

# Redmond's Future: Need and Solution Statements from Redmond High School Honors English 9 Students

March 2021

Need Statement	Solution Statement
Redmond's citizens need housing prices that they can afford.	Redmond should offer an incentive program to private developers to build affordable housing units. Since private developers can earn more money building expensive housing, an incentive program would cause developers to choose to build affordable housing.
Redmond needs to better manage its dog poop.	Redmond should compost dog waste.
There are no indoor facilities for athletes to practice at.	Redmond should create an indoor sports facility.
Redmond could do more as a community to support the homeless population.	Redmond should put together packages or baskets of necessary resources to help support the homeless population.
The city of Redmond needs to install and encourage rainwater harvesting infrastructure to make Redmond a greener, more environmentally friendly city.	Redmond should highly encourage builders to install rainwater harvesting systems in new living spaces and advertise simple rainwater harvesting systems to the public.
If someone were to ask about the biggest struggles of a teenager, mental health would easily make the top three. And if we step back and just ask what the worst thing in a teen's day is, especially in this time of COVID many would say feeling alone. Redmond needs an easily accessible mental health resource for teens that helps them connect and build both confidence and life skills.	Decline in mental health has become a very big issue in our community, and we think the best solution is our podcast, Redmond Teens Talk.
The City of Redmond needs a tutoring system for all students	Redmond will have more tutors and resources for middle schoolers in the high school math program.
The city of Redmond needs more homeless shelters with better conditions.	To work with neighboring cities and create more homeless shelters near the city of Redmond.
The community of Redmond needs to support small businesses and people in need, especially during these unique times. This city has had a large variety of businesses, from massive corporations to local chains to tiny treasures, since its founding in 1871. Small businesses make personal connections with community	The Community Relief Triangle's solution is to have the citizens of Redmond participate in acts of kindness, by supporting small businesses and the homeless during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is not only small businesses who are suffering during this pandemic, but homeless people and others in poverty as well. The homeless population is known to be a problem, especially in the Seattle Metropolitan Area. According to the "Housing

<p>members, being a friend in their industry. In an interview with a small business owner, Jordan Swain said "The gratitude you get from people is worth it. Being a small business helps start relationships with people," Jordan Swain is a middle school art teacher who has been working as an owner for several small businesses for over ten years. Why should we support small businesses? Shopping at small businesses gives back to your community since the sales tax goes towards your city. Small businesses also have the largest impact on the economy. The US Small Business Association released a study in 2019 that showed small businesses "amount for 44 percent of U.S economic activity" (SBA). When the economy is thriving, more jobs are available. With more jobs available, some of our less fortunate and struggling community members can be lifted out of poverty with new opportunities, granting them a new chance. This illustrates the full effect of the Community Relief Triangle.</p>	<p>and Homelessness 2021-2022 Proposed Budget" PDF, as of January 2020, 11,751 people were found homeless throughout King County. Data also shows that more than 30,000 people in King County experience homelessness throughout a year [research by Point in Time {PIT}]. Due to the remote setting of COVID-19, it is likely that many more have lost their homes and are in poverty due to many places of work closing around the start of this pandemic. This is why we aim to help both small businesses and the homeless, two groups of people that are in need due to being immense stress as well as struggle during these hard times. Essentially, we would like the creation of a non-profit organization where members of the community take turns in purchasing meals, clothing, and other resources from small businesses and distribute them to the less fortunate. A Facebook Page will have an outlined schedule where families or members of the community can volunteer to distribute these items, which would occur at public spaces such as places of worship and community centers. We can strengthen our sense of community even more by helping those around us who may need it, coming together as one whole full of diverse and complex individuals, coming together to learn more about each other, coming together as the city of Redmond.</p>
<p>The City of Redmond lacks proper flooding control.</p>	<p>The City of Redmond should have more vegetation throughout the city and establish levees by the two main rivers, the Sammamish and Bear Creek.</p>
<p>Redmond is lacking a proper usage of the rain we get and is lacking an effective way to use it – it's wasted potential if we do not collect and reuse it to benefit the community.</p>	<p>The city can create water collection cans like those we use for recycling, and use a similar system of collection to get, purify, and transport the water to public facilities in Redmond</p>
<p>The City of Redmond needs more mental health reinforcement and support.</p>	<p>The City of Redmond should allow more mental health training in schools.</p>
<p>The city of Redmond lacks retail stores in Education Hill.</p>	<p>The city of Redmond should use the large number of residential areas being constructed to create "retail neighborhoods".</p>
<p>Today, public transport exists in the city of Redmond, however, it only surrounds the downtown area and does not extend into surrounding neighborhoods and community/work facilities.</p>	<p>Our solution to Redmond's need of superior public transport is to build new transit lines, which include new, larger bus routes, a light rail system, and an extension of the currently-in-progress monorail system.</p>
<p>The city of Redmond is in need of better power and output maintenance which can be solved with a combination of both</p>	<p>Our proposed solution to Redmond's power issue is implementing underground power lines throughout Redmond. Underground power lines, although more</p>

