

Currents – News from the City of Shoreline

March 2022 – Volume 24 No. 2

Shoreline voters approve Proposition 1 for park and recreation improvements

Shoreline voters showed strong support for Proposition 1, a park bond levy for park improvements and park land acquisitions, in February's Special Election. As of February 11, over 69% of those casting ballots approved the measure. Bond measures require 60% approval to pass.

Five parks will receive sizeable improvements thanks to Proposition 1, including Brugger's Bog, Hillwood, James Keough, Richmond Highlands, and Briarcrest Community (east Hamlin). Park improvements will include such things as playgrounds, splash-pads, multi-sports courts, walking trails, picnic shelters, off-leash dog areas, and a fully accessible play area for people of all physical abilities.

Additional investments in park amenities include constructing a new off-leash dog area and play area at Ridgecrest Park; upgrading the off-leash dog area and converting the dirt soccer field to grass at Shoreview Park; making the education center and children's garden accessible to people of all abilities at Kruckeberg Botanic Garden; and installing public art throughout the City.

Park land acquisitions and improvements will expand Paramount Open Space, Brugger's Bog, and Rotary Parks, and will include additional park land acquisitions in the light rail station areas and other parts of the City.

The City will now continue the design process, which will include more opportunities for the public to provide input. The City has already received great input on the preliminary park project designs. We expect to have more opportunities for community input in the coming months. Stay tuned!

More information

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Provide input to City Council, Planning Commission, and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services/Tree Board

The Shoreline City Council, Planning Commission, and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS)/Tree Board value your input and want to hear from you, particularly on issues before them. During the pandemic, all three bodies have been meeting virtually over Zoom.

Public Comment Procedures

All three bodies provide opportunities for public comment at every regular meeting. Regular meetings are designed for Councilmembers, Commissioners, and Board Members to gain information on items from staff, discuss agenda items, and make final decisions on City issues.

At the beginning of meetings, the public is invited to provide input on agenda items or any topic not on the agenda, which is not of a quasi-judicial nature. You can sign up before the meetings to provide input via Zoom. When we move back to in-person meetings, hopefully later this year, residents will have the option of participating in-person or virtually. The City is in the process of updating our Council Chamber and numerous conference rooms to allow for hybrid virtual and in-person meetings.

To learn what business the City Council, Planning Commission, or PRCS/Tree Board will be conducting at each meeting, visit:

- shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings
- shorelinewa.gov/plancom
- shorelinewa.gov/parkboard

In addition to providing oral comments at meetings, people can also share written comments. You can find links to how to provide written comments on the meeting webpages. Your comments, written or oral, will become part of the official meeting record as public testimony.

City Council and Leadership Team hold annual Strategic Planning Workshop

On March 4 and 5, the City Council will hold their annual Strategic Planning Workshop with the City's Leadership Team. The purpose of the workshop is to monitor the City's progress from its current workplan and determine priorities and action steps for the Council's 2022-2024 goals and workplan. The workplan, which is aimed at improving the City's ability to fulfill the community's vision, is then reflected in department workplans; in the City's budget and capital improvement plan; and through special initiatives.

Two important areas of discussion for this year's workshop include the potential replacement of the 2016 levy lid lift, and the effective and efficient delivery of public safety services. Shoreline voters first approved a six-year levy lid lift in 2010. They approved a second six-year levy lid lift in 2016. The 2016 levy lid lift is set to expire at the end of this year. The City Council will decide later this year on whether to replace the expiring levy.

Levy lid lifts allow the City to increase property taxes to match inflation. State law limits cities to a 1% increase every year unless voters approve a levy lid lift. The 1% limit does not keep pace with inflation so there is a built-in structural imbalance between revenues and costs.

Another issue that the Council will be discussing is the effective and efficient delivery of public safety services. This includes looking at how to maximize our RADAR program, which has helped Shoreline Police and other north King County police departments develop better ways of interacting with individuals with behavioral health issues and getting them the support they need. Council will also look at ways to address the inequitable ways the criminal justice system treats individuals who are low-income.

