

Teen Programs Relocation: FAQs

Why are teen programs being relocated from the Old Fire H House Teen Center?

Teen programs are being relocated following comprehensive facility assessments of the Old Fire H House Teen Center. The building has served the community well for 73 years but now faces substantial long-term challenges that go beyond routine maintenance. This proactive relocation allows the City to ensure continuous teen services while the community considers options for the building's future.

When will the program relocation happen?

Programs will begin transitioning to new locations later this month, with the goal of having everything operational in new spaces by late April.

Where are teen programs moving to?

Programs are primarily relocating to the Redmond Community Center at Marymoor Village, with some activities at other City facilities. All updated locations are reflected in our registration system, which can be viewed at www.redmond.gov/register.

Will there be any interruption to services?

We are working to minimize disruptions. Some programs may experience brief adjustments during the transition period, but we expect teen services to be fully operational at their new locations by late April. Program offerings will remain largely the same, with some adjustments to accommodate the new spaces.

How will teens know where to go for their programs?

All program locations have been updated in our registration system. The website (redmond.gov/TeenServices) will have current information. Program staff will also communicate directly with participants about any location changes or updates.

Will teens have less access to services now?

Most teen programs will continue at the same level in the new locations. Lounge and drop-in spaces will be available at the Redmond Community Center at Marymoor Village. However, some specialized activities like live music shows and sound studio access may experience more significant adjustments or gaps during this transition. The Redmond Community Center at Marymoor Village will be accessible via the upcoming light rail station, making it convenient for many people to reach. We remain committed to providing quality teen programming and will work to address any access challenges that arise during and after the transition.

What will happen to the Old Fire H House Teen Center building?

No decisions have been made about the future of the building. That will be determined through a public process with City Council which will include opportunities for public comment.

What activities or functions will take place in the building while a decision is being made about its future?

The building will not host programming, events, or concerts during this period. City facilities staff will continue to maintain the major building systems while decisions about its future are being considered.

Is the building unsafe?

The building is currently safe for occupancy because of our careful maintenance protocols. However, relocating programs now is a proactive decision to ensure ongoing safety without requiring increasingly demanding resources and maintenance efforts.

What specific issues does the building have?

The Old Fire H House Teen Center faces several structural and mechanical challenges. The facility assessment identified issues with mechanical systems, structural elements, and equipment that require significant resources to maintain safely. Additionally, the building contains hazardous materials typical of its era of construction which require extensive mitigation when disturbed.

How long has the City known about these issues?

The City completed a comprehensive Facilities Condition Assessment in 2013 that provided detailed information about condition. Since then, City staff has invested significant time and resources to keeping it safe and habitable and completed various projects to maintain the facility. In 2024, an additional Facilities Condition Assessment was completed that provided up-to-date information about the building's condition. While we've been aware of various maintenance needs over time, this assessment offered a more complete picture of the long-term challenges the facility faces and the ongoing resources it would take to continue operating the facility. Additionally, a Citywide Building Security Plan was completed that brought to light additional safety issues within the facility.

Why is this happening now rather than at the end of the school year?

The decision to relocate now is based on balancing several factors: minimizing program disruption, ensuring safety, and managing resources effectively. We've timed the transition to provide adequate notice to teens and families while also allowing us to establish programs in the new locations well before heavy summer programming begins.

What is the timeline for making a decision on the future of the building?

City Council will begin hearing information related to the Old Fire H House Teen Center in their meetings this spring. During those meetings, a timeline will be discussed. We will share information on redmond.gov/TeenServices as it becomes available.

How was the teen community and public informed of the relocation?

The Mayor met with the Redmond Youth Partnership Advisory Committee (RYPAC) and other teen users on March 10 to share this information directly with the building's users. This meeting was followed by a public announcement on our website, a press release, and direct communication with program participants. To read the public announcement, visit redmond.gov/News.

How will the community be involved in decisions about the building's future?

The future of the Old Fire H House Teen Center building will be determined through a public process with City Council. This will include opportunities for community input and engagement. Details about this process will be shared on our website as they become available.

