

# ISSUES BRIEF

April 2022 - Vol. XII, Issue 4 Number 116

## Nelson Dam project reaches milestone

### *Update: Nelson Dam structure 80% removed*

An update on the Nelson Dam removal project notes that approximately 80% of the existing dam has been removed.

The 5-page project status is available at [Nelson Dam Removal Project: Water Supply, Riverine Process, and Fish Passage Improvements \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/nelson-dam-removal-project-water-supply-riverine-process-and-fish-passage-improvements).

The report includes photos of the project, a fish rescue and relocation summary, and an overview of work scheduled through July 16th, 2022.

Work on the Nelson Dam removal and replacement project began in August 2021.

The project will improve fish passage and sediment continuity to improve habitat, increase flow conveyance to decrease flooding risks for nearby landowners, and improve water supply reliability.



Nelson Dam, on the Naches tributary of the Yakima River, was built in the 1920s to divert irrigation water for Yakima and the Naches-Cowiche Irrigation Association.

The original design did not allow fish passage.

The dam has held back tons of sediment and silt over the years, raising the river bed.

This has caused the Naches River to overflow its banks and move into the surrounding community during even minor flooding.

The City of Yakima and Yakima County have been collaborating on the design and implementation of this project.

The dam removal and replacement is one of several major public works projects initiated by the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

For more about the Nelson Dam project contact Assistant Public Works Director Dave Brown at 509-575-6154 or via e-mail at [David.Brown@yakimawa.gov](mailto:David.Brown@yakimawa.gov)

## Spring has sprung in the City of Yakima



### Fisher Park golf now underway

The City of Yakima's Fisher Park Golf Course opened March 25th for the 2022 season.

The par-3, 9-hole course is located at 823 South 40th Avenue, across from Eisenhower High School. It is typically open from March through October each year, depending on the weather.

Typical hours of operation are 8 am to dusk.

For more information call Fisher Park Golf at 509-575-6075 or visit <https://yakimaparks.com/parks/fisher-park-golf-course/>



### Irrigation service begins in April

The City of Yakima's 2022 irrigation season begins April 1st.

All City of Yakima irrigation systems should be fully operational by April 7th.

For more information visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/water-irrigation/>

For billing questions about the City of Yakima's drinking water/irrigation services call 575-6080.

Other inquiries for the City's Water/Irrigation Division can be directed to 575-6154.



### Lions Pool hosts April Pools Day

The City's Lions Pool, 509 W. Pine St., offers a free "April Pools Day" from 1 to 3 pm on Saturday, April 9.

April Pools Day includes:

- One hour of free water safety instruction, elementary rescues, life jacket use, boating safety and hypothermia awareness
- One hour of free swim time
- A raffle for free life jackets, free swim lessons and door prizes

Call 509-575-6046 or visit online at <https://yakimaparks.com/aquatics/> for more about City of Yakima aquatic programs.



# Briefly

## Mask requirements for transit, airport

Due to federal requirements, masks are required for passengers on Yakima Transit buses and at the Yakima Airport.

The federal mask mandate related to public transportation is scheduled to end April 18th.

## Mobile COVID-19 vaccine clinics end

The Yakima Health District's mobile COVID-19 vaccine clinics end after March 31st.

The mobile clinics have been held in various locations, such as workplaces, grocery stores, schools, and much more.

The Yakima Health District, in partnership with Columbia Safety, has administered almost 65,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine through its clinics.

There will continue to be COVID-19 vaccination opportunities at local clinics and pharmacies.

For an updated list of locations, individuals are encouraged to visit [www.YakimaVaccines.org](http://www.YakimaVaccines.org).



Washington Fruit Community Center will host Teen Zone this summer

## Grants support park programs

Two grants totaling over \$130,000 will fund two Yakima Parks and Recreation programs this summer.

Last month the Yakima City Council approved two "Summer Experiences & Enrichment for Kids" (SEEK) grants provided by the state's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:

- \$120,083 to enhance City summer playground programs at Kissel Park and Miller Park. It provides more staff to allow for more participants and reduce program fees.
- \$15,042 for the Washington Fruit Community Center (WFCC) Teen Zone. The free program will be for ages 12-16.

Teen Zone will be 4 to 9 pm one night each week from June 24 to August 12

Teen Zone will offer three full day field trips. Activities will include video games and movies to pickleball and soccer.