City Manager selects Captain Ryan Abbott as Shoreline's Interim Police Chief

On January 1, Interim King County Sheriff Patti Cole-Tindall promoted Shoreline Police Chief Shawn Leford to the King County Sheriff's Office Command Staff as the Interim Chief of Patrol Operations

Division. On January 25, City Manager Debbie Tarry appointed Captain Ryan Abbott as Shoreline's Interim Police Chief until the County Executive decides on the permanent Sheriff.

"Captain Abbott has demonstrated his commitment and passion in serving the Shoreline community through active leadership, communication, and relationship building since joining the Shoreline Police Department in 2020," stated City Manager Debbie Tarry. "I know that he will continue to build on this foundation as the Interim Police Chief. I look forward to working closely with him as we continue to promote and enhance the City's safe community and neighborhood programs."

Interim Chief Abbott served as the Acting Chief after Chief Ledford's appointment to Command Staff. He had been Shoreline's Operations Captain since November 2020. Prior to that, he was the Media Relations Officer for the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO). Abbott has been with KCSO for 16 years.

"I look forward to continuing to serve and protect this amazing community and to working with all community members to ensure everyone feels safe and respected," stated Interim Chief Abbott.

Chief Ledford had been Shoreline's Police Chief since 2012. He has been with KCSO for 32 years. Chief Ledford played an instrumental role in starting Shoreline's RADAR program, which works to improve interactions between police and individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. It also helps to connect individuals with behavioral health services. The RADAR program has now expanded to include five North King County cities.

Both Ledford and Abbott will serve in their respective positions as interim chiefs until the King County Executive appoints a permanent Sheriff. At that time, if Ledford remains on Command Staff at KCSO in his position as Chief of Patrol, then KCSO and the City of Shoreline will begin a more in-depth recruitment process for the Shoreline Police Chief position. The in-depth process will likely include interviews with the City Manager, the City's Leadership Team, City staff, and community members.

Hillwood Neighborhood unveils Pathmates

A Neighborhood Mini-Grant funded project

On January 16, the Hillwood Neighborhood Association unveiled Pathmates, a project funded by a 2021 Neighborhoods Mini-Grant. When the neighborhood re-branded in 2020, leaders kept their retired welcome signs and began imagining how they could transform the signs into art pieces. Reaching out through social media, libraries, and art programs in local schools, they invited youth in grades K-12 to visually explore the theme "What I Like About My Neighborhood."

Nine young artists were chosen to have their sketches transformed into small, silhouette-style sculptures. The sculptures have been installed along Hillwood neighborhood paths. In addition to the excitement of seeing their visions realized in metal, the Hillwood Neighborhood Association also awarded each of them \$100—their first honoraria as artists.

Hillwood Neighborhood Association invites the community to walk the paths and see the installed artworks. A map, along with original drawings, is available on the Hillwood Neighborhood Association's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Artists: Remy Arehart, Elana Bronsther, Katherine V. Hunt, Ruby Lenhart, Juliet Malay, Wyatt Malay, Sarah Nottingham, Braelyn Sams, and Elena Warwick.

You may qualify for property tax exemptions and deferrals

IF YOU ARE a senior citizen, disabled, or a homeowner with limited income and your primary residence is in Washington State, there are several programs that may help you pay your property taxes and/or special assessments. Your household income and your age or disability determine your eligibility for these programs.

Senior Citizen/Disabled Property Tax Exemption Program

Under the exemption program, the value of your Washington State residence is frozen for property tax purposes, and you become exempt from all excess and special levies and possibly regular levies - resulting in a reduction in your property taxes.

Senior Citizen/Disabled Property Tax Deferral Program

Under the deferral program, the Washington State Department of Revenue pays the property taxes and/or special assessments on your behalf. The deferred amount, plus interest, becomes a lien in favor of the state until you have repaid the total amount.

Property Tax Deferral Program for Homeowners with Limited Income

Under this deferral program, the Washington State Department of Revenue pays the second installment of your property taxes and/or special assessments, due October 31, on your behalf. The program is not an exemption or a grant. Deferred taxes are taxes that you postpone. When you no longer own or use the property as your personal residence, you must repay the deferred tax. The deferred amount, plus interest, becomes a lien in favor of the state until you have repaid the total amount.

