



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Fleets and Facilities Department

Brenda Bauer, Director

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Mayor breaks ground for new fire station in Hawthorne Hills

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels today broke ground for the new Fire Station 38 in the Hawthorne Hills neighborhood. The current facility, built in 1930, is the smallest among Seattle’s 33 neighborhood fire stations.

Funded by the 2003 Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy program, the new station is one of eighteen active Fire Levy projects.

“Across the city, from the University District to Rainier Valley to the new large fire boat in Elliott Bay, residents can see their tax dollars at work as we build capacity and flexibility into the fire and emergency response system,” said Nickels.

Replacing the old Fire Station 38 is an important step forward in bringing Seattle’s fire facilities into the 21st century.

The new, larger station will meet current seismic code — and provide the space necessary for modern equipment and operational requirements. The replacement station is designed to withstand an earthquake and allow firefighters to provide critical services to the community.

“Our firefighters and medics can’t respond effectively to today’s threats with yesterday’s facilities and equipment,” said Brenda Bauer, director of the Fleets and Facilities Department. “The Fire Levy investment is the biggest upgrade of fire facilities in 40 years.”

Fire Station 38, located at 5503 33rd Avenue NE, houses Engine 38. In 2008, Engine 38 went on more than 1,781 alarms.

The new station, located seven blocks east of the current station at 4004 NE 55th Street, will more than triple in size, expanding from 2,568 square feet to 8,328 square feet. Seattle architects Schreiber Starling and Lane designed the \$6.8 million project.

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Sustainable features, a prime driver of the design, include cleaning up the site of a former gas station. To contribute to energy savings, the project includes a highly efficient building envelope and efficient heating and cooling systems. An on-site rain garden and non-irrigated drought-tolerant landscaping save water. The project is on target to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver rating.

As part of the 1% for Art Program, NW artist Mel Katz is creating three painted aluminum sculptures. The colorful forms, intended to resemble trees, add artistic whimsy to the landscaping.

In 2003, Seattle voters approved the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy, which was designed with lessons learned from the Nisqually earthquake, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and the 1995 Kobe earthquake.

The \$167 million levy is helping Seattle make significant progress on getting prepared, including:

- Rebuilding or upgrading 32 neighborhood fire stations to better withstand earthquakes and ensure that the city's emergency responders are available to help when they are needed most.
- Re-opening the seismically upgraded/improved Fire Station 31 in Northgate in April 2009.
- Opening the city's new state-of-the-art Fire Station 10, Fire Alarm Center, and Emergency Operations Center, located in a 60,333 square foot complex, in 2008.
- Adding two new fireboats, the flagship Leschi, delivered in 2007, and the smaller fire and rescue boat, Engine 1, which went into service in 2006. The Chief Seattle is being renovated.
- Creating a new Joint Training Facility for firefighters that opened in 2007.
- Providing an emergency water supply for fighting fires. Hardened hydrants at city reservoirs allow firefighters to draw water directly from reservoirs in an emergency.
- Placing emergency supply caches at four locations around the city of Seattle.
- Installing emergency generators at six community centers.

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