



King County

Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project

Online Open House Summary

October 29, 2019 - January 31, 2020

<https://publicinput.com/redmondsewerupgrade>

Purpose

The purpose of the online open house was to provide an opportunity for people who live, work and recreate in the project area to review the latest plans for a sewer upgrade project at a time and place convenient to them.

The online open house also included a survey opportunity for users to provide feedback on King County’s communication about the project.

While the online open house is now closed, an archive is available on the project [library webpage](#).

Notification

The following tools and channels were used to advertise the online open house:

- King County sent email invitations to approximately 1,000 project email list subscribers announcing when the sites were live and reminders while the site was open.
- King County mailed a [postcard](#) to approximately 13,200 people along the project alignment
- Project staff posted a [blog](#) on the King County Wastewater Treatment Division website.
- King County posted an update with links to the online open house on the project webpage in English, Spanish, and Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese languages.
- King County posted paid Facebook ads in Spanish and Chinese promoting the online open house
- Project staff emailed community partners to request their help in sharing the links to the webpages.



Online open house format

The following information was available for review in English, Spanish, Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese languages:

- An interactive project area map



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- Brief outline of project progress to-date
- Project overview and schedule
- How public feedback has informed project design
- What to expect before and during construction
- Construction methods to be used
- Trail, sidewalk and greenery restoration once construction is complete

Participants

The online open house was viewed by participants 1,565 times. 1300 views or 83% were in English, 102 views or 7% in Spanish, 80 views or 5% in Simplified Chinese, and 83 views or 5% in Traditional Chinese.

Optional survey

Of those viewing the online open house, 17 participated in a 5-question survey (see Appendix for survey questions). Fifteen participants submitted comments and nine participants signed up to be on the project email list.

Written survey forms were available at in-person open houses on October 22, 2019, and October 24, 2019. Four surveys were submitted at in-person open houses (included in “survey feedback”, below).

King County also included optional demographic questions at the end of the survey. Of 15 people who responded, 60 percent were ages 35-45 years old, 20 percent were 25-34, and 20 percent were 55 or older. Of 11 people who responded, over half of respondents identified as White, 27 percent as Asian or Pacific Islander, and 18 percent as Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino. Of 13 people who responded, 9 owned single-family homes in the project area and 4 either rented or stayed with friends or family.

Survey feedback

Twelve out of 14 respondents said they are satisfied with the amount of information they have at this phase in the project.

Participants selected email, social media, community meetings or events, and the project webpage as the best ways for King County to share information with them.

The following questions and comments were submitted:

Project timeline

What is the construction schedule?

We expect construction for the whole project will begin in 2021 and take about three years to complete. The work will be completed in sections such that the entire 4.5-mile alignment is not under construction at the same time. Multiple sections may be under construction at once and work may not occur consecutively. The contractor will have flexibility to schedule the work in the most efficient order for them to complete the work safely and quickly. We will have a better idea of when work will occur in specific neighborhoods after a contractor is hired in early 2021. We will share that information with you as soon as it becomes available.



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Can you have two teams working from opposite ends to expedite the project?

The contractor may choose to have multiple teams working on the project at once. We will share more information about the contractor's plans once we've hired a contractor in 2021.

How will the project team coordinate with Sound Transit's Redmond Link project?

We understand 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 local jurisdictions, and partner agencies to anticipate potential overlaps in planned construction projects. While overlapping construction is unavoidable, we will work with these groups to see if there are ways we can work together to reduce compounding construction impacts to you.

Construction impacts

Please do not work on weekends when working on private property.

The City of Redmond will permit work hours for the project, including work on private property. While we expect our contractor will work primarily during the week, we cannot guarantee that work will not occur on Saturdays unless work hours are designated in an easement agreement with a property owner.

Please work 24/7 in non-residential areas to move this project as quickly as possible.

The City of Redmond will permit work hours for the project. At this time, we do not expect to work overnight, except for work under SR 520. While working 24 hours a day could speed up construction, the majority of the project alignment is located in or very close to residential areas.

Have you assessed how the noise pollution of up to 12 hours a day will affect the health of my family and members of the family along the construction line?

