

White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District 2023 Budget Message

Thank you for your interest in the preliminary budget of the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District (WSVPMPD) for the 2023 Fiscal/Calendar Year. The District Commissioners will hold a public hearing online at 7:00 pm on November 10, 2022 via Google Meet to receive comments on the District budget.

Online meeting link: <https://meet.google.com/qpo-cdjy-cpd>, or phone 225-417-1029 PIN: 531 903 756#

WSVPMPD Mission Statement

The mission of the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District is to build, operate, and maintain a pool facility that enhances our community's quality of life by offering a range of opportunities for play, exercise, relaxation, and education for all community members and future generations.

Overview of Previous Accomplishments:

The WSVPMPD was approved by voters in November 2018. In 2019 the District evaluated sites for the new pool facility, began lease negotiations with the White Salmon School District for a preferred site, and began developing conceptual facility plans for the site in collaboration with local architects, builders, pool professionals and individuals in the community.

In 2020 the District secured a 50-year lease with White Salmon Valley School District for the selected new pool facility site and began fundraising for new pool construction, but that effort was almost immediately curtailed due to Covid-19 restrictions. The District also contracted for financial accounting services, developed a new website (WhiteSalmonValleyPool.org), contracted with a grant writer, contracted for a District logo, adopted a detailed 5-year comprehensive plan and completed a detailed facility conceptual plan.

In 2021 the District contracted with ALSC Architects for Architectural & Engineering Services and obtained approval from the State of Washington Capital Projects Advisory Review Board's Project Review Committee (CPARB-PRC) to use the General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) Alternative Contracting Procedure. This approval allowed the District to contract with construction estimating contractor (Kirby-Nagelhout Construction) to work with the architects to ensure an economically constructable design.

Overview of 2022 Accomplishments:

2022 was a challenging year for the District in fulfilling its mission to fund and construct a new pool for the White Salmon Valley community. The District accomplished its initial goal of completing the design phase and producing a bid-ready set of construction documents in April 2022. At that time however, in consultation with our project management team the District decided to pause on taking the project to bid. This difficult decision was based on the current economic climate of the construction industry and the District's unsuccessful attempts to secure needed funding through the Washington state LOCAL Bond program and the Legislative Local Community Project grant program. Absent this funding totaling \$2,825,000 together with the recent escalation in construction costs of approximately \$1,500,000, proved to be too great an obstacle to go forward with the bid/construction phase of the project at this time.

The District has focused efforts in 2022 on community outreach and education, continuing the swim pass program for the summer of 2022 and looking to expand for 2023. The District expects to receive additional construction cost forecasts in the remainder of the year so we can focus on targeting our fundraising estimates.

Overview of 2023 Goals:

In 2023 the District will kick-off a formal capital campaign seeking donations and funding commitments from both private and public sources. Together with our public agency partners, the District will redouble efforts to seek funding assistance through lobbying efforts of our elected state representatives and from the Legislative Local Community Project grant program. The District will also investigate forming a 501(c)(3) as another avenue to attract prospective donors. Construction materials and labor costs will continue to be monitored and project construction costs estimates periodically updated throughout the year.

The 2023 budget includes funds to continue the free summer swim pass program for district residents at the Hood River pool. Additional funds have been earmarked to expand the program to offer free bus service from Bingen/White Salmon to the Hood River pool for district residents.

Your commissioners recognize the strong desire for a community pool and we are committed to expediting the process in a cost-effective manner. We strongly encourage you to get involved to help push this forward by volunteering to assist in fundraising efforts, attending any of our frequent commission meetings, or by emailing us at the addresses listed below. The commissioners also invite district residents to contact our city, county and state representatives to let them know that this is a high priority project for the community and that their support is critical to complete the project.

More information can be found on the website <https://WhiteSalmonValleyPool.org>.

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