
OVERVIEW

This document summarizes responses to comments collected at the City of Redmond's October 21, 2021, virtual informational open house for the Redmond Wetlands Complex Project. City of Redmond staff and consultants shared the project need and purpose, site concept, timeline, and solicited community input.

MEETING NOTIFICATION

Notice of the open house meeting was communicated via a press release, posted to the Wetlands Complex website, the City's social media pages, and emailed to elected officials and key stakeholders.

MEETING INFORMATION AND FORMAT

The informational open house was held virtually on October 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Forty-eight people registered in advance, and twenty-two people participated.

Presenters included:

City of Redmond Wastewater Manager Ryan Kirchner

Anderson Perry Project Manager Josh Robertson

Walker Macy Landscape Architect Chelsea McCann

Twenty (20) written comments were received. The presentation is available for viewing on the project website, www.RedmondWetlandsComplex.com

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

1. Where can I find more information about the Wetlands Project?

www.RedmondWetlandsComplex.com

2. What will happen to the existing treatment plant site? Will it be developed with homesites?

The existing facility will be decommissioned. The City is in the early stages of considering the best options for repurposing the site.

3. It appears that the infiltration wetlands will be on BLM land. Will that land be transferred to the City, or will it remain BLM land that is leased?

The City is currently working with BLM to first lease and eventually own the land.

4. I live across Northwest Way from the new site. A) I am concerned about the stench of sewer treatment. B) Can this affect my well water?

(A)The City has been disposing of biosolids on the site for decades. This odorous operation will be eliminated. Additionally, this treatment system is much different from the existing operation in the Dry Canyon. Properly operated lagoon systems have much less odor than current city treatment operations. (B)No, the City does not anticipate any impacts to wells. The City has been discharging treated wastewater at the site for decades with no impacts on groundwater. The City uses groundwater monitoring wells as required by DEQ to ensure water quality is maintained. With the use of disposal wetlands, the infiltration rate of the water will actually be slower than current City operations.

5. What dirt trails are earmarked as available to mountain bike and horseback riders? Do you anticipate motorcycles/UT/side by sides?

As part of the preliminary design process, mountain bike and horse-riding trails are being considered as possible recreational opportunities at the site. Motorized vehicles will not be part of the recreational experience at the Complex but are allowed on the adjacent BLM land on established trails.

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS CONTINUED

6. Concerned about NW Way traffic - the volume has increased as drivers stay away from 97 - there is a slight hill and limited visibility of traffic turning in/out of the site.

Traffic planning is part of the project design, and a traffic study will be conducted as necessary to address any identified issues as the design progresses.

7. How will the trail network connect to the Dry Canyon or town?

With this project, there are no plans to connect trail access to Dry Canyon or town; however, those connections may occur in the future.

8. How am I going to get into my residence? It looks like there will be a lot of construction that might block access.

Access to residences will be kept open throughout construction.

9. Will the facility be open 24 hours per day? If so, which law enforcement entity will monitor this area?

The Complex will be open to the public seven days a week from dawn to dusk.

10. WHAT ABOUT MY WELL?

The City does not anticipate any impacts to wells. The City has been discharging treated wastewater at the site for decades with no impacts on groundwater. The City uses groundwater monitoring wells as required by DEQ to ensure water quality is maintained. With the use of disposal wetlands, the infiltration rate of the water will actually be slower than current City operations.

11. Can you address the use of firearms on current BLM property currently - how will that be handled in the future?

On the BLM property, current BLM regulations will remain in place. These rules only allow firearm discharge while legally hunting. No firearm discharge is permitted on City property.

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS CONTINUED

12. The kids drag race out there at midnight now; how will you keep them out?

The Complex will only be accessible from dawn to dusk. We are hopeful the additional City presence at the site and additional security measures will deter many of the unauthorized activities currently at/near the site.

13. I'm excited about the access to trails! Will I be able to take my dog? Thank you for the presentation!

Dogs on a leash will be allowed within the Complex.

14. What are some timelines for other land use agreements with the Prineville District BLM? From other experiences with the BLM, I am surprised that a land use agreement could be accomplished in 18 months.

The City has been in talks with BLM for the past year. This process will continue through the design process. At this time, BLM intends to meet the City's timelines.

15. What about a sewage spill? What happens?

The likelihood of a spill is very rare with this type of system. If spills occur, the City is regulated by DEQ on how to respond to and clean up this type of incident. The City has the responsibility to ensure all citizens and employees health and safety are protected and that the appropriate entities are informed of all sewage spills.

16. What about parking, and are there restrooms on-site?

The City is planning to incorporate both parking lot and restroom facilities near the trail system.

17. Prineville did a great job with its wetlands project. Are you working with them to learn what worked and what didn't?

Yes, we have been in contact with the City of Prineville to learn about their project. Our design team, Anderson Perry is the same firm that designed the Crooked River Wetlands.

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS CONTINUED

18. What about mosquitoes? Won't this increase mosquitos?

Ensuring the Redmond Wetlands Complex does not augment mosquito populations in the area is a priority to the City. If it is determined the project increases mosquito populations, the City is committed to implementing management strategies that are practical and effective to mitigate issues. The City is currently contracting the task of monitoring mosquito counts at the site and will continue to do so.

19. Thank you for the presentation and for answering our questions. Change is hard. Growth is even harder in a quiet, peaceful setting such as rural NW Redmond.

The City has developed multiple alternatives and has been selecting options that have the least impact to the surrounding environment and residence. The City also has been and will continue to engage stakeholders to ensure accommodations can be made where possible.

20. In the summer, will some of the treatment water be used for irrigation like happens at Prineville or will all the water go to infiltration ponds?

At this time, the City does intend to continue its hay operations, requiring some irrigation. The use of the infiltration gallery will remain an operational option for the City, however the majority of the water will be disposed of through the disposal wetlands.