



THIS WEEK IN RENTON

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Family First Community Center

Strong community partnership funds a center designed to bring much-needed community services and resources to the Cascade/Benson Hill area



We are incredibly excited that construction has started on the [Family First Community Center](#) in Renton's Cascade/Benson Hill area.

What began as one person's dream about six years ago grew into a community-wide effort and is now a reality.

Former Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin envisioned a neighborhood center as a community gathering point for youth and adults. Growing up in Florida, Doug experienced first-hand how a community center could be a positive influence. That experience, plus his deep sense of civic involvement, motivated him to come to city leadership with his vision.

To build the center, a partnership was formed between the city, Doug Baldwin's Family First Community Center Foundation, Renton School District, and HealthPoint.

This partnership launched a community fundraising effort that currently totals more than \$14 million. The amount includes \$4.4 million in two grants from the State of Washington, \$4 million from the city, a \$3 million grant from First Financial Northwest Foundation, \$1 million from Family First Community Center Foundation, \$338,000 from M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, \$250,000 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, \$200,000 from the Premera Social Impact Fund, and donations from over 100 businesses, organizations, and individuals. In addition, Renton School District donated land adjacent to Cascade Elementary School for the center's home.

The Family First Community Center will bring much-needed recreation and health services for families and youth in the Cascade/Benson Hill area. Since its annexation to the city in 2008, this neighborhood has existed without its own community center.

When completed, the center will offer a unique combination of after-school programs and classes; youth and adult sports; group exercise; personal training; health education, cooking, and nutrition classes; and activities for infants, toddlers, and children. Renton Public Schools will offer STEM classes, and HealthPoint will provide medical, behavioral health, and dental care to area residents.

More information on the project is [available on our website](#), including a link for donations. In addition, you can [subscribe to our monthly newsletter](#) for construction updates.

What our partners are saying

"The Family First Community Center is much needed in the Cascade/Benson Hill area as a community gathering place for health and recreational opportunities. This project resulted from a comprehensive and creative approach and is another example of our community coming together for the common good. I look forward to the impact the center will have on the community."

Armondo Pavone, Mayor of Renton

"The day I moved to the Pacific Northwest, I fell in love with an area that has become my home for the past six years. The people of Renton are passionate, involved, and diverse in culture. Now I want to help bring back something to the community. The Family First Community Center is just that. A center where the health and wellness of families will be the priority. It's a grand vision met with a relentless passion to serve the community. And I am so grateful to once again be a part of something great happening in Renton."

Doug Baldwin, former Seattle Seahawks wide receiver

"Providing students and families with additional opportunities to learn and grow in an environment that improves their quality of life is important. We're thankful for Doug Baldwin's commitment and excited to partner with him and the City of Renton to continue to improve the lives of our families and community through the Family First Community Center."

Dr. Damien Pattenau, Superintendent, Renton School District

"Every once in a while, an exemplary opportunity meets an ideal financial resource that simply cannot be ignored. The match between the FFCC vision and the Foundation was undeniable. We can't wait for the opportunity to open the doors and welcome kids, families, and the community to a life-changing place for many years to come."

First Financial Northwest Foundation

"We are excited the construction of the center is underway. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with our partners and the community to develop programs that will bring quality health care services along with recreational and educational opportunities to young people and families in the area. At HealthPoint, we understand that being healthy takes more than just clinical care. It is about creating connections to community and opportunities for success for all."

Lisa Yohalem, President and CEO, HealthPoint



ROOTED IN RENTON

Urban Forestry Plan sets goals for next decade

It's our goal to provide and maintain a thriving urban forest for our residents. The nearly 117,000 trees on city streets, parks, and natural areas:

- Help control stormwater runoff
- Reduce carbon dioxide and pollution
- Save energy
- Increase property values
- Decrease urban heat

All combine to make Renton a healthy and colorful community for work and recreation.

Our [Urban Forestry Management Division](#) maintains this vital ecosystem. They outlined their plan to protect trees, forestry assets, and the health of Renton's citizens for the next 10 years in their [2022-2032 Urban Forest Management Plan](#). The plan is a detailed roadmap to preserve the sustainability of the urban forest to ensure safety, well-being, and a vibrant economic future.

The plan also reveals:

- The most common public tree genus and species
- The neighborhood with the highest tree equity score
- The total cost to replace the city's tree inventory
- Recommendations to maintain and plant trees more effectively



Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration

Urban Forestry Management will host their annual Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at [Maplewood Park](#).

We need help with two projects: tree and flower planting and storm drain marking. [Visit our volunteers page](#) for more information and to sign up. Look under the "Park Maintenance" tab.

Volunteers will receive an Arbor Day/Earth Day t-shirt and lunch served by city staff. Tools will be provided.

In the news this week

A recap of news posted on the city's social media accounts. You can find us (@cityofrenton) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), & [Twitter](#). Renton residents can also find us on [Nextdoor](#).

[City Council review](#)

[COVID-19 resources](#)

[In-person services at city hall](#)

[Recreation Guide: March to May](#)

[Renton History Museum](#)

[Traffic Projects](#)