underground power lines and an overall increase of power maintenance in general.

expensive, are more resistant to damage from storms and heavy winds. Adding underground powerlines also reduces the amount of damage done to the environment in areas where they are added. According to the Renewables Grid Initiative article titled "Environmental Aspects of Underground Cabling": "The major environmental impacts of overhead lines occur when they are already in operation" ("Environmental Aspects of Underground Cabling" P1). The article then continues to state, "The most harmful part of underground cables, in contrast, is their installation" ("Environmental Aspects of Underground Cabling" P1). Underground powerlines would be an investment that would initially be more expensive but would pay off with its lesser environmental impacts and reduced repair and maintenance.

The city of Redmond lacks a community-led animal shelter.

The city of Redmond lacks a community ran animal shelter. One of the problems this could fix is helping animals in need. according to an article titled "What Are Stray Animals?" Emmanuella Oluwafemi writes, "Stray animals, on the other hand, do not have any human caring for them nor housing them. They live and feed on the streets and may be adopted by a lucky human." (Oluwafemi, comparison section) Having an animal shelter would be helpful with finding more strays more homes. Another problem this could fix would be allowing more ways the community can support Redmond, like helping run the animal shelter or contributing to donations showing their support. Also adding an animal shelter to Redmond would allow some more variety to surface just overall making Redmond a better place. Normally in modern community's it can be hard to meet new people, so adding more ways for the community to come together will allow for more interaction, in an article titled "the health benefits of socializing" Angela K. Troyer writes, "Research has shown that one sure way of improving your mood is to work on building social connections." (Troyer, benefit section) Our solution also helps with the environment; an animal shelter shelters animals but in order to prevent the need of sheltering them so much the community could help improve the environment using the animal shelter as a catalyst. Another problem it helps with is physical health, in an article titled "the health benefits of socializing" Angela K. Troyer writes, "Social engagement is associated with a stronger immune system, especially for older adults. This means that you are better able to fight off colds,

	<p>the flu, and even some types of cancer.” (Troyer, benefit section), so having more chances for volunteer work would prove to be very helpful to the community. Also, animals have a soft spot for people with mental illnesses and would help them. In a 2020 article titled "The Power of Pets." National Institutes of Health. U.S. Department of Health and Human details how animals have been proven to improve mental health: “Interacting with animals has been shown to decrease levels of cortisol (a stress-related hormone) and lower blood pressure. Other studies have found that animals can reduce loneliness, increase feelings of social support, and boost your mood,” (NIH Power of Pets, 1). In conclusion Redmond needs to have a community ran animal shelter to solve today's possible problems.</p>
<p>The city of Redmond is suffering as a result of excessive amounts of litter.</p>	<p>A solution to lessen the litter in the city of Redmond is to design new and more efficient trash cans and set them up around Redmond so people can dispose of their garbage in an orderly and efficient fashion.</p>
<p>Today, the City of Redmond does not have enough job opportunities for the homeless community.</p>	<p>To solve this problem, the City of Redmond needs to create more job opportunities, requiring minimal education, and more centers for employment to benefit the homeless population.</p>
<p>One challenge the city of Redmond currently experiences is loneliness among elderly people, as between “33 and 43 percent of senior citizens claim to be lonely” (“Loneliness in Adults”); the city of Redmond needs more accessible options for elderly people to be more social, more often.</p>	<p>The proposed solution to combat the issues caused by isolation in Redmond’s’ Elderly population is an easily accessible community center.</p>
<p>Redmond lacks a system that protects against deforestation and promotes the growth of native plant life.</p>	<p>We propose that Redmond enforce new government regulations on companies and people that would like to cut down or harm our forests.</p>
<p>The city of Redmond lacks enough public rental bikes.</p>	<p>The City of Redmond should install a public rental bike system.</p>
<p>Redmond lacks a system that protects against deforestation and promotes the growth of native plant life.</p>	<p>Redmond lacks a system that protects against deforestation and promotes the growth of native plant life.</p>
<p>The city of Redmond lacks ecofriendly transportation.</p>	<p>The city of Redmond should implement and encourage biking.</p>
<p>The city of Redmond needs to focus on combating light pollution.</p>	<p>Our solution is to make low-power LED lights as the default choice of lighting for parks and all government buildings in Redmond and have timers for all the public lighting.</p>