Is this decision related to budget cuts?

No. This decision is focused on ensuring teen services continue in appropriate facilities while addressing substantial long-term challenges that go beyond routine maintenance.

How will the significance of the building be honored?

We recognize the important legacy and community significance of the Old Fire H House Teen Center. The building has meant a great deal to many generations of area residents. Its significance and community value will be considered as part of the public process regarding its future.

What happens to the memories and artifacts from the Old Fire H House?

We understand the importance of preserving the memory of the Old Fire H House Teen Center. We are working to identify and preserve meaningful items from the facility. More information about this process will be shared as plans develop.

Is this a permanent change?

The relocation of teen programs from the Old Fire H House Teen Center is a permanent change. The future use of the building will be determined through the public process with City Council.

What is the teen services engagement process about?

Beginning in April, we will launch a comprehensive engagement process to understand what teens need, how we can best serve their interests, and where services are needed most. This will include opportunities for teens, families, and community members to provide input that will help shape the future of teen services in Redmond.

How can teens and families participate in the engagement process?

There will be multiple ways to participate, including online feedback opportunities, focus groups, advisory committee meetings, and community events. Information about these opportunities will be posted on redmond.gov/TeenServices as they become available. In the meantime, if you have questions or comments, please submit them through our customer service system here: [Request for Service - Redmond, WA](#).

Will teen voices be heard in this process?

Yes. Teen input is central to this process. We will be working closely with the Redmond Youth Partnership Advisory Committee (RYPAC) and other teen groups to ensure youth perspectives are prioritized as we shape the future of teen services in Redmond.

What is the City's long-term vision for teen services?

The City is committed to providing quality, accessible, and relevant programs and services for teens. The upcoming engagement process will help us refine our vision based on current needs, interests, and future goals for our growing, diverse community. We aim to create spaces and programs that support teen development, provide meaningful opportunities for connection, and respond to the evolving needs of Redmond's youth.

What new opportunities are offered by relocating programs to the Redmond Community Center at Marymoor Village?

The Redmond Community Center at Marymoor Village offers modern facilities, longer extended open hours, customer service staffing, improved accessibility with the upcoming light rail station, and potential for new programming opportunities. The location provides a chance to integrate teen services with other community programs and may attract teens who weren't previously engaged with programs at the Old Fire H House Teen Center.

How will you ensure the sense of community continues at the new locations?

We recognize that the sense of community is crucial to successful teen programming. Staff are working to create a welcoming, teen-focused space at the Redmond Community Center at Marymoor Village. We'll be involving teens in decisions about how to personalize these spaces, and we'll continue traditions and programming that foster connection and belonging. Importantly, we recognize that community is built through people and their relationships in the building – not the building itself. We look forward to seeing relationships continue to grow and develop in Redmond's spaces for teens and all community members.

How can teens provide feedback about the new locations and experiences?

Teens and all community members can provide feedback through [QAlert](#), or by talking with members of the Redmond Youth Partnership Advisory Committee (RYPAC). Additionally, teens will have multiple opportunities to provide input through the comprehensive engagement process that begins in April. This process will include online feedback opportunities, focus groups, advisory committee meetings, and community events. We welcome ongoing input as we make this transition and will be responsive to concerns and suggestions.

How will you communicate updates about the transition to teens and families?

Updates will be shared through our website at redmond.gov/TeenServices, direct communication with program participants, social media channels, email newsletter, and through the Redmond Youth Partnership Advisory Committee. Important information will also be available at program locations, and information about the future of the building will be shared in city council meetings.

How will staff be affected by this change?

Staff will continue to provide quality teen programming in the new locations. There are no reductions in staff positions associated with this transition. Staff are being supported through this change with clear information, resources, and opportunities to contribute to planning for programs in the new locations.

How will the building be maintained during the decision-making period?

The City will continue to maintain the major building systems during the decision-making period. While it won't be used for programming, we will ensure the building remains secure while decisions about its future are being made.