

COMMUNITY BUILDING

I WANT A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND CONNECTIONS WITH OTHERS

REQUEST FOR OFFERS

TEAM MEMBERS

Team Lead: Jean Rice, Parks & Recreation
Team Member: Bruce Newman, Public Works
Team Member: Charlie Gorman, Police
Team Member: Jill Smith, Planning
Team Member: Kevin Klein, Finance & Information Services
Team Member: Siri Bliesner, Citizen

PRIORITY

I want a sense of community and connection with others.

RESULTS INDICATORS

Indicator 1: Percentage of Redmond residents reporting they feel informed about community events, programs, volunteer opportunities and issues.

This indicator accesses the success of information tools the City uses to inform the public and keep them engaged in civic and community events.

Data to be collected: In a survey, ask citizens if they feel informed and have them identify the communication tools they use, i.e. Focus, Efocus, website, social networks, print media.

Indicator 2: Level of participation of Redmond residents volunteering within the community.

This indicator measures that residents are actively involved and committed to their community.

Data to be collected: Through survey and independent program count, measure the number of people volunteering and the total number of volunteer hours inclusive of local government, community service groups, schools, neighborhood organizations, and civic clubs.

Indicator 3: Percentage of citizens who report they feel a sense of community and connection with others.

This indicator measures the community strength found in human relations. To do this people need to be involved, feel capable of working through issues, and feel supported by their fellow citizens.

Data to be collected: Through survey ask Redmond residents how strongly they feel connected to their community.

INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY OF CAUSE & EFFECT MAP

Our Cause and Effect Map identifies four factors that create a sense of community and connections with others:

- 1) Access and Connections
- 2) Shared Public Experiences
- 3) Positive Community Image
- 4) Places to Gather

These factors were developed from community input and verified through many research sources.

Factor 1: Access and Connections

Citizens' connections to others and access to services are important prerequisites for bringing the community together. Strong partnerships, volunteerism, and an accessible government are very important to move forward as a community. We are looking to develop ways to connect to our citizens and develop creative ways to hear back from the public. All of this builds trust and creates civic engagement.

Factor 2: Shared Public Experiences

Strengthen Redmond identity by creating opportunities for the arts, recreation, and cultural experiences. Redmond residents enjoy coming together for special events, programs and activities that provide an opportunity to meet new friends and share common interests. Events and activities held locally, regionally, and in neighborhoods contribute to a City with year-round, day and night experiences that celebrate a sense of community and provide opportunities for people to meet one another.

Factor 3: Positive Community Image

Redmond and residents' shared histories and diversity make the neighborhoods and City unique. Redmond is different from any other city. While the City continues to grow, it should retain its welcoming, safe and green environment, offering a sense of place to each citizen. Having this unique identity and community pride is an important aspect of building community and connection with others.

Factor 4: Places to Gather

A vibrant city provides both public and private gathering spaces so that neighbors and friends can meet in a convenient place. Locations should be all-weather, promote green design, be accessible, and support varied travel options.

PURCHASING STRATEGIES

WE ARE LOOKING FOR OFFERS THAT:

Strategy 1: Promote civic partnerships and opportunities to collaborate.

Offers that leverage dollars, time, knowledge and success by working together via partnerships are desired. Partnerships could be cross-departmental, local, or regional. Partnerships can also include the

opportunity for Redmond citizens to volunteer and give of their time and knowledge to City or community programs.

We favor offers that create and enhance circles of support for Redmond citizens. This could include informal support, such as neighbor to neighbor or formalized support through human services programs.

Strategy 2: Include broad and inclusive communication strategies.

There are a variety of ways that Redmond citizens receive information and stay connected. There is an ever-increasing usage of social media, choices in print and online news media, broadcast, etc. We favor offers that effectively inform residents, employees and businesses of opportunities to be involved in and to provide input about, community-building activities. Offers should demonstrate effective and credible communication plans for the City and the individual program's target audience.

Strategy 3: Provide opportunities for shared experiences.

We favor offers that provide opportunities for citizens to see their friends and neighbors, as well as meet other Redmond citizens. The City's goal is to provide programs inclusive to all ages, cultures, abilities, budgets, times of day/week/year, and locations. Offers should define how their individual program contributes to this objective. Offers should demonstrate economic and/or environmental sustainability.

Strategy 4: Provide opportunities that strengthen Redmond's culturally rich and unique community.

Redmond is a unique community thriving in a variety of cultures and distinct histories. We favor offers that showcase these wonderful diversities while highlighting cultures, educating people, and uniting our community.

The Arts enable us to form trusting ties across race, gender, ethnicity, faith, and generations. Offers should include opportunities to incorporate Art in local planning, programming, design and neighborhood planning efforts.

Strategy 5: Develop and celebrate neighborhood identities.

Redmond has defined neighborhoods that enjoy their own identities. We favor offers that promote these identifying factors and create opportunities to enhance and celebrate their strengths. Offers that create occasions for neighbors to see one another are encouraged.

Strategy 6: Create or enhance public and private community gathering spaces with connections that facilitate citizens' access to gathering spaces.

Redmond citizens want places where they can gather with their friends and neighbors, as well as meet new people. We favor offers that provide places for citizens to interact with others, via city owned facilities, privately owned businesses or neighborhood amenities.

Walking, biking, and sharing rides gives citizens chances to communicate with others and see new things in the community. We favor offers that build and encourage the use of trails, sidewalks, ride sharing, and provide easy access to Redmond commerce and recreational activities. We favor programs that encourage Redmond residents to stay local.

Offers should demonstrate economic and/or environmental sustainability.

CIP Purchasing Strategies

Strategy 7: Accomplish the vision for our urban centers.

We favor offers that fund needed facilities, services and improvements within Downtown and Overlake. In particular, we favor offers that deliver improvements identified in the Comprehensive Plan for these locations.

Strategy 8: Achieve high value for the dollars invested.

We favor offers that demonstrate efficiency in cost, timing, and approach, as well as leverage actions and resources by others.

Strategy 9: Contribute to meeting the City's level of service standards.

We favor offers that meet growth-related needs, as well as those offers that keep existing facilities and equipment reliable and safe.

Strategy 10: Carry out the Comprehensive Plan, including adopted functional plans.

We favor offers that support Redmond's vision and land use plan with special regard to specific projects and priorities identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

NOTES/PRACTICES/SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

1. 2009-2010 Business Community Request for Offer
2. <http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Redmond/CompPlan/PDF/index.html>
3. <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/saguaro/>
4. <http://www.communityindicators.net.au/>
5. <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/saguaro/>
6. <http://www.bettertogether.org>, <http://www.bettertogether.org/pdfs/Arts.pdf>
7. http://www.civicpartnerships.org/docs/tools_resources/community_indicators.htm
8. Putnam, Robert D. *Bowling Alone. The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (Simon and Schuster, 2000)
9. Putnam, Robert D. (1996). *The Civic Enigma*. June 2005 reflection back on 1995 article *Bowling Alone* and what's been learned since then.
10. Putnam, Robert D. (7/28/04). *Health By Association: some comments*. *International Journal of Epidemiology*.