

# Cemetery Pond Wetland 30% Design - Summary of Public Comments

On August 22, 2023 King County hosted a virtual open house on the 30% design of the Cemetery Pond wetland project. Feedback was provided by approximately 16 participants attended and an additional 4 individuals who completed the online survey. King County staff attending include project manager Matt McNair, Danielle De Clercq, Matt Anderson, Richelle Rose, Daniel Sorenson and the HDR consultant



team, Beth Rood-Peterson, Paul Worrlein and Tamie Kellogg. Project background and details about the proposed 30% design for restoration were presented. The project team discussed the design features with the community and responded to questions about potential public onsite amenities. The following is a summarizes the 30% design comments and questions received through the online meeting and survey.

## I. Project Site Amenities Comments and Questions

The following are suggested project site amenities comments and questions.

### a. Signage

- Suggest a welcome to Cemetery Pond wetland sign right at the corner where the existing is currently located.
- Suggest signage for the type of vegetation along the walking path.

### b. Pedestrian Access

- Create a walking path along 164th AVE SE to the viewing platform.
- Provide access for walkers with an entry point from SE 130th St (south side of the pond).
- Provide access for walkers into the park from multiple directions.
- Ensure the parking is accessible to a school bus, near the entrance on SE 128th St.
- Designate an area for a port-o-potty to be used by maintenance work parties or educational events.

### c. Walking Path

- Location:
  - Prefer walking path to be along the water's edge where the full wetland is visible.
  - Prefer the walking path lead to bench here.
  - Would like to see the path go all the way around the wetland.
  - Prefer access from multiple directions to the stormwater park.
  - Prefer a stormwater park that provides a walking destination.
  - Wherever they can best fit in the design.
- Boardwalk/Pilings:
  - Prefer the trail be on pilings.
  - Prefer a boardwalks, like in Kirkland and Issaquah to add more walking areas and wildlife viewing.

- Prefer an ADA walking path or boardwalk of at least 1/3 mile, where the full wetland is visible.
- Consider a viewing platform out into the pond area or high enough to see into the pond area

d. Wildlife

- Will changing the depth of water impact different living things there now?
- What is your plan for dealing with beavers at the wetland?
- Is it possible to clear the waterway enough for salmon to get into the pond? Prefer the pond should be fishable.

e. Project Scope

- This is a great project for our community!
- Don't go crazy – keep it nice and simple.

**II. Maintenance Comments and Questions**

- a. What is the plan for maintenance of this project site?

**III. Stormwater/Capacity Comments and Questions**

- a. It appears the sediment may have built up and the outlet culvert under SE 128<sup>th</sup> St is full. Can excess water be put into a culvert going out to 128th to lower the water level?
- b. Will the existing pond be excavated for more capacity/deeper water?

**IV. Project Communication Comments**

- a. Share King County information on beaver management plan on project website.
- b. Share King County efforts to expand the park through surrounding land purchases.
- c. Determine if it's possible that expanded park areas could be suitable for additional community activities such as community garden, food truck, or sound stage.
- d. Prefer more focus on how to encourage surrounding neighbors to use the stormwater park.
- e. It would be a great place to engage students in maintenance work parties, quality testing, volunteer restoration, or other environmental education. Please reach out to local schools in the Renton and Issaquah school district.
- f. Several community members prefer on-site meetings (work parties), while others appreciated the online feedback opportunities. Preferred communication approaches include email, Next-door, KUOW, and the Seattle Times.

**V. Funding Comments and Questions**

- a. The current funding is for design only. How do we start looking for construction funding for this project? Is Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funding an option?

**How to get involved?**

1. Survey monkey link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TQRGP99>
2. If you live nearby and are interested in discussing the sale of your property with King County please contact [King County Open Space Acquisition](#)
3. Invite our design team to attend community meetings, schools, or other events. [mmcnair@kingcounty.gov](mailto:mmcnair@kingcounty.gov).
4. Learn more by visiting the project website [kingcounty.gov/CemeteryPond](http://kingcounty.gov/CemeteryPond)