More information

kingcounty.gov/depts/assessor/taxrelief

kingcounty.gov/depts/assessor/forms

ARPA human services support update

As part of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the City was awarded \$7,533,842. We received 50% of the funds in 2021, and we will receive the remaining 50% later this year. Last year, the City Council approved phase 1 funding that included 1.4 FTE ARPA Navigator/Community Support Specialist positions; supporting human services and community, youth, and business recovery efforts; and funding wastewater and stormwater capital projects.

This year, the City will focus ARPA human service funds in the three areas below:

Emergency support for ongoing COVID Crisis Response - \$237,500

These flexible funds will help provide emergency support for individuals and families in need. To make best use of these funds, the City will allocate funds to organizations already engaged in this work. These organizations will use this money to purchase grocery cards for individuals and families and to provide flexible financial assistance to help keep people housed and/or employed.

Investments in services providing direct service support to low income, historically underserved populations disproportionately impacted by COVID - \$270,500

These funds are responsive to gaps identified by City staff and local community organizations. The investments will help address the immediate needs of low-income and historically underserved communities most negatively impacted by COVID, including those experiencing homelessness, immigrant and refugee individuals and families, as well as those who identify as Black, Indigenous, and

People of Color. Our community partners will use these funds to provide such services as mental health and family support programs, tutoring assistance, and emergency hotel vouchers and transportation services for individuals, families, and youth

Investments to strengthen civic Infrastructure hampered by COVID to build the ongoing capacity of historically underserved communities for long-term impact - \$10,000

This responds to the overall community fatigue from the pandemic, especially for individuals and communities that continue to face unstable employment and financial strain. This category also aligns with the goals of the City's Anti-Racism Resolution. Funds will go towards the Love Your Community Grant Program to encourage resident driven efforts to build an anti-racist community.

More information

shorelinewa.gov/humanservices

Help shape the future of arts and culture in Shoreline

We're grateful to so many of you for involvement in our programs over the years; you have made our City a welcoming place for arts and culture. As we emerge from the long hibernation of the pandemic, we're excited to look ahead.

We need your help to shape the future of arts and culture in Shoreline! We are creating a new Public Art and Cultural Services Plan that will serve as a guide for the next six years (2023-2028). You can help shape the Plan and identify community priorities. Please take 3-5 minutes to respond to the survey available at the link below. Answers are anonymous and not identified by individuals. Please note, the survey will close March 10, 2022.

Take the survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J2NKN9X>

Two years into the COVID Pandemic: The City's response

It has been two years since the City implemented its first COVID protocols. Since then, Shoreline has seen 8,357 cases, 295 hospitalizations, and 125 deaths as of February 11. The impacts on many individuals and families have been devastating. Many of our small businesses have struggled to stay open. But as a community, we have come together to support each other and do what we need to do to get through these difficult times.

More than 94% of the population aged 12 and older living in Shoreline's three zip codes have received at least one dose of vaccination. Getting vaccinated is still the best way to fight this pandemic.

Doing the work

City facilities remained closed to the public from March 2020 through July 2021. We have reopened City Hall and other City facilities to limited access but have not been able to open fully yet. During this time, City staff have continued to work and provide City services. Many City staff who have been able to telecommute have done so and continue to do so. Our recreation, parks, public works, and utilities staff crews have adjusted work schedules and protocols to meet safety guidelines. The City Council, Planning Commission, and PRCS/Tree Board have held their meetings virtually. City staff have held open houses and other community meetings virtually as well.

Helping our youth

During the 2020-2021 school year, many of our recreation staff helped students in remote learning camps, provided virtual programming for our specialized recreation participants, or supported other City programs. Remote Learning Camps provided approximately 84 students in grades K-12 with safe places to learn, socialize, and recreate in small group settings. If not for the camps, many of these kids may not have been able to attend school at all. We also partnered with the Hunger Intervention Program and the PTSA to provide campers with snacks, lunches, weekend food backpacks, clothes, and school supplies.

This school year, our teen and tween programs have opened back up but have been modified to meet City, CDC, and Public Health guidelines for group sizes, social distancing, and sanitation. Trying to get kids back into normal routines while ensuring safety has been a priority and a challenge, but our recreation staff have been doing great work.

