

About Redmond

The City of Redmond has a population of 77,000, and in pre-pandemic times, experienced a daytime working population of over 130,000. Urban life and the outdoors come together in one of the fastest-growing cities in the state. We are home to a thriving technology and space industry, Eastside supportive services, and business incubators. The City actively partners in regional and state conversations, bringing housing, environment, and other experiences and expertise to the table. Redmond requests state support to keep our communities livable, walkable, safe, and sustainable.



Top Funding and Legislative Requests



Idylwood Park Accessibility Improvements

Redmond seeks \$500,000 to help expand the capacity of the parking lot, incorporate ADA improvements, and make multimodal enhancements.

Idylwood Park is one of the City's most heavily used community parks with more than 250,000 annual visitors and it is the only municipal park with access to waterfront recreation. The parking lot serving the park is frequently beyond capacity, often compelling users to park across a busy multilane thoroughfare, which reduces safety and accessibility. The City of Redmond has committed \$723,516 thus far for design and construction of this \$4 million project for an expanded facility that supports multimodal access. State funding assistance would support the City's Vision Zero commitment and ADA Transition Plan.



Electric Fire Engine and Charging Infrastructure

Together, Bellevue and Redmond seek \$800,000 to invest in the first electric fire engines in the state.

The Cities of Redmond and Bellevue are at the forefront of sustainable emergency response in acquiring the State's first electric fire engines. Expected to arrive in late 2024, Redmond's engine heralds a new era for firefighting in Washington State, and \$250,000 of this ask supports charging infrastructure for the engine. Both cities successfully received partial grant funding from Ecology and anticipate federal support, but an electric engine costs approximately double that of a diesel engine. This investment closes cost gaps for both cities. Electric fire engines not only offer clean technology; they have operational efficiencies, reduce maintenance costs, and contribute to the health of our firefighters and the communities they serve. The City requests the State continue investing in this groundbreaking project, setting a precedent for a cleaner, more efficient future in emergency response.



148th Avenue NE/SR 520 Bicycle Pedestrian Overpass Prioritization

We are in the process of seeking funding opportunities and will need the State's partnership to align funding in upcoming years.

The Legislature appropriated \$8 million in the 2022 Move Ahead Washington transportation package for this project and scheduled the funds to be allocated in "future biennia," post-2029. The project continues to be a top priority for mobility and safety of the Redmond community. It will allow pedestrians to safely cross State Route 520 in the Overlake Urban Center, one of the largest job centers in the Puget Sound region with a capacity for 70,000 jobs. The construction trajectory for this project aligns with the timing of anticipated growth. Future state support will be critical.



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2024 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Supported Issues



Housing

Redmond looks forward to continuing to share our expertise in statewide dialogue on the affordable housing crisis. We are a regional partner on housing solutions, including transit-oriented development, housing trust fund affordable housing projects, and building complete neighborhoods. Redmond is a statewide leader in inclusionary zoning. Redmond's longstanding inclusionary zoning regulations apply to most areas of the city and have contributed to the creation of 1,127 cost-controlled affordable housing units. Under HB 1220, Redmond's residential growth target is 20,000 new homes between 2019 and 2044, with almost 75% of those units serving households making 0 to 50% of the area median income. The City supports proposals that preserve, improve, and expand housing stock; increase housing choices for people at all income levels and abilities; and eliminate racially exclusive and discriminatory land use and housing practices. Redmond supports legislation that is consistent with Redmond's Comprehensive Plan, Housing Action Plan, and Community Strategic Plan.