The city of Redmond needs more renewable energy sources for buildings.	By 2050, Redmond should enforce and utilize hydropower technology for renewable energy in buildings.
The city of Redmond currently experiences a lack of electric car charging stations.	Redmond needs to build more electric car charging stations.
Redmond needs a better drainage system	Redmond should continue to build more sewage drains or repair the ones that are currently in need of repairing.
Redmond currently lacks a convenient way to recycle hard-to-recycle items such as electronics and Styrofoam.	Redmond needs to reopen the Recycling Event with Staples and Ridwell as sponsors, and an additional option for people to donate.
The city of Redmond needs to change its forms of intersections in certain areas.	Redmond should incorporate more roundabouts into intersections.
The City of Redmond needs to expand its trails for the benefit of its inhabitants.	The City of Redmond needs to expand its trail system to combat a rise in population, unhealthy lifestyles, and environmental concerns.
Buildings and facilities in Redmond release toxic by-products into our environment due to a lack of reliance on sustainable energy.	The city of Redmond needs to supply renewable energy sources to all its buildings and facilities.
Individuals struggling with food insecurity need several reliable means of accessing a convenient food source.	In order to help curb the issue of hunger in Redmond, we propose the opening of a food bank that is easily accessible to lower income and homeless individuals living directly in the city and that is open during the weekends.
One challenge the city of Redmond faces is the inability of local businesses to retain customers.	The city of Redmond should have an app that encourages and incentivizes people to support small businesses.
Redmond needs affordable housing in high opportunity neighborhoods because the placement of affordable housing currently is not in areas that specifically offer a fair opportunity for advancement to their residents.	Creating a city law that requires that 20% of high opportunity neighborhoods must be dedicated to people that fall under a lower-income bracket.
The City of Redmond lacks adequate options for recycling.	In order to provide adequate and convenient recycling options, the City of Redmond should place additional recycling bins in public areas.
Redmond is needing a sustainable ecosystem. Currently, Redmond lacks the green environment that cities should strive for, but the City of Redmond already has a history of plans to make the city more sustainable.	Redmond needs to start integrating to more renewable sources of energy. This will slow down climate change and protect our animals from being exposed to the toxic pollutants created by fossil fuels.
Redmond lacks proper mental health resources and accessible support systems for teens.	Our proposal is to create an app that will help connect Redmond teens (ages 12-17) using peer support and validation, while also allowing self-reflection. The 5 main components of our app, Serendipity, would be anonymous chats to discuss personal mental health

