



# Community Fund Project Application

City of Auburn

Submitted On:

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America/Los\_Angeles

## Community Fund Project Application

Do you live, work, or study in the Valley or Plateau area of Auburn? Is there a project you and your neighbors would like to do but don't have the funding? Tell us your idea below with a short description of the project and the location.

These are intended to be smaller projects that bring added value to a neighborhood and help connect residents together. An example would be a community garden coordinated and used by the local community. This fund is not intended for infrastructure projects such as road repairs or sidewalks. For more details about the program visit [auburnwa.gov/communityfund](http://auburnwa.gov/communityfund). The deadline for completing this form is March 31, 2022.

If you or someone from your community needs help filling out the application in a language other than English, please contact us to receive translation services.

For questions or help filling out this form contact:  
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<b>Address</b>	313 37th St SE Auburn WA 98002
<b>Project Title</b>	Parks Project at Firwood Circle
<b>How did you hear about this project?</b>	From our youth and families.
<b>Summary of project</b>	<p>The Firwood Circle community youth seek to elevate the existing local park by expanding sitting areas and installing new playground equipment. The Neighborhood House (NH) staff, who provide an after-school program for K-12 youth in their community, collaborated with community youth to identify their dream project. The new park idea quickly became a clear favorite.</p> <p>Firwood Circle is a King County Housing Authority (KCHA) property that offers subsidized housing to families in South Auburn, located in the purple shaded focus area. 50+ youth and 52 families live in this community. There are additional youth and families from the surrounding neighborhood who stop by the community center to receive services and play at our basketball court or on the playground.. The NH youth engagement program focuses its services on low-income, immigrant, and refugee youth who live in public housing. This program offers after-school enrichment activities, case management, support services, and much more.</p>

The NH program youth identified how a new park design benefits Firwood Circle and the greater community. An improved space will encourage families and their children to spend more time outdoors. The current park possesses a few barriers that prevent families and children from utilizing the park. The small park size quickly leads to overcrowding which is very challenging when families still have concerns about COVID-19. The outdated playground equipment is unattractive to many families. The equipment is suited for older school-age youth, and there are many younger children in the neighborhood. A new park design will make the community a more welcoming and inclusive place.

Furthermore, the new park will strengthen and build relationships by bringing people outside to bond and play. Our community voiced that a new park design could provide additional seating areas for picnics and outdoor gatherings. A covered shelter would allow families to still enjoy the outdoors during rainy days. Everybody will have the chance to enjoy the space as it is accessible by a paved walkway and the park is in a central location. An upgraded park would include a few more modern pieces of playground equipment and more communal seating areas. Youth stated that a new swing set would be an exciting addition to the park.

Youth and families are very supportive of this project proposal. Youth were involved from Day 1: They brainstormed project ideas; voted for their favorite project; worked with NH staff to provide language and ideas for the proposal; drew sketches of their dream park; pitched the idea to their neighbors; and finally, collected signatures. The youth and families can engage in any future community discussions. The KCHA property manager is supportive of the project and is willing to work with the team to ensure that liability, safety, etc. are all covered. NH staff at Firwood Circle will stand as the middleman to ensure that voices from our youth and families are heard and that the City of Auburn and KCHA are on the same page. We will also be in partnership with KCHA to ensure the supported maintenance of the park.

The estimated cost of this project has a high variance, but we will narrow it as soon as we can. This project will be finished after we can work with contractors and the KCHA property management teams. The goal will be to finish by the end of the year if approved in June.

**Location of the project (see map at end of document for Community Fund area). You can describe the boundaries relative to existing streets or other landmarks.**

313 37th St SE (located in your southern purple shaded area). Our park is right behind our community center. It can be seen from 37th St SE.

**Are you willing to support outreach if you live, work, or study in the project area?**

Yes

**Do you... (check all that apply)**

Wrk in Auburn

**Select all that you identify with:**

Asian

**What is the primary language spoken at home?**

English