

**30 Years of Progress** 

## **ADA Anniversary Celebration**

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

## **PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Our mission is to build a healthy community through an integrated system of exceptional parks, natural areas, recreation, arts and culture, and a broad base of community services.

- **Did You Know?** Recreation staff are trained on the inclusion model. The City of Bellevue welcomes the opportunity to provide modifications for people with disabilities so that full participation in leisure and recreation programs may be enjoyed by all. The inclusion model looks at recreational needs and interests instead of diagnostic labels or disabilities.
- **Did You Know?** The Parks Department is fortunate to have many people with disabilities who volunteer to staff special events in the city. These volunteers give of their time and talents to help ensure that we can have amazing events that bring fun to the entire city.
- **Did You Know?** The Bellevue Challenge Course has been focusing on making the trails, elements and equipment more accessible, especially for those who use wheelchairs. King County has given the City of Bellevue a grant to purchase a Grit Freedom active wheelchair and improve accessibility to three of the low challenge course elements.
- **Did You Know?** In 2019 we listened to the needs of the community and replaced a gravel ramp at Bellevue Botanical Gardens with concrete for easier access by people who use wheelchairs and walkers as well as those with strollers.
- **Did You Know?** Many rabbit hutches don't lend themselves to a good view for wheelchair users. The new rabbit house at Kelsey Creek Farms is completely accessible. With its large screen doors, farm visitors can see bunnies having a bit of food, hopping around and digging down in the sand.
- **Did You Know?** Bellevue Youth Theatre prides itself on inclusion. But inclusion is more than just who gets to play, it is about opportunity. The Theatre of Possibility program at BYT allows people with disabilities a chance to get comfortable on stage and hone some skills.
- **Did You Know?** The Northwest Arts Center offers Glass Fusion and Stoneware Creation classes. These classes are designed for everyone. This model has been successful in breaking down barriers and assumptions regarding those with intellectual disabilities.
- **Did You Know?** Crossroads Community Center staff and the center's Pre-K Program works closely with parents and the Kindering Center staff in partnership to ensure preschool children with disabilities have a strong foundation and support in place as they enter kindergarten.
- **Did You Know?** Bellevue's Parks department collaborates with playground manufacturers to supply the most inclusive and adaptive play equipment for all its playgrounds during the equipment replacement process. It is a priority that new equipment will be fully accessible for those with disabilities and that efforts are coordinated between recreation and resource management to ensure we are providing the latest, most accessible features above and beyond ADA compliance. The city also has a state-of-the-art inclusive and adaptive playground at Downtown Park called Inspiration Playground.
- **Did You Know?** Bellevue Parks was one of the first in the nation, and the first in the Pacific Northwest, to install the We-Go-Round, a fully inclusive merry-go-round at our Crossroads International Park.

To view a full list of accessibility and inclusion highlights from various city departments, visit BellevueWA.gov/ada-30th-anniversary