Noise levels during construction typically vary quite a bit depending on the type of equipment in use. Noise near any particular home may be higher during some activities and lower during others. The acceptable noise levels for our work will be set by the City of Redmond. Here is a link to the [Noise Standards](#) in the City of Redmond's Municipal Code. Please reach out to the City of Redmond with questions about the basis for their noise code.

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.

We recognize our construction is disruptive to those living nearby. On rare occasions, we have offered residents short-term, temporary accommodations in nearby hotels during particularly noisy activities. Should our activities necessitate this option, we will work closely with affected residents.



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Where are construction vehicles and equipment being staged?

We won't know this information until a contractor is hired in 2021, but we will be sure to share that information with you as it becomes available.

When will I know more about construction sequencing and impacts to traffic, transit, bicyclist, and pedestrians?

We won't know construction sequencing until a contractor is selected in early 2021, but we will share that information 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.

Preliminary [bike and pedestrian detour routes for Lake Sammamish Trail](#) are available for review on our project website. We're working closely with the City of Redmond to identify safe detour routes for each section of roadway.

Give us plenty of time to talk to the contractor so they can get input well ahead of the start date. It will help us all plan better.

King County expects to hire a contractor in early 2021. After the contractor is hired, we will provide an opportunity for you to speak with the construction team and ask questions before construction starts.

King County's communication team is committed to making sure you are informed of construction 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.

There is heavy traffic on West Lake Sammamish Parkway, including traffic coming to and from Issaquah. I am concerned about impacts to traffic on West Lake Sammamish Parkway during this 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.

As we get closer to construction, we will also reach out to surrounding cities to coordinate on how to best share information with travelers coming from other areas, like Issaquah.

How long will it take to restore roads, bike lanes, trails, and sidewalks once construction work is complete? Pavement grinding and resurfacing happens often and can be left for extended periods, especially in the bike lanes.

While we will work with our contractor to restore as quickly as possible after construction, there is often a delay between construction and restoration. This is because pouring concrete and asphalt paving are



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weather dependent activities. In addition, there are efficiencies in restoring large sections of roads at once, rather than restoring short sections at a time.

Environment and restoration

Given that this project will have a great impact on the flora and fauna of our cities and communities, how will the final design plan be confirmed and approved?

King County performed an environmental review as required by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The SEPA review process evaluates how the project will affect the environment. 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.

Additionally, King County follows federal and state rules for work in wetlands, streams and shorelines, as well as permitting requirements from the City of Redmond. King County will follow rules and regulations set by regulatory agencies for the protection of wildlife during construction.

We've avoided sensitive environmental areas where possible. Where we couldn't avoid sensitive areas, we are developing protection and restoration plans. We will install habitat enhancing structures and plant trees and shrubs on the banks of the Sammamish River near Leary Way.

Please plant flowering plants for birds and bees during restoration.

We will replant many flowering plants that can be used by birds and bees as part of our project restoration. Key considerations for our planting plans include habitat restoration and enhancement, native plant species, water quality benefits, and species-appropriateness.

I'm very concerned about losing authentic, aged trees. Replacement trees will not preserve the character of our city.

King County will replant a similar tree for every tree removed that has a trunk larger than six inches in diameter. For trees that are removed and have trunks that are at least 30 inches in diameter (landmark trees), 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.

We understand that several new trees are not the same as an old growth tree. We will 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 sewer pipe.

Where can I find more information on how King County has preserved landmark trees?

King County performed an environmental review as required by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The SEPA review required inventory and documentation of landmark trees. To learn more about tree protection plans for this project, review the [SEPA Determination of Non-significance](#) and posted on the [project website](#).



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In addition, the [preliminary Tree Protection Plan](#) is now available on our [project website](#). This document is currently being updated as the project design progresses. We cannot guarantee that trees shown for protection in this plan will not need to be removed in construction.

For additional information about tree preservation, contact Hillary Jones at hillary.jones@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-5504.

Where can I see which trees are being removed along the Sammamish River Trail and Luke McRedmond Landing?

The [preliminary Tree Protection Plan](#) shows which trees (with trunks larger than six inches in diameter) we anticipate protecting and removing along the project alignment. This document is currently being updated as the project design progresses. We cannot guarantee that trees shown for protection in this plan will not need to be removed in construction.

The design and construction progress should be accelerated. By doing so it will reduce the surrounding environmental impact and will have less affect and interference on residents' daily life.

Our top priority is to design and build a safe, reliable sewer that will last another 50 years or more. It takes time to make sure we've considered all the potential project impacts and accounted for them during construction. While we move as quickly as possible, unfortunately we cannot accelerate the design and construction process at the expense of proper permitting and safety.

Sidewalk and trails

Just as you are expanding pipes for population growth, please expand the biking, rolling, and walking network.

King County will repave or replace sections of the Sammamish River Trail, roads and sidewalks that we disrupt to install the new sewer pipe. While we are limited in how we can spend public sewer funds, we do look to make improvements during restoration where possible. As part of the project's restoration, we expect to:

- Partner with King County Parks to widen the Sammamish River Trail between N.E. 85th Street and Leary Way
- Install 24 new curb ramps at 11 locations along the sewer route
- Install a new sidewalk on Marymoor Way at the Marymoor Park entrance that will serve as an accessible detour route during construction

This would be a great time to do sidewalk upgrades through the Idylwood neighborhood (similar to what was done on West Lake Sammamish Parkway near Vasa Park).

King County will repave sections of sidewalks that we disrupt to install the new sewer pipe. Replacing sidewalks is an opportunity to improve accessibility. As part of the project's restoration, we'll install 24 new curb ramps at 11 locations along the sewer route. Eight of the 24 new curb ramps will be installed in the Idylwood neighborhood.



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Please add lighting and drinking water kiosks to the Sammamish River Trail.

We cannot add new lighting or drinking water kiosks along the trail as part of this sewer upgrade project because we are limited in how we can spend public funds generated by sewer rates.

Please widen the Sammamish River Trail.

We have partnered with King County Parks to widen the Sammamish River Trail between N.E. 85th Street and Leary Way. The paved area will be widened to 14 feet, except under bridge and trestle crossings where the trail is constrained. A new four-foot-wide gravel shoulder will be added to the land side of the paved trail. The existing two-foot-wide gravel shoulder on the river side will be replaced as-is.

I am concerned about the bike detour route on the Leary Bridge. There is not enough space to safely pass on the narrow sidewalk.

This is something we heard from many community members during project design. In response to this feedback, we've adjusted our detour route. We plan to keep the Leary Way Pedestrian Bridge open during construction.

Can you add a sidewalk rain garden to reduce stormwater runoff?

We do not anticipate installation of roadside raingardens as part of this project. While King County does install roadside raingardens on some of our wastewater projects to reduce stormwater runoff, we prioritize the use of this tool in [older parts of our system](#). In these areas, there is only one set of pipes used to carry both sewage and stormwater. Reducing stormwater runoff in these areas helps us to reduce [combined sewer overflows](#), or CSOs, on rainy days. CSOs do not occur in Redmond because there are separate pipes in Redmond to carry sewage and stormwater.

However, we certainly recognize the critical importance of reducing stormwater runoff pollution in all parts of our service area. Using green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), like raingardens, on private property can help slow and clean polluted runoff before it harms our waterways. If you or your neighborhood group are interested in learning more about GSI, including funding opportunities, please visit www.700milliongallons.org and check the WaterWorks Grant Program at www.kingcounty.gov/waterworks-grants.

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS AVAILABLE

206-477-5371/ 711 (TTY Relay)



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Appendix: Online open house optional survey questions

1. If you'd like to receive more frequent updates, please sign up here for email updates and/or text alerts updates:

First name:

Last name:

Email:

Phone:

2. How do you get information and news about King County projects? Select all that apply:

- Community meetings or events
- Flyer left at your door
- Email
- Mail – postcards, newsletters
- Newspapers, online news site, blogs
- One-on-one meeting
- Online meetings and activities
- Presentations at community group meetings
- Social media – Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, etc.
- Text messaging
- Webpage
- Other (please specify)

3. King County expects to complete design for the Lake Hills/N.W. Lake Sammamish Upgrade project in 2020 and start construction in 2021. Do you feel you have enough information at this phase to understand the project?

- Yes
- No

If no, please explain what we can be doing to better meet your needs:

4. What advice would you give to the project team about engaging with you, your groups and organizations, and members of your community?



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[open box]

5. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

[open box]