



# Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project

## Friends of Marymoor Park Briefing Summary

Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 7 p.m. | Virtual Meeting

### Attendees

King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) project team:

- Annie Pfeifer, King County WTD community relations
- Liz Matson, King County WTD project manager
- Morgan Calder, PRR community relations support

Friends of Marymoor Park

- 6 board members

### Purpose

King County’s Lake Hills and Northwest Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project team briefed the Friends of Marymoor Park (FOMP) at a regularly scheduled meeting. The project sewer route follows the Sammamish River Trail, down past the entrance to Marymoor Park, and into the Vuelake neighborhood. The project team provided an update on design progress that focused on details of work around Marymoor Park, construction timeline delays, and what residents can expect when construction begins.

### Introduction

Annie Pfeifer, King County WTD community relations, thanked FOMP for the invitation to present at this meeting and facilitated project team introductions. Annie shared an agenda that included a project overview and status update, ways the project team will keep community partners informed, and next steps. Following the presentation, there was time arranged for questions and answers.

Liz Matson, King County WTD project manager, provided an overview of King County WTD, calling attention to the county service area that includes 1.9 million people, 5 treatment plans, and nearly 400 miles of pipeline. Liz explained that, for this project, water travels through local pipes owned and maintained by the City



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of Redmond. That water then travels through King County’s regional pipes that carry it to a treatment plant. She emphasized WTD’s mission to protect public health and enhance the environment by collecting and treating wastewater while recycling valuable resources for the Puget Sound region.

### Project overview and status update

Liz shared that the project will upgrade 4.5 miles of an aging sewer pipe that runs through Redmond and carries wastewater to the Brightwater Treatment Plant in Woodinville. King County is proactively replacing this pipe to ensure continued and reliable service for 50 years or more. Liz presented maps of the project route, calling out what neighborhoods the pipe passes through and where the limits of the project area are.

### Marymoor Park construction details

Annie shared specific project details of planned work near Marymoor Park. A part of the pipe is located directly under the entrance to the park. Annie explained that crews will use a trenchless construction method to drill underneath the entrance so that access to the park is not disrupted.

Annie described the plan for tree removal and restoration for the project. WTD’s restoration goal is to create a future tree canopy that is equal to or better than what exists today. The project team is coordinating closely with the City of Redmond to ensure compliance with land use regulations and permit requirements for tree restoration. Trees will be removed within the work zone, approximately 30 to 45 feet from the pipe. When replanting, crews will plant a variety of local tree species, improve soil quality, and improve fish and wildlife habitat along the Sammamish River. Tree plans will not be finalized until closer to the start of construction and additional field surveys might be required.

Annie shared plans to install a new sidewalk, curbs, and stormwater catch basins at the Marymoor Park entrance. These upgrades will be installed to ensure detours routes are compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act before the contractor closes segments of the Sammamish River Trail. WTD’s contractor will be required to install the new sidewalk during the winter months so that they don’t disturb peak park season traffic during the summer. During construction,



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traffic control near the park entrance will be used to maintain traffic safety during installation.

### Detour routes and restoration plans

Annie shared construction information about detour routes required during intermittent closures along the Sammamish River Trail. Work will be performed in sections and may not be consecutive, so closures between construction access points will require off-site detours. Annie acknowledged the trail access is important to communities living nearby and commuting along the trail. The west and east sides of the trail will not be closed at the same time, except for when trenchless crossings occur. Access to the Leary Way pedestrian bridge will be maintained using flaggers to direct traffic. Due to limited access points, the detour will route travelers onto nearby sidewalks, paths, and bike lanes.

Detour routes were created with substantial input from the community and the county has made several adjustments based on feedback to ensure safety during construction. Annie displayed images of detour routes planned between Northeast Leary Way and Northeast Marymoor Way.

Annie added that the trail will be fully restored after construction. Restoration will include relocating maintenance holes off the trail where possible, replanting removed habitat, repaving affected areas of the trail, and widening the trail where possible, between Northeast 85th Street and Leary Way.

### Project timeline update

Liz shared an updated project timeline and noted that the construction start date is delayed. Construction is expected to begin in 2026 and is anticipated to take three years to complete. A newsletter sharing this update will be mailed and emailed out to community members in early 2024.

Liz reviewed next steps on the project, including continuing permit acquisition in 2024, hiring a contractor in 2025, and beginning construction in 2026.

### Keeping community members informed

Annie shared ways to stay up to date on project information, highlighting the project website and email listserv. Annie added that the project team will



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continue to attend community events, provide fieldwork notices when needed, and provide community briefings upon request.

Annie provided personal and general project contact information with the group that included:

- Annie Pfeifer, community relations, at 206-263-3203 or [amurrillpfeifer@kingcounty.gov](mailto:amurrillpfeifer@kingcounty.gov)
- Visit the project website to sign up for email updates at: [www.kingcounty.gov/KCRedmondSewer](http://www.kingcounty.gov/KCRedmondSewer)
- Enroll in text alerts: text KING REDMONDSEWER to 486-311

### Question and comments

The following questions and comments were asked by board members during the Q&A session at the end of the meeting:

*Can you confirm details about the detour routes, so we can be sure we understand the graphics?*

The project team explained that the detour along West Lake Sammamish Parkway between Northeast Leary Way and State Route 520 will include a southbound bike only lane and a shared sidewalk wide enough to allow northbound bike traffic and other trail users. A barrier will separate vehicle traffic from the bike lane. The detour between SR 520 and Northeast Marymoor Way will include a 10-foot-wide multi-use path for all trail users and bicyclists, also using a barrier to separate vehicle traffic from the path. Northbound vehicle traffic will be reduced to one lane the whole length of the detour.

*From what you presented about improving the sidewalk near the Marymoor Park entrance, there appears to be a gap in work over the bridge. Has the project team considered upgrading the sidewalk over the bridge to be ADA compliant?*

The WTD project team responded that they will confirm with the engineering team if work on installing an ADA accessible sidewalk will include the portion over the bridge or not. Annie will follow-up with FOMP with a response from the engineers.



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Following the meeting, project engineers clarified that modifying the existing bridge sidewalk is outside the scope of this project and is not included.

*The Friends of Marymoor Park members expressed gratitude for the briefing and shared appreciation for how comprehensive the information was. They offered WTD the opportunity to provide an updated briefing in 2025.*