	<p>struggles, positive notifications/reminders throughout the day, a self-reflection bullet journal tab, a celebrations tab for sharing accomplishments, music, memes, etc., and a place to learn and educate yourself on various types of mental health struggles.</p>
<p>Redmond lacks an easily accessible indoor sports and exercise center for kids and adults in the community.</p>	<p>Redmond should gain a sports center that is available to all people in the community. We propose to build a sports center in Redmond that is available to people to practice sports and exercise.</p>
<p>As a group, we decided that we want to help those who were forced to leave their homes. We came up with the idea of creating a community center - a place where people who don't have anywhere to go, can stay day and night.</p>	<p>Redmond should create a center for the homeless designed to care for them and help them get back onto their feet.</p>
<p>Redmond lacks a sustainable ecosystem.</p>	<p>Redmond needs to start integrating to more renewable sources of energy.</p>
<p>Redmond clearly lacks communication with teens in community events.</p>	<p>To solve this problem, we should create a Redmond Teen Council, where teen representatives spread their ideas to the societal groups that budget and plan events/ideas for Redmond.</p>
<p>Redmond needs to make more significant efforts to promote businesses that use sustainable and environmentally friendly products.</p>	<p>In order to achieve the goal of a greener Redmond, the city should implement a dual-user app that gives cash-back for customers that shop at environmentally sustainable shops and funds to businesses that meet criteria for environmental sustainability.</p>
<p>Redmond's suburbs are rapidly developing, much to the detriment of its green spaces and parks. Redmond's suburbs have rapidly expanded over the last couple of years. Anyone who has lived here for even just a couple of years can tell. Redmond is also known for its parks and recreation. As said in the PARCC plan for Redmond that was written by David Shaw in 2017, "The [Parks and Recreation] system includes 47 parks comprising 1,351 acres of land in a variety of neighborhood, community and resource parks. These parks include trails and are connected by local, connector and regional trails, totaling 59 miles" (Shaw 1). Redmond has a huge parks and recreation system. So why do they insist on decreasing its area for future residents?</p>	<p>The proposed solution is that we need to limit building new buildings in the Redmond area. This would mean limiting the building of homes, offices, shops, ect... and in doing so we will be saving the wild life around Redmond. But if there are any pre-existing buildings the construction company wants to demolish to replace with a newer building, they must request permission and up hold a vote. This will only be required if the structure of the building. And as per the wild life protective zones, they will not be used and any not in use buildings will be demolished and made into wildlife protective zones, owned and operated by the community of Redmond.</p>
<p>The city of Redmond currently needs to reduce the amount of plastic waste produced each year.</p>	<p>The city of Redmond should spread awareness and utilize resources the city already has.</p>

The need is to provide youth with more access to volunteer opportunities without the restriction of age, parental supervision, and location.	The solution to this problem is more city-run volunteer opportunities and positions that are local and accessible to pre-teens.
The city of Redmond lacks a public performance hall, forcing those who want to perform to rely on schools.	To fix Redmond's problem of not having a public performance hall, the city can build a hall dedicated to performances.
The city of Redmond lacks cultural events/gatherings that display diverse cultures.	The solution to this problem is to host an annual cultural event, where the citizens of Redmond come together to share food and performances from their culture with everyone.
The city of Redmond currently lacks a community garden near residential areas.	The city of Redmond should implement a community garden near residential areas.
The city of Redmond currently lacks safe, legal, and public places for artful expression.	The solution to the issue that Redmond currently lacks safe, legal, and public areas of expression would be the addition of a second graffiti wall.
The city of Redmond has some electrical car charging stations, but it lacks enough charging stations in popular (frequently used) parking lots.	The city of Redmond should implement more sustainable electric charging stations in frequently used locations.
The city of Redmond currently experiences frequent power outages.	The city of Redmond needs to convert to underground power lines.
The city of Redmond lacks easily accessible donation bins and centers.	To prevent the further decline of environmental, physical, and mental constraints and situation, we propose the creation, production, and distribution of mended donations to stations across the Redmond area.
The city of Redmond currently lacks a sufficient amount of public transportation options.	We need to light rails with multiple stops throughout Redmond.
The city of Redmond lacks a sufficient amount of rain gardens to effectively filter pollution from rainwater.	Redmond should increase the number of community rain gardens in public areas as well as encourage homeowners to build rain gardens on their property by providing the necessary materials
The city of Redmond lacks opportunities for small businesses to start up and has very few resources for small businesses to maintain their operations successfully in Redmond.	The city of Redmond should lower income and property tax for retail workers and commercially districted property.
Redmond needs to find a way to cut back on the pollution that is caused by gas powered buses.	To solve this problem, we propose the conversion of our current gas-powered public buses to electric public buses.
City buildings and facilities in Redmond release toxic by-products into our environment due to a lack of reliance on sustainable energy.	As a part of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, the city of Redmond should provide solar energy sources to all buildings and facilities.