

Neighborhood Conversations
May 2, 2019
LWSD Resource Center

The following is a summary of the questions asked by community members at the May 2, 2019 Neighborhood Conversations event and includes additional links and statistics provided by City staff. To view the meeting discussion, visit www.Redmond.gov/Conversations.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Q: What events are planned for Downtown Park this year? Will there be conflicts with the Saturday Market?

A: Events scheduled in 2019, the first full year of the Park being open, include: elements of the Bike Bash, all three nights of So Bazaar in August, Redmond Lights in December, and several externally-produced events including Cinco de Mayo and Seattle World Whiskey Day in May. In addition, the City will program some recreational activities at Downtown Park. The activities are anticipated to complement and support the Saturday Market, bringing more potential customers to town, rather than conflict. Staff will provide an update to City Council at the May 7, 2019 Council meeting.

Q: Is the amphitheater in Downtown Park going to be used for City or contracted events?

A: Both. Requests to use the Park have come in fast. The City has been working with external event producers for a variety of uses for the Park. Individuals have also been using the space on their own to play music, as available.

Q: What vision do you see for the future of the Teen Center?

A: The City continues to work closely with our teens to help create programming and provide leadership opportunities for teens at, and outside of, the Old Firehouse Teen Center.

Q: I live next to Nike Park and appreciate the trails there. At one point I heard there had been a plan to connect the trails to Hartman Park. Is this still possible? Is it likely that much of the green belt that surrounds Nike Park might become developed for housing instead of for parks/nature?

A: The [PARCC Plan](#) does identify this project as a mid-term need. See details on [chapter 6, Page 30](#) of the PARCC Plan.

HUMAN SERVICES

Q: A resident is being evicted from transitional housing due to breaking a Hopelink rule. The transitional housing non-profit receives funds from the City. Will the City work with the woman and Hopelink to avoid this family from becoming homeless?

A: Correct, a family is being evicted and they are being rehoused somewhere that will better fit their needs. The City is working with Hopelink on this situation. This is a private issue and the details cannot be shared.

COMMUNICATIONS

Q: Who do I talk about suggested changes to the website?

A: There are a couple of ways that you can provide feedback on the new website. 1) Use the website feedback tile on the [homepage](#), 2) Submit your feedback through the [online service portal](#) or YourRedmond app, 3) or email communications@redmond.gov.

Q: The City spent approximately \$100,000 on the new website. Was it worth it and what were the enhancements?

A: Yes, we believe the cost of the new website was worth it. The City's website had not been redesigned in nearly ten years and the need for a more usable and technologically advanced website had become evident in the limitations of the old site.

The redesign involved multiple community focus groups and questionnaires to help direct the look and feel of the new website. The community gave the City feedback on enhancements they wanted to see in the new website which included: mobile responsiveness, better search functionality, improved navigation, more concise content, local photography, and automated translation services. The website will continue to undergo improvements based on user feedback received.

SAFETY

Q: Violent crime has increased over the last 6 years. What is the City doing about the increase in crime?

A: The Redmond Police Department reports that the City's violent crime rate continues to be significantly lower than the state average. Violent crime in Redmond has not seen a significant increase, related to our growing population. Violent crimes include the following: murder, aggravated assault, robbery, and forcible sexual offenses. The following chart provides a violent crime rate comparison between state rates and Redmond from 2012-2017 (the most available data). Crime data for 2018 will be available from the State in June of 2019.

Year	Statewide	Redmond		
	Violent Crime Rate per 1000	Number of Violent Crimes	Population	Violent Crime Rate per 1000
2017	3.5	107	62110	1.72
2016	3.3	84	60560	1.39
2015	3.2	73	59180	1.23
2014	2.6	43	57700	0.75
2013	3.5	48	55840	0.86
2012	3.6	61	55360	1.10

Our operational strategies to stay ahead of any rising crime trends and keep Redmond a safe place includes a focus on frontline staffing to ensure our patrol division is well staffed for immediate emergency response and proactive patrols to discourage criminal activity. Our bicycle team focuses on improving safety in our Downtown, as well as around schools as we approach the end of the school year. The Police Department is heavily focused on information sharing to combat property crime in the City. Redmond houses two crime analysts that specifically focus on reducing auto-theft and identity theft and fraud, not only in Redmond but for the benefit of the entire region.

Q: Is it possible to get more police presence on Redmond/Woodinville Road?

A: If you have observed a traffic related issue that you want the police or City of Redmond Transportation to know about, please use the Redmond [Report an Issue](#) portal. This could include reporting an area in the city you believe has an unsafe design for drivers, cyclists or pedestrians. It could also include an area where you have observed multiple vehicles speeding or recurring traffic violations. In addition, you can call the non-emergency line at 425-556-2500 or email police@redmond.gov.

FINANCE

Q: What is the City's position on the 1% property tax cap? Would you support removing the cap?

A: Property tax is a Washington State Law. Property tax increases are limited to 1% increase a year and are not structured to sustainably keep-up with costs. The Legislature must provide cities with funding tools to address local priorities. Replacing the 1% cap on property tax with inflation and growth provides an inflationary index that better allows governments to keep pace with costs.