



Project signage along the Sammamish River Trail

## The Plan for Trees

The Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish sewer pipe has been serving Redmond and Bellevue for 50 years. If you live, work or go to school in Redmond, you use this sewer pipe. Each time you flush a toilet, run a faucet or take a shower, water travels down your drain. From there, the water travels through City pipes and the Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish sewer pipe to Brightwater Treatment Facility in Woodinville for treatment.

King County will upgrade this 4.5-mile-long pipe because it is too small and reaching the end of its service life. We will build the new pipe in trails, roads, parks and private property in Redmond. The route of the new pipe will almost entirely follow the route of the existing pipe. Construction is expected to begin as early as 2022 and take three years to complete. The new pipe will provide sewer service for another 50 years or more.

## Designing with trees in mind

Many plants and trees have grown up around the sewer pipe since it was installed 50 years ago. While the design team works to protect sensitive environments and trees, impacts can't always be avoided. Our team is working with Tribes, local jurisdictions, and permitting agencies to protect the existing trees, minimize removals, and develop restoration plans.

Tree planting is a priority for the project, with the goal of a future tree canopy that is equal to or better than what exists today. The project team aims to improve tree health in a variety of ways:

- Planting a variety of species that include conifers and broadleaf trees that are adapted to the local climate
- Improving the soil so that trees remain healthy through time
- Improving habitats along the sewer pipeline and Sammamish River for fish and wildlife

## Tree removal and replacement along the sewer pipeline

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.

We will replant at least one tree for every significant tree that is removed. For trees that are removed and are over 30-inches in diameter, three new trees will be planted. These guidelines are set by the City of Redmond.



Arborist examining tree

**Due to COVID-19, King County's Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) is not currently hosting in-person meetings or events. However, we are committed to sharing information in alternative ways.**

**Our staff remain available to answer questions. We can:**

- Join your virtual meeting
- Provide virtual briefings for community groups
- Send you information in the mail about this project

**To request a meeting or talk with the project team, contact:**

Kelly Foley Kruse  
206-477-8621  
Kelly.foleykruse@kingcounty.gov

**You can also reach us by email and phone:**

- Visit the project website at [www.kingcounty.gov/KCRedmondSewer](http://www.kingcounty.gov/KCRedmondSewer)
- Sign up for email updates on our website at [www.kingcounty.gov/KCRedmondSewer](http://www.kingcounty.gov/KCRedmondSewer), by calling 206-477-8621, or by emailing [kelly.foleykruse@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kelly.foleykruse@kingcounty.gov)
- Enroll in text alerts: text KING REDMONDSEWER to 486-311

**How else would you like us to communicate with you? Let us know!**

# Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project

## The Plan for Trees (continued)

### Example of landscape removal and replanting in Bellevue

#### Sammamish River Trail



Before construction

During construction

After construction

We recognize that the trail is a popular route for recreation and commuting. Our goal is to put the trail back as good or better than we found it. When our work is complete, 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 of 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

#### Habitat enhancement

Part of the existing Lake Hills/NW Lake Sammamish sewer pipe runs under West Lake Sammamish Parkway, very close the culvert at Country Creek. King County must replace the culvert to install the new sewer pipe. We are partnering with the City of Redmond to improve the culvert so fish can swim through it.

#### Additional ways we will restore sensitive environmental areas:



- Improve habitat on the banks of the Sammamish River near Leary Way
- Replant native and drought-tolerant trees where possible
- Maintain and monitor critical environmental area for 5 to 10 years after planting



Trail restoration looking north from Leary Way. Rendering depicts five years of tree growth.



Trail restoration looking north from The Stroll park toward N.E. 85th Street. Rendering depicts five years of tree growth.

### Guided by sustainability

King County recognizes the value trees bring our environment and future. King County's 1 Million Trees program recently met its goal and has planted 1,000,000 trees to protect our waters, host our wildlife and store carbon. We bring sustainability values to each construction project, working to meet or exceed green building guidelines. Our project teams work closely with cities, agencies and communities when construction will affect the environment.

### What's next

We'll spend 2021 finalizing the project's design and getting permits needed to install the pipe in the safest way possible, limit impacts, and maximize improvements for people and the environment. We expect to hire a contractor in late 2021 and will share detailed information about the construction schedule, anticipated impacts and project detours.

Graphic: Insert project timeline  
We'll be with you every step of the way King County recognizes that construction can be disruptive to those who live, work or play nearby. During construction, our goal is to let you know about upcoming construction activities so you can plan ahead. We'll also work with you to promptly address questions and concerns while work is underway.



### Here are some ways we work to get you the information you need:

- community meetings with the contractor prior to construction
- community briefings on project progress during construction
- prompt responses to all community inquiries
- regular email, text and social media updates
- signage around your community
- fliers at your door
- construction hotlines
- project web page

\*This is an estimated project timeline and is likely to shift over the course of the project.

## Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project TIMELINE

