

PARKS & OPEN SPACE SYSTEM PLAN



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*Adopted by Bellevue City Council,
September 2003*

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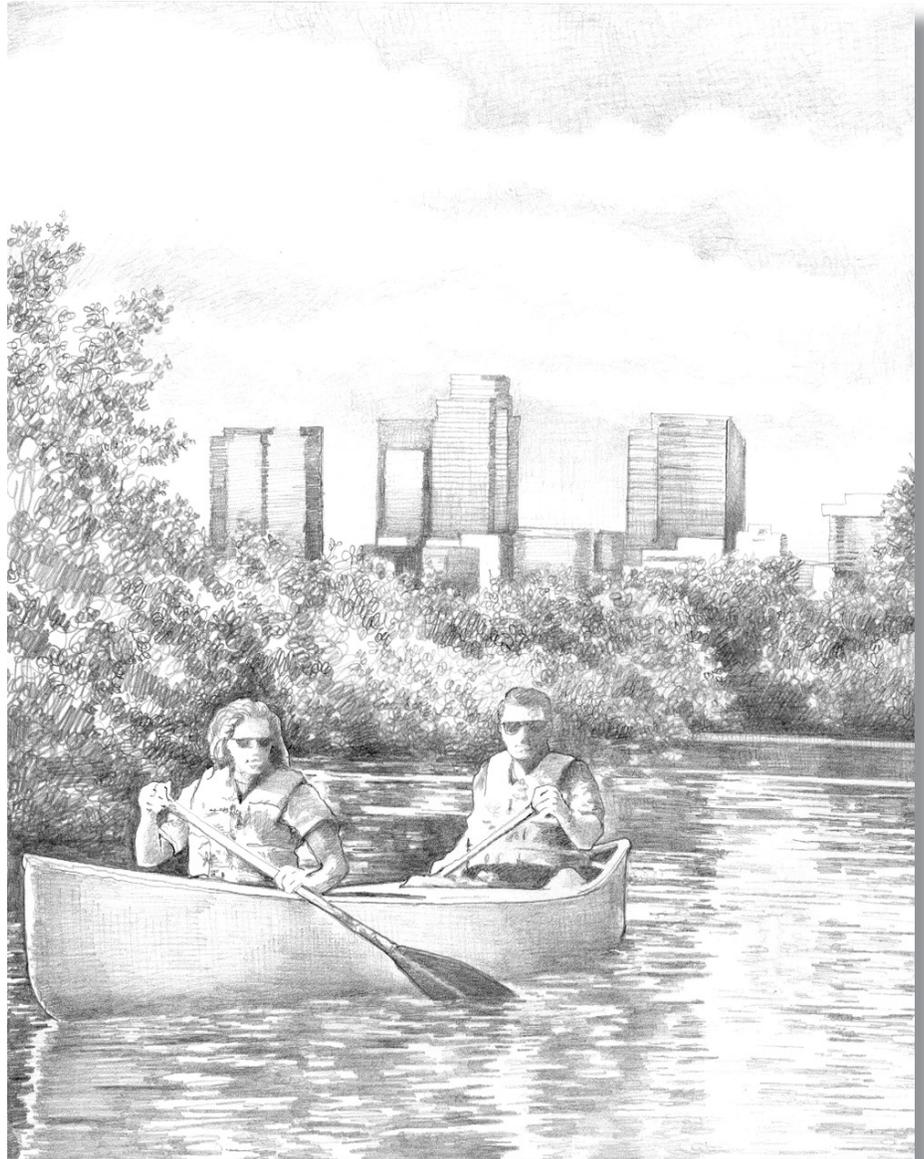
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Chapter 1: **PERSPECTIVE**



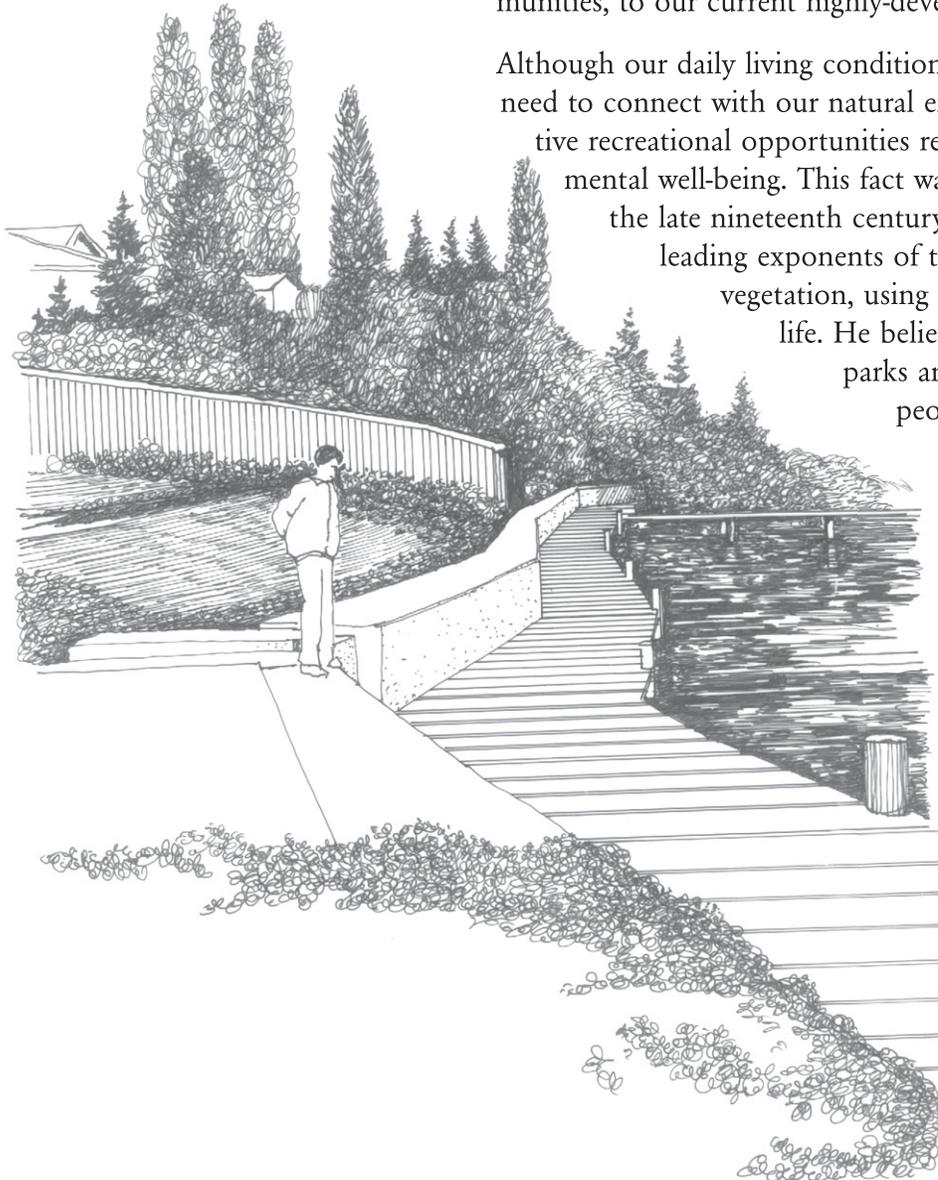


Chapter 1: Perspective

CREATING OUR VISION

People living in the Pacific Northwest are blessed with an extraordinarily beautiful environment that provides an abundance of natural amenities. The region's forests, rivers, streams, and freshwater lakes, Puget Sound, expansive floodplains and wetlands, and the Cascade and Olympic Mountains provide an environment unparalleled in beauty and recreational potential. In the past 150 years, our region has transitioned from unspoiled wilderness, to small resource-based and agricultural communities, to our current highly-developed urban environments.

Although our daily living conditions have changed significantly, our need to connect with our natural environment through passive and active recreational opportunities remains important to our physical and mental well-being. This fact was recognized by urban planners in the late nineteenth century. Frederick Law Olmsted, one of the leading exponents of this vision, proposed a new role for vegetation, using its ability to relieve the stress of city life. He believed that the restorative quality of parks and tree-lined boulevards would bring people together in a healing environment.



The City of Bellevue has evolved from an area historically supported by agricultural and timber resources to a community of 117,000 people in 2002. What makes the City unique is the preservation of large natural areas, such as the wetlands in the Lake Hills Greenbelt and in Mercer Slough. As our City urbanized, important natural resources were preserved. The phrase "City in a Park" celebrates the vision that drives Bellevue's commitment to its parks and open space system.

The Parks & Community Services Department's mission states:

“A healthy community through an integrated system of exceptional parks, open space, recreation, cultural and human services.”

In developing our parks and open space system, considerable time and emphasis has been placed on developing a comprehensive vision and acquiring priority sites. Land acquisition requires strong vision and leadership. Our vision of a “City in a Park” creates the framework that shapes the legacy for future generations as key sites are acquired and developed.

The Parks Department's goals relating to parks, open space and recreation include:

- “Plan, acquire, design and develop a coordinated park system which satisfies the community's open space and recreation needs, and anticipates future park demands as the community grows and matures.”
- “Provide clean, safe, attractive and functional parks, open space, and recreation while protecting the City's capital investments through ongoing maintenance and systematic renovation.”
- “Through partnerships and collaborations, provide Bellevue citizens with opportunities for recreation, socialization, skill development and education in order to enhance physical and mental health.”

FULFILLING OUR VISION

The pace and nature of Bellevue's park development is generally governed by the *Parks & Open Space System Plan* priorities, constituent demand, political direction, and funding constraints. The City's development philosophy has remained constant over the years:

- Respond to well-articulated constituent demand.
- Meet the recreational needs of citizens not affiliated with an organized constituency.
- Provide high-quality improvements.
- Pursue incremental development based on geographic and facility needs.
- Preserve open space for wildlife habitat as well as visual aesthetics.
- Be cognizant of long-term maintenance and operating impacts.

During the City's early years, development focused on small neighborhood and waterfront park sites that met the needs of a suburban, homogeneous bedroom community. As the City's land base and population grew, a more diverse park system began to evolve that included a farm park, golf course, sports park, and tennis center. Our parks and open space system now includes a comprehensive array of facilities reflect-



ing a rapidly changing and growing community. This system includes a recreation center for special populations, a Downtown Park, the Lake-to-Lake Trail, historical buildings, the Bellevue Botanical Garden, waterfront parks, and the regionally significant Mercer Slough Nature Park.

The City did not attempt to duplicate the active recreation space already provided by the Bellevue School District. The School District purchased and developed its impressive inventory of sites prior to acquisition of much of the City's park acreage. Because the School District focused on properties capable of providing active recreation opportunities, such as sportsfields, the City concentrated most of its acquisition efforts on natural systems, community and neighborhood parks, and waterfront parks. The Parks Department now works cooperatively with the School District in renovating and maintaining some of the School District's sportsfields. In exchange, the Parks Department schedules these fields for community use when the fields are not being used for school program activities.

FUTURE DIRECTION

As the City has matured, our philosophical approach to resource expenditure has shifted, with capital resources more evenly distributed between acquisition, new development, and renovation. This shift typically occurs as a city's open space inventory diminishes, major acquisition goals are achieved, and major sites are developed. The Parks Department's focus has shifted towards more targeted acquisitions. These new acquisitions will expand key existing parks and facilities and provide additional sites to meet new recreational needs and trends in the community. Considerably more attention is focused on programming, managing, and operating an increasingly complex and diverse park system.

Although a greater percentage of resources is being devoted to park development, renovation and maintenance, our park system must continue to grow and evolve as opportunities arise and resources are available. To fulfill the "City in a Park" vision, additional acquisitions will:

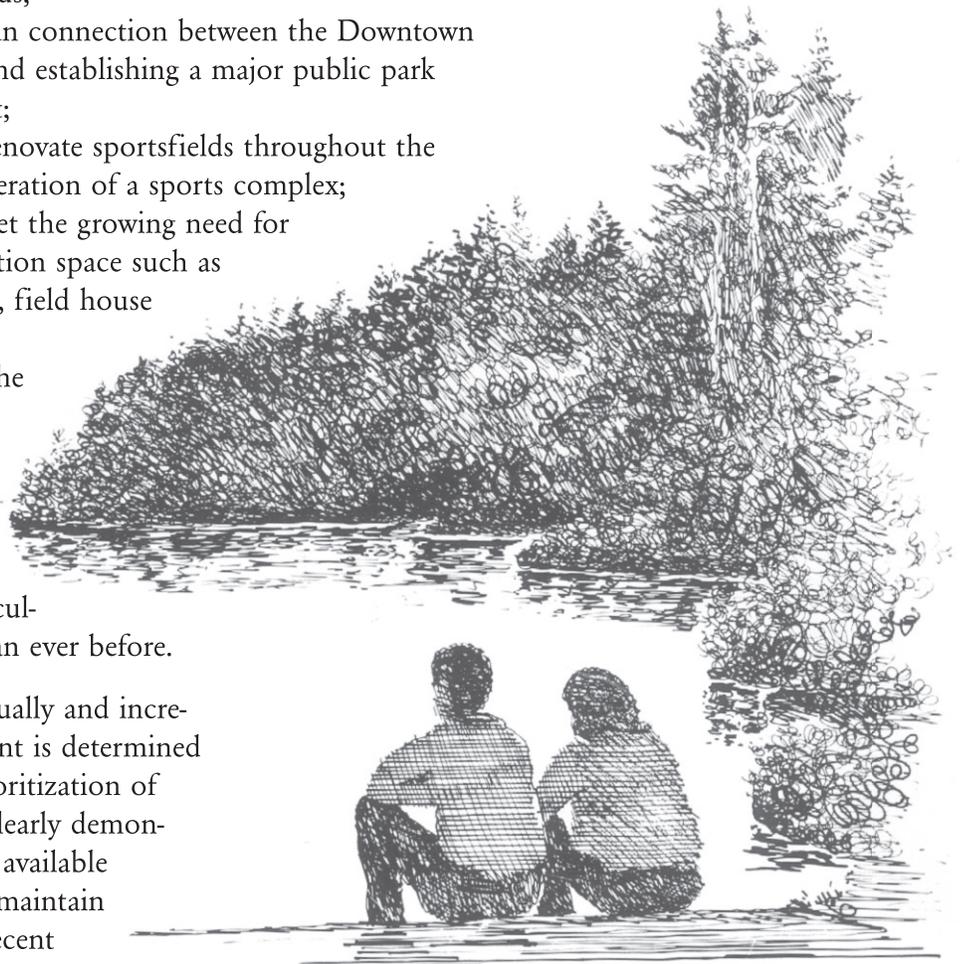
- Complete the City's visionary greenway system and protect critical open space areas;
- Create a greater public presence along the City's shoreline;
- Establish a greater park presence in Downtown;
- Augment major community parks; and
- Provide more mini-parks and neighborhood parks within residential neighborhoods not well served by these facilities.

Steady, consistent progress towards completing our extraordinary park system is essential. While acquisition decisions are strongly influenced

by opportunity and the compelling need to preserve critical land, development decisions are more deliberative and driven by demand and financial capacity. This Park Plan update suggests that priority attention be given to:

- Completing approved Master Plans for major community parks, such as Mercer Slough, Crossroads, Wilburton, Downtown Park, Enatai, and the newly acquired Airfield site;
- Constructing the South Bellevue Community Center to meet the need for indoor recreation space south of I-90;
- Continuing to partner with the Bellevue School District in renovating and maintaining indoor and outdoor recreation space at selected school sites;
- Completing trail connections along the Lake-to-Lake Trail system and throughout the City;
- Acquiring and developing new neighborhood and mini-parks in underserved areas throughout the City;
- Refurbishing major community and waterfront parks, such as Kelsey Creek and Chism Beach, in response to deteriorating conditions and changing constituent needs;
- Establishing a major pedestrian connection between the Downtown Park and Meydenbauer Bay and establishing a major public park presence along this waterfront;
- Continuing to develop and renovate sportsfields throughout the community, including consideration of a sports complex;
- Exploring partnerships to meet the growing need for special purpose indoor recreation space such as a Teen Center, aquatic facility, field house and ice rink;
- Promoting regionalism, and the reality that many contemporary park and recreational challenges must be solved regionally;
- Responding to the park and recreational needs of a more culturally diverse community than ever before.

This work will be completed gradually and incrementally. The speed of achievement is determined by a complex set of variables: prioritization of projects by the elected officials; clearly demonstrated need for the facilities; and available funding to develop, operate, and maintain these facilities. Given the City's recent





and projected funding constraints, we presume that park development will occur in a very deliberate and increasingly innovative fashion.

Increased attention will be given to creating partnerships with an array of private sector, non-profit, and public organizations. Sharing of costs, fund-raising, responsibility and authority is becoming an increasingly common model. Agreements with the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society (Wilburton), the Eastside Heritage Center (Winters House and Paxton House), the Bellevue Boys and Girls Clubs (Ground Zero Teen Center and the South Bellevue Community Center), the Bellevue School District (sportsfields and Tyee Gym), the Bellevue Baseball/Softball Athletic Association (adult sports management), and the emerging partnership with the Pacific Science Center (Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center) indicate the broad range of possibilities in establishing mutually beneficial partnerships. These partnerships can provide a broader variety of community recreation and programming services at a lower cost to each of the partners and to the community.

Regionalism will be expressed in a variety of ways. One current initiative is the “E-Gov Alliance,” a collaborative effort of nine Eastside cities, including Bellevue, to identify ways to partner, via the internet, on similar business practices to improve efficiency and customer convenience. The initial thrust will create a program registration system that will allow customers in all nine cities to access and register for recreational programs from the nine partner cities. Facility rentals and ballfield scheduling are additional web-based services being considered, and many others will follow.

Aggressive, creative management strategies will be imperative in order to implement the remaining park development program. Partnerships, interlocal agreements, enterprise management, marketing, grants, donations, and levy lid lifts will need to augment traditional funding and management approaches, particularly as they relate to long-term maintenance and operation.

A basic element of human nature is our need to explore and expand our mental and physical limits through new experiences. Many new experiences can be provided by expanding our recreational opportunities. The City must be responsive to these emerging recreational needs and trends. In addition, demographic changes which have occurred in the past 10 years, and are projected to continue, have resulted in a significant population increase and a population base which is significantly older and more culturally diverse.

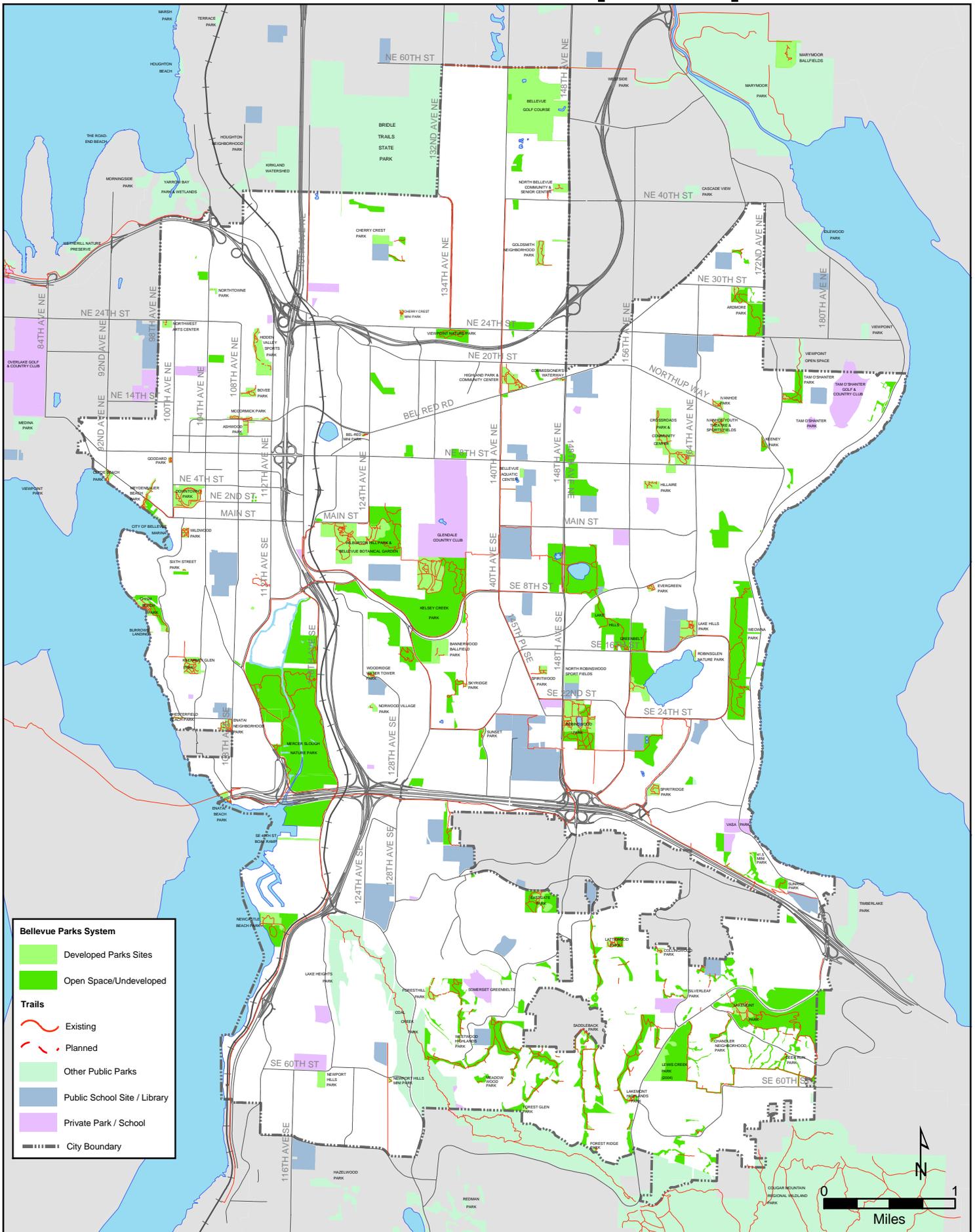
A strong park and recreation system is an irreplaceable asset for the “emerging city.” The City’s quality of life is strongly influenced by the

degree to which greenways, wetlands, streams and shorelines, urban forests, riparian corridors, and park sites are preserved and enhanced. A well-conceived, comprehensive system helps stabilize neighborhoods, provides visual relief and respite from urban pressures, offers extensive recreation opportunities, and contributes to the health and environmental quality of the community.

The City's park and recreation facilities and attendant programs help combat the crucial problems faced by our citizens, such as crime, substance abuse, discrimination, alienation, and despair. The extensive prevention and intervention programs conducted by the City on behalf of the children, elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged would not be possible without existing and proposed facilities.

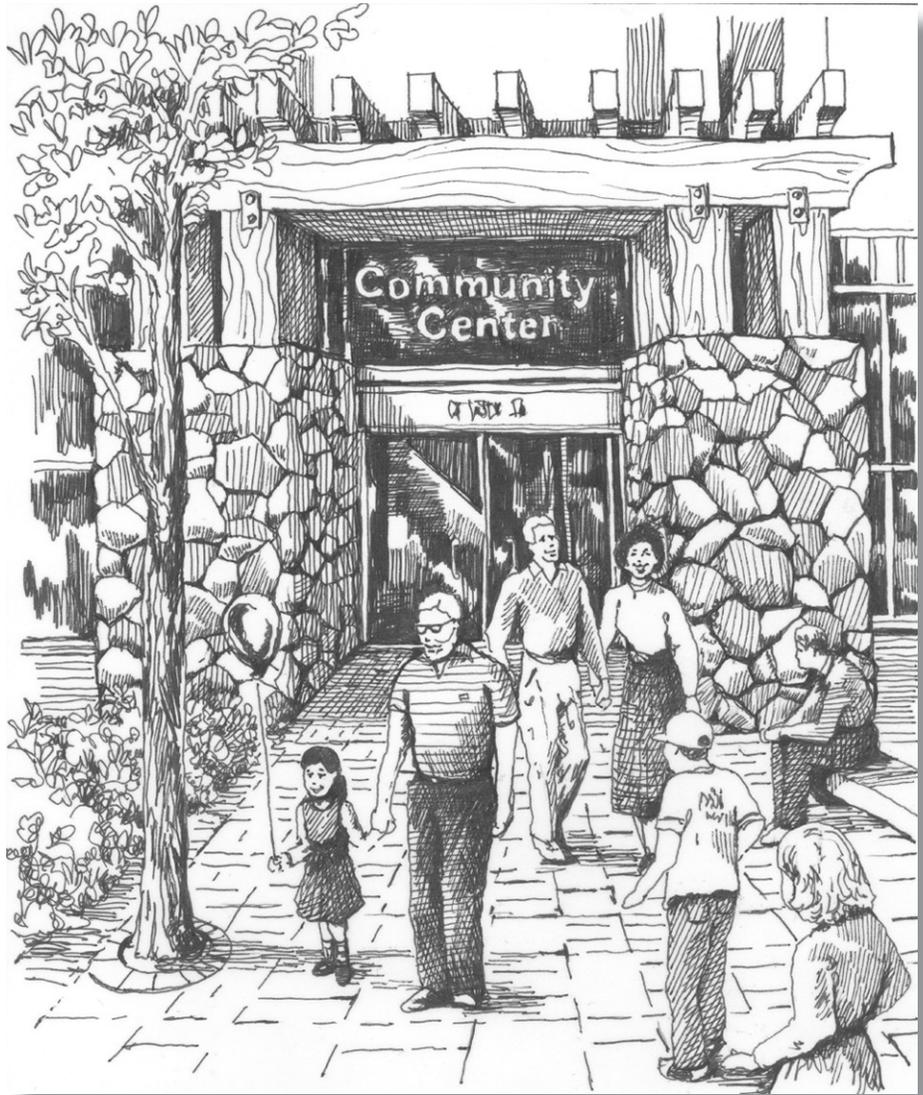
Because the park system touches virtually everyone's life in a real and meaningful way, we are pleased to present a *Parks & Open Space System Plan* that addresses fundamental park needs progressively and realistically. This *Parks & Open Space System Plan* ensures the vision of a "City in a Park" continues to be realized.

Bellevue Parks & Open Space 2003



Chapter 2:

PARK PLAN OBJECTIVES





Chapter 2:

Park Plan Objectives

OVERVIEW

The State Growth Management Act (GMA) was passed in 1990 in an effort to balance the pressures of growth with the need for greater environmental protection. Many of the goals established by the GMA have guided the preparation of the “Parks, Open Space & Recreation Element” of Bellevue’s Comprehensive Plan and the *Parks & Open Space System Plan*. Goals encouraging the retention of open space and conservation of wildlife habitat and the development of recreational opportunities and parks are of particular importance.

MISSION

The Park & Community Services Department’s mission is to contribute to a healthy community through an integrated system of exceptional parks, open space, recreation, cultural, and human services. A series of objectives relating to the parks and open space system further define and support this mission:

- Protect and preserve environmentally sensitive natural areas.
- Provide connections for an integrated open space system.
- Enhance the City’s visual character throughout the park system.
- Acquire and develop park facilities to meet present and future needs.
- Renovate or modify parks for optimum use of resources.

The Department’s mission relating to recreational programming, cultural, and human service needs in the community is addressed through the *Recreation Program Plan*.

DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

Based on the objectives itemized above, five key concepts describe the Parks & Community Services Department’s philosophy for meeting its mission and the essence of what the Department is striving to offer the public.

Stewardship

Bellevue’s open space system provides important functions for both people and wildlife. Our open spaces are an integral part of the City, including environmentally sensitive and/or unique natural areas, green-

ways, wildlife corridors, and historically important agricultural lands. While our open space system provides the public with both passive recreational and educational opportunities about the natural environment, it must also ensure protection of our natural systems and reinforce the City's agricultural and cultural heritage. Wildlife corridors must be maintained to provide necessary connections for animal movement among remaining habitat areas. Forest management and other environmental programs help preserve and enhance our natural resources for the benefit of wildlife and future generations of park users.

Visual Environment

Bellevue's park system should preserve and enhance the City's beauty and provide visual relief from the impacts of urban living. Street trees, flowers, lawns, forests, and water provide a pleasant visual setting contributing to our community's health and well-being. The term "City in a Park" exemplifies the Bellevue experience of urban living surrounded by large natural open space areas, such as Mercer Slough, Kelsey Creek Farm, the Lake Hills Greenbelt, and a large network of neighborhood, community, and waterfront parks.

In the Pacific Northwest, our cultural heritage is linked to our natural resources – the mountains, streams, lakes, and forests defining our region. Views of mountains, water, and undisturbed forests and wetlands are highly valued by Bellevue residents. Retention and restoration of this natural beauty are major components of the community's mandate for the park system.



Future

Bellevue's park system should serve the present users while also focusing on future needs. A well-developed vision for long-term needs will ensure recreational opportunities and open space protection for future generations. Acquiring land for preservation or future development to meet increased recreational needs should be a high priority. A well-planned parks and open space system will be achieved by projecting population growth and determining expected use patterns.



Opportunity

Bellevue's park system should serve all sectors of our population, providing a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities. Special consideration should be given to youth, our burgeoning older population, the disabled, and others with special needs. As our population becomes more culturally diverse, we should look for opportunities to provide services which may better serve these populations. We should also become proactive in assessing new recreational trends and provide these new recreational opportunities in a timely fashion.

Service and Balance

Bellevue's park facilities should be safe and well-managed. The park system should balance development of parks and facilities with preservation of environmentally critical areas for wildlife habitat and corridors. Bellevue's park system should provide open space, park and recreation facilities, and services to a variety of age groups, interests, and abilities. A wide variety of facilities and programs should be offered to meet the community's diverse needs.

DECISION FACTORS

In achieving the goals and objectives set forth here and in Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan, the Parks Department considers the following non-prioritized list of factors for planning the future park system.

- Acquisition and development
- Environmental stewardship and education
- Partnership opportunities
- Regional coordination
- Multiple uses
- Public involvement
- Security and safety
- Renovation, maintenance and operation
- Community services and programs

Acquisition and Development

Land acquisition is dependent on availability and affordability. Because of increasing development pressures on remaining vacant land, suitable and affordable land should be acquired when available. Public surveys consistently indicate that Bellevue citizens place a high priority on acquiring and preserving open space and on developing new parks and recreation facilities. The City, therefore, needs to be aggressive in acquiring land that will lead to a coordinated and connected park system.

Land is acquired and held in public ownership to ensure it is available for future park use when development and maintenance funding exist. When development is feasible and appropriate, a Master Plan for the park facility will be prepared with community input. At the time of application for the development of the park facility, the project is reviewed for compliance with relevant City, state, and federal regulations. For example, parking and traffic impacts are factors that will be evaluated as part of this development review process. Where full development of new acquisitions is not appropriate or possible in the near term, minimum access, such as trails, should be provided where appropriate.

Priority should be placed on acquiring land adjacent to existing parkland, key parcels of environmentally sensitive land, or linkages that provide connections between parks and open space areas. It will also be important to determine whether a land acquisition will meet demand in a particular neighborhood or on a community-wide basis. At the local level, there is a critical need to acquire and develop smaller sites that provide recreation facilities in specific neighborhoods. These neighborhood sites should be easily accessible, visible, and efficient to maintain and operate.

Environmental Stewardship and Education

Protecting Bellevue's natural systems is critical in preserving the quality of life the community values. Protecting healthy natural systems requires acquiring and preserving key parcels of different habitat types so that wildlife have adequate and appropriate areas to feed, live, breed, and migrate. We must ensure that habitat areas are large enough to accommodate a variety of species. In addition, to avoid isolating habitat areas, wildlife corridor connections must be acquired and preserved to allow safe and easy movement between these key parcels.

Protecting these natural systems in an urbanized area requires enforcement of environmental regulations and an active natural resource management program involving habitat enhancement and restoration projects.

Environmental education is an important role of the Parks Department. Educating the public about the importance of our natural systems helps people understand the benefits these systems provide. The public endorses environmental preservation when connections between the environment and quality of life are fully understood.



Partnership Opportunities

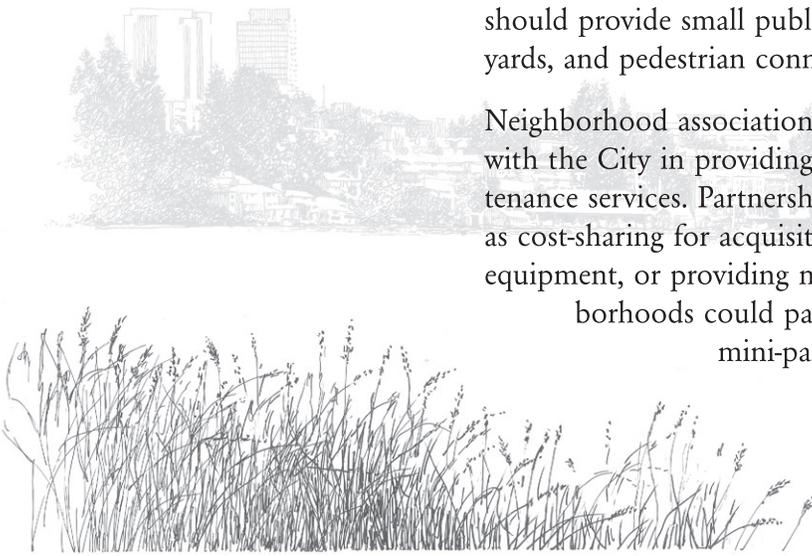
Partnerships with schools, businesses, developers, non-profit organizations, and neighborhood groups have played an important role in providing our current parks and open space system. These relationships are becoming increasingly critical as local governments are being asked to provide new or enhanced services with little or no increase in funding.

Historically, the Bellevue School District has been the most significant partner in providing additional recreational opportunities to Bellevue residents. School lands contribute 607 acres of public property, including school buildings, sportsfields, and surrounding grounds. Because school sites are distributed throughout the City, they provide critical park and open space within neighborhoods. Elementary school sites are suitable for passive and/or unstructured activities and youth athletics. They can incorporate recreational uses typical of a neighborhood park. In addition, the middle school and high school sites provide indoor and outdoor active recreation opportunities, such as gyms, sportsfields, and tennis courts, on a larger community-wide basis.

When meeting citizens' recreational needs, privately owned open space in subdivisions and planned unit developments can reduce the demand on publicly-owned facilities. In certain situations, private open space may be available for public use through easements and use agreements negotiated between the City and the private owners of these facilities.

Encouraging public dedication of open space and recreation areas in proposed private developments provides another opportunity to satisfy the need for parks and open space. Facilities provided should reflect the needs of the neighborhood in which they are located. For example, the increased population in new subdivisions may result in a need for a new mini- or neighborhood park. In the Downtown Subarea, developers should provide small public spaces and facilities, such as plazas, courtyards, and pedestrian connections.

Neighborhood associations and business groups can become partners with the City in providing land or facilities for parks or providing maintenance services. Partnership approaches could include such mechanisms as cost-sharing for acquisition and development, furnishing materials or equipment, or providing maintenance or security. For example, neighborhoods could participate by purchasing play equipment for a mini-park. Existing businesses might contribute trees, plantings, or street furniture for walkways and courtyards. Sportsfields user groups can contribute their time and equipment in helping to maintain clean and safe sportsfields.



Partnerships should be promoted with non-profit and service organizations. These groups provide increased expertise, interest, volunteers, and/or funding for a particular facility or program provided by the Parks Department. Current examples of these partnerships include the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, Bellevue Baseball/Softball Athletic Association, Eastside Heritage Center, YMCA, and Bellevue Boys and Girls Club.

As funding becomes more challenging, expanding existing partnerships and seeking new partnership opportunities will help meet increasing demand for recreational services. Expanding partnerships also guarantees better understanding by the partners of what is involved in operating a successful park system and creates a sense of ownership in protecting and maintaining the system.

Regional Coordination

Many recreational opportunities are most efficiently provided on a regional or sub-regional basis. As the Eastside population increases, it is becoming apparent that facilities and services need to be coordinated among local jurisdictions. King County, Redmond, Kirkland, Renton, Newcastle, Mercer Island and Issaquah are key to a successful Eastside coordination effort. Working together with neighboring jurisdictions will help to identify each jurisdiction's role and responsibility in contributing to regional needs, provide a greater variety of park and recreation services, avoid duplication, and promote distribution of facilities. The aforementioned E-Gov Alliance is an example of the benefits of coordinating services regionally.

Eastside jurisdictions should work cooperatively to develop regional-scale facilities such as an aquatic facility, fieldhouse or skating rink. Cooperative planning efforts will be needed for facilities that cross jurisdictions, such as the Houghton-to-Marymoor and the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway trail systems.

Additionally, as funding to maintain King County and Washington State parks continues to decline, Bellevue and other Eastside jurisdictions





must be a part of a regional solution to preserve and protect valuable regional assets such as Marymoor Park, Coal Creek Park, Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, and Bridle Trails State Park.

Multiple Uses

Bellevue's park system provides multiple benefits through a cohesive system of active and passive recreation opportunities, wildlife preservation, environmental protection, and historic and cultural enrichment. Acquisition and development of additional parks and facilities must remain a high priority in order to continue providing a mix of recreational opportunities for both Bellevue residents and visitors to our parks system.

Mercer Slough is an excellent example of parkland serving multiple functions. It offers trails for pedestrians and bicyclists and waterways for canoes and kayaks. The wetlands and waterways of Mercer Slough provide habitat for more than 160 different species of wildlife, including heron, beaver, and salmon. A sense of Bellevue's historical and cultural heritage is preserved at the historic Winters House and through the continuing agricultural practices of farming blueberries in the park. In addition, the Pacific Science Center offers environmental education programs at the Sullivan House.

Public, quasi-public, and private lands provide multiple uses that can also expand the park system's opportunities in the community. For example, middle schools provide indoor classrooms, a gym, outdoor sportsfields and courts. The City should continue to pursue opportunities to provide multiple uses in our park system and to coordinate with other property owners to share facilities for multiple uses.

Public Involvement

Citizen participation is imperative in providing a responsive, effective, and high-quality park system. Bellevue's parks and open space system is being developed on behalf of the community. Therefore, citizen involvement throughout the planning and programming decision process ensures the community's needs and values are reflected in the City's park system.

Extensive citizen involvement occurred during the development of this Park Plan update. Numerous public meetings, phone and written surveys, and focus groups provided invaluable input into the planning process.

Volunteers are another important component in public involvement. Not only do they help provide needed services efficiently and cost effectively, but they also represent a strong commitment toward community

ownership of park resources. The City's volunteers contribute nearly 25,000 hours annually helping to enhance Parks Department lands, facilities, and programs.

Security and Safety

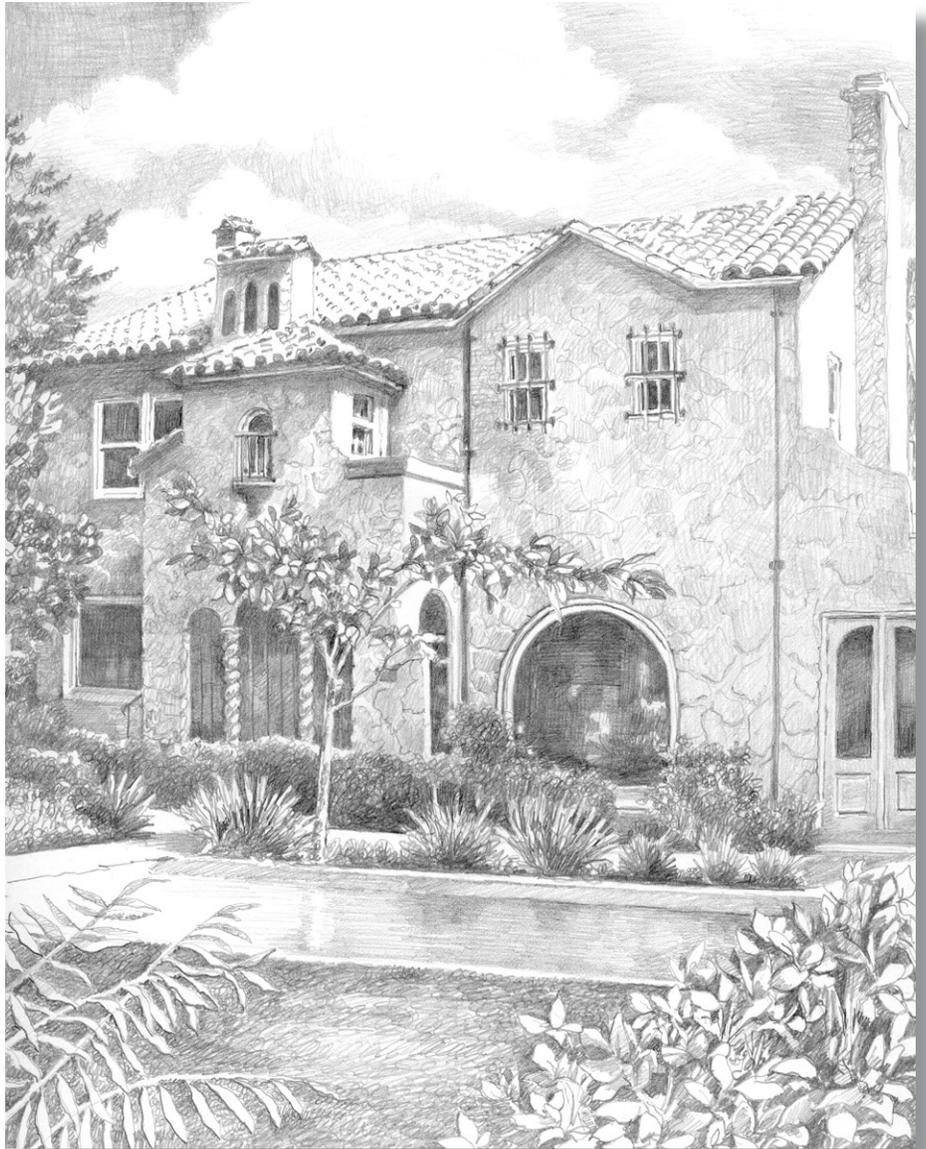
Bellevue's park system should provide a sense of security, safety, and well-being for its users. Anticipating these concerns and designing and programming parks accordingly can help avoid or limit unwanted activity. Signage and regulations can publicize guidelines for acceptable behavior and let users know appropriate times and ways to use parklands and facilities. Park Rangers patrolling parks during high-use periods can be effective in regulating unwanted activities and making park spaces safer. Regular maintenance and appropriate planting enhance visibility into parkland from public rights-of-way, which increases the overall sense of security and safety.

Proper maintenance and renovation of parks, and maintenance and replacement of park equipment will prevent and correct hazardous conditions, thereby protecting the public as well as reducing liability to the City.

Community Services and Programs

The Parks Department offers a variety of community services and programs with an emphasis on serving special populations and low- and moderate-income individuals and families. Targeted population groups include disabled citizens, senior citizens, and disadvantaged youth. Programs provide educational, social, and recreational opportunities that help to build healthy productive lives for all of Bellevue's citizens. These community services and programs are discussed in the *Recreation Program Plan*, which is a companion document to the Parks and Open Space System Plan.

Chapter 3: **BACKGROUND**





Chapter 3: **Background**

Bellevue's image as a "City in a Park" is a recognition of the natural systems which have strongly influenced the visual character of the City. The forests, wetlands, riparian corridors, and lakes have been subjected to extensive development over the years. However, many of these environmentally sensitive areas are protected within the City's parks and open space system. We have opportunities to further protect some of the remaining sensitive areas currently in private ownership. As Bellevue's population continues to grow, open space will become increasingly scarce. As stewards of an extensive parks and open space system, it is our responsibility to protect sensitive and open space areas for both wildlife habitat and for the passive enjoyment of the citizens of Bellevue. The community recognizes the importance of protecting these natural systems. Phone surveys have repeatedly indicated that preserving and protecting open spaces and conserving habitat for fish and wildlife are top priorities of the Bellevue's citizens.

It is imperative that our Park Plan anticipates the recreation needs of the community. The 2000 U. S. Census indicates that our City's population base has aged and become more culturally diverse, with these trends expected to continue over the next 20 years. We need to be responsive to the recreation needs of our growing and changing community. A successful park system provides opportunities for all members of the community, whether a user enjoys passive activities such as picnicking or bird watching, or participates in organized sports activities or classes in community centers.

Of the 21,291 acres within Bellevue city limits, the City is fortunate to have 2,343 acres (11%) of open space and parks owned and managed by the City and more than 607 acres of public school land. Because our population is projected to increase by 25,950 by the year 2020, we must maintain a plan to ensure that we will be able to meet the community's future needs. We also recognize that, due to fiscal constraints, we need to become more creative in providing recreation opportunities. Establishing partnerships with other governmental or private organizations will become increasingly important if we are to continue to provide and maintain a quality parks and open space system.

This Background Section describes four key elements influencing the direction of the Park Plan:

- Existing natural resources.
- Demographics and growth projections to the year 2020.
- Future demand for open space and park facilities.
- Park and recreation facility standards.

NATURAL RESOURCE CHARACTERISTICS

Overview

Bellevue's natural systems of forests, wetlands, and riparian corridors help define our City and make it unique. Four major stream systems - Kelsey Creek (which includes Mercer Slough, Lake Bellevue, Kelsey



Creek, Larsen Lake, Phantom Lake, West Tributary, Valley Creek, and Richards Creek), Coal Creek, Vasa Creek, and Lewis Creek - carry surface water to either Lake Washington or Lake Sammamish. These stream systems contribute to the wide plant and animal diversity existing in many of our larger wetland systems, such as the Mercer Slough and the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

Bellevue's urban forest stretches from the shores of Lakes Washington and Sammamish to the top of Cougar Mountain. The city includes 14 miles of waterfront between the two major lakes, which establishes it as a waterfront community and creates interest in water-related recreation activities.

The City's topographic variations result in spectacular views of mountains, water, and urban areas. It is not surprising that Bellevue residents have placed a high priority on retaining open space and natural areas. It is one of the many reasons they choose to live here.

Public stewardship of these natural systems is a key element in the park system plan, and many of these important systems are owned by the Parks Department. While we have a wealth of natural resources in the City, many of these areas are privately owned. As the population of Bellevue continues to grow, remaining environmentally critical areas will



come under increasing development pressure. We must continue to acquire key pieces of environmentally critical areas and wildlife corridors.

The City's role in protecting and enhancing these natural systems has become increasingly important as the City complies with federal and state environmental regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act requirements for protecting Chinook salmon and bull trout, and the Growth Management Act (GMA) Best Available Science requirement to protect critical area's functions and values.

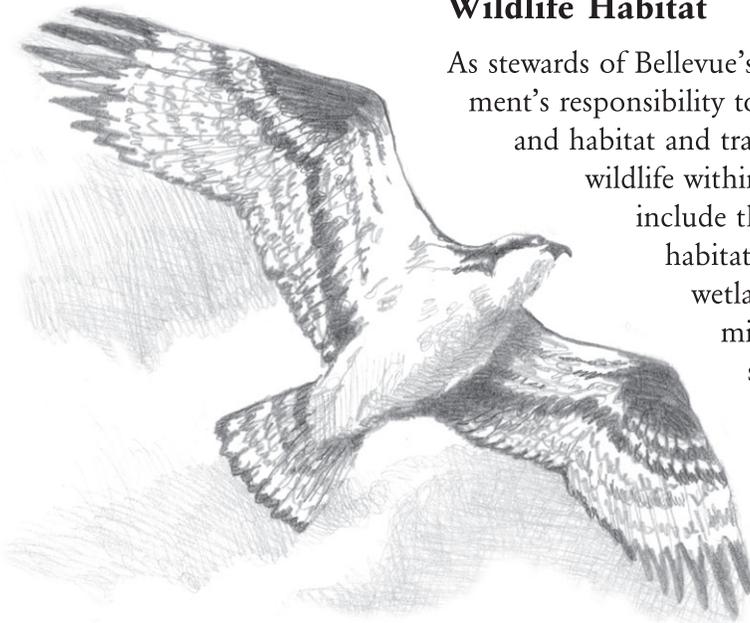
Forest and Wetland Resources

The Bellevue area is dominated by vegetation characteristic of both forest and wetland environments. Except for the Downtown Subarea, most areas of the City contain some natural systems. These natural systems provide important wildlife habitat, as well as providing opportunities for aesthetic, recreational, and educational activities.

A number of year-round and intermittent streams and groundwater drainage systems contribute to the City's native wetland habitat. Wetland functions include flood water attenuation, stream base flow maintenance and groundwater support, water quality improvement, erosion and shoreline protection, wildlife habitat, and opportunities for passive recreation, education, and open space.

Wildlife Habitat

As stewards of Bellevue's public open spaces, it is the Parks Department's responsibility to identify and preserve areas that provide food and habitat and travel/migration corridors needed to maintain the wildlife within our region. Wildlife habitat types in Bellevue include the following general categories: riparian/wetland habitats, lowland forest and steep slopes, herbaceous wetland and open water, and agriculture, pasture, mixed and urban environments. Studies by the state, King County, and the City's inventory provide a baseline that has enabled the development of an effective wildlife habitat policy for Bellevue. Inherent in this policy is the recognition of our responsibility to protect and enhance publicly-owned habitat areas and important existing wildlife corridors. The GMA Critical Areas update has established policies which will help protect habitat functions and values. Although continued private development to accommodate growth will have a cumulative adverse impact on wildlife,



the City will play an increasingly important role in protecting wildlife habitats and corridors by enhancing and preserving land currently in public ownership and looking for opportunities to acquire private parcels containing key habitat or corridor areas.

Shoreline Resources

Bellevue's shorelines are valuable recreational and aesthetic resources. Bellevue's city limits include 14 miles (73,995 linear feet) of shoreline along Lakes Washington and Sammamish. However, total shoreline in public ownership is only 10%, or slightly over 1.4 miles (7,433 linear feet). The majority of the publicly-owned shoreline is on Lake Washington. There is one small undeveloped parcel on Lake Sammamish. As a waterfront community, there is a high level of interest in water-related recreational activities. Bellevue shorelines are the focus for swimming, fishing, boating, sunbathing, and picnicking. The shoreline area also provides intangible benefits such as aesthetic enjoyment, ecological interest, historic and cultural enrichment, and spiritual renewal. The City is strongly committed to providing additional waterfront access opportunities to the citizens in Bellevue. We need only to look to our adjoining neighbors in Kirkland and Renton to see how significant public waterfront access has enriched and enlivened these communities.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Overview

Demographics are the statistical characteristics of a population, such as population density, age, education levels, and income levels, that help identify specific market areas. The demographics of any community are constantly changing and evolving. Demand for and utilization of park facilities are related to the numbers and ages of residents. A look at Bellevue's demographics is one measure to help determine how much parkland is needed and how it should be developed and used.

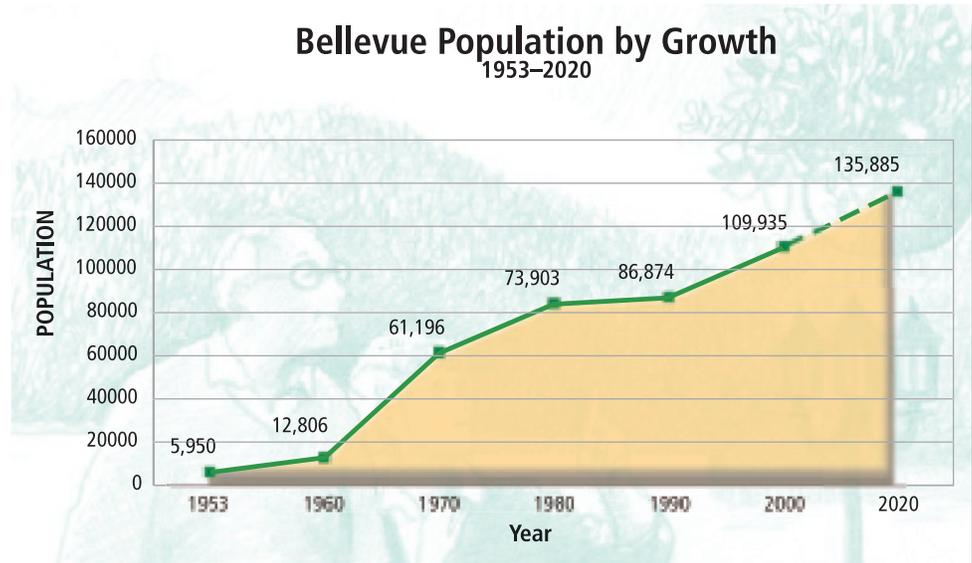
The information provided here is a broad overview based on information developed from the 2000 U. S. Census data. This type of information can be used when planning for the recreational needs for our community.

Growth Trends

The City of Bellevue remains the fourth largest city in Washington. Figure 1 depicts Bellevue's population growth, by decade, since incorporation in 1953, and also reflects population projections to 2020.



FIGURE 1: BELLEVUE POPULATION GROWTH SINCE INCORPORATION

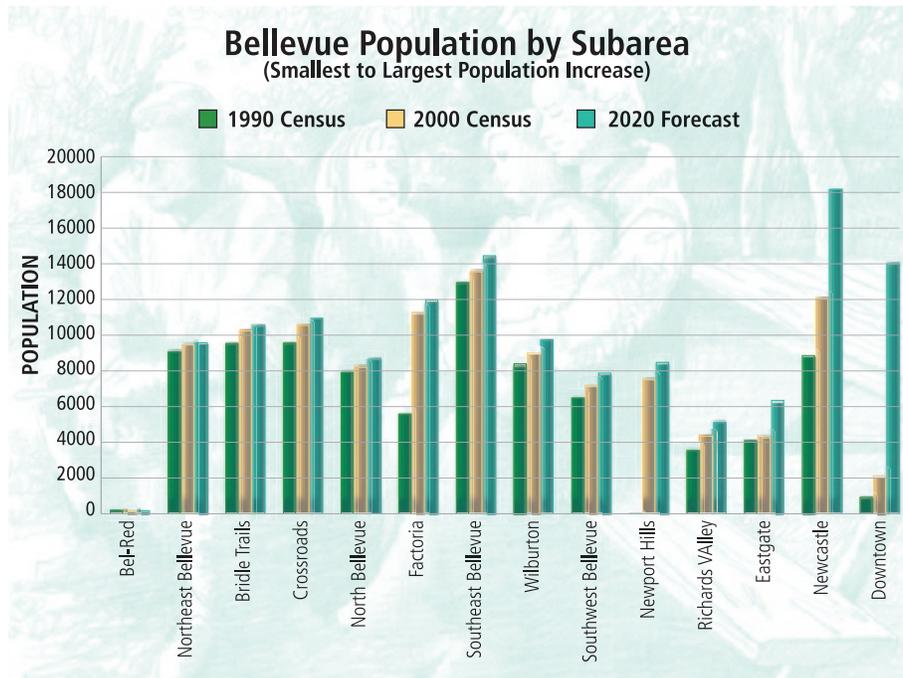


At the time of the 2000 U. S. Census, the City's population was 109,935. Bellevue's 2002 population of 117,000 is expected to grow to 135,885 by 2020.

- Bellevue grew at an average rate of 2.6% per year in the 1990s compared to an average of 1.7% per year in the 1980s. Growth rate is expected to slow slightly to 2.4% from 2000 to 2020.
- Half of Bellevue's population growth in the 1990s was the result of annexations.
- The 2020 population forecasts (population growth and annexations) anticipate that 46% of the City's population growth is expected to occur Downtown, 24% in Newcastle, 8% in Eastgate, and the remainder distributed fairly evenly throughout the remaining subareas.
- Of the population growth projected through 2020, 71% is expected to be from new population growth within the existing City limits, and 29% will be population added through projected annexations.

Figure 2 depicts the population by subarea in 1990, 2000, and projections for 2020. This information allows us to geographically evaluate our existing level of service and helps to predict future needs for different types of park and recreation facilities. The most significant population increase is expected in the Downtown Subarea, which will experience a 559% increase, growing from 2,125 in 2000 to 14,000 by 2020. The second biggest population increase (51%) is expected in the Newcastle Subarea, which will increase from 12,050 to 18,150. However, 85% of Newcastle's growth will be the result of annexations.

FIGURE 2: BELLEVUE POPULATION GROWTH BY SUBAREA



Population Density

- Bellevue’s density (population per square mile) is relatively similar throughout the community, ranging between 3,000 and 6,000 people per square mile within each subarea.
- Downtown Bellevue is projected to reach approximately 22,000 people per square mile by 2020, approximately 2 ½ times that of the Newcastle Subarea, and nearly 5 times the density projected for most of Bellevue’s subareas.

Households

- There were 45,836 households in Bellevue in 2000, with an average of 2.37 persons per household, down from 2.43 in 1990. The most common household types were single person (28%) and married couples without children (32%).
- The percentage of households with children was lower in Bellevue (28.5%) than on the Eastside in general (36.2%) and in King County as a whole (30.4%), but still higher than in Seattle (19.6%).



Ethnic Diversity

- Bellevue's ethnic diversity is growing rapidly. Close to 26% of Bellevue's residents identified themselves as a race other than White, compared to 14% in the 1990 Census. Bellevue was more diverse (74.3% White) than the balance of the Eastside (80.6% White), slightly more diverse than King County as a whole (75.7% White), but less diverse than Seattle (70.1% White).
- The ethnic make-up of Bellevue is 18% Asian, 5.3% Hispanic, 2% Black, some other race 0.5%, and 74.3% White.
- According to the Bellevue School District, in 2001, 69% of their students were White, with the remaining 31% Asian, Hispanic, Black, or Native American. The *District and School Profiles 2001–2002* report states that, "As of December 2001, Bellevue School District students spoke 61 'first' languages other than English."

Economic Well-Being

- Bellevue's median household income (\$62,338) is among the highest in King County (\$53,157 King County median income, City of Seattle median income \$45,820), the region, and the state.
- Bellevue has a highly educated adult population, with 53% of adult residents in management and professional jobs, compared to 40% in 1990.

Populations With Special Considerations

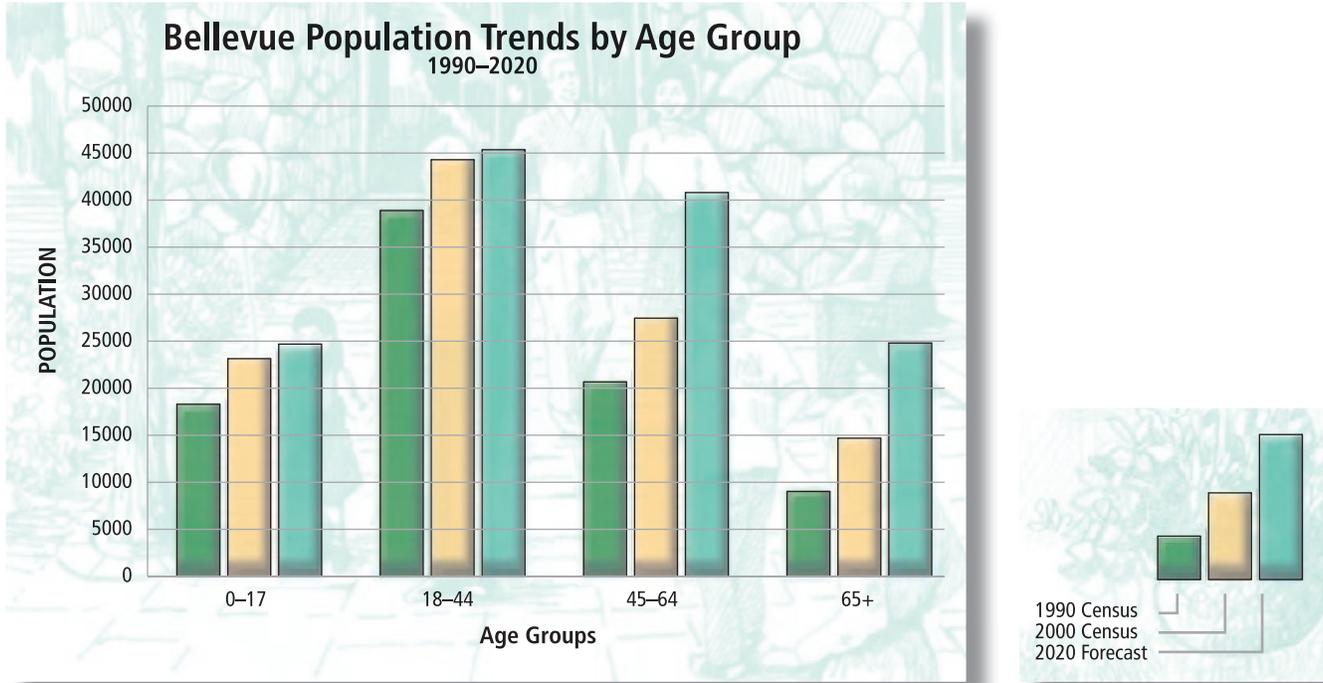
As Bellevue's population continues to grow and diversify, we will experience ever-increasing demands on the Parks Department. Certain population groups require special consideration in planning for park and recreation facilities. These population groups include seniors (65 years and older), children and youth (0-17 years old), different ethnic groups, and people with physical or mental disabilities. To the extent possible, accommodating these groups' needs should be integrated into the planning of mainstream facilities and activities.

Seniors

Seniors 65 years and older comprised 13.4% (14,689) of Bellevue's total population in 2000 compared to 11% in 1990. The senior population is projected to increase to 18% (24,803) of the population base by 2020. Seniors 75 years and older were the fastest growing age group in Bellevue, increasing at a rate four times faster than the general population. The most significant increase of senior population will be in the Downtown Subarea.

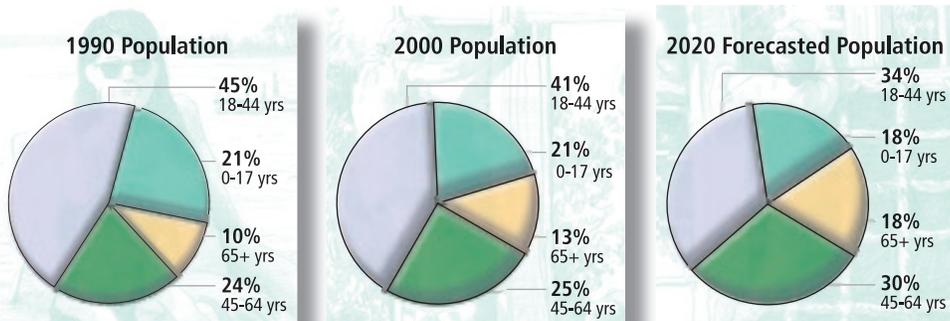
Figures 3 and 4 compare Bellevue’s population trends by age group from 1990 to 2020. Although each age category is expected to increase in numbers over this period of time, the rate of growth projected over the next 20 years in the under 45 age category is significantly less than population 45 years and older. Note that the 45 and older age group grew from 35% to 38% of the population from 1990 to 2000 and is expected to grow to 48% by 2020.

FIGURE 3: POPULATION GROWTH BY AGE GROUP - 1990 TO 2020



The median age in Bellevue is 38.5 years, up from 35.4 in 1990, and nearly three years older than the median age in King County (35.7).

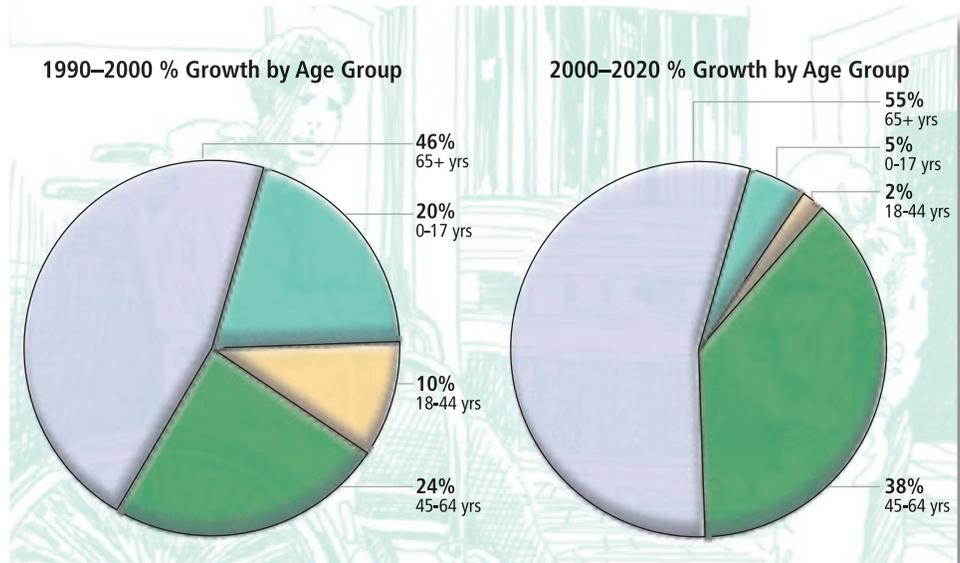
FIGURE 4: AGE GROUPS AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION





The anticipated increase in the older populations is reflected more dramatically in Figure 5, which compares the percent population growth by age group between 1990 and 2020. Ninety three percent of Bellevue's population growth over the next 20 years is projected to be residents 45 years of age or older, with 55% from people 65 years of age and greater.

FIGURE 5: PERCENT POPULATION GROWTH BY AGE GROUP - 1990 TO 2020

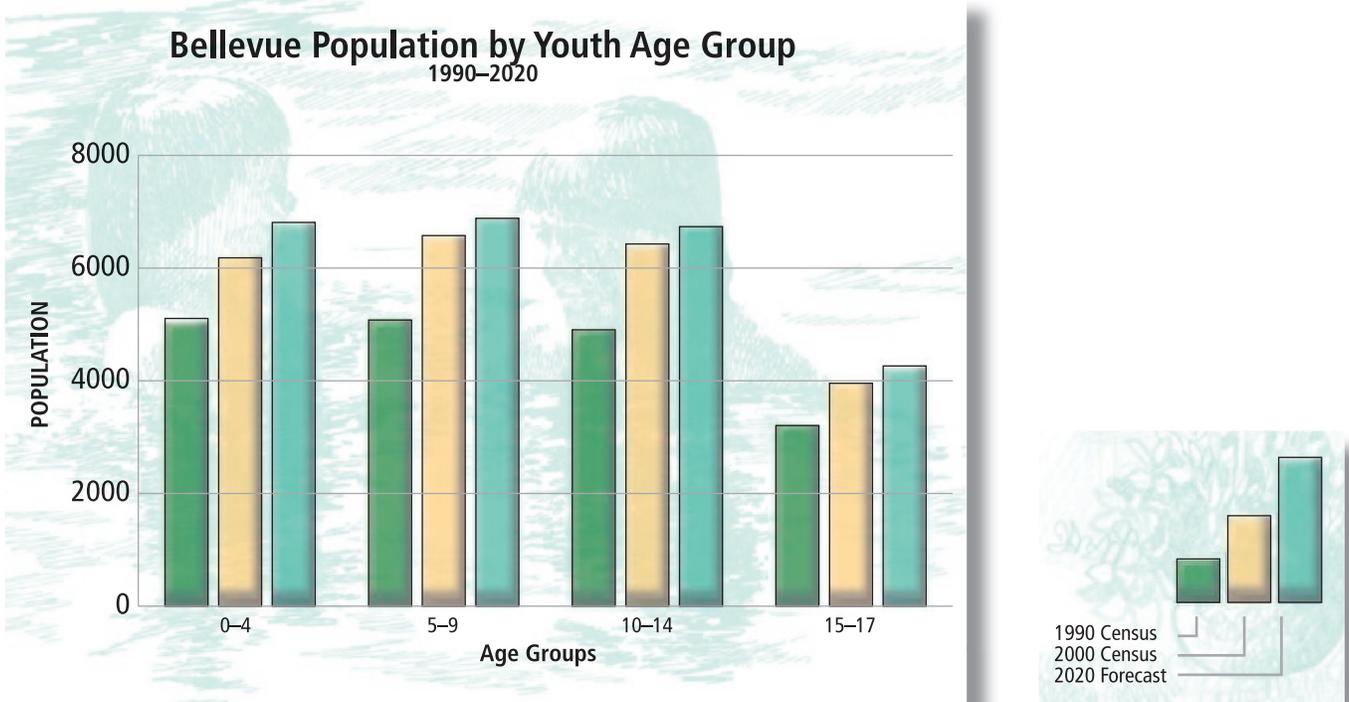


Youth

Percentage of children in the age category of 0 to 17 remains relatively constant from 1990 to the projected 2020 population. Children ages 0 to 17 comprised 21% of Bellevue's 1990 and 2000 population base and will represent 18% of the 2020 projected population. According to the Bellevue School District, between 1991 and 2001, school enrollment increased by only 511 students, from 14,758 to 15,269.

Figure 6 shows growth by different youth age groups from 1990 to 2020.

FIGURE 6: YOUTH POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS – 1990 TO 2020



Disabled

The *King County Housing Needs Assessment For Adults with Developmental Disabilities* 1999 report states that an estimated 6,000 adults with developmental disabilities live in King County. King County Division of Developmental Disabilities (KCDDD) July 2001 figures indicate 924 Bellevue area residents utilize their services, of which 207 are adults living with their parents. Although the total Bellevue population represents only 6% of King County, Bellevue constitutes 10% of the KCDDD caseload. In addition, KCDDD estimates that only 30 to 40% of the eligible County population is enrolled in their services. Based on this estimate, Bellevue’s developmentally disabled population could total between 2,300 and 3,000 people.

More Bellevue residents with disabilities are participating in recreational programs at local parks and community centers. Parks recreational programs need to provide adequate staffing, staff training and accessible facilities to ensure reasonable accommodation of special needs. According to the *Bellevue Human Services Needs Update 2001-2002*,



since 1998 approximately 2,600 individuals per year were served at the Highland Community Center. Of these, 80% are developmentally disabled, and the remaining 20% are people with physical injuries related to chronic diseases or traumatic head injury. The Highland Community Center serves the broader Eastside community of developmentally disabled people through a series of interlocal agreements between the City of Bellevue and some of the Eastside jurisdictions who pay to use the Highland Community Center for their programming needs.

Regional Populations

The Eastside continues to increase in population at a faster rate than either Seattle or King County as a whole. Growth between 1990 to 2000 was 17.5% for the Eastside communities, compared with 9.1% for Seattle and 15.2% for King County. Our parks and recreation facilities serve not only the Bellevue residents, but also people living in the surrounding areas. Bellevue is increasingly recognized as an important economic and cultural focal point for the Eastside. We need to be positioned to provide a network of parks and community facilities providing recreational opportunities for visitors to our community as well as to the Bellevue residents. Conversely, Bellevue residents benefit from the over 4,000 acres of King County and state lands bordering Bellevue, as well as park facilities in adjacent communities.



As our park system continues to expand and additional recreational opportunities are provided, we can expect that our parks and facilities will draw increasing usage from residents outside the City limits. Also, because the Parks Department is committed to establishing partnerships with other jurisdictions to provide larger-scale projects, sharing in the development of these recreational facilities will likely increase. A strong cooperative effort between Eastside jurisdictions and King County is necessary to provide certain types of facilities during this time of fiscal conservatism. Refer to the Partnership Opportunities discussion in the Focus Areas chapter for additional information.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Future demand for parkland and facilities is based on comparing projected populations with Bellevue's park and recreation standards. Park and recreation needs are related directly to the characteristics of a city's population. For example, areas with more young children require outdoor recreation opportunities close to home and within comfortable

walking distance. Areas with older populations can benefit from having both passive open spaces close to residential areas and community centers, located on bus lines, that can accommodate senior activities. In most areas, a balance of parks and facilities is necessary to accommodate the population mix. But because distribution of population groups shifts over time, facilities need to be flexible enough to meet changing demands for services.

Bellevue's population is projected to increase to 135,885 by the year 2020. The most significant projected growth will occur in the Downtown Subarea and in the Newcastle Subarea, south of I-90. Growth in the southern part of the City will be driven mainly by further annexations as well as the development of previously vacant land. Growth in Downtown will occur as people choose to live near more urban amenities and the increasing employment opportunities provided in the Downtown.

The concept of space standards for parks and playgrounds was first introduced by the Playground Association of America and the National Recreation Association in the early 1900s. Over the past 30 years, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has been involved in the development of guidelines and standards for parks, recreation, and open space. NRPA first published the *National Park, Recreation and Open Space Standards* in 1971, which guided park and recreation agencies throughout the major growth years of the 1970s. In conjunction with the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, NRPA revised this original document in 1983, entitled *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*, to serve as a basis for developing standards at the community level. These guidelines are used throughout the United States, and Bellevue's 1993 Park Plan goals, objectives, and level of service standards were developed with these standards in mind, which represent the minimum for which a community should strive. The level of service standards established in the 1993 Park Plan and adopted by City Council remain appropriate today, and serve as a guideline for many of the recommendations outlined throughout this current Park Plan.

When more information is known about a specific geographic area or recreational element, an alternative level of service standard or recommendation may be proposed. This is the case with the Downtown Subarea, where recommendations are guided by the *Downtown Needs Assessment Report* completed in 2002. Similarly, recommendations regarding community athletic fields are guided by the *Sportsfield Analysis Report*, updated in 2003.

School sites have traditionally been considered an integral part of meeting a community's park and recreation needs. The City's longstanding



partnership with the Bellevue School District has enabled school facilities to function even more strongly in this role. School sites present excellent opportunities to provide facilities typical of neighborhood and community parks. Elementary school sites can function as neighborhood parks, while middle schools and high schools provide recreation opportunities typically found in community parks. Therefore, when evaluating subarea park needs, half of the size of the school site has been credited as a park. Half credit was established as an approximation of the available recreation space after land is used for buildings, driveway access, and parking needs unique to the school. For example, a 10-acre elementary school site provides 5 acres of neighborhood park value. Similarly, a 40-acre high school site provides 20 acres of community park land. While this credit recognizes the importance of school property to the park system, values can change as the use of the property changes. For example, if a surplus school or school site is leased for private use, the value to the public is gone, and thus no credit is provided.

It should be recognized that standards represent only one measure of a successful park system. The Subarea Inventory and Analysis Chapter compares Bellevue's existing inventory of parks and open space with the adopted acreage standards. It does not measure the geographic standard that provides for convenient access to our parks. For example, the Factoria Subarea, while meeting the acreage standard for neighborhood parks, lacks park facilities in the northern portion of the subarea. Additional neighborhood parks are thus recommended in the northern portion of the subarea to meet the standard of providing a park within approximately one-half mile of every citizen.

Standards can also lack a qualitative measure of the system. As we have seen consistently from customer comments and formal surveys, the condition of our parks is vitally important to our citizens. Poor conditions often limit the use of parks and facilities and greatly influence the success of the system as a whole. The City's continuing commitment to



improving the quality of the community's sportsfields responds to this issue. Both qualitative and quantitative factors must be considered.

Plan recommendations also consider unique qualities, needs, or opportunities. Bellevue's park system and its neighborhoods are unique, and contribute to Bellevue's quality of life and reputation as a livable city. These unique qualities also must be considered when formulating recommendations for action.

Park, Open Space and Recreation Facility definitions and standards are presented below.

Park and Open Space Standards

Mini-Park

A small park often serving a limited radius. Provides a limited function with features that may include basketball, tennis court, or children's play equipment. Can include limited waterfront access areas such as street ends. An urban plaza, streetscape, garden, historic place, beautification or civic recognition project may also be considered a mini-park.

Service Area: 1/4 mile
Size: Less than 2 acres
Standard: 0.5 acres/1,000 population

Neighborhood Park

A localized park providing limited active and passive recreational opportunities and intended to serve primarily the residents within safe walking distance. Could include activities such as children's play equipment, basketball and/or tennis courts, trails, picnic areas, and waterfront access. Neighborhood parks may be developed in conjunction with elementary schools.

Service Area: 1/2 mile
Size: 2 - 15 acres
Standard: 1.5 acres/1,000 population; one-half credit for public elementary schools

Community Park

A park that serves a broader purpose than a neighborhood park, although community parks may contain certain park components benefiting adjacent neighborhoods. The intent is to make accessible to the community a wide variety of recreational opportunities through an



appropriate distribution of activities and facilities. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. A park that, depending on size, visual character, natural determinant factors, or location, addresses one or more of the following recreational needs of the community:

1. Ecologically sensitive and/or unique open space areas where, through public stewardship, the character of the area is preserved for future generations. Uses will be primarily passive in nature and may include trails, picnicking, viewing, and environmental education. Agriculture as an historic practice may also be included.
2. Area intended to provide diversity of either structured or non-structured outdoor recreation activities. May include facilities such as sportsfields, play areas, golf courses, marinas, waterfront, swimming pools, skating rinks, or outdoor theaters.
3. Area intended to address the needs for indoor recreation activities. May include gyms, daycare, fitness, meeting space, classrooms, game rooms, pools, or theaters.

Service Area: Citywide - geographically distributed
Size: Varies
Standard: 13 acres/1,000 population, with 60% passive recreation and 40% active recreation area as defined in numbers 1 through 3 above. One-half credit for public middle schools and high schools.

Waterfront Access

Serves a citywide need for public access to the water along Lakes Washington and Sammamish. Access areas vary in character and size, and may include street ends. Uses may serve a specific recreational need or, on larger sites, provide multiple recreational opportunities. May include park components benefiting adjacent neighborhoods.

Service Area: Citywide
Size: Varies
Standard: 10% - 20% of available waterfront

Natural Areas/Wildlife Corridors/Greenways

Areas in natural or landscaped state primarily designed to separate various urban uses, protect environmental quality, and provide opportunity for outdoor recreation. These areas contribute to the City's image of a coordinated park and open space system and can provide a visual and/or functional link between City parks and open space lands. May

serve as linkages to open space corridors and greenways more regional in nature.

- Service Area: Varies
- Size: Varies depending on resource availability and opportunity (geographic features, functioning ecosystems, wetlands, wildlife habitat/corridors, etc.)
- Standard: Varies depending on resource availability and opportunity. Approximately 10% of land area of City when combined with other City-held open space areas and privately held open space tracts.

Recreation Facility Standards

Trail Systems

Separate systems developed to accommodate walking, hiking, jogging, and bicycling. Trails may be developed as multi-purpose trails in some areas. See *Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update* for information on bicycle trail network.

- Standard: Walking/hiking/jogging: 1.1 miles/1,000 population
- Bicycling: .7 miles/1,000 population

Community Recreation Center

An indoor recreation facility that provides gymnasium, locker, multi-purpose, class/social, arts and crafts and game rooms, kitchen, staff offices, lobby and lounge, storage, and restroom areas. Geographic distribution of community centers throughout the City is desirable.

- Size: 15,000-35,000 square feet
- Standard: One center/25,000 population
- Service Area: Citywide – geographically distributed

Athletic Facilities

Athletic facilities include sportsfields for baseball, softball, soccer, football, as well as facilities for tennis courts and gymnasiums for basketball and other indoor sports.

- Standard: Athletic fields: Refer to the 2003 Sportsfield Analysis Report for detailed information about level of service needs for outdoor sportsfields.
- Tennis Courts: 1 court/2,000 population
- Gymnasiums: 1 gym/25,000 population

Chapter 4:
PROGRESS
Since the 1993
Parks & Open Space System Plan





Chapter 4:

Progress Since the 1993 Parks & Open Space System Plan

Significant progress has been made in the last ten years in many of the Park Plan's focus areas. This section examines the progress made and projects completed since adoption of the 1993 *Parks & Open Space System Plan*.

Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails

Acquisitions have occurred as opportunities presented themselves to preserve open space, to establish greenway connections, and to continue the Lake-to-Lake Trail. In addition to acquiring land, Bellevue's public open space has been increased through land donations and property transfers such as the Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPAs) transferred to City ownership by several homeowner associations in south Bellevue (26 acres). Approximately 20 miles of additional trails have been developed since 1993.

Waterfront Access

Many of the recommendations in the 1993 Park Plan related to waterfront access have been accomplished. Nearly all of the parcels between Meydenbauer Beach Park and the Meydenbauer Yacht Club have been acquired for the long-term vision of a linear Lake Washington waterfront park with connections to the Downtown. A Lake Sammamish waterfront property was purchased, creating an east terminus for the Lake-to-Lake Trail. The SE 40th Boat Launch was improved, and then partially rebuilt after the 2001 earthquake. Clyde Beach Park and Phase One of Enatai Beach Park were completed.

Neighborhood Sites

Important acquisitions were completed for future neighborhood parks, including the Latta, Big Field (Meadow Wood), and Norelius properties. Many neighborhood and mini-parks were developed over the last ten years. Most were developed by the City (Lattawood, Robinsglen, Collingwood, Cherry Crest expansion, Forest Ridge, Lakemont Highlands, Saddleback, Sixth Street, Skyridge), while several (Chandler, Deer Run, Silverleaf, Sunset) were built by developers as a result of mitigation requirements in the Newcastle Subarea. Newport Hills and Sunrise Parks were added through annexation, and Weowna Park was transferred from

King County. Following its transfer, the City completed a major redevelopment of Weowna Park.

Community Parks

A land exchange made possible the expansion of Crossroads Park along N.E. 8th Street. Land was also acquired for future park development in the southeast corner of the Downtown Park. Other important acquisitions included the Peltola property (part of future Lewis Creek Park) and the Airfield property at Eastgate. Eastgate Park was added through a transfer from King County. Park development included Lakemont Community Park and the expanded Crossroads Park. Development continued at the Bellevue Botanical Gardens at Wilburton Park with the addition of the Yao Garden, Alpine Rock Garden and the South Loop trail.

Active Recreation Needs

Facilities developed since 1993 include the Aquatic Center, the Tye Middle School gymnasium, Ivanhoe Performing Arts Theatre, Marymoor ballfields, and the Ground Zero Teen Center. In addition, a bubble was installed over two of the outdoor courts at the Robinswood Tennis Center. Many school sportsfields were improved, from minor renovations of elementary school fields to major field development at Tillicum Middle School and Newport and Sammamish High Schools. Ongoing improvements at the Bellevue Golf Course included clubhouse improvements, reconstruction of tees and greens, and irrigation system upgrades.

Partnership Opportunities

Several King County parks and greenbelts were acquired through property transfers, including Eastgate and Weowna. Sportsfields were developed at Marymoor Park in Redmond. Many school sportsfields and play areas have been improved by the City for community use through partnerships with the Bellevue and Issaquah School Districts and school-based PTSAs. The City entered into a partnership with the Pacific Science Center to develop the future Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, and with the Boys and Girls Club to fund development of a second gymnasium at the future South Bellevue Community Center.

Chapter 5:

FOCUS AREAS

Summary of Focus Areas

Open Space, Greenways, Corridors and Trails

Waterfront Access

Neighborhood Sites

Community Parks

Recreation Facilities

Downtown District

Partnership Opportunities

Renovation, Maintenance, and Security

Historic, Cultural, and Art Resources



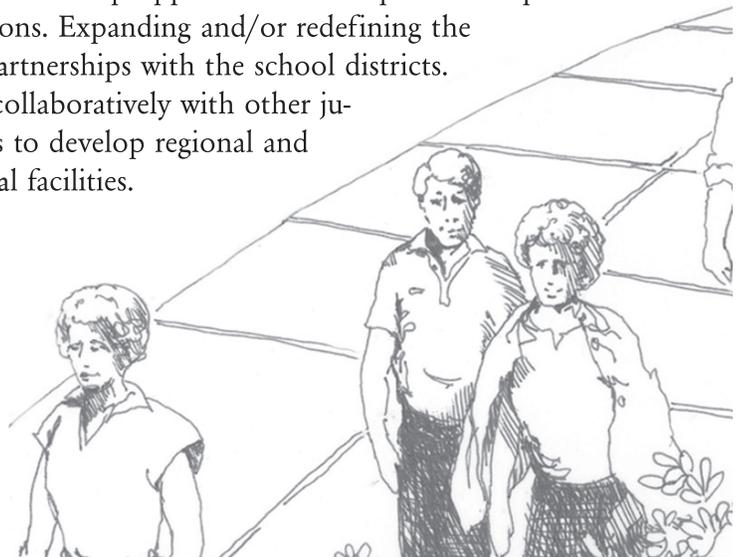


Chapter 5: Summary

FOCUS AREAS

The analysis of issues facing Bellevue's park system helps identify problems and opportunities. The Park Plan identifies nine major focus areas where the Parks Department proposes to focus attention in order to meet the short- and long-term needs of the community. These Focus Areas remain unchanged from the 1993 *Parks & Open Space System Plan*, although they are reorganized and consolidated where appropriate for easier understanding and renamed Focus Areas instead of Major Issues.

- **Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails:** Acquiring and retaining open space to meet passive and active recreation needs of the community, to protect wildlife and critical habitat areas, and to provide linkages between parks and activity areas.
- **Waterfront Access:** Acquiring and developing additional waterfront property to meet community interest.
- **Neighborhood Sites:** Meeting the needs for mini-parks and neighborhood parks through acquisition, development, or redevelopment.
- **Community Parks:** Meeting the needs for community parks through acquisition, development, or redevelopment.
- **Recreation Facilities:** Responding to the demand for equitable distribution of community centers and active recreation facilities throughout the community, and to provide needed indoor and outdoor recreation spaces. Giving special consideration to providing additional recreational and social opportunities for teens.
- **Partnership Opportunities:** Exploring innovative approaches to meeting the community's recreational and open space needs through partnership opportunities with public and private organizations. Expanding and/or redefining the existing partnerships with the school districts. Working collaboratively with other jurisdictions to develop regional and subregional facilities.



- **Downtown District:** Assessing Downtown’s recreation and open space needs to meet future downtown residential and employment growth.
- **Renovation, Maintenance, and Security:** Responding to the needs for renovation, maintenance, and security as park usage increases and the park system ages.
- **Historic, Cultural, and Art Resources:** Integrating historic, cultural, and art resources into the park system.

These Focus Areas have been analyzed to determine their impacts on the overall park system and to explore or identify opportunities. Their analyses serve as the basis for the Park Plan’s capital recommendations.

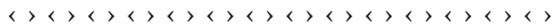


FOCUS AREA OPEN SPACE, GREENWAYS, WILDLIFE CORRIDORS & TRAILS

Introduction

Bellevue is fortunate in having a unique mosaic of lakes, streams, wetlands, and forests located within its boundaries. Preserving these environmentally sensitive areas is increasingly important as Bellevue’s population continues to grow. Preserving and connecting these sensitive areas via a series of greenways, wildlife corridors, and trails will enhance the environmental, social, and recreational benefits for both people and wildlife. These benefits include:

- Native plant and wildlife habitat protection, including fish spawning habitat.
- Stream corridor, wetland, and forested slope preservation.
- Stormwater biofiltration for improved water quality.
- Natural flood control and improved air quality.
- Land use buffer and contrast to urban environment.
- Outdoor classrooms for environmental education.
- Providing park and open space linkages for people and wildlife.
- Hiking, canoeing, bird watching, and other forms of recreation.
- Places of tranquility for personal reflection, inspiration, and other forms of passive recreation.
- Natural beauty preservation.



Environmental Imperative

Environmental issues have been important considerations in park planning since the late 1800s when Frederick Law Olmsted and his contemporaries developed and implemented the philosophy of preserving natural open space parkland systems. This philosophy emphasized the concept of a park “system” in which significant parklands were connected via boulevards, trails, and greenbelts. Many of these parks were implemented at the turn of the century in cities such as New York, Boston, San Francisco, and Seattle, leaving a legacy which Bellevue can emulate.

Environmental issues are now as relevant to the public as other key social and political issues. During the 1980s, Bellevue residents’ attitudes shifted dramatically in response to rapid development changing the

community's identity and impacting quality of life. As intense development resulted in the loss of forests and open space areas throughout the City, the citizens recognized the importance of preserving some of these areas in perpetuity. Public surveys taken in the 1980s marked this shift, with almost 90% of Bellevue's residents wanting open space and trails preserved. In 1988 and 1989, bond issues passed which focused on open space acquisition and trail development.

Bellevue residents still place a very high priority on open space, greenways, and trails. A 2001 phone survey done for this Park Plan update confirms that acquiring and preserving open space and conserving habitat for fish and wildlife remain the community's highest park priorities over the next 20 years. When asked to prioritize types of park facilities for acquisition and development, residents rated trails as their number one priority. In addition, as part of a phone survey conducted in February 2002 for the needs assessment of the Downtown subarea, open space for walking or running trails was rated highest by the residents.

Environmental quality remains a high public priority. Both large- and small-scale environmental problems threaten our health and well-being. At the municipal level, we are concerned with air and water quality, solid waste disposal, hazardous waste, noise pollution, wildlife preservation, and similar issues. We also relate or contribute to problems of a regional or global nature, such as global warming, acid rain, nuclear waste, ozone depletion, and plant and animal extinction.

Bellevue's open spaces, especially natural areas, wildlife corridors, and greenways, are part of the solution. Tree masses absorb carbon dioxide, emit oxygen, reduce erosion, moderate temperatures, protect wildlife, and provide aesthetic relief. Wetlands filter pollutants, absorb surface water runoff, help maintain stream base flows and groundwater replenishment, and provide a rich biological habitat. Riparian corridors, which include the stream channel and the streamside vegetation, provide flood water attenuation, groundwater replenishment, water quality filtering, and fish and wildlife habitat. The combination of urban forests, wetlands, streams, and meadows provide a safe haven for a large number of animal and bird species.

The City's agricultural areas, such as the Lake Hills Greenbelt and Mercer Slough, preserve important food growing capacity.

As a growing urban center, Bellevue must provide a balance between urban development and preserving or enhancing environmental quality. The following programs acknowledge the importance of preserving important open space and wildlife habitat areas, providing connections, and encouraging public education and awareness of our natural systems.

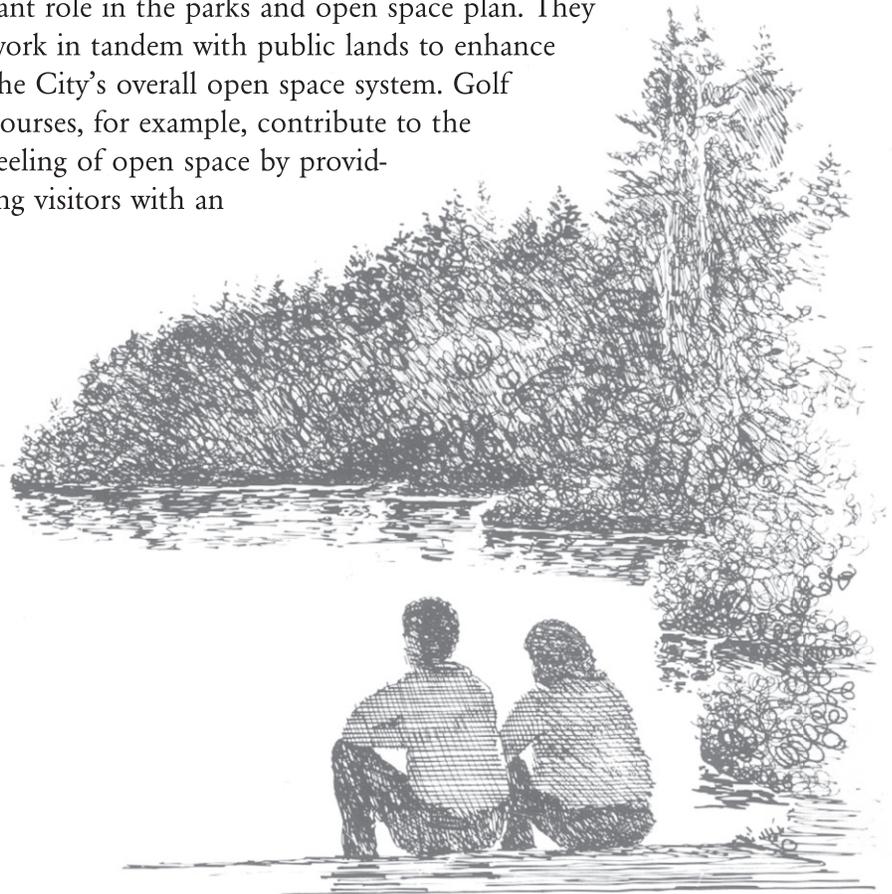


Preserving Open Space

Bellevue's open spaces are an integral part of the City. Open space areas include ecologically sensitive and/or unique natural areas, greenways, wildlife corridors, historical agricultural lands, and publicly-owned native growth protection areas (NGPAs). Dispersed throughout the City are a variety of these open space areas that add to the "City in a Park" look. Well-distributed and connected greenways and open spaces provide important linkages for habitat and people, bring beauty closer to everyone, and maximize opportunities for enjoying the environment.

When combined with King County and public school district-owned properties, there are approximately 2,950 acres of public park, school, and open space land in Bellevue. Much of this land is open space located in a few large areas, such as Mercer Slough, Wilburton Hill, Lakemont Park, Coal Creek Park, Kelsey Creek Park, and the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

Historically, open space was a privately managed commodity subject to the uncertainty of the market place. We are now recognizing that the protection of diminishing open space is a public responsibility. However, certain privately-owned lands play an important role in the parks and open space plan. They work in tandem with public lands to enhance the City's overall open space system. Golf courses, for example, contribute to the feeling of open space by providing visitors with an



aesthetically pleasing visual experience. Privately-owned greenbelts and native growth protection areas (NGPAs) play an equally important role in providing open space. They protect critical areas and habitat while enhancing the visual setting of the built environment.

Where possible, it is the City's responsibility to classify and regulate native growth protection areas as permanent open spaces. Some trails through these spaces should be built to provide limited public access while still preserving the area for other purposes, such as wildlife habitat. In 2000, the City initiated the concept of acquiring and managing privately owned NGPAs. Since then, over 26 acres of NGPAs have been transferred into public ownership, thus ensuring that their environmental functions and values are maintained or restored, while also providing public access opportunities.

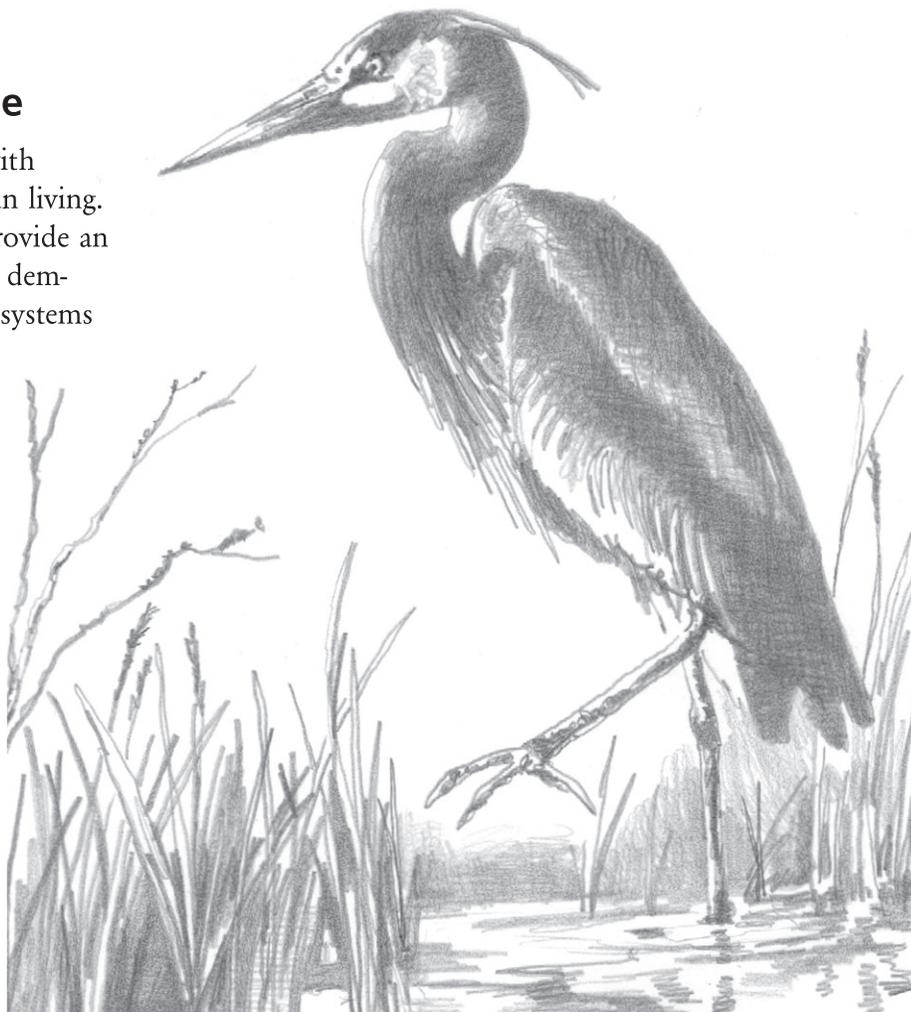
Acquiring key linkages between existing parkland, major wildlife corridors and habitats, and open space buffers is an important focus of this Plan. Acquisitions should also focus on providing trail connections between parks and open space tracts for the movement of people and wildlife.

Greenways for Bellevue

The greenway is an old concept with exciting new applications for urban living. Existing Olmstedeian greenways provide an excellent historical precedent that demonstrates the value of open space systems within the urban context.

Greenways have historically provided a natural contrast to urban density. They combine the natural functions and separations provided by a greenbelt with the linear and connected orientation of a parkway.

Population and density increases, coupled with natural resource depletion and exploitation, have triggered a renewed interest in urban greenways. Urban greenways are an enlightened response to the realities of today's development patterns. Given the limitations of public





resources, urban greenway systems must be sensibly created and carefully managed. Urban greenways can provide multiple benefits at an affordable price to a wide array of citizens.

The idea of greenway linkages is crucial. By connecting different sites via boulevards, trails, and natural areas, parklands become more usable, accessible, and visible. The park and open space system achieves a sense of integration and completeness. It begins to affect our daily lives, where we work, live, and play. The system connects neighborhoods, commercial areas, parks, schools, and other points of public interest in a unique way. In short, it becomes a part of the community fabric, weaving together elements of our daily lives.

Bellevue is currently acquiring and linking an exciting variety of park sites between Lakes Washington and Sammamish. This system, referred to as the Lake-to-Lake Trail and Greenway System, was inspired by a disparate blend of Olmsted philosophy, environmental degradation, rapid growth, and the mandate to squeeze multiple benefits from scarce resources. With inter-jurisdictional coordination, Bellevue's Lake-to-Lake Trail and Greenway will become part of the regional Mountains-to-Sound Greenway. The Lake-to-Lake Trail and Greenway is the backbone of over 94 miles of trails connecting parks, people, and nature.

Continued acquisitions of key parcels are imperative to complete the Lake-to-Lake Trail and Greenway System and connect other open space systems and parklands throughout the City.

Coal Creek County Park provides another significant greenway and trail system that links Bellevue with the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. It also provides a natural urban separator between the Cities of Bellevue and Newcastle. The City of Bellevue and King County have had preliminary discussions that would result in the transfer of Coal Creek Park to the City of Bellevue. If that were to occur, significant forestry and trail system improvements would be needed.

Trail System

Trails play an important role in open space, especially in large parks, greenways, and wildlife corridors. Trails, which can also function as greenways, are often the sole means of connecting parklands and open space. They provide pedestrians and other non-motorized users shorter and safer connections between various neighborhoods and open space.

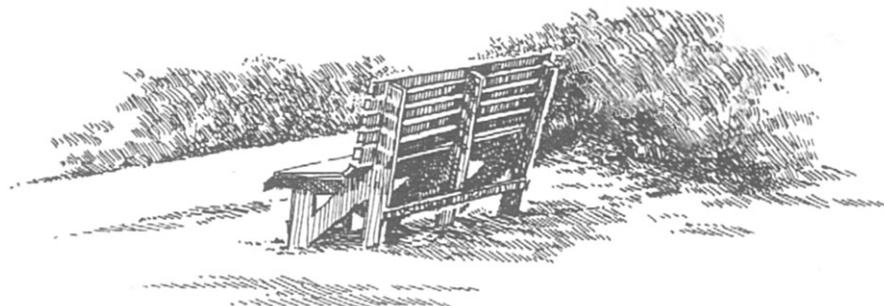
Major east-west and north-south non-motorized routes traversing the city have been designated and are considered top priorities in completing trail systems. The Lake-to-Lake Trail provides Bellevue's primary east-west non-motorized trail connection linking Lake Sammamish

with Lake Washington. This route connects parks, schools, neighborhoods, and urban areas. Other future east-west trail connections run from the Kirkland's Houghton neighborhood to Marymoor Park and from Newcastle to Coal Creek Parks. A proposed trail along West Lake Sammamish Parkway will provide a major north-south link for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles from the Lakemont area to Marymoor Park. Additionally, trails constructed along the power line and pipeline corridors and the railroad right-of-way would also provide north-south connections.

In addition to the major cross-city trail connections, construction and signage of trails within neighborhood areas creates a trail network connecting the neighborhood to the parks and open space systems within close proximity to people living in the area. These localized trail systems provide connection opportunities allowing people to explore their immediate neighborhood area. They encourage interaction and a sense of community within these areas.

For more detailed information, the *Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update* is the primary resource for trail policies, standards, projects, implementation, and financing strategies. This plan provides the framework for building a safe non-motorized transportation system to schools, parks, shopping areas, and places of employment.

The Parks Department is committed to additional trail systems acquisitions either through direct acquisition as part of a public park or open space system or through partnership opportunities with private developers as part of a subdivision or planned unit development.



Street Trees and Arterial Landscaping

Street trees and arterial landscaping are valuable assets and an essential part of the City's urban forest. The trees and plants filter air pollutants, produce oxygen, buffer noise, create separation between pedestrians and vehicles, provide beauty and shade. Street trees add scale to the built environment and help soften effects of urbanization. Arterial "greening" identifies streets and highways as part of the overall open space system.

The Parks Department's Street Trees and Arterial Landscaping Program establishes a variety of landscapes along the City's street system. This



program provides pleasant canopied boulevards and lush green arterial roads. Working with the Transportation Department, the Parks Department's program has resulted in over 110 acres of landscaping adjacent to arterials and boulevards. These landscaped boulevards and arterial roads, such as 148th Avenue, enrich the visual experience to motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists using these roadways.

The 2002 *Downtown Needs Assessment* recommended the creation of a Downtown urban trail system that connects to the City's other key trail systems. This urban trail system concept, referred to as "green streets," would provide for pedestrian-biased transportation corridors rather than emphasizing the street itself as the main component. The facilities would essentially be linear parks with a street, tree canopy, benches, and other urban amenities and recreation nodes located throughout. De-emphasizing the roadway while enhancing the "green streets" concept provides an aesthetically pleasing environment that encourages people to have pedestrian-oriented experiences and to view their City from a different perspective.

Attention to vegetation must remain a City priority. Appropriate street trees and landscaping materials are listed in both the Transportation Department's *Development Manual* and the Planning & Community Development Department's *Land Use Code*. The Parks Department must continue working with these departments to encourage appropriate street tree and landscaping materials along our transportation network.

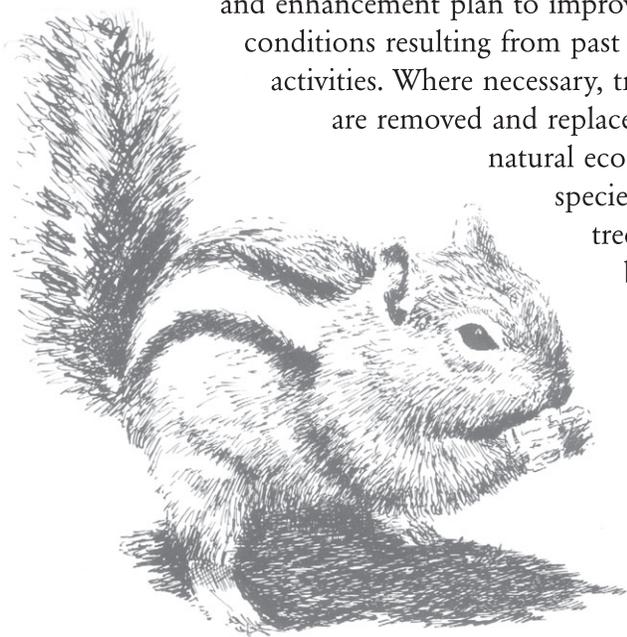
Green areas along streets and freeways require regular maintenance. Replacing damaged or diseased vegetation needs to be ongoing, as does the future replacement of aging trees. Freeway landscaping should also be included as part of our open space concept. "Greening" the freeways can be easily achieved through revegetation. Interstate-90, Interstate-405, and State Route-520 are the major gateways that form the first impression of Bellevue. Landscaping along our freeways can be a reminder of the beauty of our natural environment and offer the motorist a sense of the "City in a Park." Exploring partnership opportunities with the State Department of Transportation, as well as with private businesses, should be a Parks Department goal to provide and maintain landscaping in and adjacent to the state and City rights-of-way.

Environmental Stewardship

The pristine natural conditions that existed in our region only 150 years ago have been radically altered by development. Remaining natural areas are in a state of transition. Protecting the natural environment in an urbanized area requires enforcement of regulations and an active natural

resource management program. Bellevue's natural areas must be carefully managed to provide long-term environmental, recreational, and social benefits. Just as important as working to connect the large open spaces in Bellevue, the stewardship programs must view activities on an ecosystem-wide basis, acknowledging the interconnectedness and interrelationships in nature.

The Parks Department's Forest Management Program provides a systematic process to manage the forest ecosystem. Starting with a site inventory and analysis, staff develops a natural resource management and enhancement plan to improve degraded forest conditions resulting from past and present land use activities. Where necessary, trees and vegetation are removed and replaced to create a viable natural ecosystem. With over 100 species of wildlife utilizing tree snags for nesting, breeding, food sources, and refuge, snag creation is also part of our Forest Management Program. The goal of the Forest Management Program is to re-establish natural ecosystems which will sustain wildlife, as well as



provide a visual amenity for the community.

The Parks Department's enhancement projects have also increased wildlife habitat and diversity through the creation of wetland ponds, such as those at Mercer Slough and Lake Hills Greenbelt, and improved water quality and reduced erosion through stream restoration projects, such as Phantom Creek through Weowna Park and the planned stream restoration at Kelsey Creek Park.

Care must be taken in planning, developing, and managing our natural resources to ensure that the natural ecosystem continues to function. It is critical that these enhancement and restoration projects continue to be implemented as environmentally important areas are identified and funds become available. In addition to environmental enhancement projects on City property, the Parks Department should explore opportunities for partnerships with other public and private organizations and property owners.



Environmental Education

Environmental education is an important component to a successful parks and open space system. Educating the public about the importance of our natural systems helps them understand the benefits provided by these systems. The public endorses environmental preservation when connections between the environment and quality of life are fully understood.

The Parks Department provides numerous opportunities for environmental education, which helps park visitors understand the natural environment. Proper interpretation of our natural resources creates a sense of wonder and instills a sense of responsibility to protect and manage the resources wisely. Examples of environmental education and interpretation programs include the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, the Ranger Station Backyard Wildlife Habitat Gardens, Washington State University Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden, Earth Day/Arbor Day celebrations and tree planting, Stewardship Saturdays, and Natural Resource Week. The City's volunteer programs contribute nearly 25,000 hours annually helping to enhance Parks Department lands. In addition to formal environmental education programs, use of the City's trails and open space systems provide the public with informal environmental education opportunities as they experience these natural systems.

The importance of wise environmental stewardship will increase as the City's natural areas come under increasing development pressure. To help achieve environmental protection through public education, the Parks Department should expand existing public environmental education and outreach programs, in addition to exploring and expanding partnership opportunities.

The Parks Department currently works cooperatively with other City departments, resource management agencies, and concerned citizens to care for streams, enhance degraded forests and wetlands, improve wildlife habitat, and provide public access. Because approximately 90% of the City's land base is in private ownership, a healthy ecosystem will depend on partnerships with private citizens, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other jurisdictions to reach mutual goals.

Summary

The citizens of Bellevue consider acquiring and preserving open space and conserving habitat for fish and wildlife as their highest park priorities over the next 20 years. Therefore, the Parks Department should continue to:

- Acquire critical parcels of open space, especially those that provide linkages or additions to existing open space holdings.
- Acquire and develop trail and greenway connections between parks and open space tracts for movement of people and wildlife. Key focus areas include the Lewis Creek and Kelsey Creek Greenway Systems and the Richards Valley connection.
- Complete the Lake-to-Lake Trail and Greenway System.
- Acquire key parcels to provide north-south pedestrian and non-motorized trails and trail connections through the City, including easement rights along the Burlington Northern Railroad right of way, Olympic Pipeline, power line corridors, and along Lake Sammamish.
- Acquire the Coal Creek/Lake Heights Park System from King County and complete forestry and trail system improvements.
- Implement the “green streets” concept wherever feasible.
- Expand the Parks Department’s current environmental stewardship programs.
- Expand environmental education opportunities.
- Seek partnerships with other jurisdictions, private businesses, non-profit organizations, the development community, and the general public to further our goal of preserving key open space, greenways, wildlife corridors, and trails in the City.



FOCUS AREA FOCUS AREAS WATERFRONT ACCESS

Introduction

Bellevue is bounded on the west by Lake Washington and on the east by Lake Sammamish. In addition, Phantom and Larsen Lakes are located within the City limits. However, for many in Bellevue, the lakes and shorelines are an unseen resource. Because of urban development, topography, and the almost continuous private ownership of the shoreline, the general public has limited visual and physical access to these lakes.

Of the 14 miles (73,995 linear feet) of shoreline along Lakes Washington and Sammamish, only 10% or slightly over 1.4 miles (7,433 linear feet) is in public ownership, most of it located on Lake Washington. Our standards propose that 10 to 20% of the shoreline be available for public access. To meet current demand, Bellevue must acquire and develop additional waterfront and optimize the use of existing waterfront holdings.

The City has made a substantial commitment over the past decade to increase its public presence along the waterfront. In July of 2003, the City acquired the waterfront parcel linking the Meydenbauer Beach Park to the marina property. Two parcels remain to complete the original vision to assemble property for a major waterfront park. The other focus areas for waterfront acquisition are the Enatai to Mercer Slough connection and to create a major public presence along Lake Sammamish. Waterfront park acquisition and development was listed as the third highest priority of the respondents to the June 2001 Park Plan phone survey.

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Meydenbauer Bay

Meydenbauer Bay is a major focus for increasing Bellevue's access to the waterfront. The immediate acquisition goal is to complete the assemblage of property between Meydenbauer Beach Park and the existing marina property. The ultimate goal is to connect this waterfront parcel to the Downtown's commercial and residential areas and the Downtown Park and to create a regionally significant park and waterfront destination.

Expanding the Meydenbauer Beach Park and marina and connecting it to the Downtown are imperative if Bellevue intends to identify itself as a waterfront city. The bay provides both a destination point for water-

based recreational activities and amenities, as well as an opportunity to recognize the bay's historical significance in the region's development. The Parks & Community Services Department's 2002 *Downtown Needs Assessment* and the *Downtown Implementation Plan* acknowledged the significance of visually and physically connecting the Downtown to Meydenbauer Bay. Connections can be achieved with expanded streetscape amenities, property acquisition, and/or public amenities created by developer incentives. Connecting Downtown to Meydenbauer Bay as part of the Lake-to-Lake Trail system would provide convenient access to unequaled waterfront amenities. Clearly signed pedestrian paths ("way-finding") could link Downtown and nearby neighborhoods with the Bay.

Lake Sammamish

Waterfront acquisition opportunities on Lake Sammamish are limited. Much of the shoreline is steep and not suitable for public access. Where possible, acquisition priorities should focus on less steep areas to the north and south. A new park site on Lake Sammamish should accommodate swimming, picnicking, and support facilities. One undeveloped parcel on Lake Sammamish has been acquired for future development. However, with only 130 linear feet of waterfront, adjacent properties need to be acquired in order to develop a park. A developed park on Lake Sammamish could also serve as a destination point for the eastern end of Bellevue's Lake-to-Lake Trail system.

Vasa Park, a privately-owned waterfront park, is within city limits due to a recent annexation. Vasa Park, with 540 linear feet of Lake Sammamish waterfront access, is available to the public for an entrance fee. Partnerships with the property owners should be explored to ensure the park remains available for public use. The City should pursue future public ownership of Vasa Park if the opportunity arises.





Enatai to Mercer Slough

Enatai Beach offers a rare opportunity to combine boating and water-oriented activities with Mercer Slough's wetland and passive recreation activities. Both areas are highly visible and have excellent freeway access. Providing a physical and functional connection between these two popular water-oriented sites would be a significant contribution to Bellevue's residents.

Development Opportunities

Enatai Beach Park and the SE 40th Street Boat Launch are key access points on Lake Washington, especially for boating enthusiasts. Additional boat launching facilities are very limited on Lake Washington, with only one lane available in Kirkland, one on Mercer Island, and eight at Renton's Gene Coulon Park. Currently, kayaks and canoes can be rented from the boathouse at Enatai Beach Park. Developing the next phase of Enatai Beach Park will provide non-motorized boat launching opportunities and should be considered a high priority. The SE 40th Street Boat Launch is Bellevue's primary motorized boat launch facility. Vehicle parking capacity has been expanded, and the boat launch was rebuilt as a result of damage sustained during the 2001 Nisqually earthquake. However, parking capacity should be further expanded to accommodate overflow occurring during peak boating use, which will require additional acquisition. The Sweyolocken boat launch in Mercer Slough Nature Park currently allows for the launch of both motorized boats for use in Lake Washington and non-motorized boats for use in Mercer Slough. If the SE 40th Street boat launch is expanded, the City should consider discontinuing the motorized boat launch from Sweyolocken for environmental reasons.

Although Chism Beach is developed and open to the public, only about half of the existing waterfront is readily accessible. Redevelopment of this park is needed to better utilize this valuable asset.

Acquisition Considerations

Because publicly-owned waterfront is very limited in Bellevue, its value to the community is much higher than in other communities. Bellevue's recent acquisitions of key waterfront parcels along Meydenbauer Bay are evidence of this value and of the City's commitment to providing waterfront opportunities for future generations. People naturally gravitate to areas with water to enjoy the aesthetics and recreational opportunities unique to these areas.

Continued acquisition of waterfront property will be challenging because the value of waterfront continues to escalate. Acquisition will take time and depend on opportunity. Resources must be available to acquire key waterfront properties when they become available. Creative acquisition strategies, such as lease-backs, renting, and life estates, have been used to acquire some of the waterfront land assembled to date. The continued use of these less-than-fee techniques will be critical as the City continues to acquire these properties. More aggressive pursuit of grants, partnerships, and other outside revenue sources will also be needed.

A combination of acquisition strategies, streetscape improvements, and development incentives should be explored to achieve the connection between Meydenbauer Bay and the Downtown Park.

Summary

Major waterfront initiatives include:

- Complete the acquisition of parcels between Meydenbauer Beach Park and the marina.
- Develop a significant citywide waterfront park along Meydenbauer Bay.
- Connect Meydenbauer Bay/Meydenbauer Beach Park to Downtown Bellevue and the Downtown Park.
- Consider acquisition opportunities to expand and connect Enatai Beach Park to Mercer Slough.
- Acquire and develop a public park along the Lake Sammamish waterfront.
- Expand parking at the SE 40th Street boat launch.
- Complete Enatai Beach Park phased development.
- Redevelop Chism Beach Park.



FOCUS AREA FOCUS AREAS NEIGHBORHOOD SITES

Introduction

Neighborhood sites are designed to meet active and passive recreation needs of their immediate neighborhood. These sites are identified as either mini-parks or neighborhood parks. Both are important in the overall park system. Mini-parks are characterized by their focus on a limited number of activities in a small neighborhood space. They are generally less than two acres in size and serve an area within about one-quarter mile radius. Neighborhood parks are larger and have multiple recreational facilities, both active and passive. They can range up to 15 acres in size and serve roughly a one-half mile radius. Neighborhood and mini-parks are intended mainly as walk-to or bike-to facilities; therefore, they either have no or very limited off-street parking facilities. These neighborhood parks should not create parking or traffic impacts to the neighborhoods in which they are located.

Bellevue's level of service standard for neighborhood sites is 2 acres/1000 population, which combines the mini-park standard of 0.5 acres/1000 with the neighborhood park standard of 1.5 acres/1000.

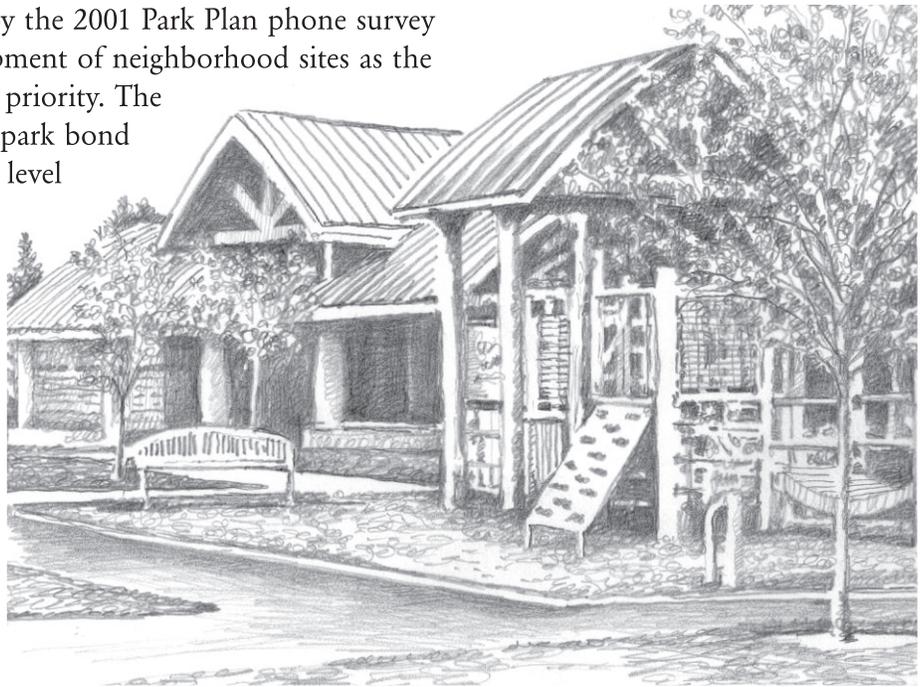
Neighborhood sites should be acquired and developed based on their accessibility, affordability, and visibility. They should be convenient and recognizable. Their success must be viewed as a community responsibility. In some instances, neighborhood sites may be acquired, developed, or maintained in partnership with a school district, a community association, or business. In other instances, it is appropriate to require neighborhood sites or facilities in conjunction with private development, such as a subdivision or planned unit development.

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Subarea Need

Since being identified in the 1993 Park Plan as the community's highest priority, the City has concentrated significant efforts on offsetting the identified deficits of neighborhood and mini-parks in virtually all of Bellevue's subareas. Substantial progress has been made. Sixteen neighborhood and mini-parks have been completed since 1993, including Lattawood, Lakemont Highlands, Ivanhoe, and Robinsglen. The City has also developed or improved playgrounds and sportsfields at most of Bellevue's 16 elementary schools.

Work still remains, as evidenced by the 2001 Park Plan phone survey that rated acquisition and development of neighborhood sites as the community's second highest park priority. The 2002 phone surveys done for the park bond also reflect the community's high level of interest in neighborhood sites. Survey respondents with children placed neighborhood parks as their highest priority, reflecting the fact that children most frequently use neighborhood and mini-parks. Therefore, this Plan continues to emphasize the need to acquire and develop neighborhood facilities. However, because of the past emphasis on neighborhood facilities, the City can now target its efforts on selected subareas that continue to reflect level of service deficits in neighborhood sites.



Each subarea was evaluated to determine current and future park needs based on the established level of service standards, which includes acreage as well as service area standards. Based on this analysis, six of the 14 subareas continue to show deficits in neighborhood level of service standards. The Crossroads, Downtown, Factoria, Newport Hills and Wilburton Subareas have deficits in acres of neighborhood facilities. The Factoria, North Bellevue and Newport Hills Subareas show deficiencies in meeting neighborhood park service area standards, meaning that large portions of these subareas are geographically isolated and not well served with neighborhood facilities.

Deficits in the North Bellevue and Wilburton Subareas can be offset by developing existing sites. The remaining subareas will require the acquisition and development of strategically located neighborhood sites to serve the neighborhoods. The City must aggressively seek opportunities to provide additional neighborhood sites and facilities in these subareas.

Partnerships and Schools

Partnerships are seen as an increasingly important approach to providing these neighborhood facilities in the community. Partnership opportunities with the Bellevue School District, community associations, other jurisdictions, and private businesses should be encouraged wherever possible. These partnerships could help defray the expense of mini and neighborhood park acquisition, development, maintenance, and/or site security.



As noted in the Park and Recreation Facility Standards, public school sites and facilities have traditionally been an integral part of Bellevue's park system. The City's long-standing partnership with the Bellevue School District should be continued, and if possible, strengthened. Elementary schools provide much needed space and facilities that function as neighborhood parks.

Strong consideration should be given to acquiring surplus school sites for park-related purposes. These sites can often offset park or facility deficits. Priority should be given to sites that meet the following criteria:

- **Distribution:** Priority is given to sites in areas showing deficits in available parks or open space, or if deficits would be created if these public properties were sold.
- **Adjacency:** Priority is given to sites that are adjacent to existing parks, because they represent opportunities to expand or increase available recreational space.
- **Existing facilities:** Priority is given to sites with existing recreational facilities such as gyms, ballfields, tracks, and playgrounds.

In addition, the development review process should address the needs for new mini and neighborhood parks in residential and urban areas. This will allow for site dedication and development planning early in the process in locations where growth is creating additional demands for park-related facilities. In some cases, the inclusion of private recreational facilities within a development may help offset the need for nearby public facilities.

Mini-parks

Mini-parks are designed to meet the demand for recreation facilities on a neighborhood scale. In areas where there are no neighborhood facilities nearby, two or three residential parcels could be purchased for building a mini-park with a play area, game court, or other single-use facility. They could also be created from dedicated parkland, other privately owned land, or storm drainage sites. Evergreen Park is a good example of a mini-park because it contains children's play areas, a half-basketball court, and paths.

In the City's more urban areas, plazas and other small public spaces can serve a mini-park function. For example, the Downtown Subarea needs neighborhood recreation facilities, such as play areas and sport courts, for the growing downtown population. The 2002 *Downtown Needs Assessment* report identifies a minimum of 2-1/2 to 3 acres of parkland in both the northwest and southeast quadrants as this subarea's greatest need. In addition, linear transitions, corner parks, and active recreation opportunities in the Downtown Subarea were identified as important

features. Mini-parks can be designed to meet urban recreation needs and provide seating, fountains, courtyards, planting, places to eat, and public art. They provide a welcome oasis and respite for shoppers, workers, and visitors in the busy downtown core.

Acquiring and developing mini-parks involves special considerations. Mini-parks should be located and developed to be accessible, affordable, and visible. Land must be relatively flat to accommodate uses such as a play area or basketball court. There should be few park facilities nearby. The location should be easily recognizable and central to the community it is serving. Since parking is not included, these mini-parks are pedestrian-oriented facilities for the immediate neighborhood. Accordingly, a mini-park should be within safe walking distance in the neighborhood, especially since these parks often include play areas or other elements attractive to children.

Neighborhood Parks

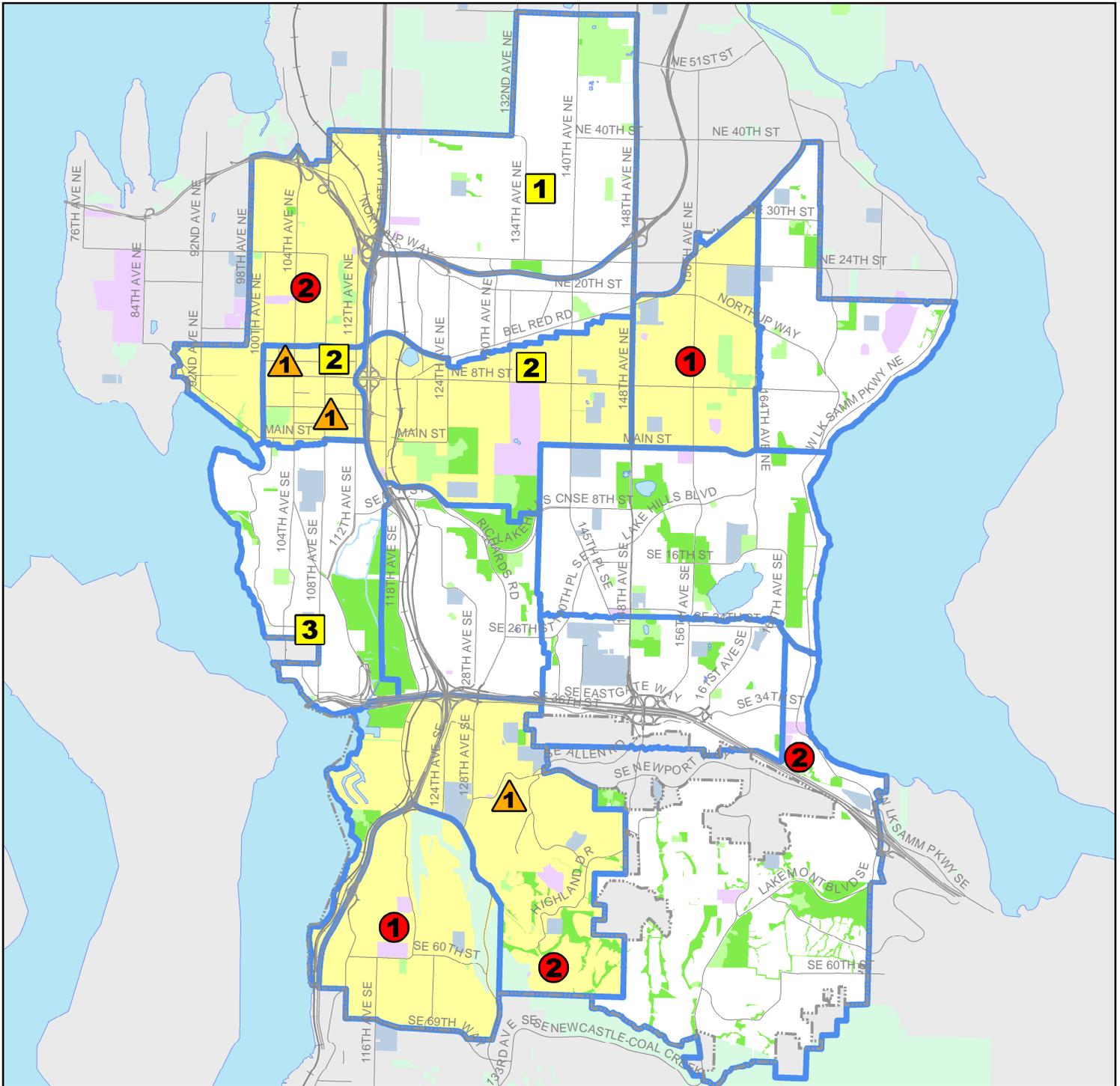
Neighborhood parks generally include a wider array of recreation facilities, such as play areas, open lawn areas, court games, natural areas, walking paths, and picnic facilities. Neighborhood park facilities can be obtained from dedicated parkland, storm drainage utility sites, such as Forest Glen Park, and at elementary schools, such as Cherry Crest. Goldsmith, Hillaire, and Lattawood Parks are good examples of neighborhood parks.

Summary

Because the community places a high priority on neighborhood facilities, continued acquisition and development of these amenities should occur based on level of service standards and geographic need. Major neighborhood facility initiatives include:

- Acquire and develop neighborhood sites in the geographically underserved areas of Crossroads, Factoria, Newport Hills, Bridle Trails and Downtown Subareas.
- Develop existing neighborhood sites in North Bellevue (Chapin Property), Wilburton (Highland-Glendale property), Downtown (Ashwood), Factoria (Meadow Wood), and Eastgate/Newcastle (Norelius/Sunrise).
- Acquire surplus school sites consistent with the acquisition criteria.
- Redevelop Enatai Neighborhood Park
- Continue an active partnership with the Bellevue School District to improve neighborhood facilities at elementary school sites.

Neighborhood Sites



Recommendations

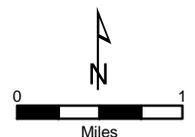
General

- Acquire surplus school sites consistent with the acquisition criteria.
- Continue an active partnership with the Bellevue School District to improve neighborhood facilities at elementary school sites.

Specific

1. Acquire and develop neighborhood parks in Crossroads, Factoria, Newport Hills, Bridle Trails and the Downtown Subareas. (Map locations not intended to be site specific)
2. Develop existing neighborhood sites in North Bellevue (Chapin Property), Wilburton (Highland-Glendale property), Downtown (Ashwood), Factoria (Meadow Wood), and Eastgate/Newcastle (Norelius/Sunrise).
3. Redevelop Enatai Neighborhood Park.

- Short Term
(Up to 10 years)
- Long Term
(11 to 20 years)
- ▲ Short & Long Term
- Subareas with
Level of Service
Deficiencies





FOCUS AREAS

COMMUNITY PARKS

Introduction

The City’s community park system contains a variety of larger recreational spaces, incorporating features such as environmentally sensitive and open space areas, a combination of structured and unstructured recreational activities, trail systems, and indoor facilities for gym space, classrooms, or swimming pools.

A public survey done for the 1993 Park Plan indicated that citizens placed a high priority on community parks. The 2001 Park Plan phone survey continues to indicate citizens place a high priority on acquiring land for the City’s park system, as well as completing and maintaining existing park facilities. Future acquisition efforts for community parks should focus on waterfront access (refer to Waterfront Access Focus Area), parcels needed to expand and complete existing community parks, and potential acquisition of surplus school sites.

Development should focus in four areas. First, priority should be given to completing existing parks such as Enatai Beach, Crossroads Park, Downtown Park and the Mercer Slough Nature Park. Second, major new development should occur at the newly acquired Airfield property and Meydenbauer Bay properties. Third, redevelopment at Kelsey Creek and Chism Beach Parks is needed to expand the recreation opportunities at these community parks. Lastly, the City’s ongoing partnership with the Bellevue School District will enable us to continue providing needed community facilities at school sites.

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Community Park Characteristics and Need

While geographical distribution of parks is important, the Parks Department’s goal is to ensure that the overall community park system offers a wide variety of passive and active recreation opportunities throughout the City. The availability of large contiguous parcels of land and the protection of sensitive areas are considered more important determinants when locating community parks than nearby population. Therefore, our standard of 13 acres per 1000 population is applied citywide rather than on an individual subarea basis.

Not all community parks can incorporate a full spectrum of recreational opportunities. Each community park site, due to size, configuration, location, and natural features, will dictate appropriate recreational activities. For instance, the Mercer Slough Nature Park and the Lake Hills Greenbelt are comprised mainly of wetlands. Therefore, these parks focus on habitat protection, education opportunities, and passive recreation use. On the other hand, Newcastle Beach Park contains a large expanse of Lake Washington waterfront. This park is developed around recreation opportunities unique to a waterfront location. The Downtown Park provides respite from the activities of busy urban life, and uses there are passive and unstructured. And, Robinswood Park contains a mix of natural characteristics and facilities that make it suitable for a wide range of both active and passive uses.

We can be proud of our accomplishments since the 1993 Park Plan. The Parks Department has completed Lakemont Park, developed Phase I of Enatai Beach Park, and expanded both Crossroads Park and the Bellevue Botanical Gardens. In addition, we have acquired property for Lewis Creek Park, additional sites along Meydenbauer Bay, Eastgate Park and the Airfield Site. The development of Eastgate and Lewis Creek Parks is funded and scheduled for construction in 2004/05. Master Plans are in place to guide development of Downtown Park, Enatai Beach Park, Crossroads Park, and Eastgate Park.

A strong partnership has continued with the Bellevue School District, resulting in community facility improvements at several middle and high schools throughout the City, including Tyee, Tillicum and Highland Middle Schools, the International School, and Sammamish High School.

The City is committed to acquiring available land adjacent to existing community parks. For example, the previous acquisition of large open space parcels contiguous to Kelsey Creek Park and the Mercer Slough Nature Park expanded these parks' capacity for passive recreation, wetland stewardship, preservation of wildlife habitat, and education. A strong commitment was also made to acquire land adjacent to the Downtown Park, as envisioned in the original Master Plan.

Even with these successes, important work remains to be done if we are to ensure that these parks meet the community's current and future recreation needs. Critical parcels adjacent to Wilburton, Kelsey Creek, the Mercer Slough, Airfield property, Eastgate, and Crossroads should be





acquired. King County's Surrey Downs site should be acquired for community park purposes to ensure the availability of active recreational opportunities in this area of Bellevue.

Acquisition

While the City has adequate acreage to satisfy today's community park standards overall, the projected 2020 population creates a need for over 202 more acres of community parkland. This deficit is somewhat offset by the presence of regionally significant parks and open space adjacent to Bellevue, such as Bridle Trails State Park, Marymoor Park, and Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. However, acquisition of key parcels is still needed to meet the demand for specific uses consistent with a community park.

Development and Redevelopment

In addition to further land acquisitions to meet community park needs, we must also focus attention on developing existing sites. Priority should be given to completing development of Enatai Beach, Downtown Park, Crossroads Park, Eastgate Park, and the Airfield property. These parks are needed to satisfy current demands for both passive and active recreation uses.

As our park system ages, redevelopment and/or renovation of existing facilities becomes a higher priority in order to sustain the quality of parks expected by the community. For example, the Kelsey Creek Park Master Plan provides for additional phased redevelopment as money is available. Chism Beach Park, one of the City's oldest parks, also requires a new Master Plan to address future redevelopment and the potential for increased waterfront access.

Summary

Major community park initiatives include:

- Acquire and develop additional waterfront parcels on Meydenbauer Bay and Lake Sammamish (See also Waterfront Focus Area recommendations).
- Acquire parcels adjacent to existing community parks to enhance their recreation or open space potential.
- Complete phased development of existing community parks such as Enatai Beach, Crossroads Park, Downtown Park, Wilburton/Bellevue Botanical Garden, and the Mercer Slough.
- Develop community parks at the recently acquired Lewis Creek, Eastgate Park and Airfield properties.

- Redevelop portions of Kelsey Creek and Chism Beach Parks.
- Acquire King County's Surrey Downs site.
- Continue the partnership with the Bellevue School District to improve community park facilities at middle school and high school sites.
- Acquire surplus school sites consistent with the acquisition criteria.



FOCUS AREAS

FOCUS AREA RECREATION FACILITIES

Introduction

Recreation facilities include community centers and buildings and active recreation facilities (sportsfields). While many of the recreation needs of Bellevue’s citizens can be met through use of our extensive park and open space system, community centers and sportsfields are very important components that ensure our park system serves everyone in the community. Community centers and buildings serve a wide range of age groups, from youth to seniors, depending upon the program elements in these facilities. The sportsfields serve a large number of user groups, from Little League to adult sports groups.

The City has a strong interest in providing recreational facilities and gathering places designed to meet the needs of its teen population. These facilities and gathering places provide teens with a safe place to spend time, make friends, and develop new skills. The *Recreation Program Plan* provides programming elements for these recreational facilities. As part of the Park Plan public involvement process, Youth Link participants and the Youth Link Council provided information on their recreation interests. Feedback received at the Youth Link and Youth Link Council meetings reflected the theme of creating more spaces for teens to meet and recreate.

Bellevue’s 2020 population projections indicate that seniors 65 years and older will be the fastest growing segment of the City’s population. While some seniors are expected to still be active outdoor enthusiasts, it is anticipated that many will seek recreation opportunities and companionship in our community centers and buildings. Recreational opportunities in these facilities may change over time to better meet the unique needs of these seniors.

The following discussion is broken into three discussion topics: community centers, teen activities, and sportsfields.

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Community Centers and Community Buildings

Bellevue standards recommend one multi-use community recreation center for every 25,000 residents, equitably distributed throughout the City. Community centers ideally contain a gymnasium, fitness area, kitchen, multi-use banquet space, meeting space, and classrooms. It is desirable

that community centers be located in a community park setting to help complement the range of available activities and opportunities.

The City's current demand is for four community centers, with population projections indicating a need for a fifth community center by 2020. At present, Bellevue operates three community centers: Crossroads Community Center, North Bellevue Community Center, and Highland Center. A strong senior program is provided at the North Bellevue Community Center, and programs for the disabled are included at the Highland Center. Crossroads Community Center serves the most diverse spectrum of users.

A fourth community center to serve residents south of I-90 is funded and scheduled to open at Eastgate Park in 2006.

A fifth community center is recommended to be located to serve the Downtown Subarea. (Refer to the Downtown District Focus Area discussion). Ashwood Park is among the potential locations for this facility, although other locations and partnerships should be explored. The King County Regional Library Board has long-range plans to expand the Bellevue Regional Library adjacent to Ashwood Park. A partnership with the Library Board to co-locate community center facilities with the expanded library should be explored. Private partners should also be considered.

Bellevue's existing community centers range in size from 15,000 to 20,000 square feet, but often lack certain spaces that would make these full-service community centers. For example, the North Bellevue facility lacks a gymnasium, and the Crossroads Center lacks a variety of classrooms and multi-use space. The additions of a gymnasium at North Bellevue and multi-use space at Crossroads are high priorities.





It is not always possible to provide a full range of activities in every community center, and facility expansion is not always feasible or desirable. It is often more realistic to meet specialized community demand through a variety of alternative approaches to help defray the cost of providing these services, including:

- Providing limited and more specialized programs in smaller City-owned community buildings with a broader geographic distribution. For example, the Northwest Arts Center offers important opportunities to the arts community. Interpretive programs are available at the Winters House, Sullivan House, and the future Lewis Creek Park community building. Meeting rooms are provided at the Lake Hills Clubhouse and Robinswood House. The City should continue to explore opportunities to satisfy specialized, potentially short-term needs with a smaller scale approach.
- Continued and expanded partnership with the Bellevue School District. Schools are very important centers of community activities. Past partnerships have yielded important community facilities, such as the second gym at Tyee Middle School, the performing arts facility at Ivanhoe, and the use of many school gyms for sports activities. The City must continue to expand partnerships with the School District, including the potential to include adult education, cultural activities, and human service needs.
- Partnerships with other service providers. The City has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club (Ground Zero Teen Center and the future South Bellevue Community Center), Pacific Science Center (Sullivan House and the future Environmental Education Center at Mercer Slough), and Bellevue Botanical Garden Society to provide community programs and facilities that otherwise might not exist without the support of these agencies. It will be critical to expand these partnerships and explore new partners, including private enterprise, to provide additional services to the community.

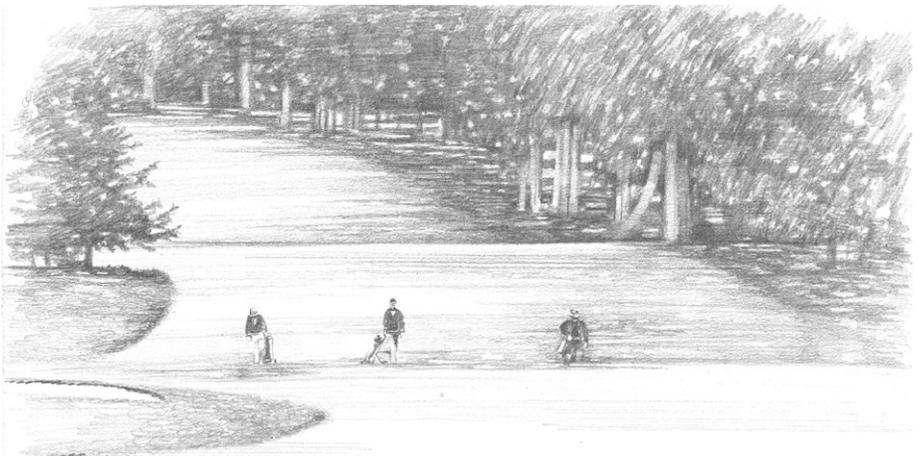
Teen Activities and Facilities

In 1991, over 88% of teens responding to a City-sponsored survey expressed a desire for a teen center. Providing a teen center facility was a top priority on both the City Council and Youth Link 1992-93 action agendas. The Ground Zero Teen Center was created in response to this interest.

Interest in providing additional recreation and social opportunities for teens continues to be strong. A BMX (Bicycle Motorcross) facility and skatepark were developed at Highland Community Park in response to this interest. The construction of additional skateboard parks, a chal-

lenge course, and climbing facility remain high priorities.

Feedback from meetings held with Youth Link and the Youth Link Council as part of the Park Plan public involvement process continued to reflect the theme of creating more spaces for teens to meet and recreate. This interest was also confirmed in phone surveys completed for the 2002 park bond.



The City must continue to provide facilities and programs to address teens' interests and needs through a variety of mechanisms. Ground Zero, while providing an important social outlet, only satisfies a portion of the needs of our community's teens. Many of the teens' requests can be met through programming elements found in the *Recreation Program Plan*. In addition, the City is currently addressing this issue through the development of a *Youth Master Plan*, which will be a 20-year plan addressing the youth needs in our community.

Alternative approaches to providing teen facilities and activities include:

- Dedicating space in existing community centers and/or other community buildings and satellite facilities;
- Providing decentralized services in the neighborhoods, which recognizes the transportation limitations of many youth who are too young to drive or do not have access to personal transportation;
- Developing a separate Teen Center that would concentrate facilities, activities, programs, and resources at a single location.

Sportsfields

Over the past two decades, a number of issues have developed to place unprecedented demands on Bellevue's sportsfields. Adult participation in organized sports has increased significantly, with softball and soccer being the most popular. The popularity and participation in women's sports has increased at all age levels. The increased popularity of highly competitive "select" teams have placed greater demand for more and higher quality fields. And, finally, participation is emerging in non-traditional sports such as lacrosse, rugby, and cricket. Demands are not only placed on game-quality fields, but also on places to practice.



In working with the user groups and reviewing participation trends, we expect that the demand for soccer fields (which would also accommodate rugby, football, cricket and lacrosse) will continue to grow. The growth in baseball and softball is expected to moderate or be flat.

Since the 1993 Park Plan, great strides have been made to accommodate this demand. Significant effort was focused on improving school sportsfields. Two softball fields were constructed at Sammamish High School, and major improvements were completed to school fields at Tillicum, Odle, North Robinswood, and International (Hyak). Sportsfields were improved at virtually all 16 elementary school fields. New park fields were completed at Wilburton Hill, Marymoor, and Ivanhoe. Major renovations are scheduled at Highland Middle School in 2003, and new fields will be complete at Lewis Creek Park in 2004. In addition, the Bellevue School District has installed new synthetic turf on the football/soccer fields at all four high schools and will be completing the installation of similar turf on the high school baseball infields in 2003/04.

In 1996, the City completed a comprehensive analysis of all community sportsfields (*Sportsfield Analysis for the City of Bellevue*). The study measured user demand, field availability, field condition, and use. The goal of the study was to develop a community-wide strategy to meet Bellevue's athletic field needs. As a result, the City implemented a centralized field scheduling system for all City and School District fields, which has greatly increased the efficiency in using fields. The City also continued its commitment to improve school fields.

We are now completing an update to the 1996 analysis in partnership with the sportsfield users. The updated *Sportsfield Analysis Report* is a separate document that includes recommendations on how to continue meeting the community-wide demand for sportsfields throughout Bellevue. Recommendations not only provide for the addition of fields, but also to expand the use of existing fields and to improve the experience for both the participant and spectator. Many of these recommendations have been incorporated into the Park Plan's capital recommendations.

As the availability of land continues to diminish, it will become increasingly important to make optimum use of existing field inventory. The ability of the City to add new fields is extremely limited.

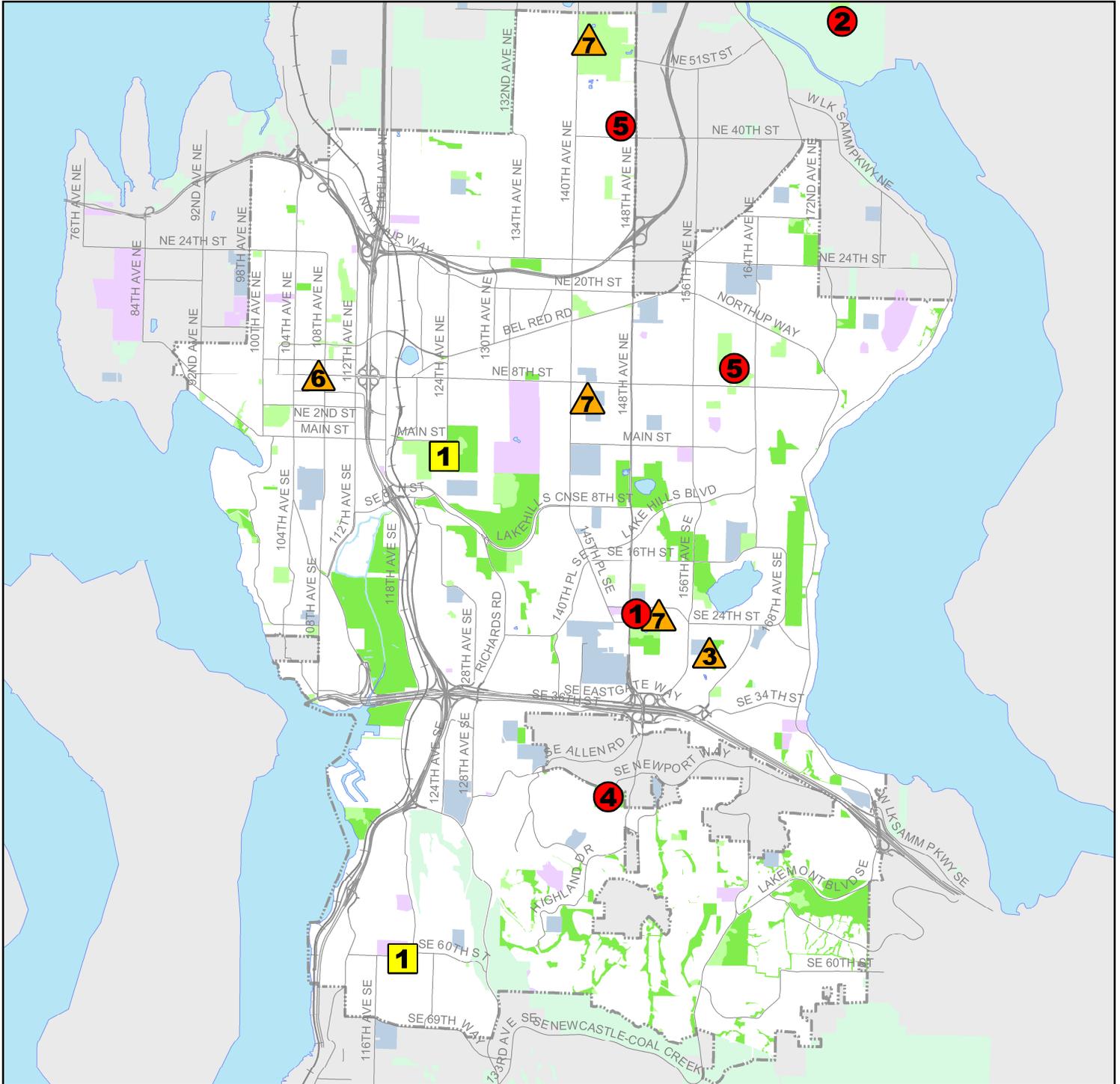
Summary

High priority recommendations include:

- Construct the South Bellevue Community Center at Eastgate Park.
- Complete additions at the Crossroads and North Bellevue Community Centers.

- Evaluate alternatives for providing community center space downtown, including Ashwood Park, public/private partnerships, and full acquisition and construction.
- Evaluate alternative approaches to providing teen facilities and activities, including dedicating space in existing community centers, providing de-centralized program services throughout the community, and/or constructing a centralized teen facility.
- Expand partnerships with the Bellevue School District and other service providers to supplement programs and facilities provided in City-owned facilities.
- Continue improving the enterprise facilities at the golf course, Robinswood Tennis Center and the aquatic center.
- Install synthetic surface on existing lighted soccer fields at Robinswood, Newport Hills, and Wilburton Parks.
- Construct two lighted baseball/softball fields on the City-owned portion of Marymoor Park.
- Construct lighted sportsfields at the newly acquired Airfield property.
- Continue improving school sportsfields, with emphasis remaining on middle school sites.
- Light existing sportsfields where possible, with priority sites being community parks, middle schools and high schools.

Recreation Facilities



Recommendations

General

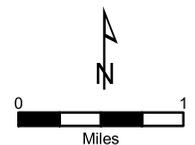
- Continue improving school sportsfields, with emphasis remaining on the middle school sites.
- Light existing sportsfields where possible, with priority sites being community parks, middle schools and high schools.

Specific

1. Install synthetic surface on existing lighted soccer fields at Robinswood, Newport Hills, and Wilburton Parks.

2. Construct two lighted baseball/softball fields on the City –owned portion of Marymoor Park.
3. Construct lighted sportsfields at the newly acquired airfield property.
4. Construct the South Bellevue Community Center at Eastgate Park.
5. Complete Community Center additions at Crossroads and North Bellevue.
6. Evaluate alternatives for providing community center space downtown (Ashwood Park, public/private partnerships, acquire and construct).
7. Continue improvements to the enterprise facilities at the Golf Course, Robinswood Tennis Center and Aquatic Center.

- Short Term
(Up to 10 years)
- Long Term
(11 to 20 years)
- ▲ Short & Long Term





FOCUS AREAS

FOCUS AREA DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

Introduction

Bellevue, with a 2002 population of approximately 117,000, is playing an increasingly important role in shaping the economic and social structure of the Puget Sound region. The Downtown subarea is the City's financial and business hub, and the area where the majority of new residential growth is occurring. In 2002, approximately 4,000 people lived in Downtown, but this population is projected to balloon to approximately 14,000 by 2020. Although families with children are moving to the Downtown subarea, the majority of the existing and projected population will be seniors. Currently, 65% of the residents are 45 years old or older, and this percentage breakout is anticipated to remain the same by 2020.

Downtown Bellevue employment is forecasted to increase from approximately 35,000 employees in 2002 to approximately 63,000 by 2020.

While Downtown represents less than two percent of Bellevue's land area, it is projected to house nearly 10% of the City's population by 2020. Maintaining a livable urban environment while accommodating significant new growth depends on creating a parks and open space system that responds to the unique needs of this community.

Meeting the Downtown subarea's parks, open space, and recreation needs requires a different approach than used elsewhere in the City. Limited land availability with its resulting high costs precludes opportunities that exist in other subareas and requires a distinct treatment for open space needs and solutions.

Bellevue is also becoming a destination for arts, cultural, dining, entertainment, and shopping. Opportunities provided through the recent additions of the Bellevue Art Museum and Bellevue Square shopping and dining expansions, expanded Transit Center, together with proposed new projects like the Lincoln Square residential and hotel towers, performing arts facility, City Hall, Downtown Park completion, and the Downtown Park to Meydenbauer Bay connection further enhance the City's appeal as a destination point for the Puget Sound region. Local visitors and tourists are expected to increase as Downtown continues to grow and flourish.

Acknowledging the Downtown's highly urban context and increasing population, the Parks Department conducted a *Downtown Needs As-*

assessment in 2002 as part of the City’s overall *Downtown Implementation Plan* and update to the Downtown subarea. The report identified emerging themes and was organized into sections that addressed urban trail system connections, parks and open space areas, active recreation opportunities, a community center, and meeting human services needs.

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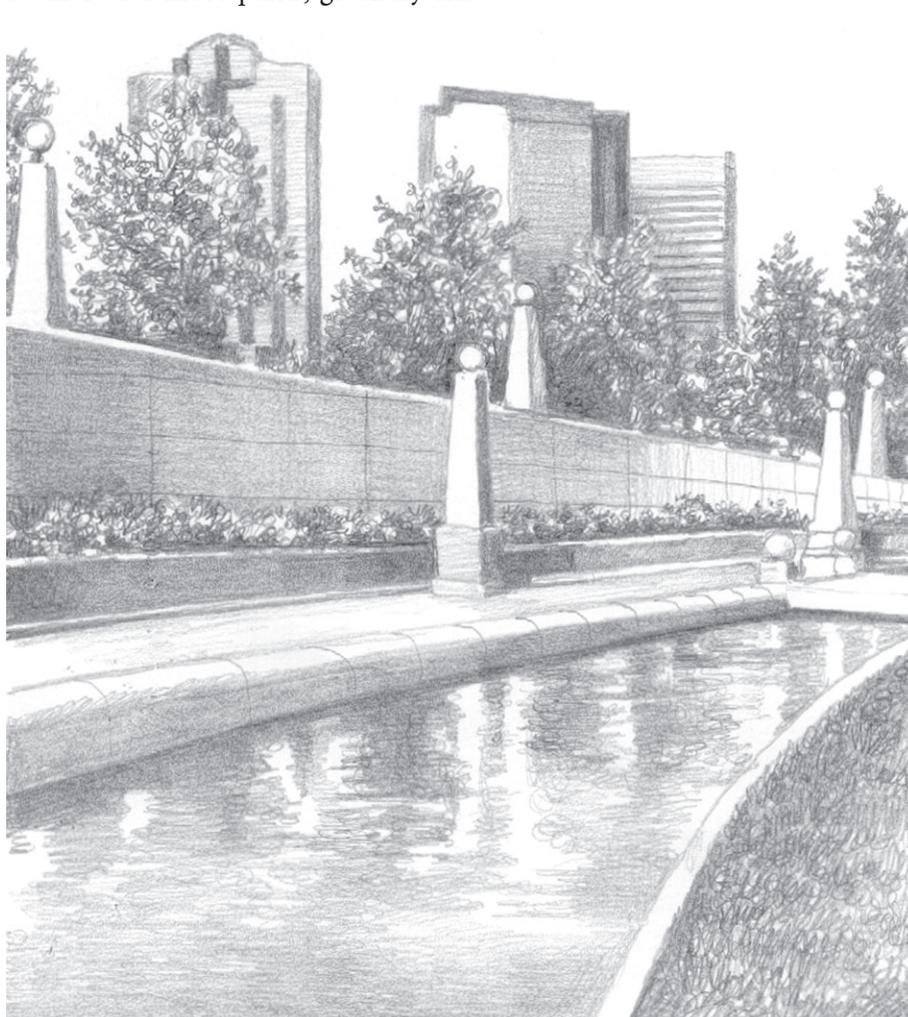
Parkland and Open Space

Public and private open spaces provide contrast to the urban landscape and allow for unstructured outdoor recreation and pedestrian activities. Surrounded by office buildings and retail areas, parks and open spaces intensify the feeling of a “City in a Park.” Parks, plazas, green spaces, broad sidewalks, seating areas, mid-block corridors, artwork, and seasonal color enhance the richness and variety of the built environment and define Downtown as a “people place.” Respondents to the 2002 *Downtown Needs Assessment* phone survey stated the biggest recreation need facing the Downtown in 2020 will be for more parks, greenery and open space, and maintenance of existing parks.

Historically, Bellevue acquired former Downtown school sites, including 17 acres that formed the Downtown Park and 2.8 acres that comprise the Ashwood site. As additional parcels along the perimeter of the Downtown Park became available, approximately five more acres were added. In total, the City owns just over 25 acres of parkland and open space in the Downtown subarea.

Southwest Quadrant

The Downtown Park is the cornerstone of the Downtown open space system. It provides interesting, attractive, and safe places for active and passive recreation uses. The park’s large open space areas provide a prime location for special events throughout the





year. Completion of the Downtown Park, per the updated 1997 Master Plan, is an important goal identified in the *Downtown Needs Assessment* and in this Plan. In addition, creating a more prominent visual park presence on Bellevue Way is critical to enhance Bellevue's "City in a Park" image on this key Downtown arterial.

Visual and physical connections from the Downtown Park to Meydenbauer Bay will provide vital links between the Downtown and Meydenbauer Bay Parks. Because of the Downtown's close proximity to the Bay, connecting these two amenities will enhance the uniqueness of this environment and will provide additional recreational, retail, and tourism opportunities.

Also, preserving and creating views of Mt. Rainier and Meydenbauer Bay remain important goals. View corridors allow people to visually expand their horizons and place their immediate surroundings within a greater geographic context. The Downtown experience is enriched because of the ability to view dramatic natural features which have made our region famous.

Northeast Quadrant

Ashwood Park site is currently maintained with a large grass area, small children's ballfield, and a parking lot used jointly by the King County Regional Library and park users. The current Master Plan includes a community center with affordable housing and passive parkland. When funding is imminent, or when a viable partnership emerges for a Downtown community center, the current Master Plan should be updated to reflect contemporary visions for the park. For example, if and when the library is expanded, the City should explore a partnership with the Library Board to consider a joint library expansion, community center and parking expansion at this location. Future development should also incorporate transitional elements to the plaza south of the library and to the City-owned "Ashwood Plaza" at the northeast corner of N. E. 10th Street and 110th Avenue N. E.

Northwest and Southeast Quadrants

The Downtown open space system proposal includes a minimum of 2-1/2 to 3 acres of parkland in addition to linear transitions and corner parks in the Downtown subarea's northwest and southeast quadrants. Although the context and form of these urban parks will differ from the more traditional suburban neighborhood parks, at least half of each site is proposed to be passive, green open space. These green open spaces will offer respite from a highly urban environment by providing neighborhood gathering space and areas for informal recreational op-

portunities. The remaining space is expected to provide more formalized hardscape areas, including plazas, water features, gardens, seating areas, and walking paths. These major open spaces, connected by urban trail systems, will intensify Bellevue’s “City in a Park” experience.

A system of coordinated and connected open spaces Downtown will require commitment from both public and private sectors. Public-private partnerships will also be critical to meet the recreation needs of the people who live and work in the Downtown subarea. Because most of Downtown will remain privately owned, it is critical that private developers incorporate exciting and inviting public access spaces into their developments. Through the City’s Land Use Code and accompanying Design Review process, Downtown private developers can achieve greater development potential when including amenities that benefit the pedestrian experience and add to usable open space. These amenities can include arcades, plazas, artwork, and landscaped areas. Developers should also be encouraged to provide active recreation areas, such as indoor and/or outdoor basketball, tennis, and handball courts. Signage identifying these amenities as public spaces and providing directional information is critical to ensure the public realizes these spaces are available for their use.

Downtown residential development should include indoor and outdoor spaces that address recreation needs unique to that residential community (e.g., court games, gardens, fitness space, unstructured play spaces, and seating areas). Since the majority of new residential development is projected to occur in the Downtown subarea, this issue becomes increasingly important in meeting these Downtown residents’ recreation needs.

Active Recreation Opportunities

Active recreation opportunities interspersed throughout Downtown are important elements in creating a sense of excitement and vitality. The Park Plan recommends an urban trail system, connecting destination points, that will contain pockets of activity for both residents and employees. Interspersing active recreation nodes throughout Downtown connected by pedestrian linkages creates opportuni-





ties for entertainment and participation. Providing sport courts, such as tennis and basketball, play equipment, as well as alternative sports such as climbing walls and skate parks, will not only serve the participants, but will provide entertainment for the casual passerby. This Plan recommends recreation opportunities be associated with adjacent retail stores supporting the recreation, with the City being an active participant to ensure sensitive transitions between street-front businesses and the recreation areas.

People enjoy opportunities to recreate close to home. While some Downtown private businesses and residential developments provide active recreation spaces, such as exercise rooms and swimming pools, these opportunities are not widely available. Therefore, a combination of both public and private recreation opportunities will help address the needs of the growing Downtown population.

Urban Trail System Connections

When respondents to the 2002 Downtown Needs Assessment survey rated the importance of locating public space activities and services Downtown, space for walking and running trails was rated highest in importance by all respondents. The Downtown subarea has potential for providing aesthetically pleasing and functional pedestrian linkages, which will encourage people to explore both the public and private spaces located within walking distance from where they live and work.

Through incentives, the City has successfully encouraged private developers to invest in pedestrian amenities that provide the public with interesting alternatives to the typical automobile-dominated urban streetscape. Examples include small plazas, fountains, seating areas, landscaping and artwork. Often times, however, these amenities are hidden or not readily available or obvious to the public. More effective way-finding clues and signage is needed to make sure these amenities are fully available and utilized by the public.

The major Pedestrian Corridor is located between Bellevue Way and 110th Avenue N. E., along the NE 6th Street right-of-way. When complete, it will add a significant component to the Downtown's open space system and provide an east/west pedestrian spine through the center of Downtown. The recently expanded transit center and new City Hall Building will provide the eastern destination points along this pedestrian corridor. A significant urban plaza and green space should be incorporated into the future plans for the City Hall Building. In addition, there are a number of mid-block pedestrian connections designated to "break up" the Downtown's superblocks. These mid-block connections will provide a safer and more human scale to the Downtown and

provide more pedestrian-friendly features such as landscaping, benches, artwork, and fountains in an environment that encourages lingering.

Additional pedestrian-friendly corridor opportunities include:

- Pedestrian-biased major north-south trails where possible along 106th Avenue N. E., 108th Avenue N. E. (the geographic ridge in Downtown), and 110th Avenue N. E.
- A linear border on 112th Avenue N. E. using art and landscaping that welcomes visitors to the Downtown and provides a green backdrop to passersby along I-405.
- Connecting the Lake-to-Lake Trail to Lake Washington along Main Street or 2nd Avenue N. E. to complete a major component of our urban trail system.
- Provide “way-finding” clues using common architectural elements, maps, and signage.
- Connecting the trail system to key destinations, such as Bellevue Square, Bellevue Art Museum, Meydenbauer Convention Center, Meydenbauer Bay, restaurants, the King County Regional Library, and major parks.

The urban trail system should integrate recreation nodes and urban plazas. Opportunities abound to create a vibrant and changing environment of both indoor and outdoor routes that enhance the pedestrian experience regardless of the weather.

Arterial and Freeway Gateways

The design of Downtown gateways, when viewed from the freeway and neighboring arterials, spotlights the quality of the streetscape that will be found within the Downtown. These important gateways deserve special design consideration to ensure a visually pleasing entrance that entices people to enter and explore Bellevue’s Downtown core.

The Downtown gateways can incorporate architectural elements, a variety of vegetation, water features, decorative paving, and interpretative or directional signage. Landscaped medians, similar to those used on Bellevue Way and N. E. 4th Street, also identify key locations such as the west terminus of the Pedestrian Corridor and the Downtown Park, and benefit pedestrians at major mid-block crossings.

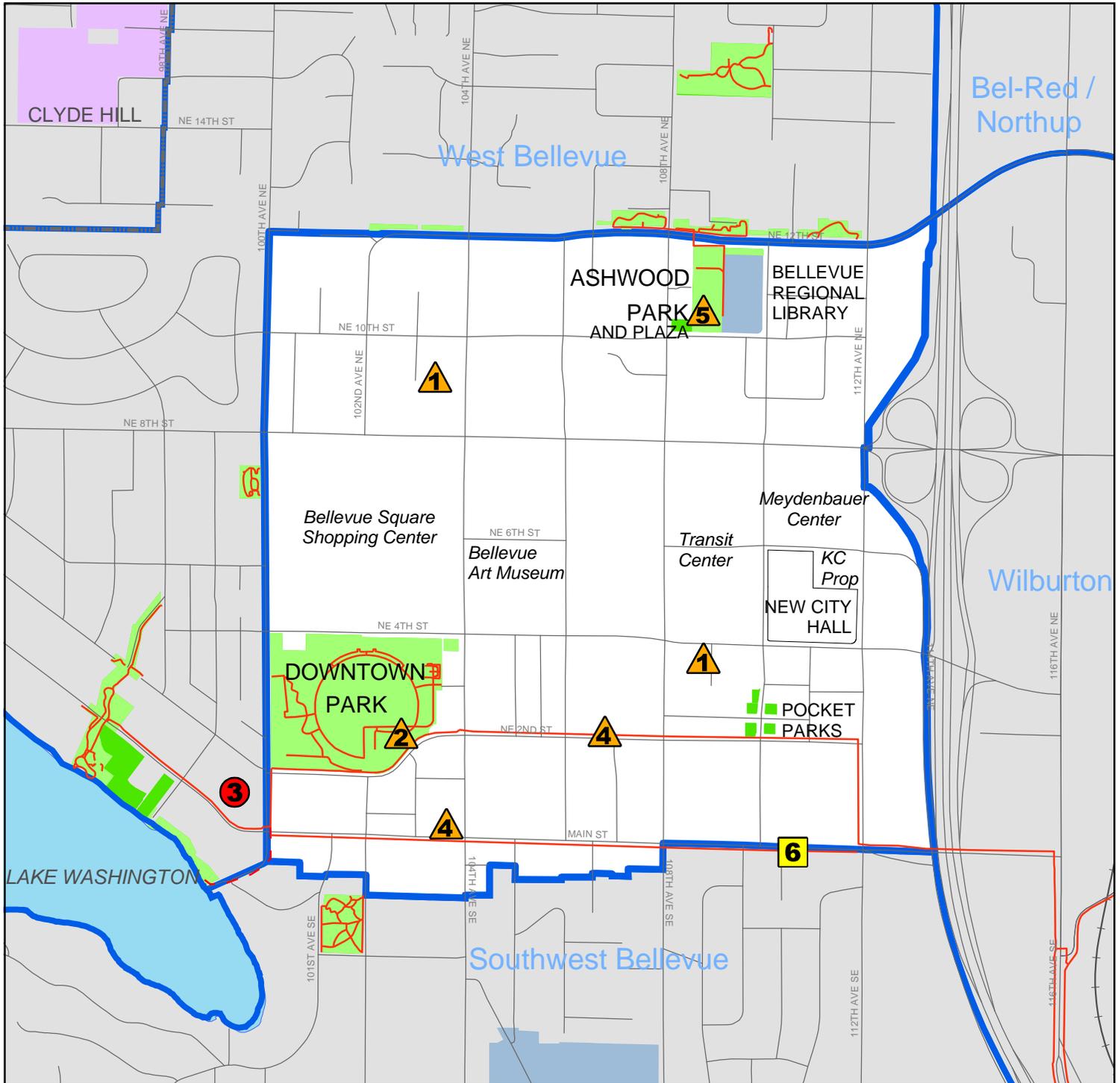
Summary

The Park Plan recommends the following elements to ensure a vital, thriving Downtown which also projects the “City in a Park” theme that makes our City unique.



- Provide small neighborhood parks in the northwest and southeast quadrants of the Downtown subarea.
- Retain or create views or view corridors from the Downtown Park to Meydenbauer Bay and to Mount Rainier to enhance the enjoyment of the Downtown Park.
- Complete the phased development of the Downtown Park, and enhance its visual and functional presence on Bellevue Way.
- Develop Ashwood Park and Plaza.
- Evaluate alternatives for providing community center space (Ashwood Park, public/private partnerships, or property acquisition and construction).
- Provide a visual and physical connection between the Downtown Park and Meydenbauer Bay.
- Create an urban trail system:
 - > Promote pedestrian-friendly corridors and linkages throughout Downtown and to the adjacent neighborhoods.
 - > Integrate recreational components and urban plazas along the pedestrian corridors.
- Complete the Lake-to-Lake Trail system through Downtown.
- Provide a green buffer or transition area between the single family residential uses south of Main Street and the high density residential and commercial uses north of Main Street.
- Continue to preserve significant older trees within the Downtown area.

Downtown Area



General

- Evaluate alternatives for providing community center space (Ashwood Park, public/private partnerships, acquire & construct)
- Create an urban trail system throughout Downtown
 - Promote green, pedestrian-biased streets and pedestrian-friendly corridors, and linkages to key downtown destinations
 - Integrate recreational components and urban plazas along the pedestrian corridors

Recommendations

1. Provide small neighborhood parks in the NW and SE quadrants.
2. Complete the phased development of the Downtown Park, and enhance its visual and functional presence on Bellevue Way
3. Provide a physical and visual connection between the Downtown Park and Meydenbauer Bay
4. Complete the Lake-to-Lake Trail system though Downtown
5. Develop Ashwood Park and Plaza
6. Provide a green buffer area between the single family residential areas south of Main Street and the high density residential and commercial uses north of Main Street

Specific

- Short Term
(Up to 10 years)
- Long Term
(11 to 20 years)
- ▲ Short & Long Term



Miles





FOCUS AREA PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Introduction

Local governments are increasingly being asked to provide new and high quality services with little or no increase in resources. This trend is evident in Bellevue, where rapid development, regional growth pressure, and a diversifying population combine to create a complex set of needs and challenges for the City to address. The City's parks, community facilities, and sportsfields are increasingly being over-utilized, which requires additional maintenance and results in disappointed citizens who are unable to have their recreational needs met.

Increasing service demand and decreasing funding capabilities means the City must seek innovative ways to maintain existing parks and facilities and to increase recreation opportunities. Developing partnerships with other public agencies, the School District, and private organizations will help meet increased demands for service. In addition, partnerships enable the Parks Department to serve a broader clientele, offer new services, and provide existing services more effectively and efficiently than could be provided individually.

To be successful, partnerships must be collaborative relationships between two or more organizations with shared goals that pool their resources and work together to deliver mutually beneficial public services. Some existing City partners include: the Bellevue School District, Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, Pacific Science Center, Boys and Girls Club, Eastside Heritage Center, Master Gardeners of King County, and A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH). Many more partnership possibilities exist which could help enrich and expand our services.

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Regional and Subregional Parks and Facilities

The Puget Sound region's abundance of natural resources provides scenic and recreational opportunities. The extensive acreage of state, regional, and subregional parkland and open space on the Eastside is partly due to the fact that the area from Lake Washington to the Cascade Mountains includes private timber, state and national forest lands, and the Alpine Lakes National Wilderness open space areas. To complement these open space lands, state and county agencies manage several thousand acres of parkland with a variety of recreational opportunities.

Bellevue is also fortunate to be surrounded by other communities with easily accessible subregional parks, natural areas, and specialized facilities.

Many of these recreational opportunities can only be provided on a regional basis. For example, the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway is a recreational system benefiting the entire Puget Sound region. The idea of linking city, county, state, federal, and some private lands via a system of greenways and trails has shaped the vision and reality of the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway. Its viability is related to concern over growth management and the recognition that regional planning and cooperation are fundamentally important.

Bellevue is committed to connecting its greenway system to regional trails and open spaces, such as the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway,





Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Lake Sammamish State Park, Marymoor Park, and Bridle Trails State Park. These parks, in turn, either are or will be connected via trails and corridors to significantly larger state, county, and federal lands between the Cascade Mountains and Puget Sound. Bellevue parks, such as Mercer Slough Nature Park, Kelsey Creek Farm, and the Downtown Park, also serve as regional facilities which are, or will be, connected into the overall greenways network for the Eastside region. Bold and aggressive acquisition programs will shape land use patterns throughout King County and Bellevue and significantly add to the quality of life treasured by residents of the Pacific Northwest.

As Eastside urbanization continues, pressure is increasing to preserve the remaining large open space areas for wildlife habitat and public enjoyment. We recognize that certain park and open space needs are most effectively met on a regional or subregional basis. Therefore, the City supports a cooperative Eastside effort to systematically plan, acquire, and develop existing and potential recreational and open space resources having a regional and subregional focus. The Parks Department is committed to actively developing partnerships with adjacent municipal jurisdictions, King County, and the state to provide these regional and subregional recreational parks and open spaces.

Eastside jurisdictions should develop their own subregional facilities providing special opportunities for Eastside residents, even though the facilities may be duplicated elsewhere in the county. Examples of such facilities include an aquatic facility, ice skating rink, sports stadiums, outdoor sports complexes, off-leash dog areas, and a regional trail system. These facilities will most effectively be developed through the partnership efforts between Bellevue and King County, adjacent municipal jurisdictions, the state, and private enterprise.

This Plan acknowledges Bellevue's commitment to support partnership efforts for acquisition and development of regional and subregional facilities. For partnership efforts to be successful, the use of both municipal and regional facilities or resources must be reciprocal among adjacent and nearby jurisdictions. A shared vision or purpose and mutual investment in resources – time, money, and energy – will be necessary to ensure regional and subregional recreational parks and facilities are realized.

School Districts

The School District properties are important components of Bellevue's open space system. Using school sites to supplement City recreational facilities is becoming increasingly important in satisfying the commu-

nity's demand for active indoor and outdoor recreation space. The Bellevue School District operates 29 schools both within or adjacent to the City; Issaquah School District operates two schools within the Bellevue's city limits; and the Renton School District has an elementary school immediately adjacent to Bellevue's city limits. In addition, other public and private schools could offer partnership opportunities for Bellevue.

Elementary school sites, usually eight to ten acres in size, are suitable for passive and/or unstructured activities and youth athletics. They can incorporate many uses typical of a neighborhood park. The middle school sites, usually about 20 acres in size, have indoor and outdoor sports facilities. The high school sites, averaging 35 to 40 acres in size, have tennis courts, sportsfields, tracks, and multiple gyms for competition and recreation. Middle and high school facilities and sites are important resources that help meet the increasing demand for indoor gym and recreation space and for outdoor playing fields.

The 2001 Park Plan phone survey specifically asked respondents to evaluate the importance of school facilities in meeting needs for: gym space, meeting space, performance space, use as neighborhood parks, and sportsfields. Although each of these five uses was rated as important, use for sportsfields was rated highest, followed in descending order of importance by use of facilities for gym space, meeting space, performance space, and neighborhood parks. The survey respondents also supported use of school facilities for general education of all age groups, community activities, social functions and private events, daycare, and computer access.

The City currently uses school sportsfields, gymnasiums, and indoor recreation and classroom space to supplement its active recreation and sports facility programs. Middle and high school facilities are particularly important because they have both indoor gym and recreation space and outdoor playing fields. The Bellevue School District and the City have a partnership agreement for renovating existing school sportsfields. The City is able to schedule these fields for use when school is not in session or the fields are not required for school sports events. This partnership has greatly improved the community's access to these important recreation amenities.

The School District has begun a long-term school renovation, upgrade, and reconstruction program in response to a multi-million dollar school capital improvement bond passed in 2002. This is an excellent opportunity to re-evaluate school sites and facilities as public resources suitable for meeting greater community and neighborhood needs. The use of school sites to supplement City facilities will become increasingly im-



portant if the park system is to provide the community with a full range of services.

According to the Bellevue School District's *District and School Profiles 1999-2000 - The Millennial Edition*, as of October 1998, nearly 80% of Bellevue families did not have children in school. Yet, the Bellevue community believed strongly enough in the importance of its school system to pass the school improvement bond. Therefore, it seems appropriate to encourage partnership opportunities with the School District to provide space for broader community usage and services of these school facilities. This more holistic approach to both educating children and helping to meet the community's additional needs may require modifications or additions to existing school facilities and design considerations when a school site is proposed for renovation or redevelopment. A City and School District partnership effort can address how to provide for childhood education while helping to meet some of the other needs in the community.

City-School District partnership facilities are a bargain for the community in a number of ways:

- The facilities involve publicly-owned land,
- Many of their uses and infrastructure are already established,
- The facilities are readily accessible,
- There is classroom space,
- There is a built-in clientele.

It is logical, therefore, that these School District resources be used jointly to serve community recreation needs.

As the community demographics change, the need for school facilities will also change. The School District has a policy that gives local municipalities first right of refusal to purchase surplus school lands. In the event school properties are surplus, top priority should be given to acquiring them for park-related purposes. When evaluating the appropriateness of acquiring a surplus school site, the City considers the property characteristics and particular needs of the area in which the site is located. The criteria are applied in the following order:

- **Distribution:** Priority is given to sites in areas showing deficits in available parks or open space, or if deficits would be created if these public properties were sold.
- **Adjacency:** Priority is given to sites that are adjacent to existing parks, because they represent opportunities to expand or increase available recreational space.
- **Existing Facilities:** Priority is given to sites with existing recreational facilities such as sportsfields, tracks, playgrounds, and gyms.

Private and Non-Profit Partnerships

In addition to the Parks Department's traditional partnerships with the Bellevue School District and other public agencies, we need to become more innovative in exploring partnership opportunities. Exploring and developing partnership opportunities with private businesses, as well as expanding partnerships with non-profit organizations, enables the City to provide more community services. These additional partnership opportunities are viewed as a way to meet greater needs, provide increased versatility in services, programs, and space, and tap into additional financial capabilities and different audiences. They are also seen as a way to explore non-traditional service needs.

A non-traditional partnership-type approach worth exploring is the concept that the Parks Department serves as a "broker" for linking people and services. Where we cannot provide the services directly, we could facilitate the process of connecting people to the purveyors of these other services.

Summary

The Parks Department is experiencing increasing demands for our services and decreasing funding capability to meet this increased demand. This scenario results in accelerated deterioration of existing parks and facilities, as well as unmet needs for the community. Reaching out to partner with public and private sectors will enable the Parks Department to expand our services and better serve the community.



FOCUS AREAS

FOCUS AREA RENOVATION, MAINTENANCE, & SECURITY

Introduction

Providing a system of clean, safe, attractive, and functional parks, open space, and facilities is a primary goal of the Parks Department. It is also a very high priority and expectation of Bellevue citizens, as evidenced by their overwhelming support of the 2002 Maintenance Levy. Meeting these expectations requires optimum use of resources and a keen sense of stewardship.

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Park Management and Maintenance

The Parks Department owns and manages over 2,343 acres of park and open space property and 265,000 square feet of building space citywide. Included in this inventory are 80 developed parks, 45 playgrounds, 94 miles of trails, 32 athletic fields, 2 golf courses, 2 swimming pools, 7,000 street trees, and over 716 acres of open space and undeveloped parkland. These parks and facilities are carefully managed and maintained to ensure they are safe and enjoyable places for the public. A combination of sound management policies, ongoing maintenance, and periodic renovation of grounds and structures is needed to protect public resources and ensure long-term functioning of the park system. This commitment to a properly maintained and safe park system is expected by Bellevue citizens and remains a high priority of the Parks Department.

To ensure efficiency, the Parks Department’s maintenance program includes:

- A Resource Management Information System that monitors service levels, schedules, and fiscal data;
- Necessary equipment to maintain efficiency and economical service delivery;
- Active pursuit of grants and alternative funding for renovation, energy conservation, and other projects to stretch limited department funding;
- Ongoing staff training to ensure the highest level of maintenance and efficiency;

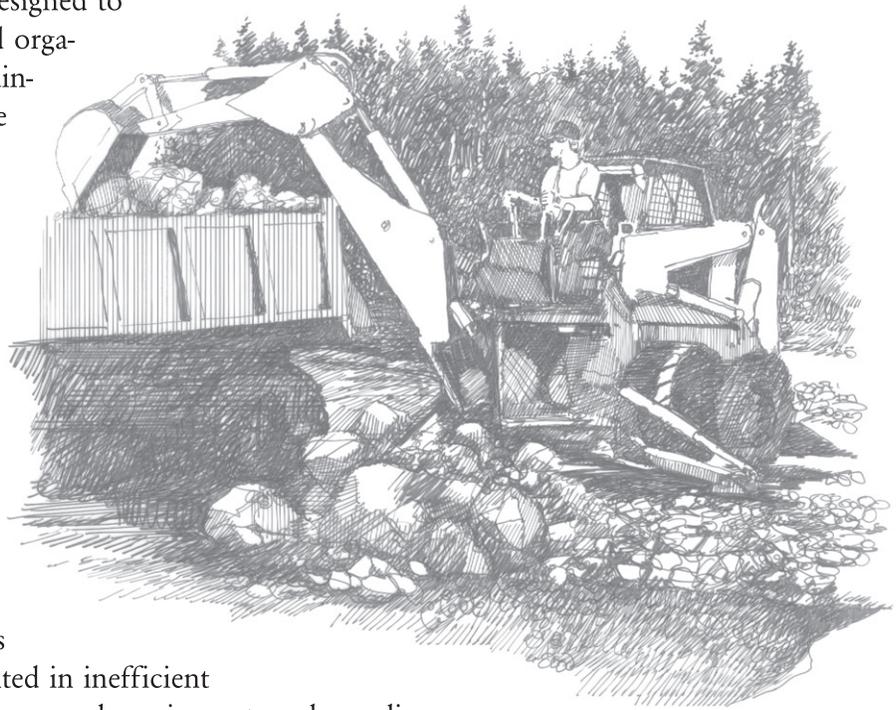
- Using a mix of in-house part-time and full-time staff, public and private partnerships, contract workers, and volunteers when responding to specific workload demands throughout the system to ensure all maintenance and renovation needs can be met in a timely manner;
- Coordination of park and open space maintenance schedules with park programming to reduce conflicts between park programming needs and necessary maintenance; and
- Customer feedback through surveys to ensure needs and concerns are met and acceptable performance measures are achieved.

The main park maintenance facility for personnel, vehicles, and equipment is located in the Crossroads area on NE 8th Street. Small satellite facilities accommodating additional equipment and storage are located at several parks throughout the City, including the Hidden Valley Park, Eastgate yard (near Tyee Middle School), City nursery site, and the Bellefields yard site adjacent to Mercer Slough. A small satellite facility is also planned at Lewis Creek Park.

The main Crossroads facility was designed to accommodate about 75 people and organized to function as the central maintenance and renovation hub for the parks system. Over 100 employees currently use the facility, resulting in space problems, logistical challenges, and frequent unscheduled renovations resulting from heavy staff use. Expanding the Crossroads facility is not feasible due to adjacent land uses and zoning restrictions.

Because of the limited size of the Crossroads facility, staff, materials, and equipment have been dispersed among multiple locations throughout the City. This has resulted in inefficient operational practices because key personnel, equipment, and supplies are no longer centralized. Continuing operations in the present manner is not recommended.

The 2003 *Resource Management Facility Study Update* concluded that approximately 180,000 square feet of space (over four acres) is necessary to meet the Parks Department's operational needs. The Resource Management Division needs approximately three acres to house personnel, materials, equipment, and vehicles, while the Natural Resources Divi-





sion requires about a half acre. Because the current Crossroads facility contains only two acres of functional space, a centralized facility envisioned in earlier studies is not feasible at this location. Additional space is needed.

In the short term, minor improvements are needed to expand space and optimize the efficiency of the current operational facilities. Relocation and upgrades to the Bellefields yard building will help, as will the planned use of the lower level of the Lewis Creek Park community building for maintenance needs.

Long-term needs, however, necessitate acquisition of additional space and facilities to ensure that the City can efficiently provide clean, safe, attractive, and functional parks and recreational facilities. The recent acquisition and pending relocation and centralization of City functions into a new City Hall provides an opportunity to address the Department's space needs at the City-owned Bellevue Service Center facility.

Park Renovation

The Parks Department has a *Renovation and Refurbishment Plan* (Renovation Plan) that covers non-routine renovation and repair of our existing park system. Over the past several years, the Parks Department has experienced a significant increase in maintenance and operation demands. New parks and facilities are continually added to the system. Older parks are more labor intensive due to their age and condition. The range and frequency of park use, as evidenced by the increase in scheduled activities, continues to expand. In addition, liability and accessibility issues have become increasingly important maintenance and operation concerns. Therefore, renovation must remain a high priority in order to optimize the use of park facilities and to protect our assets. Bellevue citizens are accustomed to our park system's high standards, and renovation will play a major role in continuing to meet their expectations.

The Department's *Renovation Plan*, an annually updated six-year plan, identifies and prioritizes renovation needs throughout the system. The renovation program goal is to systematically refurbish and renovate existing park structures and grounds to maintain the safety, integrity and function of our park system. Over the next seven years, the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) projects annual expenditures will average nearly \$2 million. The *Renovation Plan* identifies non-routine major maintenance work items that are beyond the scope of the Department's normal maintenance and operating budget. Projects range in cost from \$5,000 to \$100,000, including:

- Remodel and replace building infrastructure elements;
- Repair and replace pavement, playgrounds, signage, fencing, and lighting;
- Improve irrigation and drainage systems;
- Implement landscaping and forest restoration projects; and
- Update facilities to meet building codes.

In addition, the *Renovation Plan* establishes an implementation strategy to handle risk management issues, correct high maintenance areas, and allow for an ongoing preventative maintenance program. It is important to point out that the Renovation Plan does not deal with the overall character of parks or facilities, which occurs through the redevelopment and master planning process.

Renovation projects are prioritized utilizing the following criteria:

- Safety or liability concerns,
- Structural deficiencies,
- Overall park and facility appearance as it relates to visitor enjoyment,
- Function as it pertains to user needs, and
- Natural resources conservation.

The Parks Department *CIP* typically funds new park development and redevelopment. Regularly scheduled park system maintenance service is typically covered in the Department's operating budget. However,





the *Renovation Plan* fills the void between the CIP programs and the operating budget by covering non-routine renovation and repair projects to fix the existing system. Therefore, the *Renovation Plan* serves as the keystone of our service delivery system and must continue to be funded at least at current levels to meet the needs of the system.

The Role of Liability and Security

Preventing and correcting hazardous conditions are major considerations of our park maintenance and renovation programs. As the provider of facilities, we are expected to keep parks, playgrounds, and buildings in good repair. The issue of liability is very important and affects all aspects of our operation. At the same time, we want citizens to enjoy our parks.

Park security is a related topic. We are concerned with both personal safety and preventing abuse to park property. Our comprehensive safety and security plan is based on these six key elements:

- Close cooperation with the Police Department.
- Park Rangers who staff park visitor centers, provide park coverage through fall, winter, and spring, provide patrol and park lockup, serve as guides and naturalists, identify maintenance problems, and assist with special events and volunteer activities.
- Lifeguards to monitor swimming areas and ensure a safe environment.
- Police Patrol in the parks to assist and supplement Park Rangers and lifeguard staff during summer peak-use times.
- Park maintenance crews who report unsafe conditions and point out potential security issues.
- “Block Watch” programs using neighbors as the “eyes and ears” for park security.

Emergency preparedness is another area where the Parks Department plays an important role. As key players in the City’s Emergency Operations Plan, Parks Department personnel and facilities, including community centers and other public buildings, will be used in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. All community centers are constructed and equipped to act as emergency shelters.

Summary

The Parks Department must continue to provide clean, safe, attractive, and functional parks, open space, and facilities while protecting the City’s capital investments through ongoing maintenance and systematic renovation. In order to ensure this occurs, the Department should:

- Continue the City's policy of not acquiring or developing new parks or facilities until adequate ongoing maintenance and operation funding is provided.
- Implement short-term improvements to expand space and improve efficiencies and safety at the existing operational sites.
- Acquire additional space to house the Resource Management and Natural Resources Divisions to meet long-term space needs.
- Continue to adequately fund implementation of the Department's Renovation Plan.
- Continue a close working relationship with the Police Department.
- Explore opportunities for new partnerships with public and private organizations or individuals to assist the Parks Department in efficiently managing our park system.



FOCUS AREAS

FOCUS AREA HISTORIC, CULTURAL, & ART RESOURCES

Introduction

Our historical buildings and artifacts and the landscapes that surround them are our legacy from the past and our gift to the future. The City recognizes the importance of preserving and commemorating its past through these historical sites. Preserving and interpreting our area's history provides invaluable educational opportunities and helps provide the framework for our City's development and cultural resources.

The Parks Department also provides opportunities for the citizens to enjoy contemporary cultural and arts resources. Many of our parks and facilities provide cultural events and arts programs. For example, public and private art are displayed in some City parks and buildings through a partnership with the City's arts program.

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Historic and Cultural Resources

The 1992 Bellevue *Historic and Cultural Resources Survey* (updated in July 1997) provides the basis for understanding the area's rich heritage. The survey's basic goal was documenting Bellevue's inventory of historic buildings, structures, and objects. The survey provides a systematic assessment of properties in relation to their historical, cultural, and architectural importance. The survey identified, described, and evaluated the significance of surviving structures representing the different phases of Bellevue's history.

The survey acknowledged Bellevue's cultural and agricultural roots, as well as its rapid conversion from agricultural to suburban development since its incorporation in 1953. The 51 properties and sites included in the survey reflect a balance of the activities that were important during Bellevue's historical development. These properties, dating from the 1880s through the 1950s, represent Bellevue's diverse agricultural, residential, and commercial heritage. Table 1 includes the properties contained in the survey.

The Parks Department assumed a stewardship responsibility for a number of these historical and cultural properties, indicating the City's strong desire to preserve the remaining vestiges of Bellevue's history.

The Park Plan acknowledges the importance of historic and cultural resources and the Department's leadership role in preserving these resources. The Parks Department-owned historic properties include:

- Hans Miller Homestead at Robinswood Park
- Highland Community Center
- Winters House and the Overlake Blueberry Farm in the Mercer Slough Nature Park
- Twin Valley Barns and the Fraser Cabin in Kelsey Creek Park
- Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm and the Danieli/Matsuoka Cabin in the Lake Hills Greenbelt
- Cal and Harriet Shorts House in Wilburton Hill Park
- American Pacific Whaling Fleet building at Meydenbauer Bay
- McDowell/Paxton House adjacent to Wilburton Park.
- Donogh Boathouse at Clyde Beach Park

Several historic buildings, including the Fraser Cabin in Kelsey Creek Park and the Danieli/Matsuoka Cabin in the Lake Hills Greenbelt, were relocated to Parks Department property. The City was faced with the reality that these historic structures would be demolished unless they were relocated. Unfortunately, relocating historic structures eliminates their historical context. Much of the property adjacent to the original sites of these structures had been dramatically altered, and the City determined it was more important to preserve a piece of history by relocating the structures rather than allowing them to be demolished.

With so many of Bellevue's historic properties located in parks, there is a unique opportunity for historical research and interpretation. Particularly noteworthy are the interpretive and educational programs available in the agricultural and open space properties, such as the Mercer Slough Nature Park, Lake Hills Greenbelt, and Kelsey Creek Farm. These properties, which are among the City's last remaining agricultural lands, are important community resources that remind us of the pioneering families who settled in this region. Preserving the last vestiges of our agricultural heritage in these parks provides opportunities for public education and hands-on farming experience.

While the Department embraces its role in preserving and interpreting some of the City's historic and cultural resources, increasingly limited funding requires sharing the financial responsibility of maintaining and preserving these sites with other public and private partners. The Parks Department encourages and will actively pursue partnership opportunities to help protect the City's rich historic and cultural heritage, as well as to incorporate contemporary cultural activities and events within our park system where appropriate. The Department encourages local historical societies to utilize historical structures and sites for interpreta-



tion and educational purposes. The City recently expanded its partnership with the Eastside Heritage Center by providing for the use of the City-owned McDowell/Paxton House. We also encourage local historical societies to explore grant opportunities through state, federal, or non-profit organizations for the purpose of historical education and interpretation, as well as acquisition or restoration of historical properties.

Public Art Resources

Bellevue's collection of outdoor sculptures, fountains, objects, and paintings is a museum with no walls, no fees, and no viewing restrictions. It is accessible to everyone every day. This collection enriches the community's quality of life, provides a sense of place, and adds interest and vitality to the landscape. The Park Plan focuses attention on Bellevue's public art to enhance understanding of the collection as a community resource and to expand appreciation of the diversity of art forms.

By bringing artwork outside the traditional context of museums and galleries, the City provides a unique platform for an unparalleled public encounter with both public and private art displays. As part of the Public Arts Program created by the City Council in 1986, the funding allocation for public art is incorporated in the City's Capital Investment Plan. In the Public Arts Program's enabling Ordinance No. 3712, the program's purpose is stated as follows:

"The City of Bellevue accepts a responsibility for expanding the public experience with visual arts. Such works of art create a more visually pleasing, humane environment, and add to the overall beautification and cultural climate of the City of Bellevue and the quality of life of its citizens. Artists capable of creating art for public places must be encouraged and Bellevue's standing as a leader in public art enhanced."

Although the Parks Department does not administer the Public Art Program, the City's parks system is the repository for some of the art purchased under this program. As caretakers for these resources, the Department works cooperatively with the Public Art Program staff and Bellevue Arts Commission to ensure that artwork is acquired and sited appropriately in the parks system. The Parks Department will continue being an active partner with other public and private organizations involved in expanding the City's arts and cultural opportunities.

Summary

Bellevue's historical and cultural heritage is a rich and diverse legacy that the City has worked hard to preserve for future generations. Elements of this heritage need to be retained and interpreted so future gen-

erations can have access to this legacy. The Parks Department remains committed to preserving, interpreting, and expanding our historical, cultural, and arts resources for current and future generations. Moreover, the City will continue to preserve modern elements of the City's fabric, as they too will tell the story of Bellevue's development and evolution. Current cultural and art elements will expand upon our past and further enrich our community.

Achieving this goal will be facilitated through the development of a Long-Range Historic and Cultural Resources Plan and development of partnerships with other public agencies, private property owners, and nonprofit organizations. The City will seek partnership opportunities that will help us meet this important community goal.



TABLE 1: HISTORICAL RESOURCES IN BELLEVUE

- * 1. HansMiller Homestead (1884), Robinswood Community Park
- * 2. Fraser House (1888), Kelsey Creek Park
3. Sacred Heart Catholic Church (1926), 10838 Main Street
4. Old Highland School (1890), 14505 NE 29th Place
- * 5. Highland Community Center (1939-1940), 14224 NE Bellevue-Redmond Road
6. Wilburton Railroad Trestle (1904), Lake Hills Connector (Washington State Register of Historic Places)
7. First Baptist Church (1905), 257 - 100th Avenue NE
8. Bellevue State Bank/City of Paris Building (1929), 10203 Main Street
9. Philbrook House (1890s), 10133 1/2 Main Street
10. Burrows Cabin (1883), 1233 - 112th Avenue NE
11. Wright's Barber Shop (1930), 10251 Main Street
12. Lakeside Drugs (1930), 10215 Main Street
13. Daugherty Store/Coffee Mill Building (1917), 10047 Main Street
- * 14. Frederick W. Winters House (1929), 2102 Bellevue Way SE (National Register)
- * 15. Twin Valley Barns (1933); 1943-1944), Kelsey Creek Park
16. Cutty Sark (1947), 10237 Main Street
17. McKee Building (1924), 10042-10110 Main Street (Note: This building was demolished for construction of condominiums)
18. American Pacific Whaling Fleet Buildings (1930-31), shed and buildings (now Meydenbauer Bay Marina), 9905 Lake Washington Boulevard NE
19. Sandell House (1928), 9011 Lake Washington Boulevard
20. Fred Herman House (1948), 10404 SE 23rd Street (Fred Herman, architect)
21. Japanese Packing Plant (1933), 11660 NE 8th (north of Sunset Glass)
22. Richard & Alice Brown House (1912), 530 - 145th SE
23. Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club (Wildwood Park Dance Hall, ca. 1906-1912), 9927 Meydenbauer Way SE
24. Edward Nelson Sears House (1910), 10426 SE 25th Street
25. Vuecrest subdivision (1947)
26. John F. Henry house (1948), 9312 Vineyard Crest (Fred Bassetti, architect)
27. Puget Power Building (1956), 10608 NE 4th (Harmon, Pray & Dietrich, architects)
28. Donald Fleming House (1951), 2101 - 102nd Place SE (Paul Hayden Kirk, architect)
29. Graffe House (1925), 9440 Lake Washington Boulevard NE

30. Diller House (1920), 9620 Lake Washington Boulevard NE
31. Calvert House (1909 or 1910), 415 Shoreland Drive (David J. Myers, architect)
32. St. Mary's Convent (former Bannan estate) (1932), 1655-1663 Killarney Way
33. Bellevue Realty (1918), 105 - 102nd SE
34. Highland Elementary School (1934), 15027 NE Bel-Red Road
35. Shiach/Bechtel House (ca. 1902), 1 Diamond S. Ranch
36. Charles Bovee House (1922), 1532 - 108th NE
- * 37. Cal Shorts House (1955-56), Wilburton Hill Park (Paul Hayden Kirk, architect)
38. McDonough House/M.L. Mallard Ltd. (1918), 17 - 102nd NE
- * 39. McDowell/Paxton House (1918), 11660 Main Street (Wilburton Hill)
- * 40. Overlake Farm (1948), 2380 Bellevue Way SE
- * 41. Larsen Lake Farm/Blueberry Lake Farm, 148th Avenue SE and SE 8th
42. Washington State Bank/Washington Mutual Bank (1956), 124 Bellevue Way NE (Mithun & Nesland, architects)
43. Diamond S. Ranch (1949)
44. Surrey Downs (1952-1955), Mithun & Nesland
45. H.V. Stevenson Home (ca. 1904-1913), 9501 NE 1st
46. Edwards House (1929), 9021 NE 10th
47. Bellevue Fire Station (1945-1946), 8-14 - 102nd NE
48. Bellevue Nursery (1954-55), 843 - 104th Avenue SE
- * 49. Danieli/Matsuoka cabin (ca. 1890), now located adjacent to Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm, Lake Hills Greenbelt
50. Frank Odle House (1911), 10629 NE 17th
- * 51. Donogh (Clyde Beach) Boathouse (1938), 9415 Lake Washington Blvd. N. E.

* Surveyed properties managed by the Bellevue Parks Department.

Chapter 6:
**CAPITAL
RECOMMENDATIONS**





Chapter 6:

RECOMMENDATIONS

Capital Recommendations

OVERVIEW

The recommendations for implementing the Park Plan relate specifically to capital improvements for acquisition, development, and redevelopment projects. Renovating parks and facilities are only discussed in general terms in this section. Specific renovation projects are identified in the *Renovation and Refurbishment Plan*, which is an annually updated six-year plan (refer to Focus Area: Renovation, Maintenance, & Security).

Implementing the recommendations contained in this Plan will depend on both opportunity and funding availability. As competing demands escalate for increasingly limited City resource dollars, creative solutions are needed to fund park-related projects. It is clear that completion of the City's park system will take time and will need a sound and realistic financial strategy.

This chapter contains both Comprehensive and Short-Term Capital Recommendations. The Comprehensive Recommendations identify projects to address needs over the 20-year term of this Plan. The Short-Term Recommendations define the more immediate needs over the next ten years, addressing areas that have clear deficits or where expected population growth and scarcity of available land result in an urgency to act.

To achieve a comprehensive park system, it is imperative to acquire key parcels over the next ten years. Acquiring waterfront property, mini-park and neighborhood park sites, open space for greenways and linkages, a community center site serving downtown, and community park additions are all important acquisition initiatives in the short term.

Development and redevelopment are equally important to provide citizens a variety of passive and active recreation opportunities. Renovation of facilities plays a role in ensuring a safe, functional and well-maintained park system. One area cannot have exclusive priority over others. Top priorities include improvements to community parks, construction of a community center south of I-90, and continued improvements to waterfront parks, neighborhood parks, trails, and athletic facilities. There must also be a strong commitment to redevelop older neighborhood and community parks if we are to maximize their open space and recreation potential and ensure the high maintenance levels expected by the community.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

Part of the City's *Capital Investment Program Plan* (CIP) includes project prioritization criteria which are used by the Parks Department to evaluate acquisition, development, and redevelopment initiatives. Implementing the various elements in the Park Plan will require assessing the proposed action utilizing the following questions:

- **Park Plan consistency** - Is the project consistent with the mission, vision, goals, objectives, standards, and recommendations of the *Parks & Open Space System Plan*?
- **City Council priority** - Does the project respond to a City Council priority or an adopted plan or ordinance?
- **Maintenance and operations impacts** - What are the maintenance and operations impacts of this project? Will the project support itself? Are there opportunities for partnerships?
- **Citizen input** - Is the project a Parks & Community Services Board or Human Services Commission priority or supported by an advocacy group, public surveys, Neighborhood Enhancement Program, Neighborhood Liaison feedback, or other public input?
- **Multiple benefits** - Does the project serve multiple user groups or respond to recommendations in other plans?
- **Special funding available** - Does this project have the potential for special funding?
- **Affordability** - Is alternative funding available to match with the CIP funding? What is the benefit/cost analysis?
- **Neighborhood impacts** - Would the project have positive benefits to the surrounding neighborhood, and does the community support this project?
- **Suitability of site** - Are the proposed site's natural systems, topography, and neighboring land uses suitable for the project?
- **Geographic distribution** - Will the project help meet the distribution standards of parks and park facilities throughout the City?
- **Economic impact** - Would this project have a favorable economic impact to Bellevue?
- **Urgency** - Does the project represent a distinct opportunity that will be lost?



COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL RECOMMENDATIONS (2003-2022)

When Bellevue incorporated in 1953, its park system included several street ends. By 1973 several large parcels, including property in Mercer Slough, Kelsey Creek Park, and Robinswood Park had been acquired. By 1993, many of these sites had been developed into major community parks, and the park system began to take on the form that it is today. Sites such as Wilburton Hill and the various greenway and trail connections were acquired, including the Lake-to-Lake Greenway. Since 1993, much of the focus was on developing a strong system of neighborhood and mini-parks throughout the community and acquiring community parks for the newly annexed territory in south Bellevue. Today, much of our park system is in place. However, as discussed throughout this Plan, important key acquisition and development projects remain to be implemented.

The ultimate goal for our park system is to connect and expand its parks and open spaces so that Bellevue remains a “City in a Park” despite its urbanization. As with previous plans, acquisition remains a top

priority for Bellevue parks. However, to satisfy short-term demands and to ensure the park system’s long-term integrity, acquisition must compete with other factors: redevelopment, renovation and new development. The challenge will be to effectively balance all of these priorities. Our success will be dependent on a solid vision and funding resource package.

Each element, such as waterfront access, neighborhood and community parks, recreation facilities, open space, greenways and trails, contributes to the overall plan to make Bellevue a beautiful and livable “City in a Park.” The vision for Bellevue gives us

direction and helps us set goals. At the same time, redevelopment and renovation cannot be neglected if the quality, function, and support of our existing parks are to remain as the City matures. The costs of main-



taining and operating our park system remain an integral component of any park acquisition or development package.

The following recommendations address the physical components needed over the next 20 years to complete the park system envisioned in this Plan. Many of the initiatives found in these Comprehensive Capital Recommendations are proposed for action over the next ten years, and are, therefore, also found in the Short-Term Recommendations that follow this section.

COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL RECOMMENDATIONS (2003 – 2022)

ACQUISITIONS

Open Space/Greenways/Trails

- Greenway Connections/Extensions
 - > Between large open spaces and regional systems
 - > Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPA)
 - > Lewis Creek Greenway
 - > Kelsey Creek Greenway
 - > Richards Valley
- Lake-to-Lake Trail Connections
 - > Richards Valley
 - > Mercer Slough to Kelsey Creek Park
 - > Lake Hills Greenbelt
- Cougar Mountain
 - > Wildlife corridors and trail connections
- Houghton-to-Marymoor Greenway
 - > Golf Course to Bridle Trails State Park
- Coal Creek County Park and Greenway
- Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way
- North-south power line and pipeline corridors

Waterfront Access

- Meydenbauer Beach to Marina completion
- Meydenbauer Marina to Downtown Park connection
- Enatai to Mercer Slough Connection
- SE 40th Street Boat Launch parking addition
- Lake Sammamish waterfront
- Park additions



Neighborhood and Mini Parks

- Downtown subarea
 - > NW and SE quadrant neighborhood parks
 - > Mini Park transfers (from Transportation Department)
- Crossroads subarea
- Factoria subarea
- Newport Hills subarea
- Bridle Trails subarea
- Surplus school sites

Community Parks

- Existing park additions and enhancements
- Surplus school sites
- Surrey Downs county site

Recreation and Special Facility Sites

- Community center site serving Downtown
- Resource Management facility site

DEVELOPMENT/REDEVELOPMENT

Open Space/Greenways/Trails

- Lake-to-Lake Trail
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan implementation
- Power line corridors
- Richards Valley connections
- Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Trail and connections
- Lewis Creek and South Bellevue Greenway Trails
- Coal Creek Park forestry and trail improvements
- Downtown Urban Trail System

Waterfront Access

- SE 40th Street Boat Launch parking addition
- Lake Sammamish Waterfront Park development
- Enatai Beach Park completion
- Downtown Park to Meydenbauer Bay connection
- Meydenbauer Beach/Marina Park development - Phase II
- Chism Beach redevelopment

Neighborhood and Mini Parks

- Factoria subarea
 - > Meadow Wood Park
 - > New site
- Crossroads subarea - new site
- Downtown
 - > NW and SE quadrants - new sites
 - > Existing mini-parks (four corners)
 - > Ashwood Park
- Eastgate/Newcastle - Norelius/Sunrise
- North Bellevue - Chapin site
- Newport Hills subarea - new site
- Wilburton - Glendale site
- Enatai Neighborhood Park - redevelopment
- Elementary school site improvements

Community Parks

- Lewis Creek Park - full development
- Eastgate Park - development
- Wilburton Hill Park
 - > Botanical Garden Visitor Center
 - > Botanical Garden Expansion
 - > Complete Park Master Plan
- Downtown Park - phased development
- Mercer Slough - Environmental Education Center
- Airfield property - full development
- Kelsey Creek - redevelopment
- Crossroads Park - phased development
- Middle school and high school site improvements

Recreation and Special Facilities

- Community centers and community buildings
 - > South Bellevue Community Center
 - > Downtown Community Center
 - > Crossroads Community Center addition
 - > North Bellevue Community Center addition
 - > School buildings
- Teen activity center(s)
- Sportsfields
 - > Synthetic soccer field surfaces
 - > Two lighted ballfields at Marymoor
 - > Lighted sportsfields at the Airfield site
 - > Light fields at selected community and school sites



- Improve school sportsfields
- Construct one ballfield at Wilburton
- Resource Management capacity improvements
- Facility partnership potential
 - Aquatic Center
 - Ice rink
 - Fieldhouse
 - Off-leash dog area
 - Historic building improvements
- Alternative sports facilities
 - Skate park(s)
 - Climbing structure(s)
 - Challenge course(s)
- Enterprise Fund improvements
 - Golf Course
 - Tennis Center
 - Aquatic Center

RENOVATION

Separate renovation projects are not listed.

SHORT-TERM CAPITAL RECOMMENDATIONS (2003-2012)

The challenge over the next ten years will be to balance acquisition and development while remaining flexible enough to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. With this in mind, the short-term recommendations (2003-2012) have been separated into acquisition, development/redevelopment, and renovation categories, and further organized by the major focus areas described throughout the Plan.

Preserving the remaining open spaces in Bellevue is consistently rated among the highest priority elements to the community, and this plan recommends a continued focus on connecting open spaces and activity areas into a unified greenway system to serve both people and wildlife. Connected greenways and wildlife corridors expand the variety of animals that can survive within an urban environment, and trails through these corridors can also provide connections for people to meander through neighborhoods to various parts of the open space system. Greenways provide buffers between various land uses, access to high points with magnificent views, create neighborhood identity, and provide a means of binding the City together.

CHAPTER 6 *Capital Recommendations*

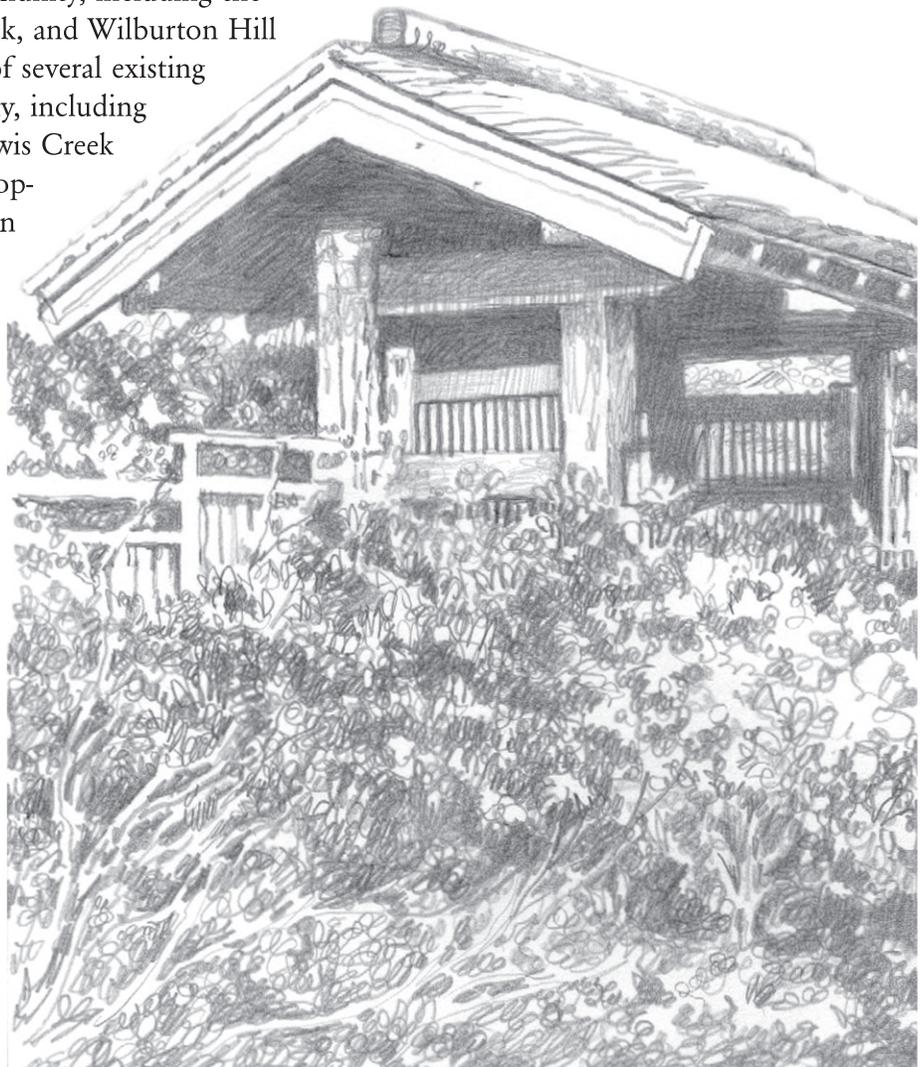
To satisfy our goal of providing additional public access to the City's waterfront, we must complete the acquisition of land and initiate public improvements along Meydenbauer Bay between Meydenbauer Beach and the marina and connect these properties to the downtown. A second major waterfront initiative is to develop a presence on Lake Sammamish.

Although great progress has been made acquiring and developing neighborhood and mini-parks throughout the community over the past ten years, neighborhood site deficits remain in several subareas of the City. Further, citizens continue to indicate a strong desire for locating small parks closer to home. Therefore, the acquisition of new sites and development of existing sites suitable for mini-park or neighborhood park use remain a high priority.

Many of our community parks have been completed. However, other parks require the acquisition of adjacent parcels to increase or enhance their benefit to the community, including the Airfield site, Eastgate, Kelsey Creek, and Wilburton Hill Parks. Completing development of several existing community parks is a high priority, including Crossroads, Enatai Beach, and Lewis Creek Parks. Continuing a phased development approach is more practical in other community parks, such as the Downtown Park, the Botanical Garden, and the newly acquired Airfield site.

Since the late 1980s, the City has aggressively partnered with the School District for the joint use of facilities. The dual use of our school facilities and land serves the community's best interest and should be continued. Improving school sites to satisfy neighborhood and community park needs, and exploring the potential acquisition of surplus school sites, is a high priority.

There remains strong interest throughout the City in providing community centers and facilities for teens. The City needs





to respond to these needs. Development of the South Bellevue Community Center is essential to serving the needs of those living south of I-90. The expansion of the Crossroads and North Bellevue Community Centers to create more full-service centers is also needed. Strong teen/adult partnerships must be utilized in developing the optimum solution to address the need for teen facilities, whether through the use of multiple satellite locations, aggressive program services, a centralized teen center, or a combination of these ideas.

Continued growth and interest in athletics places increasing demand on Bellevue's sportsfields. In close cooperation with many of the community's sports organizations, the City has studied the use and capacity of its existing sportsfields through the Sportsfield Analysis Report and has developed a series of recommendations to address the growing need for sportsfields. Major capital recommendations include the development of new lighted fields at Marymoor Park and the Airfield site, the installation of a synthetic field surface at Robinswood Park, and a continued improvement of school sportsfields.

Public support for parks and open space has been high. Through meetings, surveys, and the ballot box, the community has indicated they want to preserve Bellevue's exceptional natural amenities. Over the years, Bellevue has demonstrated its commitment to protect and enhance the environment, retain open space, and provide both passive and active recreation opportunities.

The following list of projects should be given priority in the short term. It is intended to serve as a "blueprint" for action and utilized as a tool to develop the Parks Department CIP and the biennial Parks CIP budget. Circumstances will influence which and how many of these recommendations can be accomplished in the anticipated timeframe.

Many of the listed projects are either funded in the current 2003-2009 CIP or were identified in whole or in part in the Park and Open Space Bond Issue elections that were narrowly defeated in September and November of 2002.

A comparison of the short-term project recommendations are provided in the two figures below. Figure 7 compares the proposed expenditures by category (acquisition, development, and renovation). Over time, it is expected that the acquisition and development categories will diminish as expenses to redevelop and renovate the park system will increase. Figure 8 compares the project recommendations by park type, or major focus area, as presented in this Plan. Note the balance of expenditures reflected in the major park types proposed over the next 10 years.

FIGURE 7: PROPOSED EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY (\$ IN MILLIONS)

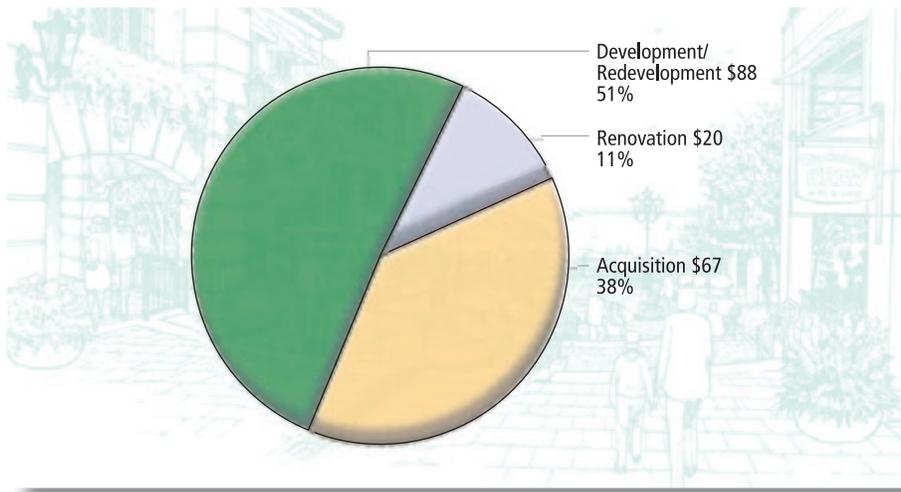
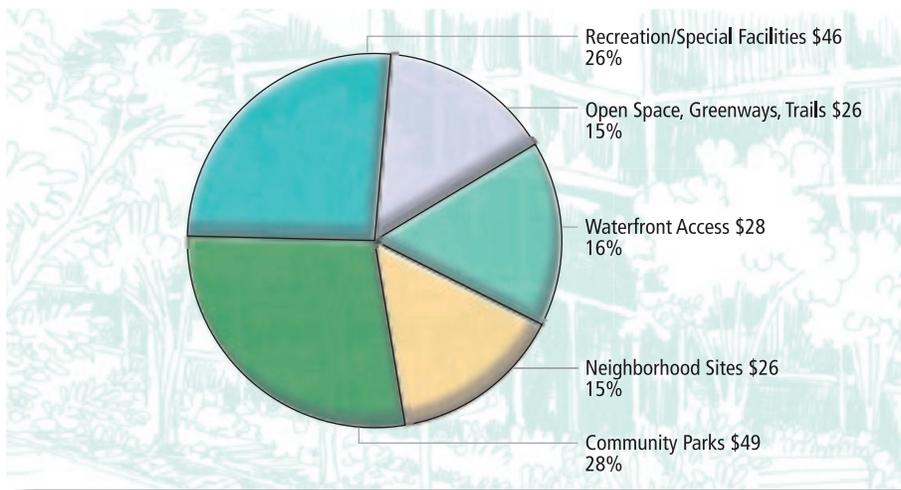


FIGURE 8: PROPOSED EXPENDITURES BY FOCUS AREA (\$ IN MILLIONS)





SHORT-TERM CAPITAL RECOMMENDATIONS (2003-2012)

ACQUISITIONS

Open Space/Greenways/Trails

- Greenway Connections/Extensions
 - > Between large open spaces and regional systems
 - > Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPA)
 - > Lewis Creek Greenway
 - > Kelsey Creek Greenway
 - > Richards Valley
- Lake-to-Lake Trail Connections
 - > Mercer Slough to Kelsey Creek Park
 - > Lake Hills Greenbelt
- Coal Creek County Park and Greenway

Waterfront Access

- Meydenbauer Beach to Marina connection
- Meydenbauer Marina to Downtown Park connection
- SE 40th Street Boat Launch parking addition
- Lake Sammamish Waterfront Park acquisition

Neighborhood and Mini Parks

- Downtown subarea
 - > NW and SE quadrant neighborhood parks
 - > Mini Park transfers
- Crossroads subarea
- Factoria subarea
- Newport Hills subarea
- Surplus school sites

Community Parks

- Existing park additions and enhancements
- Surplus school sites
- Surrey Downs county site

Recreation and Special Facility Sites

- Community center site serving downtown
- Resource Management (maintenance) facility site

DEVELOPMENT/REDEVELOPMENT

Open Space/Greenways/Trails

- Lake-to-Lake Trail connections
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan implementation
- Richards Valley connections
- Lewis Creek and South Bellevue trail connections
- Coal Creek Park forestry and trail improvements

Waterfront Access

- Enatai Beach Park completion
- Downtown Park to Meydenbauer Bay connection
- Meydenbauer Beach to Marina - Phase I development
- Chism Beach redevelopment

Neighborhood and Mini Parks

- Factoria subarea - Meadow Wood Park
- Crossroads subarea - new site
- Eastgate/Newcastle - Norelius/Sunrise
- Newport Hills subarea - new site
- North Bellevue - Chapin site
- Elementary school site improvements

Community Parks

- Lewis Creek Park - full development
- Eastgate Park - development
- Wilburton Hill Park
 - > Botanical Garden Visitor Center
 - > Botanical Garden Expansion
- Downtown Park - SE quadrant
- Mercer Slough - Environmental Education Center
- Airfield site - Phase I development
- Kelsey Creek - redevelopment
- Crossroads Park - phase development
- Middle school and high school site improvements

Recreation and Special Facilities

- Community centers and community buildings
 - > South Bellevue Community Center
 - > Crossroads Community Center addition
 - > North Bellevue Community Center addition
- Teen activity center(s)



- Sportsfields
 - > Synthetic soccer field surface at Robinswood
 - > Two lighted ballfields at Marymoor
 - > Lighted sportsfields at the Airfield site
 - > Improve school sportsfields
- Resource Management capacity improvements
- Facility Partnership Potential
 - > Off-leash dog area
 - > Historic building improvements
- Alternative Sports Facilities
 - > Skate Park(s)
 - > Climbing structure(s)
 - > Challenge course(s)
- Enterprise Fund Improvements
 - > Golf Course
 - > Tennis Center
 - > Aquatic Center

RENOVATION

(Refer to *Renovation and Refurbishment Plan* for specific projects)

Chapter 7: FINANCING CAPITAL PROJECTS



Drawing by JGM Landscape Architects



Chapter 7:

FINANCING

Financing Capital Projects

Funding Overview

The City's capital needs are funded through an established planning tool known as the *Capital Investment Program Plan*, or CIP. Bellevue was the first city in Washington to formally adopt a systematic plan with dedicated funding for capital facilities. The City Council adopted the CIP in 1983, dedicating new sales tax revenues authorized by the state legislature and an increase in the B&O tax to capital investment. The CIP is a seven-year rolling financing plan that is evaluated and updated every two years by the City Council. As part of the budget process, the CIP identifies, prioritizes and prices capital needs for the City. Planning and implementation of any capital project is dependent on its being part of the City's CIP.

The CIP is the major funding program for park-related facilities including acquisition, development, redevelopment and renovation. The Parks portion of the CIP has traditionally been funded from a variety of sources, such as general CIP revenue (sales and B&O taxes), Real Estate Excise Tax, voter-approved bond issues, state and local grants, and developer mitigation fees. A full description of existing and potentially available funding sources for park capital projects is provided later in this chapter. All parks related capital project costs, including planning, design, construction, maintenance and operations, and borrowing costs must be funded within the total revenue limit allocated to the parks program. Overall, the parks capital program makes up 17% of the citywide 2003-2009 CIP, compared to transportation at 46% and utilities at 18% (See Figure 9 below). The Parks CIP totals \$48 million for the seven-year plan, and is primarily funded with REET and General CIP revenues as shown on Figure 10 below.

FIGURE 9: 2003-2009 CITY CIP BY PROGRAM

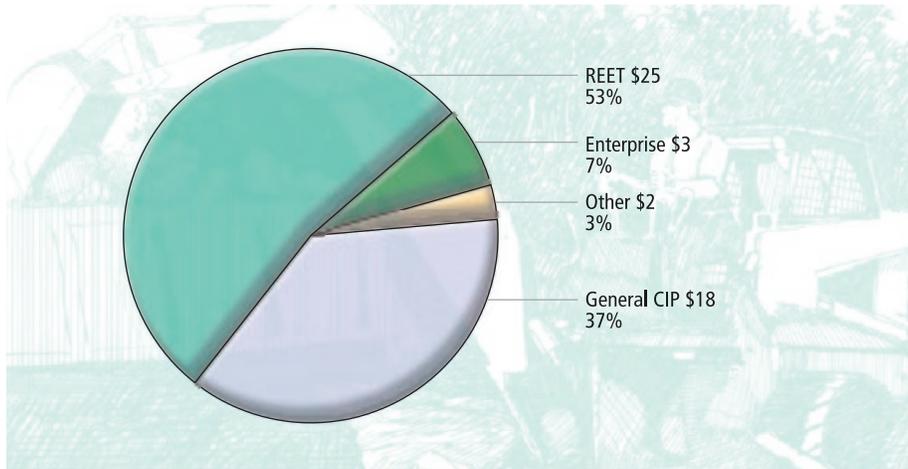
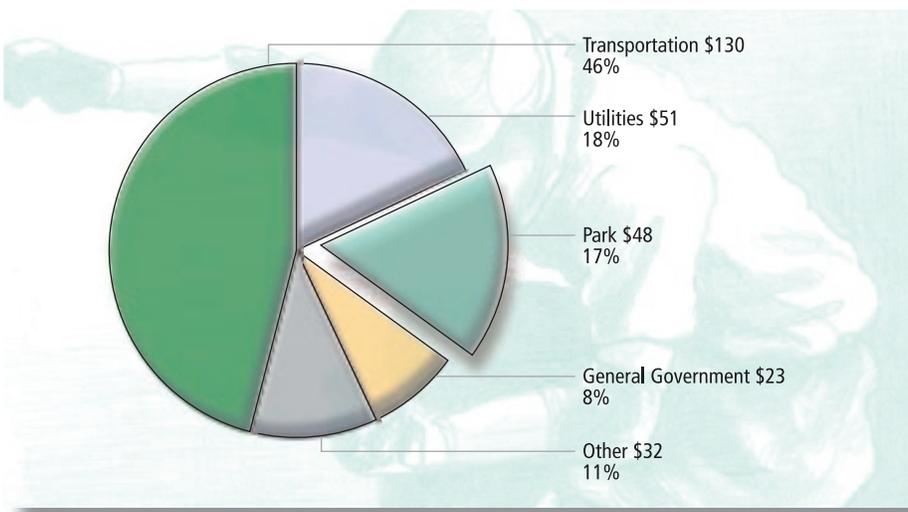


FIGURE 10: 2003-2009 PARKS CIP FUNDING



While there are a variety of revenues that fund the City’s CIP, they are not immune from fluctuations in the local and regional economy. The current slowdown in the Puget Sound economy is affecting the City’s ability to support its capital investment plan. Citywide resources available for the 2003-2009 CIP are \$284 million, or \$66 million less than those supporting the 2001-2007 CIP. Similarly, the parks program absorbed project cuts of \$4.5 million and no new capital projects were approved in the 2003-2009 CIP update. Voter-approved funding limitations and continued economic slowdown will limit available funding



for the next several years, so the City must look for alternative means of financing capital projects if it wants to further implement the *Parks & Open Space System Plan*. The following is a strategy to fund parks capital projects over the next ten years.

Funding Strategies

As documented in the preceding chapter, the *Parks & Open Space System Plan* makes recommendations for parks-related purposes that will result in total expenditures of approximately \$175 million through the year 2012, which represents the short-term capital projects. This includes cost estimates for both funded and unfunded projects, inflation, and anticipated maintenance and operation (M&O) costs not covered by a voter-approved maintenance levy. Cost estimates are preliminary and will be updated as part of the biennial CIP process.

In order to implement the recommendations set forth in the Park Plan, additional funding alternatives will be needed to augment existing CIP dollars. While funding solutions are needed for capital projects (acquisition, development, redevelopment and renovation), funding sources for ongoing M&O must also be determined prior to carrying out the capital projects.

According to City financial policies, maintenance and operations funding plans will need to accompany construction of any new facility. Traditionally, M&O dollars are derived from two primary sources: the use of General CIP funds for maintenance and operations, and voter-approved property tax increases. Future development, absent specific funding sources other than the CIP, will result in an ever-increasing portion of CIP dollars being spent for maintenance and operations, leaving less to fund capital projects. In addition to the property tax increases, M&O funding could also be derived through a variety of other mechanisms, including service area assessments, endowments, user fee increases, or other dedicated tax sources.

The following funding sources are proposed to implement the short-term capital recommendations contained in this Plan.

- **Traditional CIP Funding (\$71 Million).** Funding for the baseline parks CIP will continue to come from a strong combination of existing taxes and user fees. General CIP revenues and REET form the foundation of funding, accompanied by gambling tax revenues for youth facilities, Enterprise Fund revenues for improvements to enterprise facilities, and developer contributions for specific improvements within a certain geographic area. Funding from these sources

is expected to contribute approximately \$71 million over the next ten years. The majority of these funds should be targeted for five purposes:

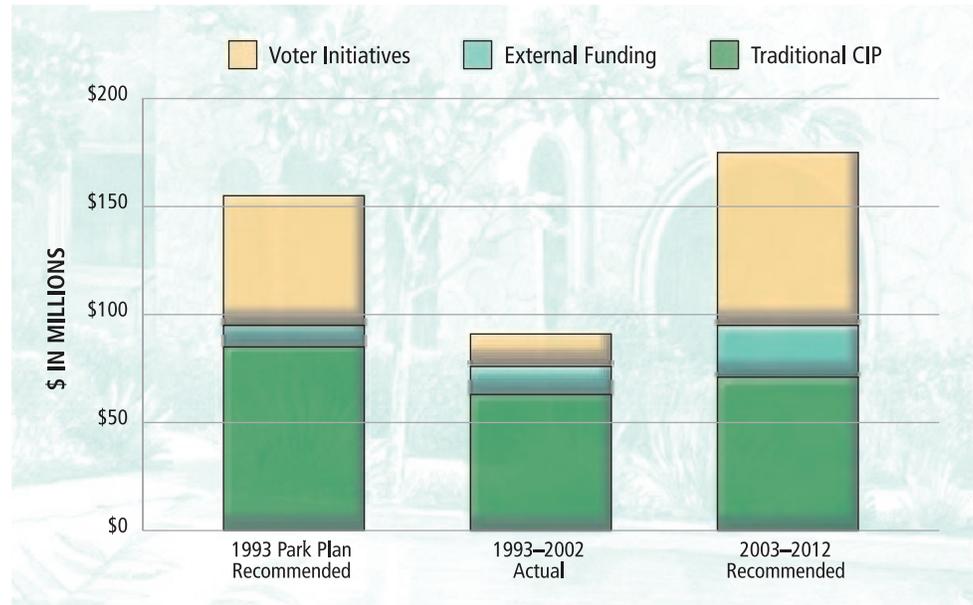
- > Renovation projects, since they often result in reduced maintenance costs
 - > Spot acquisition opportunities
 - > Long-range planning to create a sound basis for future bond issues
 - > Development projects without a large M&O commitment
 - > Existing M&O and debt obligations.
- **Voter Initiatives (\$80 Million).** Voter initiatives spaced at regular intervals will provide funding for major acquisitions and park development. This will continue Bellevue's tradition of regularly placed bond issues that have largely built the existing park system. It is assumed that any bond issue would include an associated M&O funding package. Bond issue(s) over the next ten years would contribute between \$60 and \$80 million in capital dollars.
 - **External Funding Sources (\$24 Million).** As noted throughout this Plan, the City must look more to non-traditional funding sources to achieve its goals. The following are proposed revenue sources:
 - > **King County Conservation Futures** tax revenue will be used to obtain critical open space and greenway connections. We expect to receive \$2 to \$3 million in CFT over the next ten years.
 - > **Grants** from various federal and state sources should be used for a variety of purposes, including acquisition of scarce waterfront properties and open space parcels, outdoor recreation projects, and trails for use by pedestrians and bicyclists. Aggressive pursuit of grant opportunities should provide funding of \$4 to \$6 million over the next decade.
 - > Cultivation of **donations and partnerships** should be emphasized as a creative way to help finance specific projects. We must look for opportunities to match our capital needs with the interests of individuals and organizations. We estimate that \$5 to \$10 million will be received through donations and partnerships over the next ten years.
 - > Expanded use of **user fees** to fund capital projects, as is currently done at Enterprise facilities such as the Bellevue Golf Course. We estimate this source of revenue could raise an additional \$3 to \$5 million in the next ten years to fund specialized facilities.

The funding sources proposed to fund the short-term capital projects are represented graphically on Figure 11 and compared to the recommendations adopted in the 1993 Park Plan and the actual funding sources used to implement the Parks CIP program over the last ten year



period. Note that while the use of the traditional funding sources is proposed to remain fairly constant, a more aggressive use of voter initiatives and external funding sources are proposed.

FIGURE 11: **SHORT-TERM REVENUE SOURCES**



The following assumptions have been made in formulating the funding strategy described above:

- ✓ A relatively stable economy
- ✓ The ability to pass voter-approved bond issues
- ✓ The inclusion of an associated M&O funding package with any bond issue
- ✓ The 2003-2009 CIP as adopted will not change
- ✓ Construction of unfunded projects will occur between 2005 and 2012.

Forecasts for General CIP, REET, and other City revenues used in this funding strategy have been developed by the City's Finance Department and include the following assumptions:

- ✓ Revenue estimates and inflation factors used in the adopted 2003-2009 CIP are accurate
- ✓ No change in the allocation percentage to parks CIP
- ✓ Projected financing obligations related to the new City Hall (formerly Qwest) are included
- ✓ A reduction in the City's B&O tax revenues beginning in 2008
- ✓ Inflation factors for 2010 -2012 are estimated at 2.7%

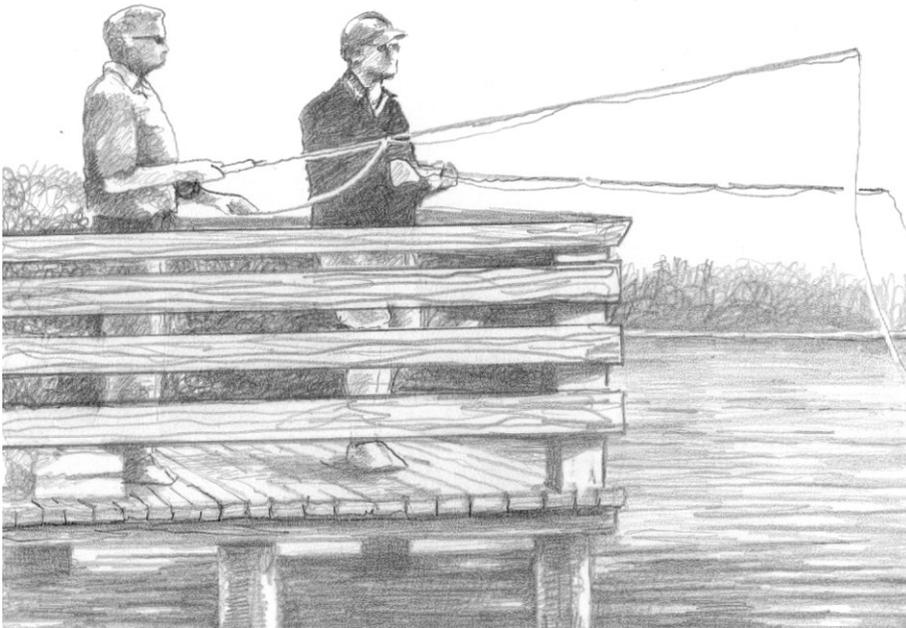
Summary of Funding Sources

General CIP Revenue

According to current fiscal policy, the City Council has dedicated to the Capital Improvement Program .5% of the City's local option sales tax, .03% of the City's Business and Occupation (B&O) tax, interest earnings on unexpended balances, and other miscellaneous unrestricted revenues to fund a variety of capital projects. The amount of available revenue fluctuates with current economic conditions. Within the total available dollars, the percentage of general CIP funds allocated to the Parks capital program has varied throughout the years, with parks normally receiving between 15 and 20% of the total. The parks program was allocated \$18 million of the total available general CIP revenue in the 2003-2009 CIP. While B&O taxes have been a primary funding source for the City's CIP, a bill passed by the State Legislature will reduce Bellevue's B&O taxes dedicated to the CIP by approximately \$800,000 per year in General CIP revenues starting in 2008.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)

REET consists of money derived from one-half percent of the selling price of real property within the City of Bellevue. Cities planning under the State's Growth Management Act must generally use these funds for capital projects as described by state law. Beginning with the 1993-1999 CIP, one-quarter percent (REET 1) was allocated for capital improvements related to parks, recreational facilities and trails identified in the City's CIP. The City has targeted the second quarter percent (REET 2) for transportation-related improvements.





REET revenues fluctuate with the local real estate market, which directly affects the amount of money the parks CIP receives from this source. For example, REET funding (parks portion) was \$30 million in the 2001-2007 CIP, but only \$25 million in the 2003-2009 Plan.

Voter-approved Bonds/Levies

General Obligation bonds (G.O. Bonds) have been used to develop the backbone of Bellevue's park system. Local park bond issues have been approved in 1956, 1965, 1970, 1977, 1981, 1984, and 1988. County-wide park bond issues have been approved in 1968 (Forward Thrust) and 1989 (Open Space and Trails). Voter-approved G.O. bonds can be generated for acquisition or development and are typically repaid through an annual "excess" property tax levy through the maturity period of the bonds, normally 15 to 20 years. Broad consensus support is needed for passage, as a 60% "yes" vote is required. A validation requirement also exists, wherein the total number of votes cast must be at least 40% of the number of votes in the preceding general election. Two examples of voter-approved bond issues are Bellevue's \$16.5 million parks and open space bond issue in 1988 and King County's 1989 open space bond issue, of which \$6.6 million was targeted for park acquisition and trail development projects in Bellevue.

In September 2002, Bellevue voters were asked to approve a \$68 million park bond. The bond package targeted park and open space acquisition and development of neighborhood parks, sportsfields and existing parks. The bond issue fell just short of the required 60% voter approval (58.9%). The City Council reduced the bond package to \$60 million for the November 2002 ballot, but it again missed the required percentage with 57.4%.

A **levy lid lift** is another voter-approved funding source for financing capital improvements. Unlike a bond issue, no validation is needed and a "yes" vote of 50% plus one vote passes the levy. The proceeds may be received on an annual, pay-as-you-go basis, or bonds may be issued against the levy amount in order to receive the proceeds all at once. If bonds are issued, property taxes can be raised by a set amount (based on the assessed valuation) for up to nine years. However, this funding source has traditionally been used to support the ongoing maintenance and operational costs of bond projects.

A property tax lid lift was approved by voters in 1988 to support the park maintenance and operation costs associated with the 1988 G.O. bond issue. Due to a timing issue, tax proceeds exceeded M&O needs during the early years of this bond, and these revenues were transferred to an endowment fund to be held for future authorization. This money,

and interest earned on it, are restricted for parks M&O costs associated with park improvements implemented through this bond issue. The City Council can approve annual increases to the levy, although they have chosen not to do so since 1994.

Voters approved a property tax levy with a 68% “yes” vote in September 2002 to maintain new parks proposed in the companion bond issue. Because the bond failed, the City Council decided not to collect the supporting levy.

Non Voter-approved Bonds

Councilmanic bonds are G.O. bonds issued by the City or County Council without voter approval. Under state law, repayment of these bonds must be financed from existing City revenues since no additional taxes can be implemented to support related debt service payments. An example in Bellevue was the 1983 purchase of the Downtown Park property, where .2% of the local option sales tax was allocated toward the repayment of the Downtown Park councilmanic bond issue.

Revenue bonds are typically issued for development purposes, and often cost more and carry a higher interest rate than G.O. bonds. Revenue bond covenants generally require that the revenues received annually would have to equal twice the annual debt service payment. Revenue bonds are payable from income generated by an enterprise activity. For example, the City issued \$800,000 in revenue bonds in 1967 for the development of the Bellevue Golf Course.

King County Conservation Futures Tax (CFT)

Conservation Futures tax levy funds are a dedicated portion of property taxes in King County and are available, by statute, only for acquisition of open space, agricultural and timber lands. The King County Council approves funding for projects based on submittals from cities and the county. Bellevue has received approximately \$5 million since inception of this revenue source in 1989 to fund several acquisition projects, including the two Meydenbauer marina properties, greenway system additions, portions of Lewis Creek Park, and Lattawood Park.

Enterprise Fund/User Fees

The City of Bellevue created a Parks Enterprise Fund to account for a number of activities in which user fees and charges are set to recover the cost of operations and certain capital improvements. The Bellevue Golf Course, Robinswood Tennis Center, Robinswood House, and the Bellevue Aquatic Center are all operated in the Parks Enterprise Fund. Enterprise Fund revenues were used for the construction of the air



structure over two of the outdoor courts at Robinswood Tennis Center and for many capital improvement projects at the Bellevue Golf Course. In the future, the City may explore the expanded use of user fees to fund capital projects where feasible to do so.

Grants

The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) administers a variety of grant programs from several federal and state sources to distribute to eligible application sponsors for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes. The amount of money available for grants statewide varies from year to year and most funding sources require that monies be used for specific purposes. Grants are awarded to state and local agencies on a highly competitive basis, with agencies generally required to provide matching funds for any project proposal. Bellevue has received approximately \$2.7 million in IAC grant funds over the past twenty years for a variety of projects, including the acquisition of the two Meydenbauer Bay marinas and portions of Lewis Creek Park, development of Enatai Beach Park and Marymoor ballfields, improvements to the SE 40th Street boat ramp, and urban wildlife enhancements in the Mercer Slough.

The following are state or federal programs administered by the IAC to provide agencies funding to acquire and develop park, open space and recreational lands and facilities:

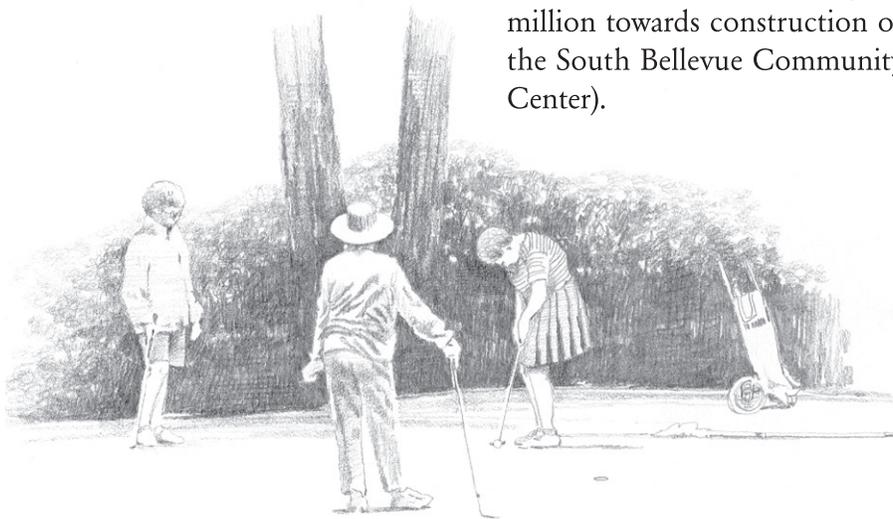
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, or WWRP.
- The Land and Water Conservation Fund
- The National Recreation Trails Program
- Youth Athletic Facilities Fund
- Boating Facilities Program
- Non-highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA)
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Other state/federal grant programs include:

- **The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)**, a competitive grant program administered by the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to enhance and protect wildlife and fish habitat and provide places for people to enjoy Washington's shorelands and tidelands.
- **The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)**, administered by the U. S. Department of Transportation, provides funding for transportation-related enhancements such as bicycle and pedestrian trails and projects to reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality.

Donations/Partnerships

As traditional funding sources become more scarce, the City must search for creative and dynamic methods of financing the Park Plan. To that end, successful marketing of the potential for public involvement in the “City in a Park” vision is imperative. This can include donations, endowment funds, volunteer support and partnerships with community businesses, organizations and residents. Examples of past donations include eight acres of what is now Wilburton Hill Community Park from Cal and Harriet Shorts and \$500,000 from an anonymous donor toward the purchase of the Meydenbauer Marina. Examples of current partnerships that are expected to contribute toward funding capital projects include the Pacific Science Center (\$2.2 million toward the development of the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center) and the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club (\$1.5 million towards construction of the South Bellevue Community Center).



Programs such as “Your Land, Your Legacy” can motivate people into bequeathing their property (or a portion thereof) for public purposes. Many options exist for potential donors to conserve their land for public use by future generations. Creative financing of property acquisition or donation can be a benefit for both the seller/donor and the City.

Punchboards and Pulltabs Tax

This tax, also known as the “gambling tax,” is imposed on the utilization of punchboards and pulltabs within the City and is set at a rate not to exceed 5% of the gross receipts from such activities. Tax proceeds beyond those needed to enforce gambling laws were reserved by Council policy for the purpose of providing youth facilities. This revenue source is expected to generate approximately \$150,000 per year to support youth-related CIP facilities.



Annexations/Transfers/Donations

Additional land and/or parks may be added to Bellevue's inventory through annexation (e.g. Sunrise and Newport Hills Parks), transfer from King County (e.g. Eastgate and Weowna Parks), transfer of privately owned Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPAs) from homeowner associations, or donations. The financial impact to the City varies for each annexation or transfer. Costs may range from providing ongoing maintenance to planning for future park development or redevelopment. Since the City has already acquired most of the property within its potential annexation area (PAA), limited opportunities exist for new land from King County. The only non City-owned park identified for transfer within the City's current PAA is Coal Creek Park.

Impact Fees/Developer Mitigation Fees

Bellevue does not apply park impact fees (based on Park Plan level of service standards) to new development citywide as a condition of permit approval. Through the State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA), the City collected developer mitigation fees (payable either in cash or through development of recreation facilities) in the rapidly developing South Bellevue subarea. Sunset and Silverleaf are examples of small parks developed through developer mitigation. These developer contributions cannot supplant other revenue sources within a project; they are in addition to existing funding and must be used for a specific purpose. In addition to the development of recreational facilities, the City has received approximately \$800,000 since mitigation requirements were initiated in the Newcastle Subarea in 1990. As this subarea reaches build-out, this source of revenue is expected to diminish.

Parks and Recreation Service Area (P&RSA)

A P&RSA is a junior taxing district which can be initiated by petition signed by at least 10% of the voters residing in the affected area or by county resolution. The county has the authority to create a P&RSA with 60% voter approval. The county can opt to relinquish its governing authority to the City through an interlocal agreement if the P&RSA is centered around an incorporated area.

Real Estate Transactions

Selling or trading parcels of land that the City now owns but does not think will be used for park purposes could be considered as a method to finance acquisition and/or development of more suitable sites. Renting or leasing park-owned property has been used to offset the cost to acquire or manage properties. For example, homes acquired as part of the overall property acquisition along Meydenbauer Bay are being

rented on an interim basis until the City is able to develop the property into a park. Less than fee-simple property acquisition techniques such as life estates and conservation easements can also be used to help reduce the cost of property acquisition. And, finally, leasing property for non-park purposes such as wireless communication facilities can also provide a source of revenue to offset capital costs.

New Tax Sources

The possibility always exists to raise money to fund park-related projects through new tax sources. However, there are currently no identified sources for potential taxation, and the current economic and political climate is one of tax reduction, not creation of new taxing sources.

Chapter 8: SUBAREA INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS





Chapter 8:

Subarea Inventory and Analysis

Throughout the majority of the Park Plan, information and recommendations have been presented by subject matter or focus area. This chapter, however, presents information and recommendations geographically. Bellevue has been divided into 14 geographic study areas, called subareas, consistent with other City of Bellevue planning studies. For the purpose of the Park Plan, the Bellevue portion of the Evergreen Highlands subarea has been incorporated into the Northeast Bellevue subarea.

Comprehensive park and facility inventories have been completed for each geographic subarea, and compared to the adopted level of service standards. Where deficiencies exist, recommendations are included to address these needs.

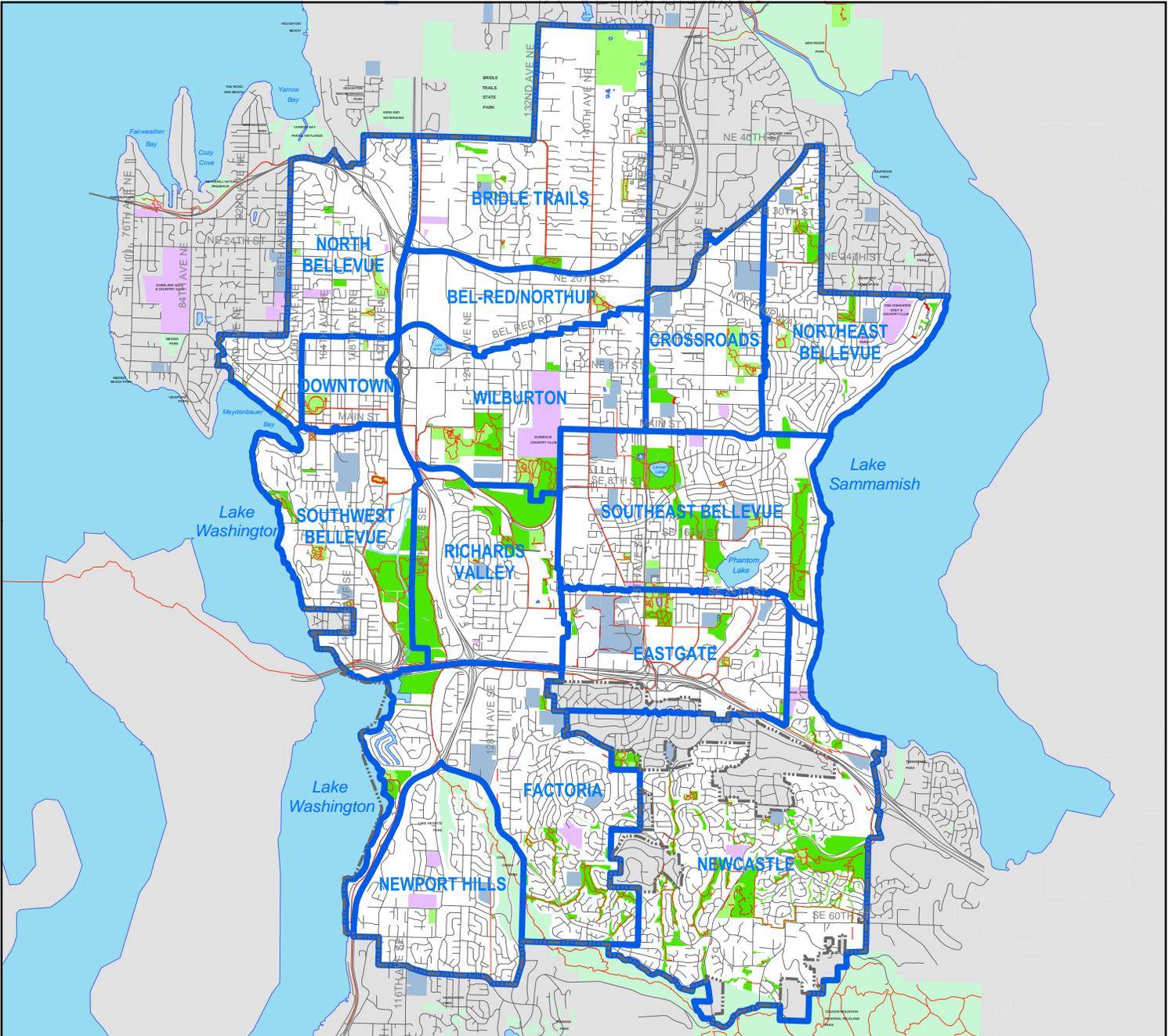
Each of the 14 Subareas on the following pages contain:

- A subarea map depicting existing parks, open space, trails and school sites;
- A summary of key statistical information about that subarea;
- Current (2000) and projected (2020) neighborhood and mini park needs based on the neighborhood level of service standards presented in Chapter 3;
- Recommendations for each subarea. These recommendations are organized by subject matter throughout the individual Focus Area discussions in Chapter 5;
- On the map's facing page, a complete inventory of existing parks, open space, schools and their respective recreational facilities are presented.

Subarea	Community Parks (ac)	Neighborhood Parks (ac)	Mini Parks (ac)	Open Space / Undeveloped (ac)	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (ft)	Soccer Fields	Multi-use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Bel-Red / Northup Subarea	11.6	0.0	1.3	9.0	1.5	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	1
Bridle Trails Subarea	124.1	14.2	2.0	37.6	6.5	0	0	1	0	2	4	2	0	0	0	1
Crossroads Subarea	34.4	4.2	0.0	22.9	1.6	0	0	1	0	3	5	4	0	1	1	1
Downtown Subarea	20.4	3.1	0.8	0.6	2.2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastgate Subarea	43.8	4.5	5.1	25.0	9.9	0	1	0	0	3	10	3	0	0	4	0
Factoria Subarea	91.0	7.0	4.9	140.0	10.5	4,083	0	0	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	0
Newcastle Subarea	203.8	34.3	20.3	169.3	16.4	0	0	1	3	10	7	6	6	0	1	0
Newport Hills Subarea	0.0	4.4	0.5	194.2	2.6	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Bellevue Subarea	13.3	19.1	0.9	7.3	2.3	1,362	0	0	3	5	3	2	0	0	2	0
Northeast Bellevue Subarea	40.1	18.0	0.0	19.0	2.8	0	1	1	1	4	0	2	0	0	1	0
Richards Valley Subarea	219.5	1.9	4.5	69.6	7.6	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Southeast Bellevue Subarea	255.8	18.0	1.3	10.8	13.2	130	1	0	3	2	0	3	1	0	2	0
Southwest Bellevue Subarea	171.2	26.5	0.3	2.7	8.2	1,859	0	0	3	5	4	2	1	0	1	0
Wilburton Subarea	180.0	0.0	0.3	8.3	8.8	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	3	0
Outside City	19.90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	1429.0	155.2	42.3	716.3	94.1	7,433	5	5	22	45	38	27	10	2	15	3



City of Bellevue Subareas



CURRENT STATISTICS

Size	21,291 ac
Population (2000)	109,935
Projected Population (2020)	135,885
Public Parks & Open Space	2342.8 ac
Public School Sites	607.1 ac
Private Park/School	275.3 ac
Waterfront (Total)	73,995 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Park Classification	2000			2020	
	Existing	Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Community	1,564.9	1,429.2	0.0	1,766.5	201.6 ac
Neighborhood	239.6	164.9	0.0	203.8	0.0 ac
Mini	42.4	55.0	12.6	67.9	25.6 ac
Trails	94.2	120.9	26.7	149.5	55.3 mi
Waterfront	7,433	11,099	3,666	11,099	3,666 lf

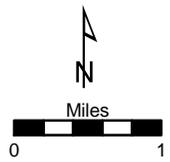
Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped

Trails

- Existing
- - - Planned
- Other Public Parks
- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School

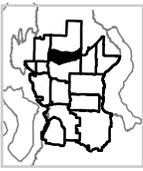
City Boundary
 Subarea Boundary
 Outside City or Subarea



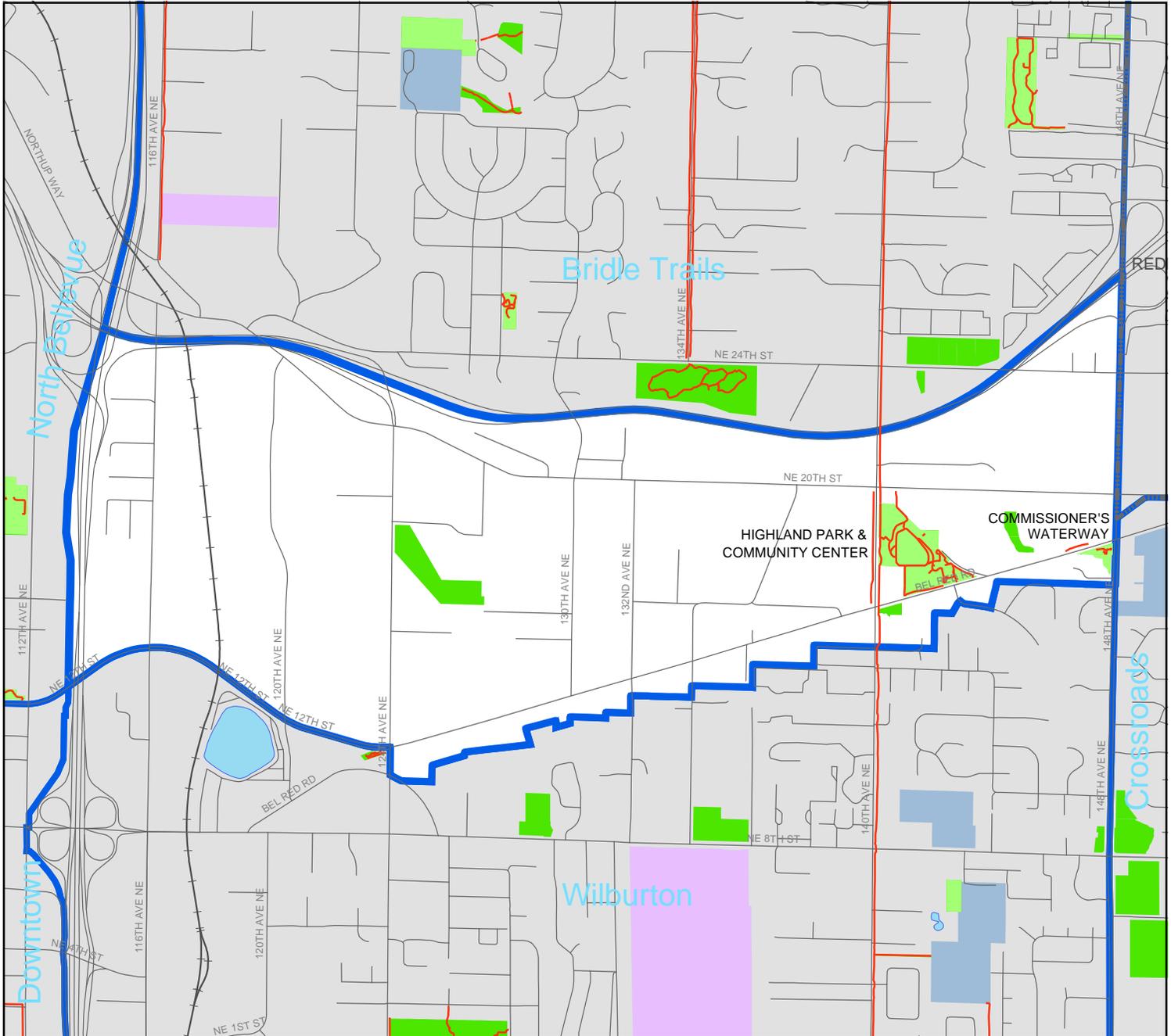
Bel-Red / Northup

	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer Fields	Multi-Use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	21.95	1.53	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	1
Community Parks	11.61	0.79	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	1
Highland Park & Community Center	11.61	0.79				2	1	2			1		1
Neighborhood Parks	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini Parks	1.34	0.06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commissioners Waterway	1.34	0.06											
Open Space / Undeveloped	9.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities Open Space Sites	9.00												
Trail Systems		0.68											
140th Trail*		0.68											
Public School Sites / Library	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Schools/Parks	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Eastside YMCA							1				1	1	

*In multiple Subareas



Bel-Red / Northrup Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Size	839 ac
Population (2000)	160
Projected Population (2020)	160
Public Parks & Open Space	22.0 ac
Public School Sites	0.0 ac
Private Park/School	0.0 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	0 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

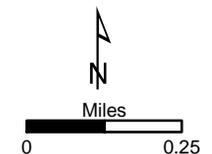
Park Classification	2000			2020	
	Existing	Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2 ac
Mini	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acquire Burlington Northern Railroad Right-of-Way trail corridor (in multiple subareas)
- Acquire north-south power line and pipeline trail easements (in multiple subareas)

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped
- Trails**
 - Existing
 - Planned
- Other Public Parks
- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School
- City Boundary
- Subarea Boundary
- Outside City or Subarea



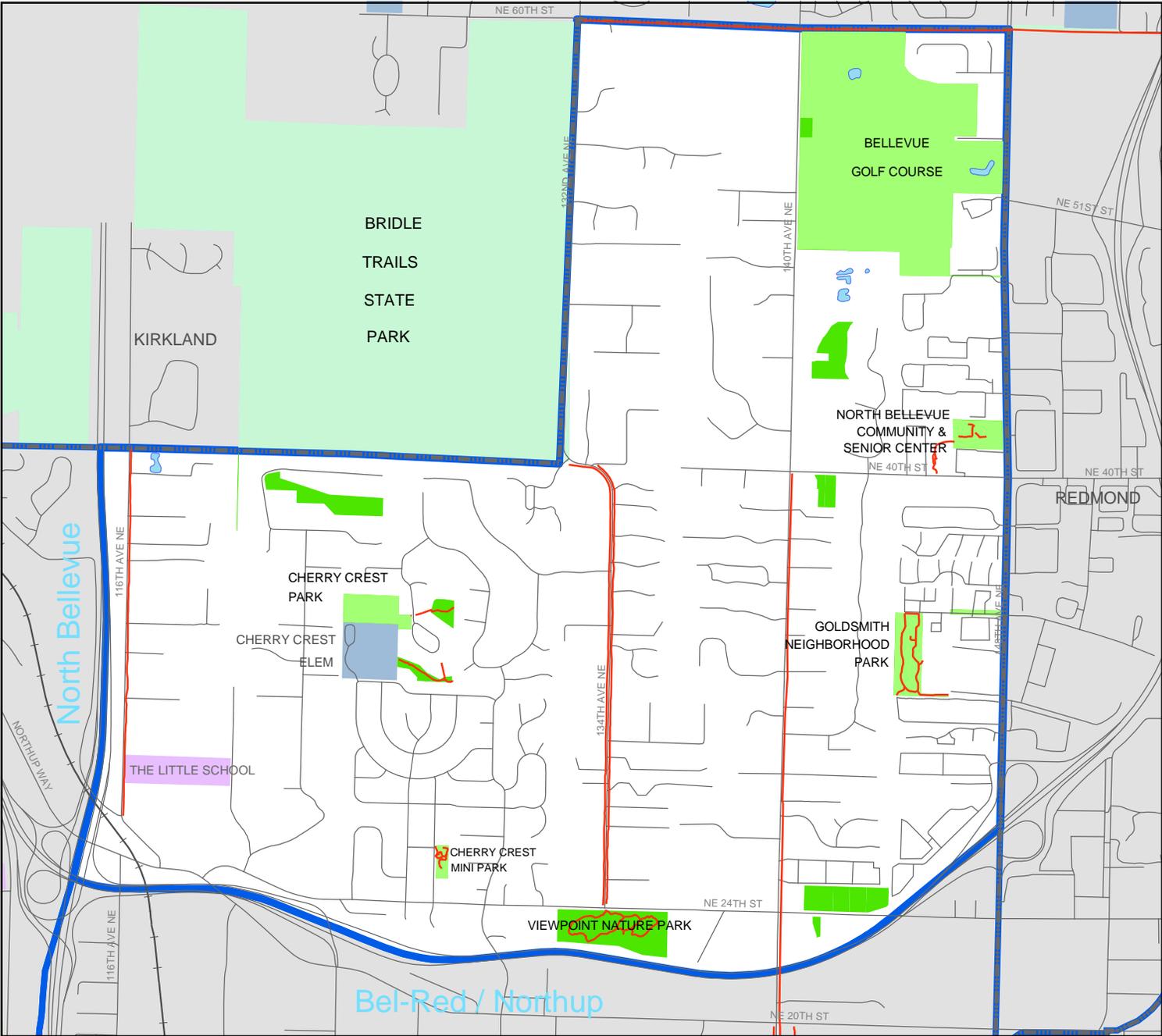
Bridle Trails

	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer Fields	Multi-Use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	177.86	6.54	0	0	1	0	2	4	2	0	0	0	1
Community Parks	124.09	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bellevue Golf Course	119.40												
North Bellevue Community & Senior Center	4.69												1
Neighborhood Parks	14.16	0.53	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
Cherry Crest Park	5.69				1			3					
Goldsmith Neighborhood Park	8.47	0.53						1	1				
Mini Parks	2.04	0.16	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Cherry Crest Mini Park	2.04	0.16					1	1	1				
Open Space / Undeveloped	37.56	0.85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Compton Trails Open Space	3.01	0.27											
Pikes Peak Open Space	7.28												
Utilities Open Space Sites	13.68												
Viewpoint Nature Park	13.60	0.58											
Trail Systems		5.00											
116th Ave NE Trail		0.83											
134th Trail		2.07											
140th Trail*		1.14											
NE 60 Trail		0.97											
Public School Sites / Library	10.15	0.08	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Cherry Crest Elementary [‡]	10.15	0.08					1		1		1	1	
Private Schools/Parks	9.66	0.00	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Little School	9.66						1						

*In multiple Subareas

[‡]Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park standards

Bridle Trails Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Size	2,031 ac
Population (2000)	10,250
Projected Population (2020)	10,550
Public Parks & Open Space	177.9 ac
Public School Sites	10.2 ac
Private Park/School	9.7 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	0 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Park Classification	2000			2020	
	Existing	Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	19.2	15.4	0.0	15.8	0.0 ac
Mini	2.0	5.1	3.1	5.3	3.2 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve greenway and trail connection from the golf course to Bridle Trails State Park
- Construct addition to the North Bellevue Community Center
- Improve the Municipal Golf Course
- Acquire Burlington Northern Railroad Right-of-Way trail corridor (in multiple subareas)
- Acquire north-south power line and pipeline trail easements (in multiple subareas)
- Acquire & develop a mini park

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped

Trails

- Existing
- Planned

Other Public Parks

- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School

City Boundary

- Subarea Boundary
- Outside City or Subarea

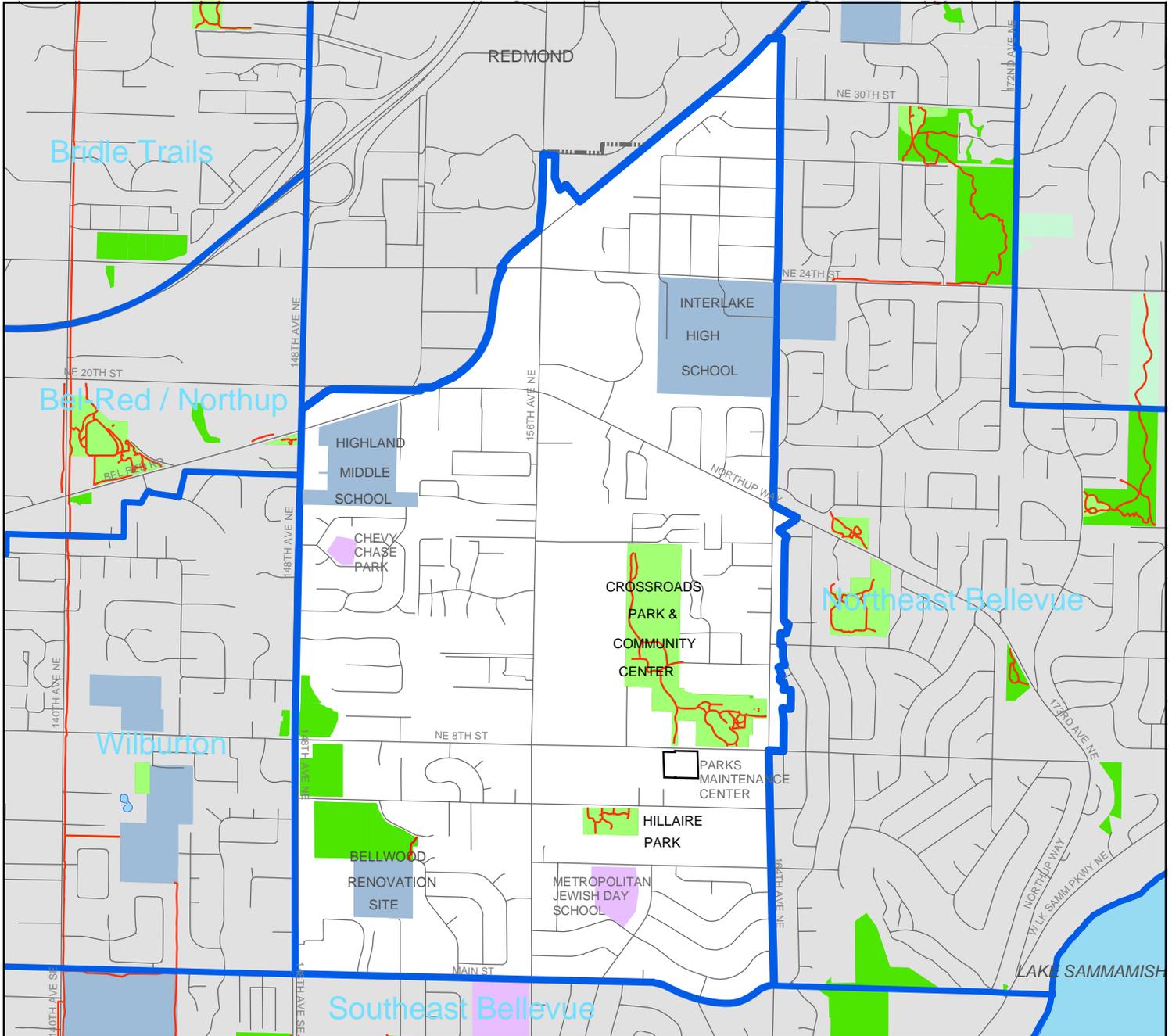
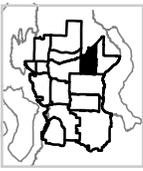
0 0.25 Miles

Crossroads

	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (ft)	Soccer Fields	Multi-use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	61.53	1.60	0	0	1	0	3	5	4	0	1	1	1
Community Parks	34.41	1.30	0	0	1	0	2	3	2	0	1	1	1
Crossroads Park	34.41	1.30			1		2	3	2		1	1	1
Neighborhood Parks	4.21	0.23	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Hillaire Park	4.21	0.23					1	2	2				
Mini Parks	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Open Space / Undeveloped	22.91	0.07	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kelsey Creek Drainage Site (Utilities)	22.91	0.07											
Trail Systems		0.00											
Public School Sites / Library	69.93	0.00	0	3	2	3	1	11	0	0	3	3	0
Bellwood School Site [†]	9.93				1	1	1				1	1	
Highland Middle School [†]	20.85			1	1			4			1	1	
Interlake High School [†]	39.15			2		2		7			1	1	
Private Schools/Parks	8.79	0.00	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
Kindering Center	0.69												
Metropolitan Jewish Day School	6.36				1		1				1		
Chevy Chase Park	1.74						1			1			

[†]Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park standards

Crossroads Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Size	1,015 ac
Population (2000)	10,550
Projected Population (2020)	10,925
Public Parks & Open Space	61.5 ac
Public School Sites	69.9 ac
Private Park/School	8.8 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	0 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

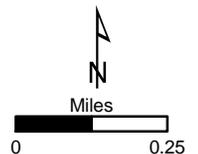
Park Classification	Existing	2000		2020	
		Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	9.2	15.8	6.7	16.4	7.2 ac
Mini	0.0	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.5 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete greenway and trail connections along Kelsey Creek (in multiple subareas)
- Consider acquisition opportunities to expand Crossroads Park
- Complete phased development of Crossroads Park and golf course
- Acquire and develop neighborhood and/or mini-parks
- Complete addition to Crossroads Community Center

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped
- Trails
 - Existing
 - Planned
- Other Public Parks
- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School
- City Boundary
- Subarea Boundary
- Outside City or Subarea



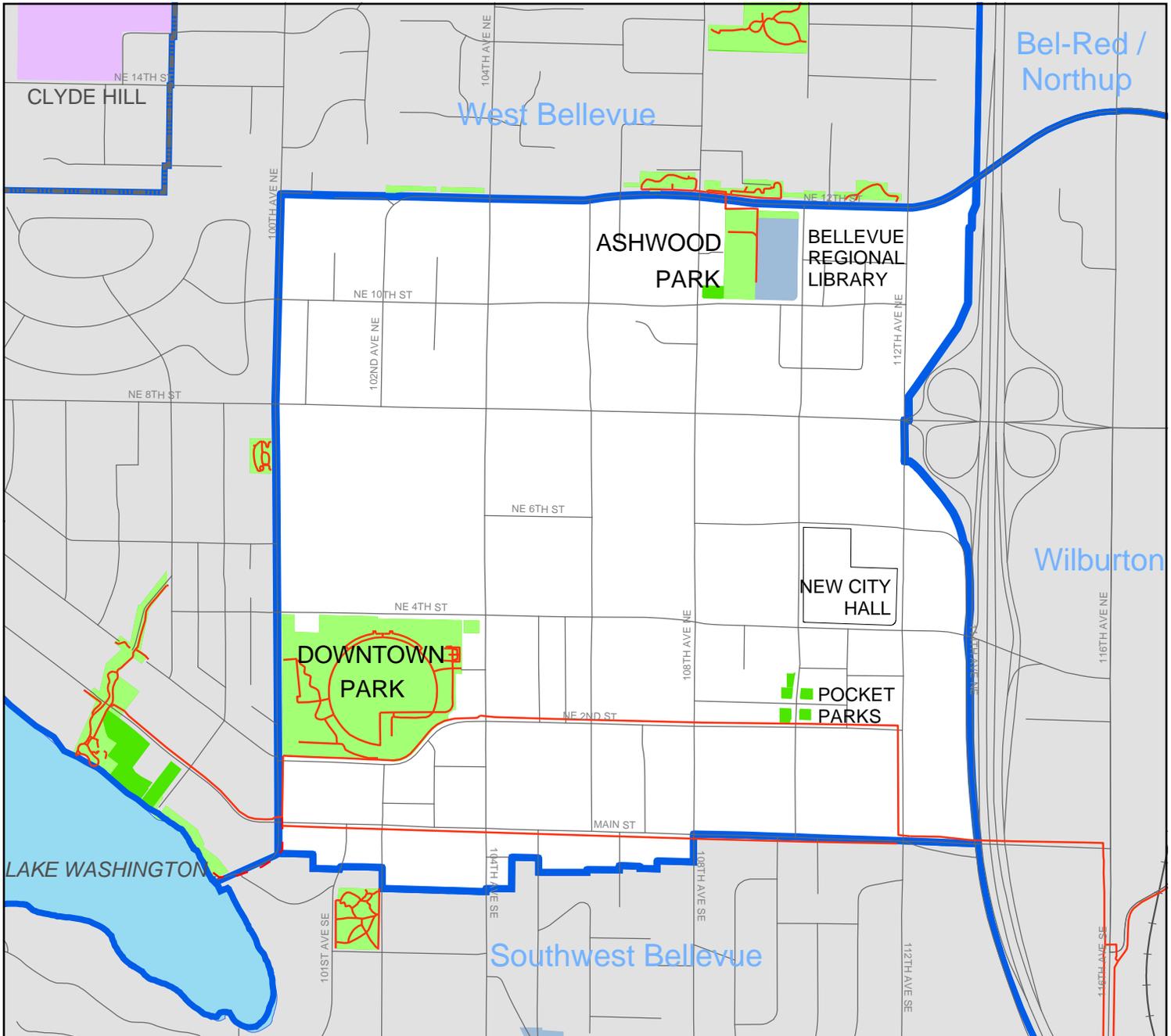
Downtown

	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (ft)	Soccer Fields	Multi-Use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	24.96	2.20	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Parks	20.45	1.18	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Downtown Park	20.45	1.18				1							
Neighborhood Parks	3.09	0.18	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ashwood Park	3.09	0.18			1								
Mini Parks	0.80	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Library Plaza	0.80												
Open Space / Undeveloped	0.62	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pocket Parks	0.62												
Trail Systems		0.84											
Lake to Lake Trail*		0.84											
Public School Sites / Library	3.14	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bellevue Regional Library	3.14											1	
Private Schools/Parks	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*In multiple Subareas



Downtown Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

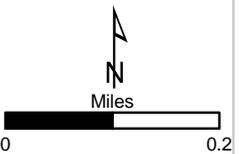
Subarea Size	411 ac
Population (2000)	2,125
Projected Population (2020)	14,000
Public Parks & Open Space	25.0 ac
Public School Sites/Library	3.1 ac
Private Park/School	0.0 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	0 lf

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide small neighborhood parks in the NW and SE quadrants.
- Complete the phased development of the Downtown Park, and enhance its visual and functional presence on Bellevue Way
- Provide a physical and visual connection between the Downtown Park and Meydenbauer Bay
- Complete the Lake-to-Lake Trail system through Downtown
- Develop Ashwood Park and Plaza
- Provide a green buffer area between the single family residential areas south of Main Street and the high density residential and commercial uses north of Main Street
- Evaluate alternatives for providing community center space (Ashwood Park, public/private partnerships, acquire & construct)
- Develop an urban trail system
 - Promote green, pedestrian-biased streets and pedestrian-friendly corridors, and linkages to key downtown destinations
 - Integrate recreational components and urban plazas along the pedestrian corridors

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped
- Trails
 - Existing
 - Planned
- Other Public Parks
- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School
- City Boundary
- Subarea Boundary
- Outside City or Subarea

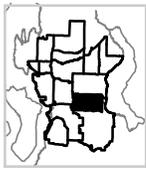


Eastgate

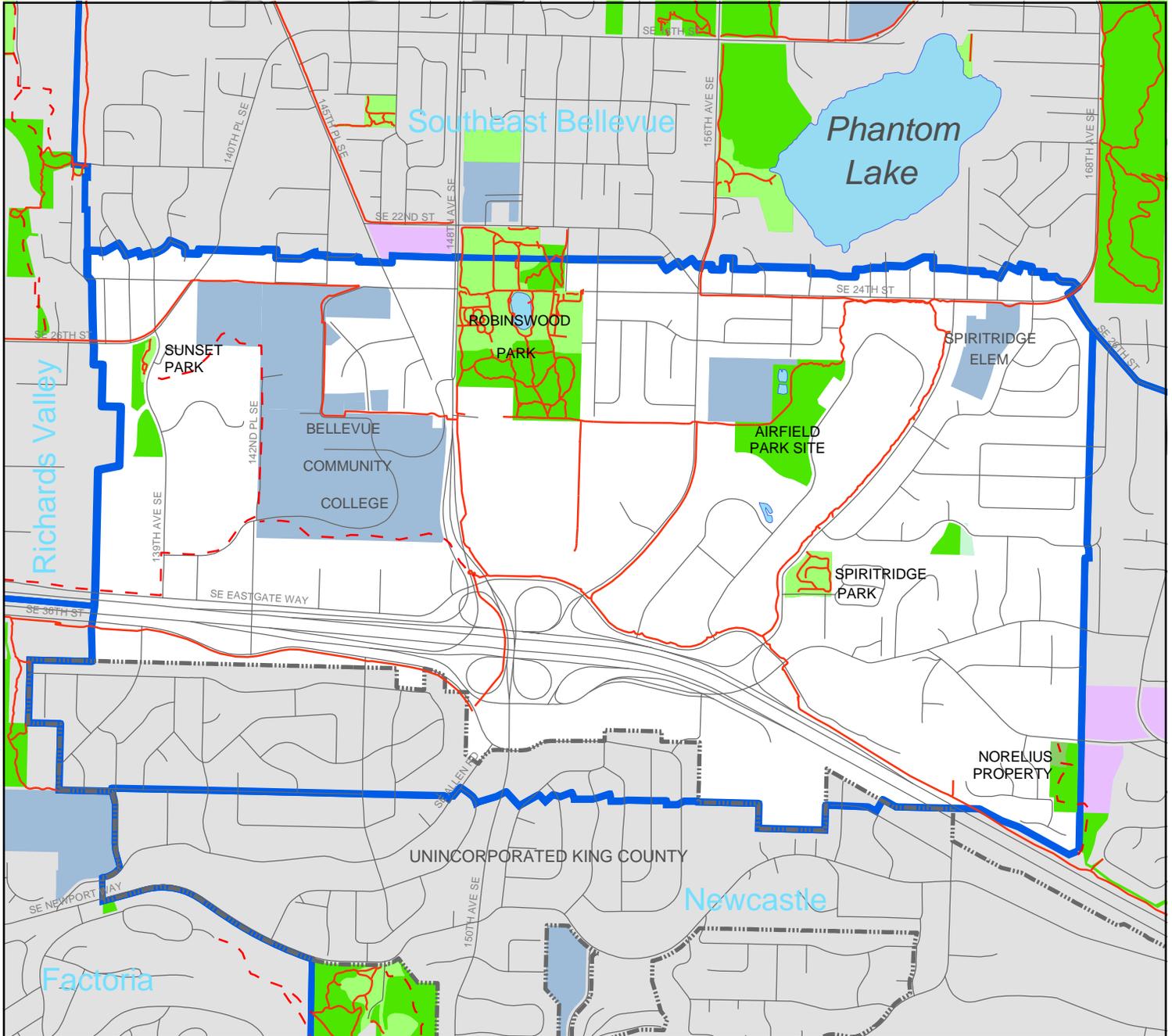
	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (ft)	Soccer Fields	Multi-use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	78.34	9.87	0	1	0	0	3	10	3	0	0	4	0
Community Parks	43.79	2.59	0	1	0	0	1	8	1	0	0	4	0
Robinswood Park*	43.79	2.59		1			1	8	1			4	
Neighborhood Parks	4.50	0.30	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Spiritridge Park	4.50	0.30					1	1	1				
Mini Parks	5.07	0.10	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Sunset Park	5.07	0.10					1	1	1				
Open Space / Undeveloped	24.98	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crestwood Park (KC)	0.88												
Crestwood Property	1.73												
Airfield Park Site	17.03												
Norelius Property & 41.5 Open Space*	5.34												
Trail Systems		6.88											
Lake to Lake Trail*		2.32											
Mountains to Sound Trail*		2.75											
Phantom Lake Loop*		0.37											
Spiritridge Trail		1.44											
Public School Sites / Library	115.11	0.00	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Bellevue Community College	95.60												
Lakewood Site	10.51												
Spiritridge Elementary [‡]	9.00				1		1		1		1	1	
Private Schools/Parks	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*In multiple Subareas

[‡]Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park standards



Eastgate Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Size	1,351 ac
Population (2000)	4,250
Projected Population (2020)	6,350
Bellevue Parks & Open Space	78.3 ac
Public School Site	115.1 ac
Private Park/School	0.0 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	0 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

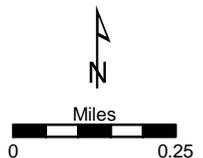
Park Classification	Existing	2000		2020	
		Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	9.0	6.4	0.0	9.5	0.5 ac
Mini	5.1	2.1	0.0	3.2	0.0 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete Lake-to-Lake and Mountains-to-Sound Trail connections (in multiple subareas)
- Develop neighborhood park on Norelius Property
- Develop lighted sportsfields and community park improvements at the Airfield park site
- Install synthetic turf at the Robinswood Park soccer fields
- Consider the acquisition of surplus school site to expand to the Airfield park site
- Acquire north-south pipeline trail easement (in multiple subareas)
- Continue improvements to the Robinswood Tennis Center

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
 - Open Space/Undeveloped
- ### Trails
- Existing
 - Planned
 - Other Public Parks
 - Public School Site / Library
 - Private Park / School
 - City Boundary
 - Subarea Boundary
 - Outside City or Subarea



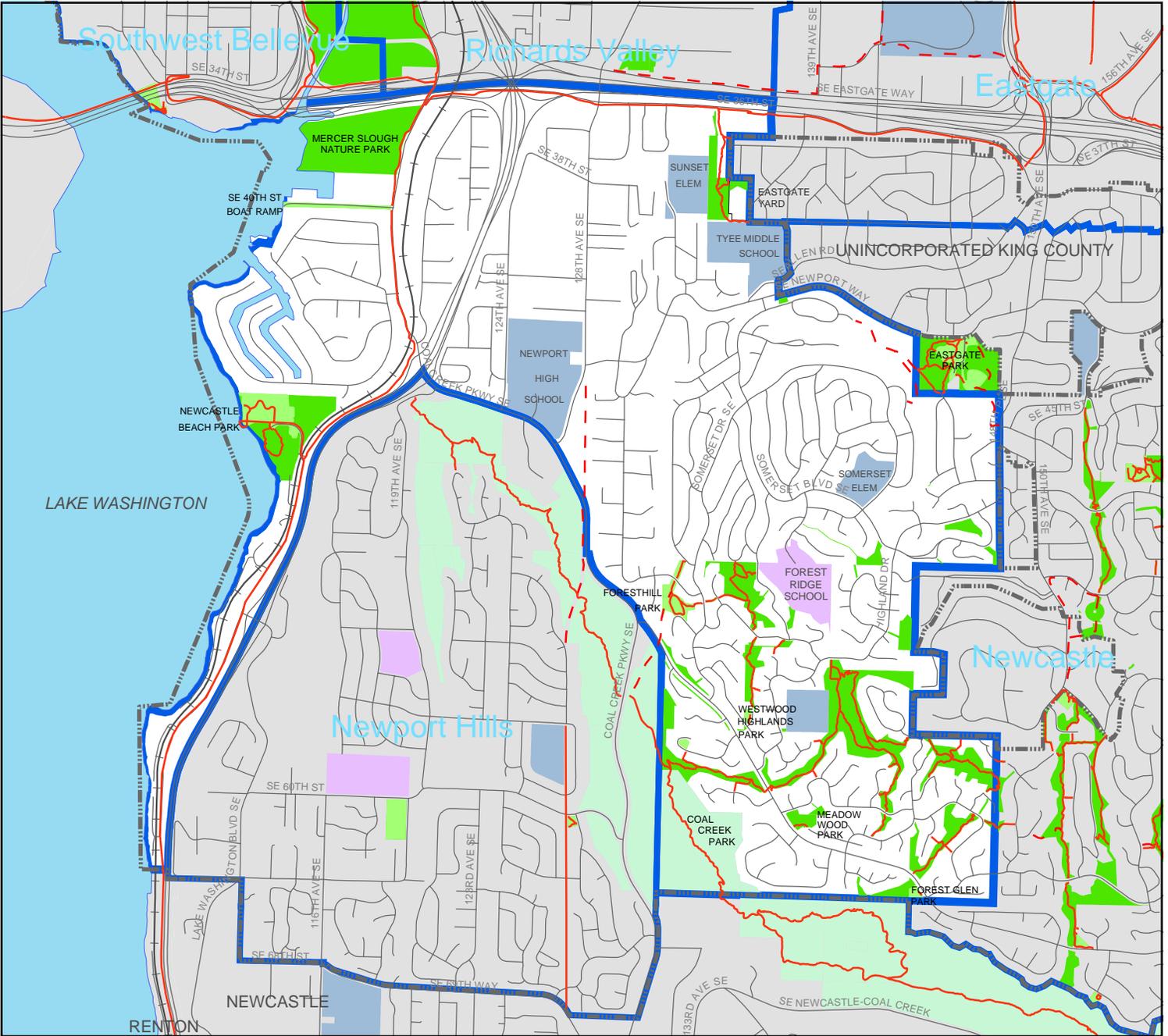
Factoria

	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer Fields	Multi-use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Courts	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	242.99	10.48	4083	0	0	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	0
Community Parks	91.01	0.80	4083	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Mercer Slough Nature Park*	45.02		2354										
Newcastle Beach Park	42.48	0.80	1648			1			1				
SE 40th Street Boat Ramp	3.50		80										
Neighborhood Parks	7.03	0.05	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Forest Glen Park	4.28						1		1				
Meadow Wood Park	2.75	0.05					1						
Mini Parks	4.92	0.30	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Foresthill Park	4.42	0.30					1						
Westwood Highlands Park	0.50							1					
Open Space / Undeveloped	140.04	5.60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coal Creek Park (KC)*	46.06	0.55											
Forest Drive Open Space	2.14												
Forest Glen East Open Space*	7.66	0.42											
Forest Park - Lower Washout Way	10.66	0.54											
Forest Park - Upper Washout Way	4.90	0.44											
Forest Park Meadows Open Space*	11.49	0.55											
Forest Park Open Space	25.23	1.31											
Forestpark Property	0.38	0.35											
Horizon Highlands Open Space	2.95												
Little Field	0.07												
Owl Avenue Open Space	0.75	0.09											
Somerset East Open Space	2.95												
Somerset Highlands Open Space	2.05												
Somerset North Slope Open Space	0.40												
Somerset Park Open Space	10.60	0.53											
Sunset Ravine Open Space	7.07	0.51											
Westwood Highlands Open Space	4.69	0.33											
Trail Systems		3.74											
Lake to Lake Trail*		1.32											
Lake Washington Bike Trail		1.32											
Mountain to Sound Greenway*		1.10											
Public School Sites / Library	99.80	0.00	0	2	4	4	3	14	7	0	4	4	0
Newport High School [‡]	42.60			1		3		7			1	1	
Somerset Elementary School [‡]	10.00				1		2		1		1	1	
Somerset Site #2	10.10												
Sunset Elementary School [‡]	13.10				2		1		1		1	1	
Tyee Middle School [‡]	24.00			1	1	1		7	5		1	1	
Private Schools/Parks	19.83	0.00	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Ridge School	19.83			1				3					

*In multiple Subareas

[‡]Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park standards

Factoria Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Size	2,100 ac
Population (2000)	11,300
Projected Population (2020)	11,975
Public Parks & Open Space	243.0 ac
Public School Sites	99.8 ac
Private Park/School	19.8 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	26,573 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

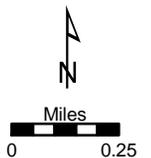
Park Classification	2000			2020	
	Existing	Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	18.6	17.0	0.0	18.0	0.0 ac
Mini	4.9	5.7	0.7	6.0	1.1 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider acquisition opportunities to expand Eastgate Community Park
- Acquire and develop a neighborhood/mini-park in the northern portion of the subarea
- Develop additional parking for the 40th Street Boat Launch
- Acquire Coal Creek Park and provide forestry and trail improvements (in multiple subareas)
- Consider acquiring surplus school site
- Develop Meadow Wood Park
- Acquire Burlington Northern Railroad Right-of-Way trail easement (in multiple subareas)
- Acquire north-south power line and pipeline trail easements (in multiple subareas)

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped
- Trails
 - Existing
 - - - Planned
- Other Public Parks
- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School
- City Boundary
- Subarea Boundary
- Outside City or Subarea



Newcastle

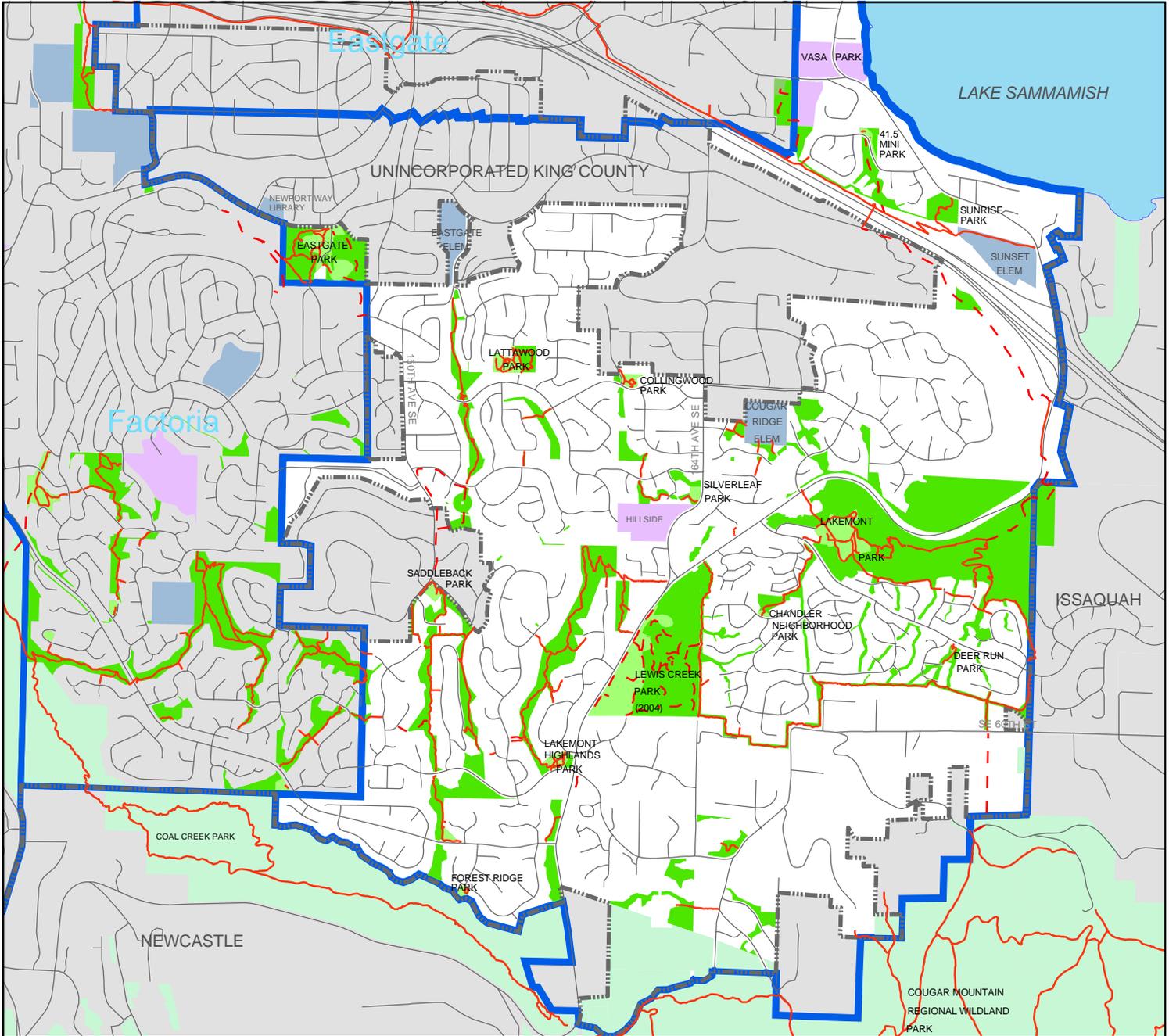
	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (ft)	Soccer Fields	Multi-use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	427.64	16.42	0	0	1	3	10	7	6	6	0	1	0
Community Parks	203.78	6.09	0	0	1	3	3	4	2	5	0	1	0
Eastgate Park	24.08	0.68				1	1	2					
Lakemont Park	123.91	3.20				1	1	2	1	2			
Lewis Creek Park	55.79	2.21			1	1	1		1	3		1	
Neighborhood Parks	34.26	2.60	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	0
Lakemont Highlands Park	28.96	2.10					1	1	1				
Lattawood Park	5.30	0.50					1		1	1			
Mini Parks	20.33	0.50	0	0	0	0	5	2	2	0	0	0	0
41.5 Mini Park	1.43								1				
Chandler Neighborhood Park	8.06	0.30					1						
Collingwood Mini Park	1.10						1						
Deer Run Park	7.19	0.10					1						
Forest Ridge Park	0.56						1						
Saddleback Park	1.17	0.10					1		1				
Silverleaf Park	0.82							2					
Open Space / Undeveloped	169.27	6.13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collingwood Open Space	3.44												
Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park (KC)	60.14	0.22											
Cougar Ridge East Open Space	2.92												
Cougar Ridge West Open Space	7.98	0.10											
Eaglesmere Open Space	3.28												
Forest Glen East Open Space*	0.43	0.10											
Forest Park Meadows Open Space*	1.63	0.10											
Forest Ridge Open Space	5.08	0.10											
Horizon Heights Open Space	5.03	0.40											
Lakemont Blvd Open Space	1.02												
Lakemont Trail Open Space	11.71	2.20											
Newport Way Open Space	2.06												
Norelius Property & 41.5 Open Space*	5.30												
Saddleback Open Space	4.35	0.30											
SE 63rd Greenbelt North	6.86	0.50											
SE 63rd Greenbelt South	10.96	0.30											
Silverleaf Open Space	3.23	0.30											
Stratford Open Space	8.13												
Sunrise Park	4.48	0.10											
The Heights Open Space	3.80	0.20											
The Summit Open Space	0.38												
Vuemont South Open Space	2.55	0.30											
West Summit Open Space	7.69	0.50											
Whispering Heights Open Space	4.14	0.33											
Winfield Open Space	2.66	0.08											
Trail Systems		1.10											
Mountain to Sound Greenway*		1.10											
Public School Sites / Library	31.81	0.00	0	0	3	0	3	0	5	0	3	4	0
Cougar Ridge Elementary [‡]	10.13				1		1		1		1	1	
Eastgate Elementary [‡]	8.07				1		1		1		1	1	
Newport Way Library												1	
Sunset Elementary [‡]	13.61				1		1		3		1	1	
Private Schools/Parks	29.90	0.00	540	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vasa Park	18.40		540										
Hillside	11.50												

*In multiple Subareas

[‡]Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park standards



Newcastle Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Size	3,454 ac
Population (2000)	12,050
Projected Population (2020)	18,150
Public Parks & Open Space	427.6 ac
Public School Sites	31.8 ac
Private Park/School	29.9 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	7,583 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

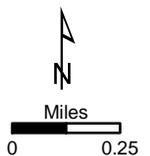
Park Classification	2000			2020	
	Existing	Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	50.2	18.1	0.0	27.2	0.0 ac
Mini	20.3	6.0	0.0	9.1	0.0 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acquire wildlife corridors and develop trail connections to Cougar Mountain and Coal Creek Parks
- Complete greenway and trail connections between residential areas and along the Lewis Creek Greenway
- Acquire and develop a waterfront park on Lake Sammamish (in multiple subareas)
- Acquire Coal Creek Park and provide forestry and trail improvements (in multiple subareas)
- Develop the Sunrise Park site and greenway
- Develop Lewis Creek Park
- Develop Eastgate Park and Community Center

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped
- Trails**
 - Existing
 - Planned
- Other Public Parks
- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School
- City Boundary
- Subarea Boundary
- Outside City or Subarea



Newport Hills

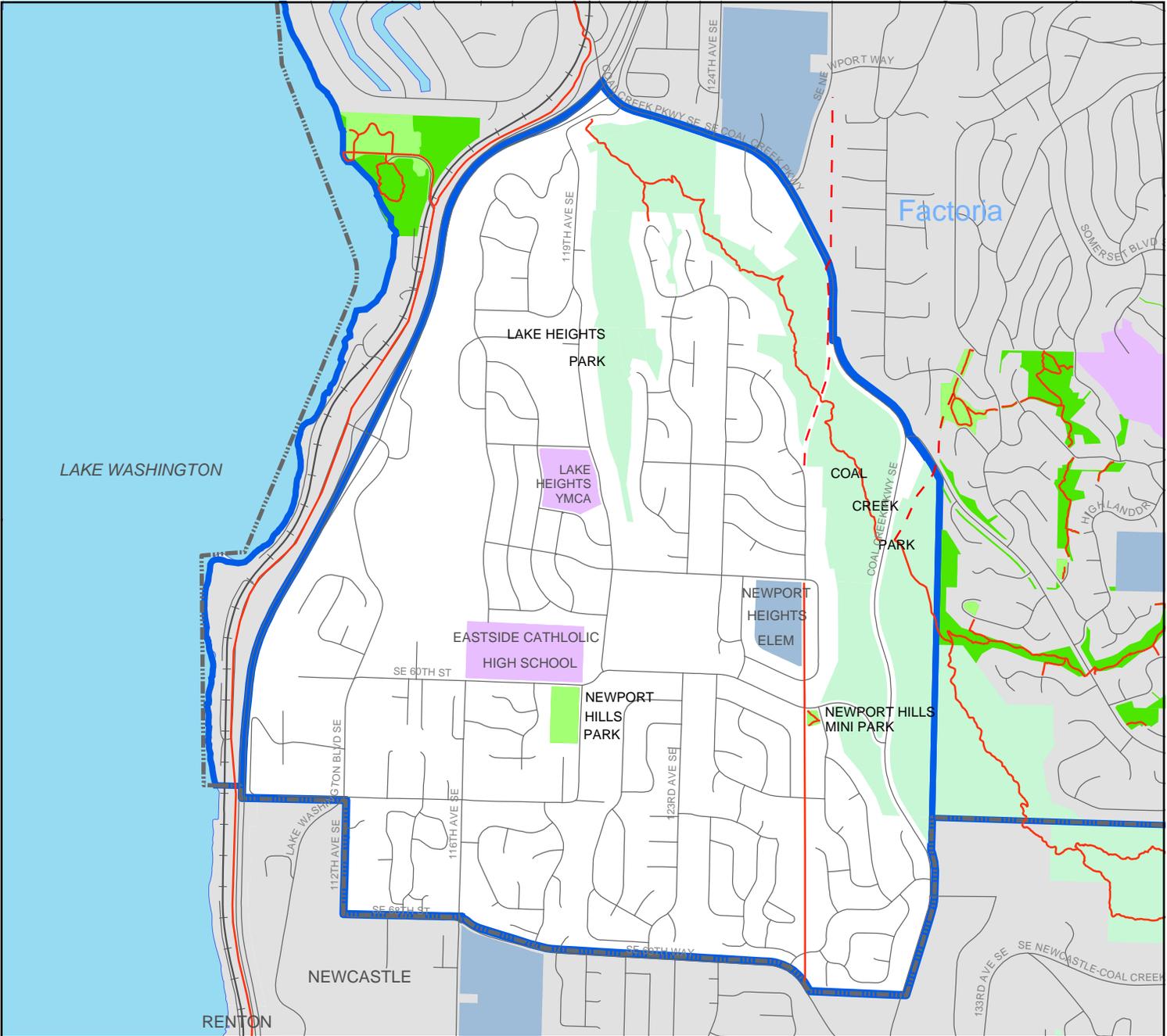
	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (ft)	Soccer Fields	Multi-Use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	199.15	2.58	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Parks	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neighborhood Parks	4.44	0.00	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newport Hills Park	4.44			1		1	1						
Mini Parks	0.48	0.07	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newport Hills Mini Park	0.48	0.07											
Open Space / Undeveloped	194.23	1.67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coal Creek Park (KC)*	177.50	1.67											
Lake Heights Park (KC)	16.73												
Trail Systems		0.84											
Newport Hills Pipeline Trail		0.84											
Public School Sites / Library	9.48	0.00	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Newport Heights Elementary [‡]	9.48				2		1		1		1	1	
Private Schools/Parks	27.80	0.00	0	1	1	3	1	4	1	0	2	2	0
Eastside Catholic High School	18.84			1	1	1		4			1	1	
Lake Heights YMCA	8.96					2	1		1		1	1	

*In multiple Subareas

[‡]Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park standards



Newport Hills Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Size	1,285 ac
Population (2000)	7,500
Projected Population (2020)	8,475
Public Parks & Open Space	199.2 ac
Public School Sites	9.5 ac
Private Park/School	27.8 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	0 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Park Classification	Existing	2000		2020	
		Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	9.2	11.3	2.1	12.7	3.5 ac
Mini	0.5	3.8	3.3	4.2	3.8 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acquire Coal Creek and Lake Heights Parks and provide forestry and trail improvements (in multiple subareas)
- Acquire and develop neighborhood/mini-park(s)
- Consider acquiring surplus school site(s) if and when available
- Install synthetic turf at Newport Hills soccer field
- Acquire north-south power line and pipeline trail easements (in multiple subareas)

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped

Trails

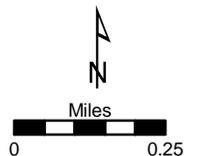
- Existing
- Planned

Other Public Parks

- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School

City Boundary

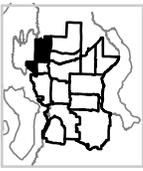
- Subarea Boundary
- Outside City or Subarea



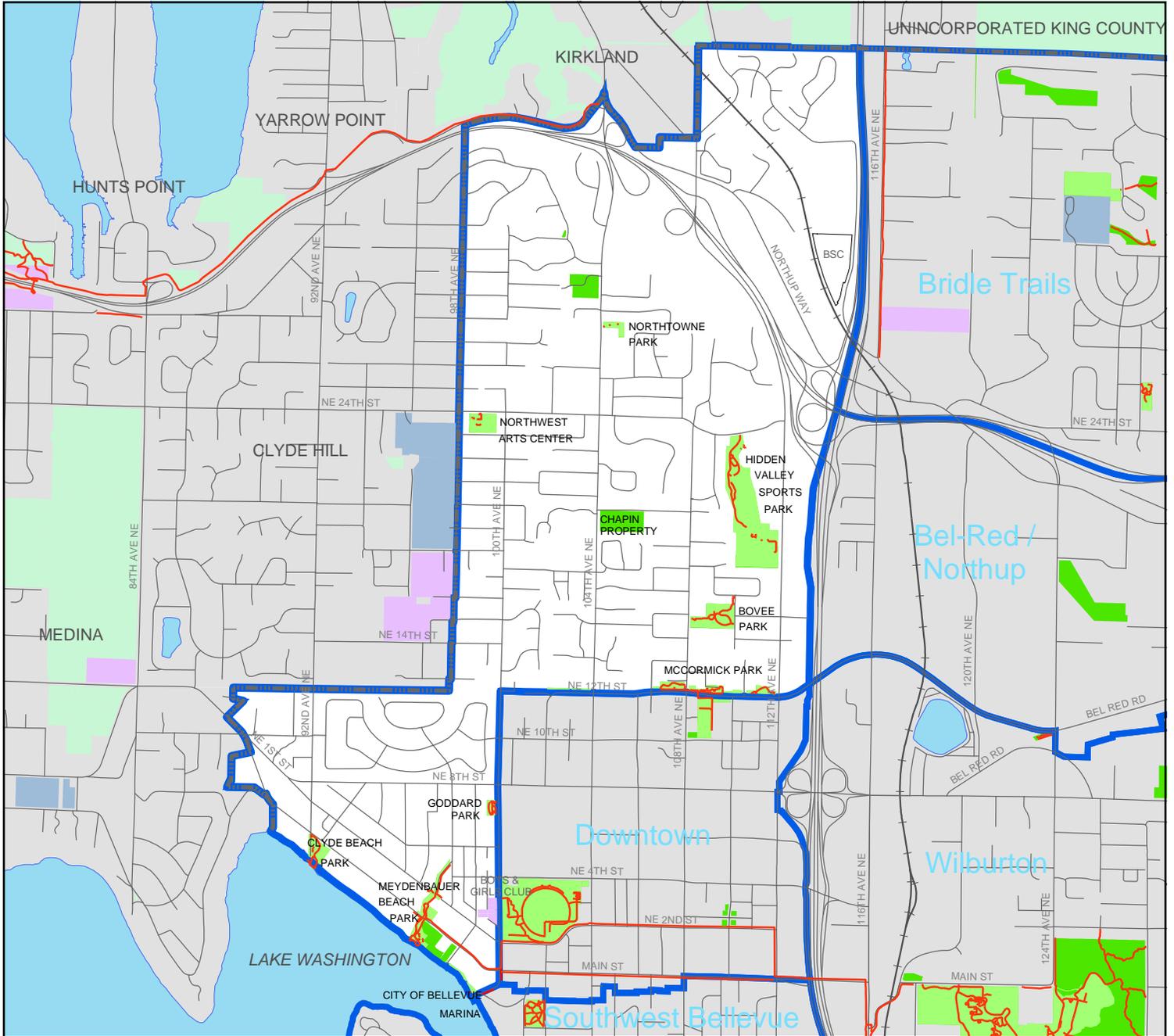
North Bellevue

	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer Fields	Multi-use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	40.60	2.30	1362	0	0	3	5	3	2	0	0	2	0
Community Parks	13.29	0.47	547	0	0	3	1	1	2	0	0	1	0
Bellevue Marina at Meydenbauer	0.95		547										
Hidden Valley Sports Park	11.84	0.47			3	1	1	1					
Ground Zero	0.50							1				1	
Neighborhood Parks	19.13	1.58	755	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0
Bovee Park	4.15	0.32					1	2					
Clyde Beach Park	2.05	0.13	178				1						
Goddard Park	0.59	0.15											
McCormick Park	2.69	0.49											
Meydenbauer Beach Park	7.24	0.49	577				1						
Northwest Arts Center	2.40											1	
Mini Parks	0.86	0.00	60	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
99th Avenue Street End	0.09		60										
Northtowne Park	0.77						1						
Open Space / Undeveloped	7.32	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chapin Property	4.26												
Spring Hills Property	3.06												
Trail Systems		0.26											
Lake to Lake Trail*		0.26											
Public School Sites / Library	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Schools/Parks	0.89	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bellevue Boys & Girls Club	0.89												

*In multiple Subareas



North Bellevue Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Size	1,317 ac
Population (2000)	8,200
Projected Population (2020)	8,650
Public Parks & Open Space	40.6 ac
Public School Site	0.0 ac
Private Park/School	0.9 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	3,753 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

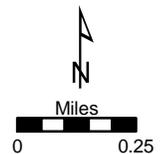
Park Classification	Existing	2000		2020	
		Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	19.1	12.3	0.0	13.0	0.0 ac
Mini	0.9	4.1	3.2	4.3	3.5 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete the waterfront property acquisition from Meydenbauer Beach Park to the marina
- Provide pedestrian connection from Meydenbauer Beach Park and marina to the Downtown Park and Downtown Business District (in multiple subareas)
- Complete major waterfront park development at Meydenbauer Beach/Meydenbauer Park
- Develop the Chapin neighborhood park site
- Acquire Burlington Northern Railroad Right-of-Way trail easement (in multiple subareas)

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped
- Trails**
 - Existing
 - - - Planned
- Other Public Parks
- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School
- City Boundary
- Subarea Boundary
- Outside City or Subarea

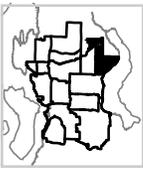


Northeast Bellevue

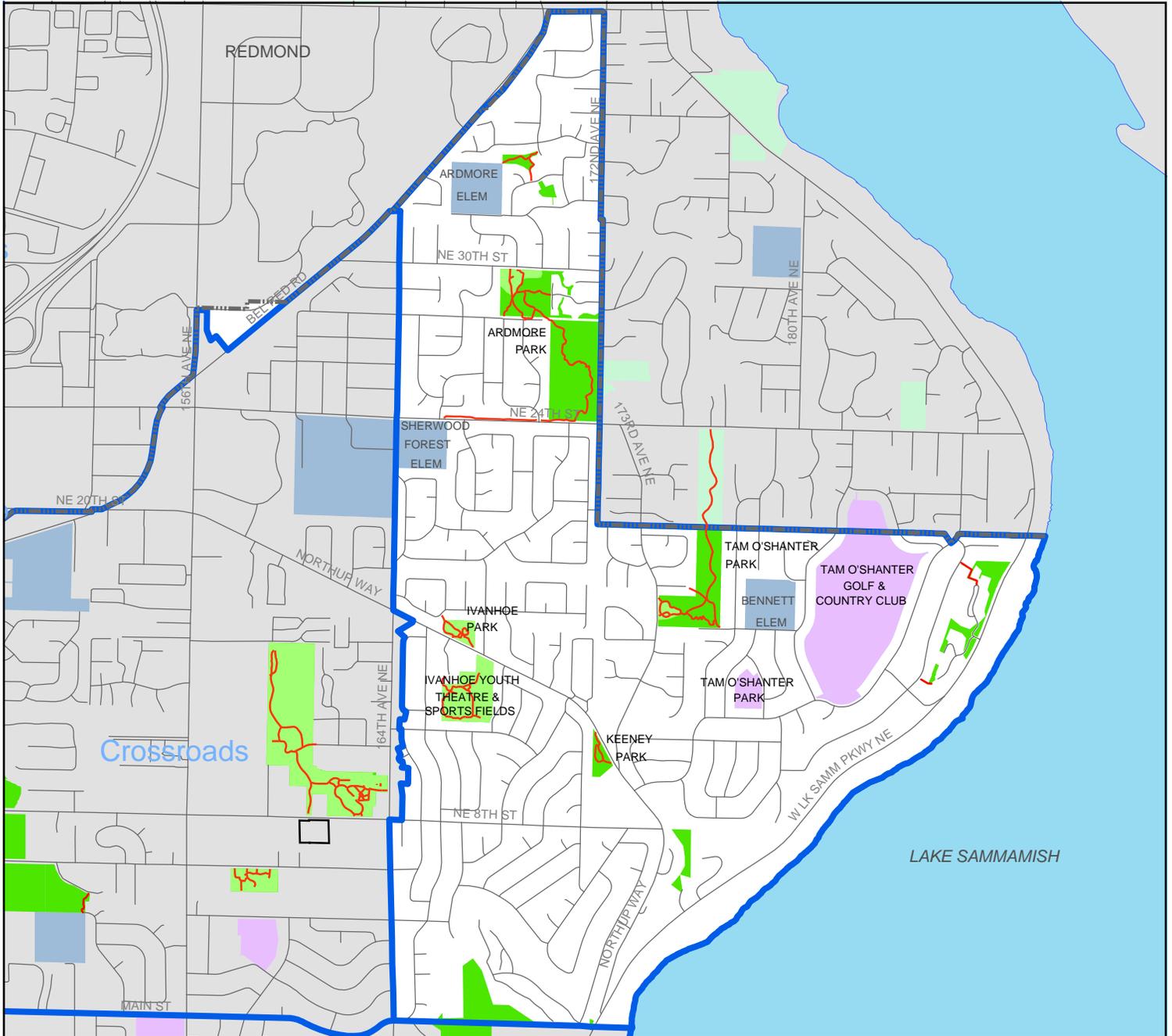
	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (ft)	Soccer Fields	Multi-use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	77.14	2.80	0	1	1	1	4	0	2	0	0	1	0
Community Parks	40.13	1.40	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ivanhoe Youth Theatre & Sports Fields	9.84	0.43		1	1	1	1					1	
Ardmore Park	30.29	0.97					1						
Neighborhood Parks	17.99	0.97	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Ivanhoe Park	2.49	0.25					1		1				
Tam O'Shanter Park	15.50	0.72					1		1				
Mini Parks	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Open Space / Undeveloped	19.02	0.43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenney Property	2.18	0.16											
Lake Hills #27 Open Space	2.10												
Lake Ridge Estates Open Space	3.95	0.11											
Sunich Property*	8.76												
Woodside East & Weatherburn Open Space	2.03	0.17											
Trail Systems		0.00											
Public School Sites / Library	29.24	0.00	0	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	3	0
Ardmore Elementary [‡]	10.24				1		1		1		1	1	
Bennett Elementary [‡]	9.92				1		1		1		1	1	
Sherwood Forest Elementary [‡]	9.08				1		1		1		1	1	
Private Schools/Parks	53.76	0.00	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0
Tam O'Shanter Country Club	50.17												
Tam O'Shanter Park	3.59						1	4	1				
Other Bellevue Parks Sites outside of City/Subarea	19.90	0.00	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
City of Bellevue Ballfields at Marymoor	19.90					3							

*In multiple Subareas

[‡]Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park standards



Northeast Bellevue Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Size	1,174 ac
Population (2000)	9,450
Projected Population (2020)	9,575
Public Parks & Open Space	77.1 ac
Public School Sites	29.2 ac
Private Park/School	53.8 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	9,107 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

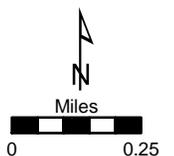
Park Classification	2000			2020	
	Existing	Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	32.6	14.2	0.0	14.4	0.0 ac
Mini	0.0	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.8 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acquire and develop a waterfront park on Lake Sammamish (in multiple subareas)
- Complete phased development at the Marymoor Park sportsfields (outside of subarea boundaries)

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped
- Trails
 - Existing
 - Planned
- Other Public Parks
- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School
- City Boundary
- Subarea Boundary
- Outside City or Subarea

