



GEOLOGICAL REDMOND

Redmond sits within the Lake Sammamish trough, a valley that was carved subglacially when the Vashon glacier overrode the area about 17,000 years ago. As the glacier moved across the region, it left behind large collections of gravel outwash. The Downtown Park site sits over a portion of the Lower Issaquah Valley Aquifer, which provides Redmond's drinking water. Rainfall is gradually cleansed as it filters through the layers of gravel outwash and seeps through bedrock, until it is returned to the aquifer below.



GRAVEL OUTWASH

Large pockets of gravel make most of the Downtown Neighbourhood rapidly draining, and also provides a strong base for construction. Pockets of gravel outwash are found within the Downtown Park site.



HIGH WATER TABLE

The Lower Issaquah Valley aquifer sits right below the surface of Downtown Park; dig 9 feet down and you'll likely strike water! Throughout the wet winter, rain water and runoff feed the aquifer, and eventually start to accumulate on the surface of the site.



SOIL

The Lake Sammamish trough is made up of Quaternary Alluvium, a collection of loose, unconsolidated sediments deposited by the Vashon glacier.



CULTURAL REDMOND

Redmond has a rich and varied cultural history. 3,000 years ago, the rich salmon reserves made the banks of the Sammamish River a popular seasonal fishing destination for the local Duwamish Tribes. European Settlers developed a new town in the fertile valley basin, and began to build an industry focused on forestry, fishing, and agriculture. A changing industrial base has created a cultural mosaic in Redmond, with many different ethnicities now calling Redmond home.



DUWAMISH TRIBE

The Duwamish Tribes used to travel to the Redmond area to seasonally fish Chum Salmon in the Sammamish River. In the 1960's archeologists found the remains of a fishing camp in what is now Marymoor Park. In the area of the camp, soils still turn darker in the rain because of the accumulation of fish oil from the harvest.



HOT AIR BALLOONING

The stunning scenery of the Sammamish River valley have long made it a popular destination for hot air ballooning. Colorful balloons drifting with the winds has long been a common sight in Redmond.



DERBY DAYS

Derby Days began as a bicycle race around Lake Sammamish in 1939. The event has persisted, now includes parades, music and entertainment, and food vendors in addition to the traditional bike race. Derby Days is the defining event of summer in Redmond and draws crowds of thousands to participate in the festivities.



ECOLOGICAL REDMOND

Prior to European settlement, Redmond was an ecologically rich marshland at the top of Lake Sammamish. Remnants of this natural history are still found at Downtown Park, where the accumulation of partially decayed vegetation over thousands of years formed pockets of peat. Throughout the area were cranberry farms and peat factories. The Sammamish River was so full of salmon that Redmond was originally named 'Salmonberg' by European Settlers, and dense mature coniferous forests provided a lucrative logging industry.



PEAT POCKETS

Pockets of peat throughout the Downtown Park site hold large volumes of water and help feed the aquifer. Typical vegetation in the original peat bogs would have included sphagnum moss, ericaceous shrubs, and sedges.



SALMONBERG

"The salmon used to be so thick that you could have walked across their backs if they would have just held still. We used to rake them out with a rake...The fish used to keep us awake at night; you could hear them flapping in the river".



CRANBERRY BOGS

The peat bogs and high water table provided the perfect environment to grow cranberries in Redmond. Native cranberries grew naturally in the wetland areas, and cranberry farmers began growing and harvesting the crop.



THE WILLOW PEOPLE

"...the tightly meandering [Sammamish] river was flanked by broad marshes; the Native Americans who lived along the river called themselves the 'Willow People'.



LOGGING

Prior to European settlement, the Redmond area was full of dense, mature coniferous forests. Logging was the primary industry for early homesteaders, and saloons, hotels, blacksmiths, and eateries sprung up to support the lucrative timber industry.



DECIDUOUS FOREST

When logging cleared away the virgin coniferous forests, deciduous forests of maple and alder filled in the landscape. This mixed forest type is one of the most biodiverse in the temperate rainforest.



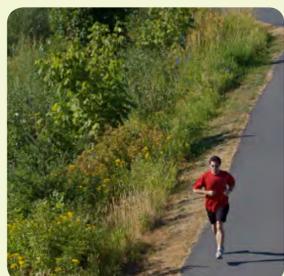
PACIFIC CRABAPPLE

Crabapple was an important food source to the coastal Native Americans. The apples would be eaten fresh or stored under water. Because of their high acidity, no additional preservation was needed.



SEDGES

The broad, marshy areas flanking the banks of the Sammamish River were frequently flooded. Sedges and rushes dominated the ecological community of these seasonally wet areas.



SAMMAMISH & BEAR CREEK RIVERS

Waterways have formed a primary identity for Redmond since the area was first settled. Today, the Sammamish River Trail and Bear Creek provide continuous green trails along the City's waterways.



FAMILY-ORIENTED AND ARTS EVENTS

Redmond is gaining a reputation for public art and creative event programming. Inventive arts programming by Artist-in-Residence Lucia Neare brought people out to enjoy Redmond Park last year.



BUILT HERITAGE

The heart of Downtown Redmond is its core of commercial heritage buildings. This process with explore connections between the park and historic core.



REDMOND LIGHTS

The Redmond Lights festival brings people through and around the Downtown. The park planning and design process will look at how this festival will utilize the new opportunities of Downtown Park.



WINTER SKATING

Redmond once had a tradition of skating. One idea for Downtown Park is how a skating rink might be designed to work in a place that is often rainy with above freezing temperatures in the winters.

Photograph by Winfred W. Wallace. Credit: The Redmond Historical Society.



PUBLIC ART

Redmond has made public art a part of its public space design and implementation for many years. Both permanent and temporary public art are key to the concept for Downtown Park.



MULTI-CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

As Redmond becomes a more and more multi-cultural community, festivals and celebrations that bring people together to experience cultural traditions from other places are growing in popularity.



DIGITAL REDMOND

Redmond has become a focus of new technology enterprises and the home for people who work in these companies. It is a digitally aware population with expectations that public space will offer ways to engage with new technologies.



DIGITAL GAMING

Gaming occupies the leisure time of many people today. Ways to get people to bring gaming into the public realm is a key topic for the park planning process.



DIGIPEN / TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Redmond has a population of students from school age children to highly skilled technology workers.



TECH-SAVVY POPULATION

The park design needs to serve tech-savvy users in basic ways like Wi-Fi and in imaginative ways like digital public art.

identity

Downtown Park, Redmond WA