Supporting those in need

Working closely with other governmental agencies and community partners, the City has helped families and businesses in need. Thanks to federal CARES Act and ARPA funds, we have been able to dedicate more than \$2 million to provide support for households who needed it most. This has included funding for rental assistance, grocery vouchers, mental health support, tutoring support for students, and PPE to keep local human service agencies open and able to serve their clients safely. We have also worked hard to ensure funds are reaching those populations most impacted by COVID and who have historically been underserved, including those experiencing homelessness, immigrant and refugee individuals and families, as well as those who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Keeping small businesses open

The City also established a Small Business Support Program that provided over \$775,000 in grants to Shoreline small businesses impacted by COVID-19. In partnership with the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce, we hired a business outreach specialist to work with our local small businesses to better understand their needs and the challenges so we can have a better idea of what support they need and how to obtain it.

What's next

Moving forward, City facilities and programs will open as conditions allow. We will continue to follow CDC and Public Health guidelines. One of the benefits we have found with the pandemic is that we now have more ways to interact with residents virtually. This allows more people to participate. Providing opportunities for virtual participation will continue to be a City goal in the future.

More information

shorelinewa.gov/covid

Join a Community Climate Conversation!

Are you concerned about how climate change is impacting Shoreline? Do you want to help shape local solutions? Join us for a series of interactive workshops to share your ideas, concerns, and priorities for Shoreline's Climate Action Plan update!

able to discuss specific climate action strategies related to each. We welcome your participation in one of or all the workshops!

- March 2: Walk, Ride, Roll and Plug – Decarbonizing Shoreline's Transportation
- March 16: Keeping Warm, Staying Cool - Achieving Carbon-Neutral Buildings and Energy

- March 30: Fostering Community Resilience, Capturing Carbon in Trees and Ecosystems

Learn more and register at shorelinewa.gov/climate. All sessions will start 6:00 p.m. For language interpretation or accommodation, please contact the City at least seven days prior to the event.

More information

shorelinewa.gov/climate

Preparing the City for light rail: Destination 2024

In preparation for light rail opening in Shoreline in 2024, we have been planning for changes that will come with it. There are eight different transportation projects linked to the opening of the Shoreline South/148th light rail station. The goal for all these projects is to ensure pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, and auto traffic can get to and from the Shoreline station as safely and efficiently as possible. The City is currently in varying stages of public outreach for the different projects. Below are updates for several of them.

N 145th Street and I-5 Interchange Project

The interchange at 145th Street and I-5 is a critical link to the flow of traffic in the SR 523 (NE 145th Street)/SR 522 corridor. With the arrival of light rail and bus rapid transit to the new Shoreline South/148th Station, this interchange becomes even more significant. Shoreline residents and regional travelers need safe, efficient ways to connect to the station and to move through the corridor, whether by using a car, bus, bike, or by walking.

To address these needs, the City and the State Department of Transportation plan to replace the signalized intersections on both sides of I-5 with roundabouts and update lane configurations on the bridge over I-5. These improvements will address current and future transportation needs and improve safety and access along the corridor.

In November 2021, the State Transportation Improvement Board awarded the project a \$5 million grant, which provided the last amount needed to fully fund the \$30 million project. We expect to complete the design and permitting by the end of this year and begin construction in 2023.

More information

shorelinewa.gov/145interchange

148th Street Non-Motorized Bridge

We have reached 90% design for the 148th Street Non-Motorized Bridge project. The estimated cost for the project is approximately \$38 million. Through local resources and partnerships with King County and Sound Transit, the project has enough funding to complete design and construct the critical first phase of the project, which is the landing on the east end of the bridge. Because of its proximity to the new light rail station, we will construct the landing before the station is operational. This will avoid the complex and more expensive construction needed if the station were already open.

The current goal is to complete the east bridge landing by mid-2023, and secure full funding to complete the entire project by 2025. At present, we are working closely with our legislative representatives in Olympia to secure additional funding through a state transportation package and are pursuing additional state, local and federal funding opportunities as well. If successful, we can avoid the need to pause the project or proceed in phases. Phasing the remaining project elements could require up to \$2.6 million more in additional construction mobilization costs. If the work takes place after WSDOT daylight

adjacent Thornton Creek, it could cost an additional \$5.5 million to build the bridge in a way that protects the newly restored creek.

More information

shorelinewa.gov/148thbridge

SR-523 (N/NE 145th Street) from Aurora Avenue N to I-5

The City is designing improvements for the 145th Street Corridor between Aurora Avenue N and I-5. The design will widen 145th Street to accommodate design elements that will improve traffic operations, safety, and mobility throughout the corridor.