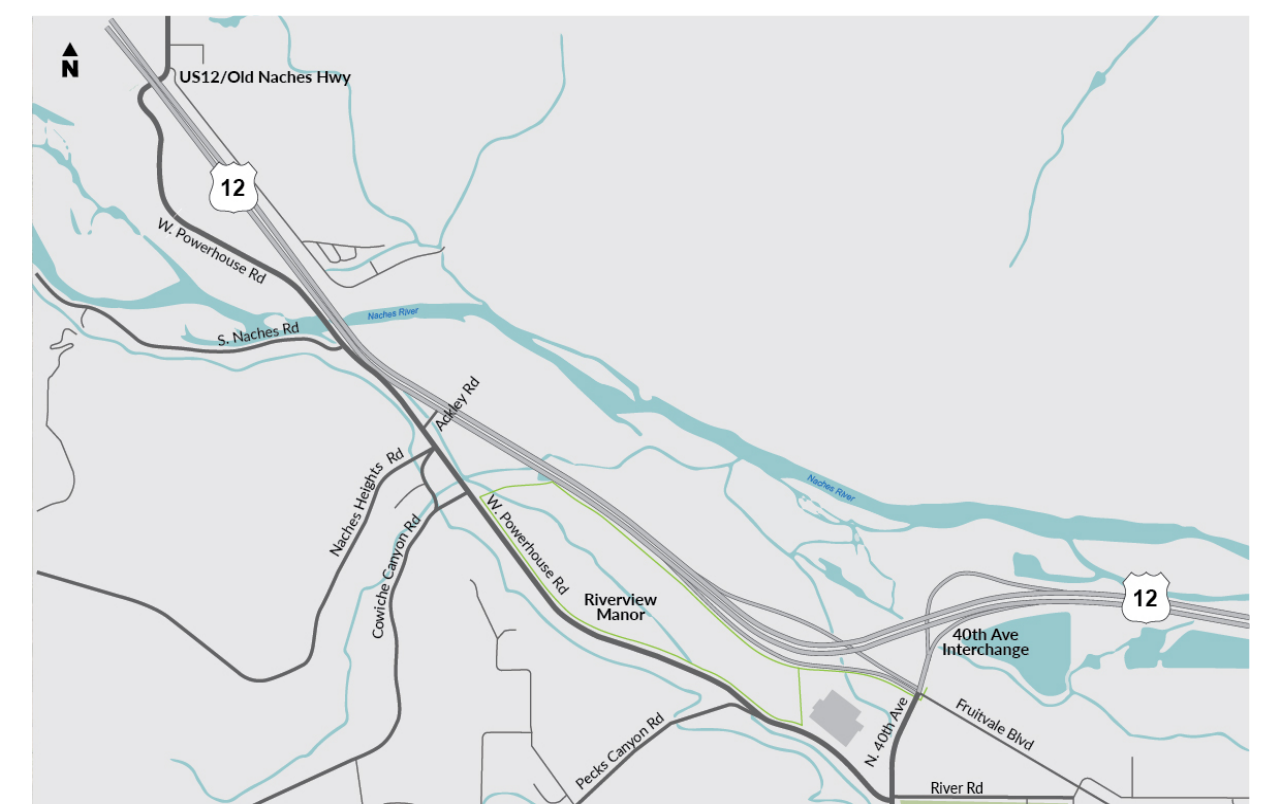
Click [Coversheet \(novusagenda.com\)](https://novusagenda.com) for documents presented to the City Council related to the SEEK grants.

The SEEK program's purpose is to increase access to quality, outdoor summer programming for youth and communities who have historically been underserved and who have been most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEEK grants are administered by the Association of Washington Cities.

Visit <https://yakimaparks.com/> for more about Yakima Parks and Recreation.

## West Powerhouse Road focus of online open house



Above: A map shows one of the proposed options for the West Powerhouse Road corridor. Left: A photo shows the area around West Powerhouse Road, a vital corridor that parallels US Highway 12. Map and photo courtesy of WSDOT

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) offers an online open house about the West Powerhouse Road corridor through April 11th. The open house is linked on the City of Yakima website at the open house at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/>

In July 2021, the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments, City of Yakima, Yakima County and WSDOT began a study of the West Powerhouse Road vicinity.

The purpose was to identify locations in need of improvement for people who drive, walk or bicycle this vital route in the Yakima Valley.

The open house is an opportunity to review survey results, provide public comment and learn about possible solutions for W. Powerhouse Road.

West Powerhouse Road parallels US 12, connecting Glee, Naches and Yakima to west Yakima shopping centers and many agricultural areas.

Much of West Powerhouse Road was designed and built to rural standards and has not kept up with the transition to an urbanizing area.

West Powerhouse Road is a vital two-lane, urban major collector street for travel in the region. However, it has minimal to no sidewalk or shoulders and substandard intersections.

During peak commute periods, congestion affects local traffic in Yakima and on US 12.





## Community Connections

March brought opportunities for City of Yakima staff to engage with the community. Examples included:

Left: SunComm hosted the CAPE Homeschool Support Group for a field trip, with a presentation on how and when to dial 9-1-1 and a tour of the communications floor.

Above: The City of Yakima Refuse Division participated in the Dozer Day weekend for families.

Below: Yakima Police K9 Unit participated in a fun event for two deserving families. K9 Foundation Yakima Valley and Yakima Love On A Leash were sponsors.





**\* NON-EMERGENCY. Call 911 in an emergency.**