Redmond supports:

- Housing affordability, production, anti-displacement, and statewide tenant protections
- Condominium liability reform and other measures to increase production
- Permit streamlining and city and trade workforce development to improve the housing development pipeline
- Recognizing on-the-ground impacts and city resource constraints, and allowing time for cities to successfully implement recent state housing and land use legislation

Environment Sustainability

Redmond takes effective local action with state funding and supports state efficiencies in local climate funding. The City is working to achieve net zero City operations by 2030 and net-zero emissions communitywide by 2050 via a comprehensive Environmental Sustainability Action Plan that frames necessary actions as climate change consequences escalate. Redmond is a champion of clean water, as Redmond has a uniquely shallow aquifer. As a leader in equitable building decarbonization and other sustainability programs, Redmond has an aggressive environmental action plan to put into action with state dollars.

Redmond supports:

- Decarbonization, green building, and renewable energy sources
- Investments in building and fleet electrification and charging infrastructure, and resources for associated impacts such as electric vehicle fire suppression
- Effective and efficient distribution of Climate Commitment Act, Inflation Reduction Act, and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law dollars
- Culvert, fish, and habitat funding
- State funding for vegetation management and tree canopy preservation and expansion
- Stormwater and clean water funding
- State action plans, funding, and technical assistance for the potentially devastating impacts of PFAS introduced into city water systems
- Waste stream reduction and statewide extended producer responsibility
- Climate resiliency and wildfire response

Planning and Infrastructure

Time and funding are critical to successfully implement the old and new Growth Management Act requirements.

Redmond consistently ranks among the fastest growing cities in the state and in the nation. In the next few years, the City will welcome four new light rail stations. The City is investing in multimodal transportation, trail connections, and incoming light rail stations to increase walkability, livability, and sustainability.

Redmond supports:

- Increased funding for the Public Works Assistance Account, other grants, and financing tools for local needs, such as establishing a state public bank
- Increased funding for pavement preservation
- Improving road safety and achieving Vision Zero objectives
- Funding for parks, trails, and recreation maintenance, operations, and acquisitions, including Recreation and Conservation Office grants

General Government

Redmond encourages the State to identify reforms to the tax system that provide progressive, equitable, stable, and reliable revenue sources to meet the needs of state and local government. Giving cities local option flexibility with revenue streams is critical to accomplishing state priorities such as meeting the state-provided housing targets. When there are new state mandates, ensuring corresponding funding is critical for City financial sustainability.

Redmond supports:

- Tax reform, including local options to exceed the 1% annual property tax growth limit
- Increasing flexibility for local revenue streams, including real estate excise tax revenues
- Tools and efficiencies to address public records request costs while maintaining transparency
- Flexibility in state recording requirements for digital and paperless records
- Tools that protect voting rights and equitable access to voting
- Educating the state on City fiscal impacts of changes in state labor regulations

Community Vitality

Redmond supports the State's critical funding of health and human services and crisis care facilities. As the City grows, so, too, does its need to provide living wage jobs, employment training, and human and social services. Redmond actively engages with Eastside and regional partners in support of regional solutions to address and support individuals experiencing homelessness. Redmond's Mobile Integrated Health program received the National Alliance on Mental Illness's Crisis Intervention Team Fire/EMS Agency of the Year award for the northwest region in 2022 for our outstanding work in crisis alternative response.

Redmond supports:

- Childcare accessibility, affordability, and workforce support
- Small business assistance programs and small business financial support
- Funding for the Housing Essential Needs Program and other subsidized housing solutions
- Investments in human services programs and workforce
- Investments in workforce reskilling and work-based learning opportunities
- Investments in behavioral health services and facilities
- Funding and access to healthcare that respects rights, such as gender-affirming care and abortion rights

Public Safety

The City has significant capital needs and workforce shortages that will continue to put pressure on public safety services. One-time funding has balanced the City's current budget, but structural gaps have expenses outpacing revenues. The City works to provide a safe community while also ensuring transparency, accountability, and innovation.

Redmond supports:

- Safe neighborhoods and adequately resourced public safety programs, including alternative crisis response and training
- Criminal justice reform to ensure transparency and accountability
- Funding for treatment alternatives and implementing new state laws on possession of controlled substances
- Gun safety

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