We're planning construction of this project in three phases:

- Phase 1: I-5 to Corliss Avenue
- Phase 2: Corliss Avenue to Wallingford Avenue
- Phase 3: Wallingford Avenue to Aurora Avenue N (this will include a transition to Linden Avenue and the Interurban Trail)

Our goal is to complete Phase 1 by 2024. We completed the design for the entire corridor to the 60% level in May 2021. We are currently advancing the design for Phase 1 to the 100% level. We expect completing Phase 1 design and right-of-way acquisition by the middle of this year.

We have funding to complete designs for Phases 2 and 3 but they will require more funding for right-of-way acquisition and construction. We will complete that work as funding becomes available.

1st Avenue NE (N 145th Street to N 155th Street) Sidewalks

1st Avenue NE will be a key access point to the light rail station connecting to/from the 145th Street corridor, the future 148th Street Non-Motorized Bridge, and a bicycle network. Redevelopment is underway along 1st Avenue with more anticipated soon. These new developments will be adding sidewalk improvements on their properties as part of their permitting conditions.

The City will then use \$2 million in Sound Transit funding to help fill in gaps to provide pedestrian improvements along 1st Avenue NE. We will begin designing the project this year and anticipate completing the improvements prior to light rail station opening in 2024.

More information

shorelinewa.gov/destination2024

TMP Update: Help Shape the Future of Transportation

The City is currently updating its Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The TMP supports all forms of travel – by foot, bicycle, skateboard, scooter, stroller, wheelchair, transit, motorcycle, automobile, etc. The TMP will guide local and regional transportation investments and define the City's future transportation policies, programs, and projects for the next 20 years.

Status Update

The TMP update is a multi-year process with the goal of the City Council adopting it by the end of 2022. There will be multiple opportunities throughout the process to give feedback. To date, the project team has assessed existing conditions, conducted two rounds of public outreach, developed the TMP Vision and Goals, and recently developed a draft Project Evaluation Framework.

Coming soon

The project team will conduct Outreach Series 3 in April to share what we've heard from the community to date and get your feedback on draft modal plans and policies for walking, biking, taking transit, and driving in Shoreline.

More information

shorelinewa.gov/tmp

Nora Daley-Peng

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Shoreline Surface Water Utility needs your input

Shoreline is growing. With that growth and development, our lakes, streams, and Puget Sound face new pressures, and gain new opportunities for improvements.

Shoreline's Surface Water Utility invites you to share ideas and opinions on how the City could better protect and restore our natural surface waters. We want to know what matters most to you! Successful planning for the future needs your input and ideas.

The survey link below contains interactive maps on Shoreline's drainage basins, water quality conditions, and areas of development. After reading the maps, we'll ask for your feedback on the following:

- What programs and projects the City should prioritize to restore and protect our waterways?
- Which drainage basins are most important to you and why?
- What new programs and projects would you like to see?

We will use this information to help prioritize and plan our future programs and infrastructure improvements.

Take the survey

bit.ly/ShorelineSMAP

Summer Camps

Join us at Camp Shoreline for a summer of fun!

Full day and half day options available!

Register early, camps fill fast!

Registration opens at 8am on:

- March 15: Shoreline residents
- March 17: Lake Forest Park residents
- March 18: Open to all

Register at:

shorelinewa.gov/registernow

Contact your Shoreline City Council

- Mayor Keith Scully, 206-801-2202, kscully@shorelinewa.gov
- Deputy Mayor Betsy Roberston, 206-396-5807, [brobertson@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:b Robertson@shorelinewa.gov)
- Doris Fujioka McConnell, 206-801-2204, dmccConnell@shorelinewa.gov

- Laura Mork, 206-801-2207, lmork@shorelinewa.gov
- Eben Pobe, 206-801-2201, epobe@shorelinewa.gov
- John Ramsdell, 206-330-3948, jramsdell@shorelinewa.gov
- Chris Roberts, 206-391-2733, croberts@shorelinewa.gov
- Contact all Councilmembers, (206) 801-2213, council@shorelinewa.gov

City Council Meetings

Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual meetings via Zoom

Agendas: shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings