stop people from discharging into the system.

***Comment:*** Northeast 24th Street can become very slippery during the winter time. Keep in mind that they shut down the hill in both directions if it snows.

### ***What about earthquakes? Will you share information about slope stability in the ravine?***

King County has evidence that none of our pipes failed during the Nisqually Earthquake. Pipes generally move with the ground. In addition to this, protections go into the contractors’ contract. The team is happy to share results of geotechnical studies. The team will make sure to explain things as we go out in the field. The team will also take monitor the slopes and any settlement throughout the project.

### ***Will the pipe around Marymoor Park go into the road or in the park?***

The pipe near Marymoor Park will be near the road shoulder. Early in the alternatives analysis process, the team eliminated the alternative in the road due to traffic impacts, utilities, and construction considerations. The recommended option will be close enough to the road that there will likely be some traffic impacts.

WTD is working with King County Parks, Redmond Parks, and other agencies. There is a lot of coordination for projects of this magnitude.

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Areas near Marymoor Park and along the Sammamish River trail are some of the most significant cultural resource areas in the state, so archeologists are major participants on the project. Though it adds another level of complication, the team wants to make sure not to disturb potential cultural resources. The County supports the storage and perpetuity of cultural resources. For example, the County supports Native American sites and post-modern sites such as Hoovervilles and shanty towns.

### *How far away will people feel things such as vibration?*

Vibration and noise impacts vary based on the individual. People are more sensitive to vibration than structures are, but don't hesitate to contact community relations if you are concerned.

### **Environment and wildlife**

#### *Is your pipeline on the west side of the creek?*

Yes. The County owns one line and the City of Redmond has another one that runs parallel.

#### *Is the creek in the ravine?*

Yes.

#### *Will the project remove trees?*

King County tries to maintain trees, but there may be some cases where trees need to be removed.