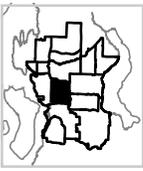


Richards Valley

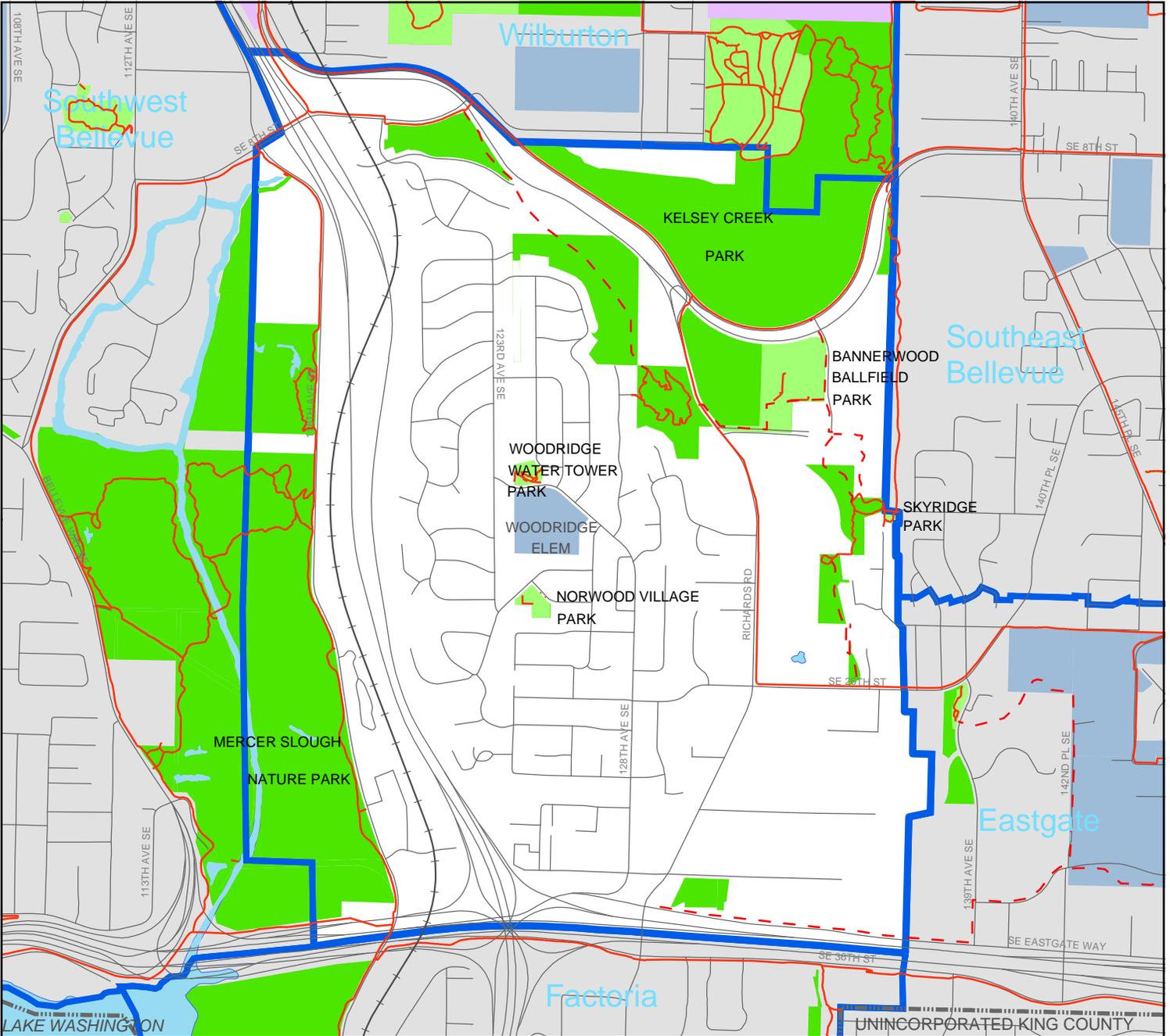
	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer Fields	Multi-use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	295.50	7.61	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Community Parks	219.45	0.64	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bannerwood Ballfield Park	8.08				1								
Kelsey Creek Park*	96.33	0.08											
Mercer Slough Nature Park*	115.05	0.56											
Neighborhood Parks	1.88	0.00	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Norwood Village Park	1.88						1	2	2				
Mini Parks	4.53	0.47	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodridge Water Tower Park	1.33	0.18											
SE 32nd St Park	1.55	0.14											
Skyridge Park	1.65	0.14					1						
Open Space / Undeveloped	69.64	0.92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richards Creek Open Space	15.53												
Richards Valley Open Space	10.90	0.38											
Utilities Open Space Sites	3.56												
West Kelsey Open Space	8.67												
Woodridge Open Space	30.97	0.54											
Trail Systems		5.59											
Lake to Lake Trail*		5.29											
Mountains to Sound Trail*		0.16											
Pipeline Trail*		0.15											
Public School Sites / Library	9.01	0.00	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Woodridge Elementary School†	9.01				1		1		1		1	1	
Private Schools/Parks	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*In multiple Subareas

†Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park standards



Richards Valley Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Size	1,293 ac
Population (2000)	4,350
Projected Population (2020)	5,100
Public Parks & Open Space	295.5 ac
Public School Sites	9.0 ac
Private Park/School	0.0 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	0 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

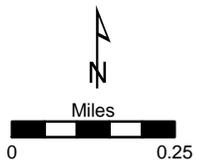
Park Classification	Existing	2000		2020	
		Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	6.4	6.5	0.1	7.7	1.3 ac
Mini	4.5	2.2	0.0	2.6	0.0 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete greenway and trail connections along Richards Valley, and between Mercer Slough and Kelsey Creek Park (in multiple subareas)
- Consider open space acquisition opportunities to expand Kelsey Creek Park and the Mercer Slough Nature Park
- Acquire Burlington Northern Railroad Right-of-Way trail easement (in multiple subareas)
- Acquire north-south power line trail easement (in multiple subareas)

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped
- Trails
 - Existing
 - Planned
- Other Public Parks
- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School
- City Boundary
- Subarea Boundary
- Outside City or Subarea

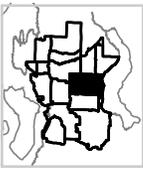


Southeast Bellevue

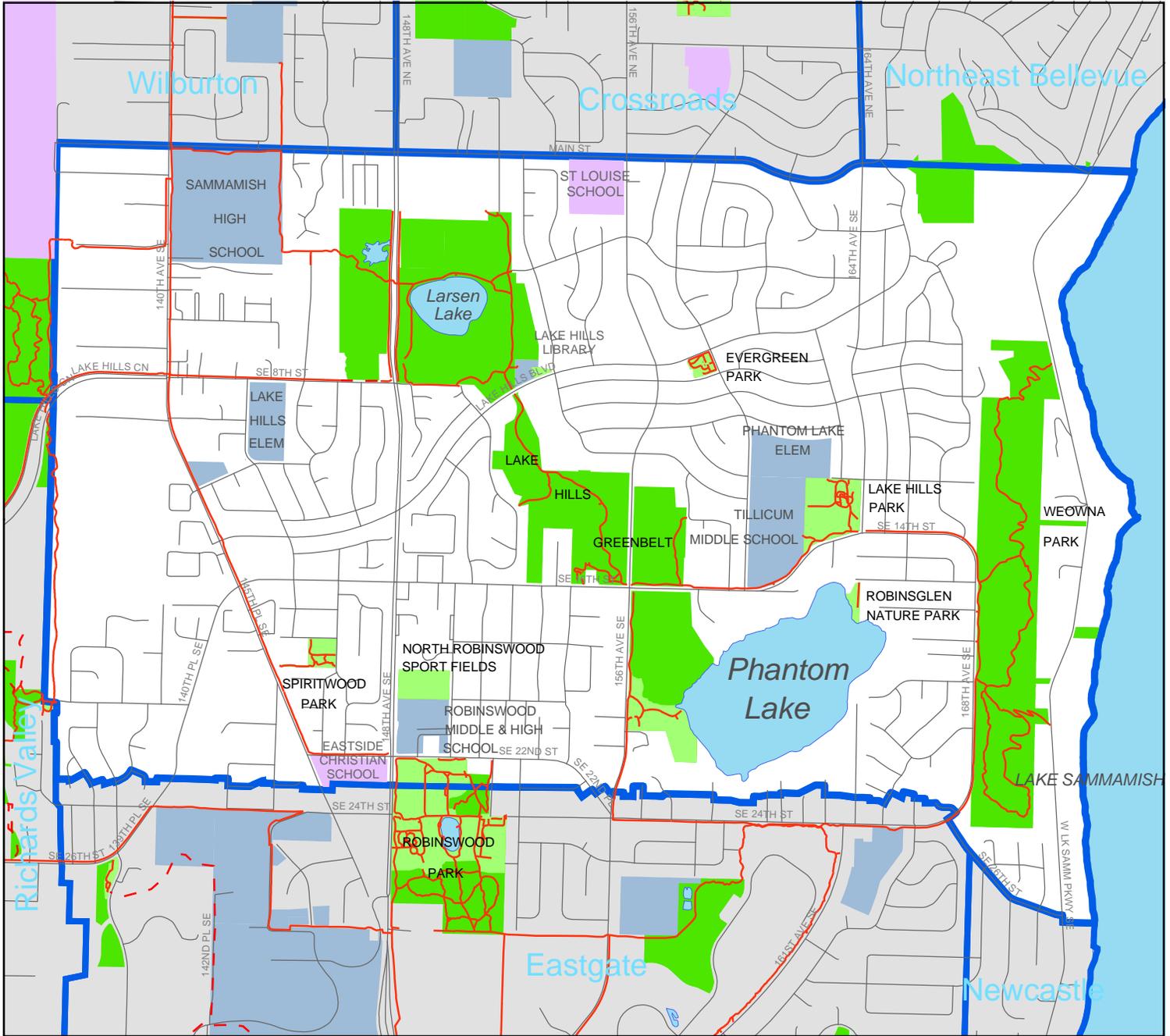
	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer Fields	Multi-Use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	285.90	13.19	130	1	0	3	2	0	3	1	0	2	0
Community Parks	255.76	5.10	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Lake Heights Club House	0.39											1	
Lake Hills Greenbelt	169.48	2.19							1			1	
Robinswood Park*	7.09	0.52		1		1							
Weowna Park	78.80	2.39											
Neighborhood Parks	17.98	0.85	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Lake Hills Park	10.13	0.53				2	1		2				
Robinsglen Nature Park	5.23	0.05											
Spiritwood Park	2.62	0.27											
Mini Parks	1.33	0.26	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Evergreen Park	1.33	0.26					1		1				
Open Space / Undeveloped	10.83	0.00	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Sammamish Property	0.80		130										
Sunich Property*	10.02												
Trail Systems		6.98											
140th Trail*		1.49											
Lake to Lake Trail*		4.49											
Phantom Lake Loop*		0.44											
Pipeline Trail*		0.56											
Public School Sites / Library	90.41	0.00	0	2	5	4	2	12	2	0	5	6	0
Kelsey Creek Home School Center	1.73												
Lake Hills Elementary [‡]	9.41				1	1	1				1	1	
Phantom Lake Elementary [‡]	9.97				1		1				1	1	
Robinswood Middle & High School [‡]	11.90				2						1	1	
Sammamish High School [‡]	38.01			1		3		7			1	1	
Tillicum Middle School [‡]	18.02			1	1			5	2		1	1	
Lake Hills Library	1.37											1	
Private Schools/Parks	15.59	0.00	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0
Eastside Christian School	6.01				1				4				
St. Louise School	9.58						1						

*In multiple Subareas

[‡]Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park standards



Southeast Bellevue Subarea



SUBAREA CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Area	2,038 ac
Population (2000)	13,550
Projected Population (2020)	14,450
Public Parks & Open Space	285.9 ac
Public School Sites / Library	90.4 ac
Private Park/School	15.6 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	9,478 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

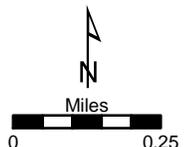
Park Classification	Existing	2000		2020	
		Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	27.7	20.3	0.0	21.7	0.0 ac
Mini	1.3	6.8	5.4	7.2	5.9 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete greenway and trail connections along Kelsey Creek, Lake Hills Greenbelt and along the Lake-to-Lake Trail (in multiple subareas)
- Acquire and develop a waterfront park on Lake Sammamish (in multiple subareas)
- Consider acquisition opportunities to expand Robinswood Park
- Acquire north-south pipeline trail easement (in multiple subareas)

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped
- Trails
 - Existing
 - Planned
- Other Public Parks
- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School
- City Boundary
- Subarea Boundary
- Outside City or Subarea

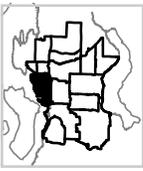


Southwest Bellevue

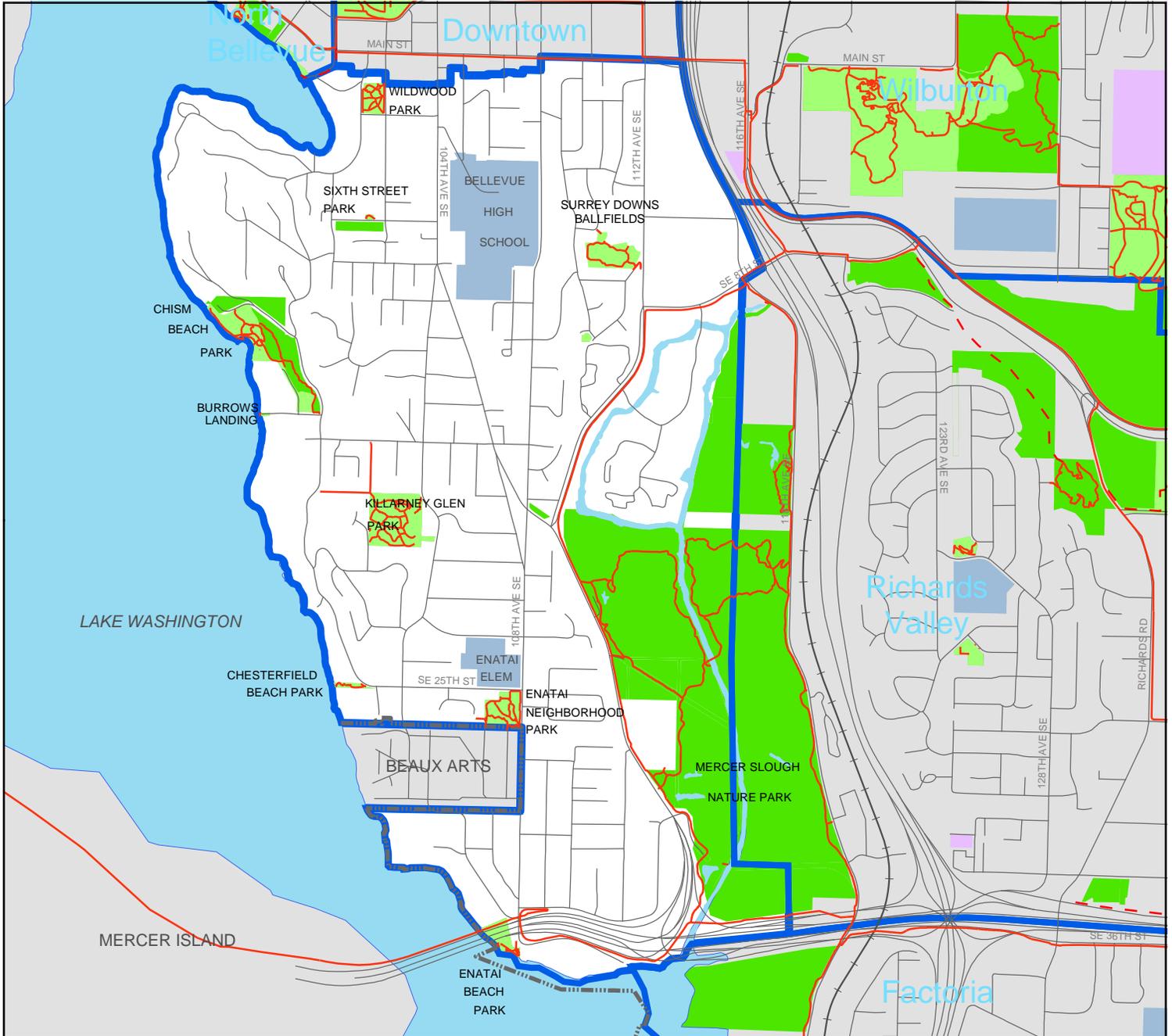
	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer Fields	Multi-use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Courts	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	200.69	8.15	1859	0	0	3	5	4	2	1	0	1	0
Community Parks	171.24	3.88	1014	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Chism Beach Park	17.20	0.85	1014			1	1						
Mercer Slough Nature Park*	154.04	3.03										1	
Neighborhood Parks	26.51	2.37	802	0	0	2	3	4	2	1	0	0	0
Chesterfield Beach Park	0.60		61							1			
Enatai Beach Park	4.19		741										
Enatai Neighborhood Park	4.16	0.49					1	2					
Killarney Glen Park	10.32	1.16					1	2	1				
Surrey Down Ballfields (KC)	4.90	0.37				2	1		1				
Wildwood Park	2.34	0.35											
Mini Parks	0.29	0.00	43	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burrows Landing	0.15		43										
Sixth Street Park	0.14						1						
Open Space / Undeveloped	2.65	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bellevue Way SE Greenbelt	0.37												
Old Hearthstone Property	0.26												
SE 6th Street Open Space	2.02												
Trail Systems		1.90											
Lake to Lake Trail*		1.66											
Mountains to Sound Trail*		0.24											
Public School Sites / Library	48.39	0.00	0	1	2	1	1	6	1	0	2	2	0
Bellevue High School†	39.86			1	1	1		6			1	1	
Enatai Elementary School†	8.53				1		1		1		1	1	
Private Schools/Parks	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*In multiple Subareas

†Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park standards



Southwest Bellevue Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Size	1,423 ac
Population (2000)	7,200
Projected Population (2020)	7,875
Public Parks & Open Space	200.7 ac
Public School Site	48.4 ac
Private Park/School	0.0 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	17,501 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

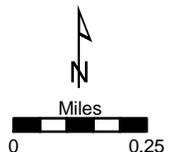
Park Classification	Existing	2000		2020	
		Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	30.8	10.8	0.0	11.8	0.0 ac
Mini	0.3	3.6	3.3	3.9	3.6 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete greenway and trail connections between Mercer Slough and Kelsey Creek Park (in multiple subareas)
- Consider acquisition opportunities to expand and connect Enatai Beach Park to Mercer Slough and to expand Mercer Slough Nature Park (in multiple subareas)
- Acquire and redevelop Surrey Downs County site
- Complete Enatai Beach phased development
- Renovate Chism Beach Park
- Redevelop Enatai neighborhood park
- Construct the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped
- Trails**
 - Existing
 - Planned
- Other Public Parks
- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School
- City Boundary
- Subarea Boundary
- Outside City or Subarea



Wilburton

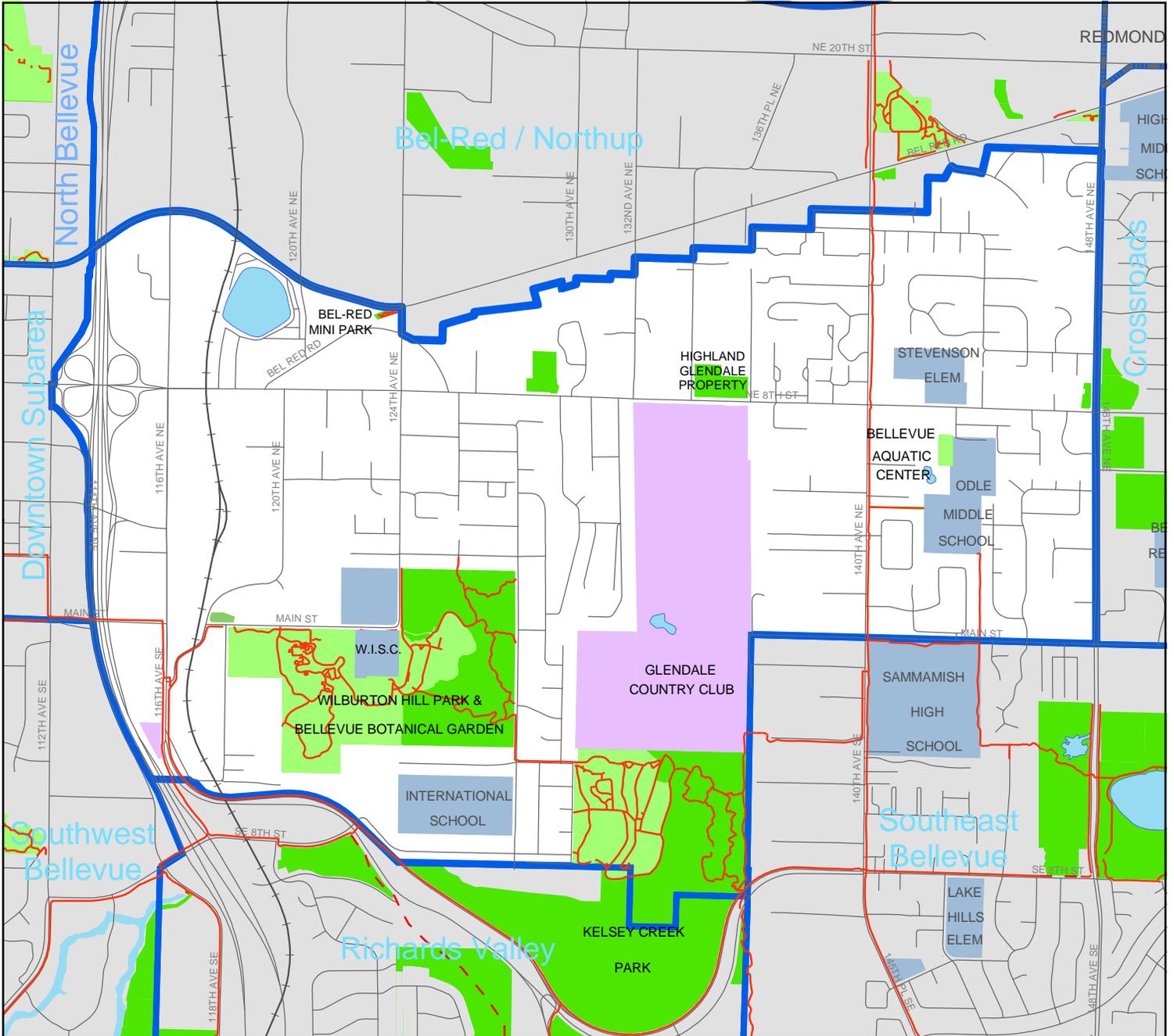
	Total Acres	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (ft)	Soccer Fields	Multi-use Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Gyms	Community Building (s)	Comm. Rec Center
Public Park and Open Space System	188.65	8.84	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	3	0
Community Parks	180.05	4.82	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	3	0
Bellevue Aquatic Center	1.32											1	
Kelsey Creek Park*	73.24	2.33				1			1			1	
Wilburton Hill Park & Botanical Garden	105.49	2.49		1		2	1					1	
Neighborhood Parks	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini Parks	0.32	0.07	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bel-Red Mini Park	0.32	0.07											
Open Space / Undeveloped	8.27	0.31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highland Glendale Property	4.23												
Odle Trail	0.28	0.31											
Paxton House	0.59												
Utilities Open Space Sites	3.18												
Trail Systems		3.64											
Lake to Lake Trail*		2.72											
140th Trail*		0.92											
Public School Sites / Library	62.10	0.00	0	2	2	2	2	6	1	0	3	3	0
BSD Property	9.33												
International School [‡]	19.69			1	1		1	3			1	1	
Odle Middle School [‡]	17.83			1		1		3			1	1	
Stevenson Elementary [‡]	9.29				1	1	1		1		1	1	
W.I.S.C	5.96												
Private Schools/Parks	137.54	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glendale Golf Course	137.54												

*In multiple Subareas

[‡]Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park standards



Wilburton Subarea



CURRENT STATISTICS

Subarea Size	1,560 ac
Population (2000)	9,000
Projected Population (2020)	9,700
Public Parks & Open Space	188.7 ac
Public School Sites	62.1 ac
Private Park/School	137.5 ac
Waterfront (Subarea Total)	0 lf

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Park Classification	2000			2020	
	Existing	Standard	Need	Standard	Need
Neighborhood	4.6	13.5	8.9	14.6	9.9 ac
Mini	0.3	4.5	4.2	4.9	4.5 ac

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete greenway and trail connections along Kelsey Creek, Richards Valley and the Lake-to-Lake Trail (in multiple subareas)
- Complete phased development and consider acquisitions to expand the Wilburton Hill Community Park and Bellevue Botanical Garden
- Construct the Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center
- Install synthetic turf at the Wilburton Hill Park soccer field
- Complete phased improvements at Kelsey Creek Park
- Develop the Highland Glendale neighborhood site
- Acquire Burlington Northern Railroad Right-of-Way trail easement (in multiple subareas)
- Continue improvements to the Bellevue Aquatic Center

Bellevue Parks System

- Developed Parks Sites
- Open Space/Undeveloped

Trails

- Existing
- Planned

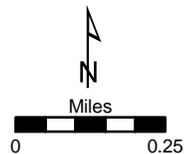
Other Public Parks

- Public School Site / Library
- Private Park / School

City Boundary

Subarea Boundary

Outside City or Subarea



Chapter 9: APPENDICES

A: Public Involvement

B: Relevant Regulations

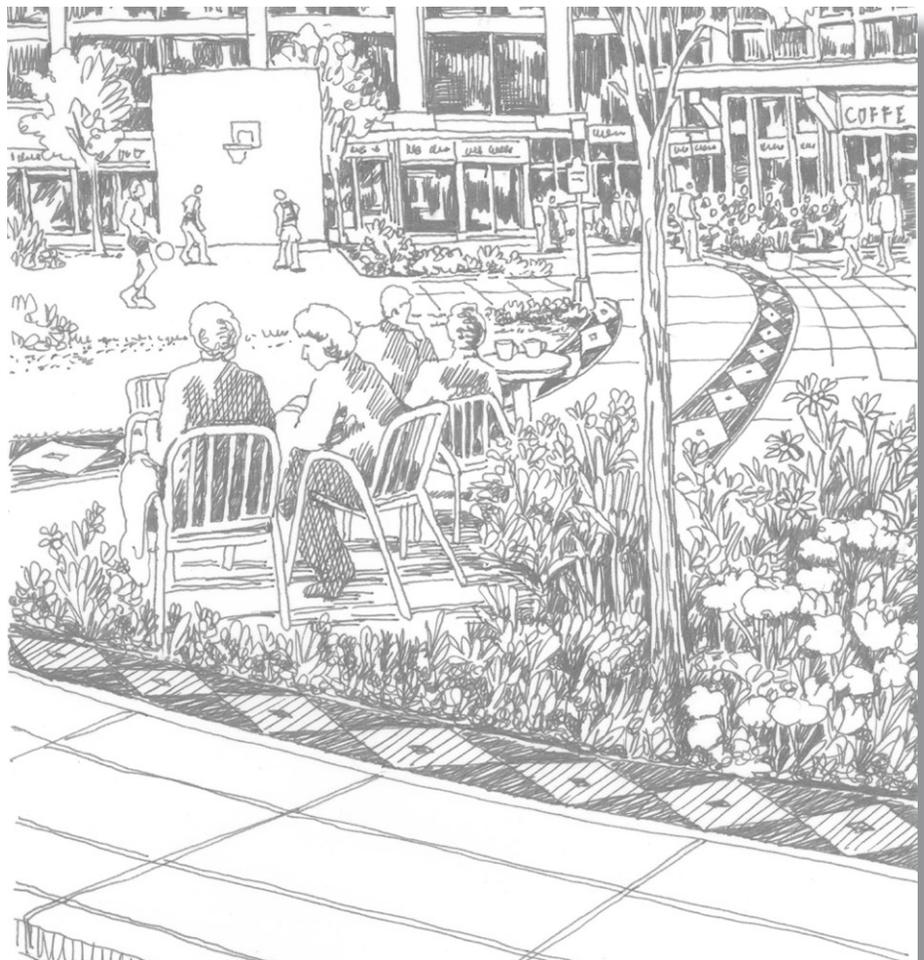
C: Companion Documents

D: Definitions

E: References

F: Bellevue Parks & Open Space List 2003

G: Resolution Adopting Plan





Chapter 9A:

Public Involvement

The public outreach effort is a critical component of every land use planning process. Involving Bellevue citizens in the process of identifying their community's issues and needs ensures a successful planning process, provides for a mutual exchange of ideas, and helps meet the community's needs. As stakeholders in the planning process, the citizens can work with the City to ensure parks and recreation needs are accurately identified, planned for, and funded.

The Park Plan update process has benefited from a wealth of public input, which has been utilized in determining needs and priorities and in developing short-term and long-term recommendations. This section outlines the public involvement that has helped shape the recommendations contained in the 2003 Parks and Open Space System Plan.

Initial Public Meetings with City Council and Parks & Community Services Board

- City Council Study Session October 16, 2000
- Parks & Community Services Board September 12, 2000
public meetings October 24, 2000
November 14, 2000
December 12, 2000

Parks Plan Update Telephone Survey (June 2001)

The Parks Department hired a research firm to conduct a telephone survey of 414 Bellevue residents to obtain input regarding current usage patterns and future needs. When residents were asked to prioritize parks and open space needs over the next 20 years, the priorities were rated in order of importance from first to last as follows: trails, mini- and neighborhood parks, waterfront parks, community parks, community centers, and sports facilities. When asked to compare level of importance on acquiring and preserving open space and conserving habitat for fish and wildlife versus developing new parks and recreation facilities for the public, residents rated open space and wildlife habitat acquisition and preservation as top priority and developing new parks and facilities as second priority.

Downtown Needs Assessment Phone Survey (February 2002)

As part of the **Downtown Needs Assessment** report, the Parks Department hired a research firm to conduct a telephone survey of 607 Bellevue residents and downtown business employees to explore the need for parks, recreation, open space, and human services in downtown Bellevue. The respondents indicated that the biggest recreation and human service needs facing the downtown area in 2020 will be for: more parks, open spaces, and places to relax; more pedestrian friendly walking trails and paths; and more programs for people with disabilities. When respondents were asked to prioritize a list of recreation activities and human service needs, they rated space for walking and running trails as their highest priority.

Park Bond Phone Surveys (April and June, 2002)

The Parks Department hired research firms to conduct two separate phone surveys of 400 registered voters each to gauge citizen support for a potential park bond issue and property tax levy to acquire, develop and maintain new parks and facilities. The April 2002 survey indicated respondents rated neighborhood and mini-parks are their top priorities for spending additional tax dollars, followed closely by preserving open spaces and undeveloped natural areas. The April 2002 respondents also overwhelmingly (90%) endorsed expanding the City's partnership with the Bellevue School District because funding and facilities are already in place and facilities could be more accessible to the public. The June 2002 survey results indicate that respondents mainly would support spending additional bond money to maintain, complete, improve, and enhance existing neighborhood and community parks and to preserve and protect natural areas, natural landscape, and open space.

Ethnic Focus Groups (July – Sept, 2001)

Focus group meetings were held with the Russian, Latino, Vietnamese, and Chinese communities with the help of translators and facilitators speaking their respective languages. Questionnaires were also translated into their languages to help facilitate the discussion by these groups. The purpose of these ethnic focus groups was to learn more about their recreation usage patterns and how the City could better meet their future needs. It was also the first time that the City has specifically sought input from these communities. A total of 75 people attended these four meetings. While information received was usually general, the people attending the focus groups were very appreciative of the Parks Department's efforts to include them directly in the park planning process.



Sportsfield Users Focus Groups (September – November, 2001)

Three focus group meetings were conducted with sportsfield users to understand issues and to gather information about how to improve Bellevue's sportsfields. Of the 77 different leagues or athletic organizations invited to participate, a maximum of 27 individuals attended at least one of these meetings. The focus group participants were asked to identify issues, propose solutions, and then rank the issues and solutions in importance. Their top recommended solutions included: placement of artificial turf at the Robinswood and Wilburton lighted fields and at Newport Hills, and upgrading existing fields instead of building new fields. The resulting **Sportsfield Analysis Report** is a companion document and forms the basis of the recommendations for sportsfield improvements contained in this Plan.

Chronological List of Public Outreach Meetings

All public outreach efforts used as part of the Park Plan update process are listed below.

- Parks & Community Services Board Meeting September 12, 2000
- City Council Study Session October 16, 2000
- Parks & Community Services Board Meetings October 24, 2000
November 14, 2000
December 12, 2000
- North Bellevue Senior Center Group November 15, 2000
- Bridle Trails Community Group November 16, 2000
- PTSA Council June 4, 2001
(Parent, Teacher, Student Association)
- East Bellevue Community Council July 3, 2001
- South Neighborhood Network Group July 11, 2001
- Sammamish Community Council July 17, 2001
- Latino Focus Group July 19, 2001
- North Neighborhood Network Group August 8, 2001
- Russian Focus Group August 9, 2001
- Chinese Focus Group August 23, 2001
- Vietnamese Focus Group September 10, 2001
- Sports field Users Focus Group Meetings September 12, 2001
October 24, 2002
November 7, 2001
- Bellevue Youth Council December 5, 2001
- Bellevue Youth Link Board December 12, 2001
- Bellevue Chamber of Commerce,
Public Affairs Council staff Fall 2001
- Vuecrest Community Association January 15, 2002

- Downtown Needs Assessment Parks Depart.
internal focus groups: November 13, 2001
January 22, 2002
January 24, 2002
- Park Plan update Parks Department
internal focus groups: October 25, 2002
October 28, 2002
October 31, 2002
November 5, 2002
- Parks & Community Services Board briefings January 7, 2003
February 11, 2003
March 11, 2003
March 25, 2003
May 13, 2003
- Planning Commission presentation June 25, 2003
- City Leadership Team presentation June 25, 2003
- Human Service Commission presentation July 1, 2003
- City Council Study Session July 7, 2003
- Parks & Community Services Board Public
Hearing and recommendation July 8, 2003
on Park Plan Update
- Environmental Services September 4, 2003
Commission presentation
- City Council regular meeting September 15, 2003
adopting Park Plan

Written Public Information and Written Questionnaires

Bellevue's *It's Your City*, August 2001, article published on the Parks and Open Space System Plan update process. In addition, information on the Park Plan update process was forwarded to the PTSA Council president for inclusion in an e-mail newsletter to the PTSA audience during summer 2001.

Written questionnaires were distributed to all public groups during speaking engagements. Citizens were encouraged to fill out and return the questionnaires for Parks Department use during the Park Plan update process.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared in 1987 in conjunction with the *Open Space, Parks and Recreation Plan* adopted that year. The 1993 Park Plan was issued a Determination of Significance and Adoption of the original EIS in April 1993.

The Environmental Review for the 2003 Park Plan update involved adoption and amendment to the 1987 EIS. A Determination of Non-Significance was issued on May 8, 2003.



Chapter 9B:

APPENDICES

Relevant Regulations

Since the adoption of the 1993 Park Plan, several new environmental regulations were passed and implemented by the federal and state governments. These new regulations will result in changes to the City's *Comprehensive Plan* and *Land Use Code*, and may impact how our park system develops. Much the City's critical areas, including wetlands, streams, lakes, and wildlife habitat areas, are within our park system. Therefore, these regulations have implications on the development and management of our parks and open space system. Development and maintenance practices will likely change to better protect these critical areas and their resources. In addition, these new environmental requirements may provide opportunities for the City to acquire some of these environmentally sensitive sites, thus providing valuable open space for the enjoyment of the community and for habitat for wildlife.

Growth Management Act (GMA, 1990)

The Growth Management Act (GMA) establishes 13 statewide planning goals that must be considered locally as the City's *Comprehensive Plan* and resultant development guidelines and regulations are reviewed. Several of these planning goals apply to parks, including open space retention, development of recreational opportunities, conservation of wildlife habitat, public facilities sufficient to support growth, and attention to historic preservation. We have evaluated our parks and open space system based on the relevant GMA goals.

State Growth Management Act (GMA), Best Available Science Legislation (1995)

Washington State added a new section to the GMA that raised the standard for designating and protecting environmentally critical areas and for protecting anadromous fisheries. Local governments must include "best available science" when evaluating and protecting these critical areas. The City has updated its *Comprehensive Plan* and is revising the *Land Use Code* to reflect these 1995 GMA Best Available Science requirements. The Park Plan short-term and long-term recommendations include additional acquisition, protection, and enhancement of these critical areas defined by the Best Available Science legislation.

State Shoreline Management Act Guidelines

The State Shoreline Management Act requires local governments to regulate their shorelines through adoption of local Shoreline Master

Programs. The City will be updating its Shoreline Master Program to conform to the state's proposed update of the Shoreline Master Program Guidelines. Changes to the City's Shoreline Master Program may impact park operations and development since some of the park and open space land is subject to the City's Shoreline Master Program.

Watershed Planning Act (RCW 90.82)

This state legislation allows local jurisdictions to form Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) planning units and to receive state assistance for watershed planning. The City of Bellevue is located within the WRIA 8 planning area (the Lake Washington, Cedar River and Lake Sammamish Watershed). It is the City's goal that participation in this watershed planning process will help ensure compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act. Recommendations and requirements from this watershed planning process could impact park and open space operations and development.

Federal Endangered Species Act

In 1999, the National Marine Fisheries Service listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon and bull trout as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Actions taken that harm "endangered" or "threatened" species or their habitats are prohibited and efforts are required to recover the species. The City's approach to protecting these "threatened" fish species per ESA requirements is to pursue a watershed-based strategy. This strategy relies primarily on existing regulations and practices, with heightened sensitivity using additional permit submittal requirements. Development of parks and facilities will comply with regulations in effect at the time of application.



Chapter 9C:

Companion Documents

The Parks & Open Space System Plan does not function in isolation. A number of City plans and codes are considered companion documents to the Park Plan. In conjunction with these additional plans, the Park Plan enables the Parks Department to serve the community's recreational and human service needs. A brief summary of the most relevant plans and codes that support and expand upon the Park Plan's purpose are listed below.

Recreation Program Plan (1999)

This plan focuses specifically on the provision of publicly supported recreation activities and programming, establishing a specific role for the City as a recreation service provider in relation to others in the recreation business. It establishes a set of service priorities and a pricing policy to guide the expenditure of public resources in support of recreation programs and spells out goals and program objectives for specific populations.

Renovation and Refurbishment Plan

This six-year plan (updated annually) was developed to ensure that existing park structures and grounds are systematically refurbished and renovated to maintain the safety, integrity, and function of our park system. Items covered in this plan are beyond the scope of the normal maintenance and operating budget and are funded through the Parks Department's CIP budget.

Sportsfield Analysis Report (2003)

This report, updating the sportsfield inventory and usage analysis completed in 1996, evaluates the citywide need for sportsfields and recommends improvements to satisfy the current and future need for active sportsfields throughout the City. These recommendations are incorporated into this Plan.

Downtown Implementation Plan (2002)

The *Downtown Implementation Plan* is a 20-year planning document for development in the Downtown Subarea. The focal points in the plan include: transportation, urban design, and public safety. The urban design element encompasses the proposed system of linked parks, open space, and public spaces identified the Parks Department's *Downtown*

Needs Assessment document (see below). Part of the plan includes a capital facilities component to ensure that identified improvements and programs are implemented according to a defined schedule.

Downtown Needs Assessment (2002)

Part of the City-wide *Downtown Implementation Plan*, the Downtown Needs Assessment document was developed by the Parks Department to determine parks, open space, recreation, and human services needs over the next 20 years in the Downtown Subarea. The recommendations of this document are incorporated into this *Downtown Implementation Plan*.

City of Bellevue Comprehensive Plan

The Bellevue Comprehensive Plan is a broad statement of community goals and policies that direct the orderly and coordinated physical development of the City, and also provides the basis for adopting regulations, programs, and services to implement the Plan. The “Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Element” of the *Comprehensive Plan* provides policy support for the Park Plan’s vision and short- and long-term recommendations.

Land Use Code

The *Land Use Code* contains the regulatory requirements which implement the goals and policies of the *Comprehensive Plan*. Regulations governing development of the elements of the park system, including street tree requirements, are found in the code.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update (1999)

This Plan provides a blueprint for the development of the City’s pedestrian and bicycle system, which is intended to create a balanced transportation system that provides mobility choices for residents and visitors. Non-motorized linkages between neighborhoods, schools, parks, and activity areas are identified. This Plan is the primary resource for trail policies, projects, and implementation strategies.



Bellevue Human Services Needs Update (2001)

Updated biannually, this document summarizes local, regional, statewide and national quality of life trends. Based on these social and economic indicators, the report identifies human service needs in Bellevue and on the Eastside, and provides information on Bellevue's role in addressing these needs.

Urban Land Institute's Downtown Bellevue, Washington Report (1996)

The Urban Land Institute (a non-profit research and education organization promoting responsible land use in order to enhance the environment) evaluated Downtown Bellevue and developed recommendations for ensuring a vibrant urban center. The report lists planning and design strategies, including recommendations for recreation and open space areas. Many of these recommendations have been incorporated into this Plan, the *Downtown Needs Assessment*, and the City's *Downtown Implementation Plan*.



Chapter 9D:

Definitions

ANNEXATION - The incorporation of an area within the limits of the City; an addition.

BALLFIELD - A sportsfield with a backstop, which can be used as either a baseball or a softball field.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM PLAN (CIP) - A major planning tool of the City of Bellevue in which needed improvements to the City's facilities are identified, prioritized, priced and discussed with the general public. Funding from a variety of sources, including local taxes, is matched with the costs of these projects. After the City Council has approved the program, these projects are implemented. The CIP deals with acquisitions, major facility construction, reconstruction, and renovation over a seven-year timeframe. The CIP is updated biennially.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - The City of Bellevue's officially adopted plan containing goals and policies that guide land use and development. One element of the plan addresses parks, open space and recreation.

EASTSIDE - Communities on the east side of Lake Washington. Usually thought of as Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah, Newcastle, Woodinville, Bothell, Renton, Medina, Clyde Hill, Yarrow Point, Hunts Point and Beaux Arts.

GREENWAY - An open space connector linking parks, natural reserves, cultural features or historic sites with each other and with populated areas. A greenway may be established along a natural corridor such as stream or ridgeline; overland along a railroad right-of-way, scenic road or other route; or any other course for pedestrian or bicycle passage.

LINKAGE - The connection of open space parcels or major activity areas. Linkages can serve as a visual delineation between neighborhood areas and provide a physical means for going from one activity to another.

MASTER PLAN - An ultimate development and program plan for a specific park site that identifies uses and establishes design guidelines. A master plan provides the basis for future construction, operation, and maintenance.

NATURAL AREA - Land maintained in a natural state and not to be considered for active recreational uses. Development would include facilities that support passive recreation and appreciation of the area (e.g., parking, interpretation, trails, picnic areas).

OPEN SPACE - Includes ecologically sensitive and/or unique natural areas, greenways, wildlife corridors, and publicly owned Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPAs) not associated with, or part of, a community park system. Also can include undeveloped park sites. The purpose of these areas is preservation, through public stewardship, for future generations and for wildlife habitat.

PARK - Depending on size, visual character, natural determinant factors, or location, addresses one or more of the following recreational needs in a neighborhood or on a community or citywide basis: 1. Preserves ecologically sensitive and/or unique open space areas where uses will primarily be passive in nature and may include trails, picnicking, viewing, environmental education, and agriculture from a historical perspective. 2. Provides structured or non-structured outdoor recreation activities, including sportsfields, play areas, golf courses, marinas, and waterfront areas. 3. Provides facilities to serve indoor recreation activities, including gyms, daycare, fitness, meeting space, classrooms, game rooms, pools, and theaters.

PLAY AREA - A defined area with special recreational equipment and surfacing for children's active play. The equipment at each play area is designed for certain age groups, from toddlers to elementary school children.

SPORTSFIELD - An area designated for organized team play, such as baseball, softball, football and/or soccer.

SUBAREA - Referring to a defined geographic subsection of the City. For planning purposes, Bellevue has been divided into 15 subareas to help address needs or concerns specific to that location. For the purpose of the Park Plan, the portion of the Evergreen Highlands Subarea located within the City of Bellevue has been included in the Northeast Bellevue Subarea Inventory and Analysis Map.

WETLAND - Those sensitive areas transitional between upland and aquatic systems where the water table is at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Vegetation includes plants adapted to wet conditions (e.g., cattails, skunk cabbage, willows and reed canary grass).



Chapter 9E:

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Chapter 9F:

**Bellevue Parks & Open Space
2003**

- 41.5 Mini Park
- Airfield Park site
- Ardmore Park
- Ashwood Site
- Bannerwood Ballfield Park
- Bellevue Aquatic Center
- Bellevue Ballfields at Marymoor Park
- Bellevue Golf Course
- Bellevue Way SE Open Space
- Bel-Red Mini Park
- Bovee Park
- Burrows Landing
- Chandler Neighborhood Park and Open Space
- Chapin Property
- Cherry Crest Mini Park
- Cherry Crest Park
- Chesterfield Beach Park
- Chism Beach Park
- City of Bellevue Marina at Meydenbauer
- Clyde Beach Park
- Collingwood Mini Park
- Collingwood Open Space
- Commissioners' Waterway
- Compton Trails Open Space
- Cougar Ridge East Open Space
- Cougar Ridge West Open Space
- Crestwood Property
- Crossroads Park and Community Center
- Crossroads Pump Station
- Custom Industries
- Downtown Park
- Deer Run Park and Open Space
- Eaglesmere Open Space
- Eastgate Park
- Enatai Beach Park
- Enatai Neighborhood Park
- Evergreen Park
- Forest Drive Open Space
- Forest Glen East Open Space
- Forest Glen Park and Open Space
- Forest Park – Lower Washout Way
- Forest Park – Upper Washout Way
- Forest Park Meadows Open Space
- Forest Park Open Space
- Forest Ridge Mini Park
- Forest Ridge Open Space
- Foresthill Neighborhood Park and Open Space
- Forestpark Mini Park
- Goddard Park
- Goldsmith Neighborhood Park
- Hidden Valley Sports Park
- Highland Park and Community Center
- Highland-Glendale Property
- Hillaire Park
- Horizon Heights Open Space
- Horizon Highland Open Space
- Ivanhoe Park
- Ivanhoe Youth Theatre and Sports Fields
- Keeney Park
- Kelsey Creek Park
- Killarney Glen Park
- Kinderling Center
- Lake Hills #27 Open Space
- Lake Hills Clubhouse
- Lake Hills Greenbelt
- Lake Hills Park
- Lake Sammamish Property
- Lakemont Blvd Open Space
- Lakemont Highlands Park and Open Space
- Lakemont Park and Open Space
- Lakemont Trail Open Space
- Lakeridge Estates Open Space
- Lattawood Park
- Lewis Creek Park
- Little Field
- McCormick Park
- Meadow Wood Park
- Mercer Slough Nature Park
- Meydenbauer Beach Park
- NE 99th Avenue Street End
- Newcastle Beach Park
- Newport Hills Mini Park
- Newport Hills Park
- Newport Way Open Space
- Norelius Property and 41.5 Open Space
- North Bellevue Community and Senior Center
- North Robinswood Sports Fields
- Northtowne Park
- Northwest Arts Center
- Norwood Village Park
- Odle Trail #1
- Old Hearthstone Property
- Owl Avenue Open Space
- Paxton House
- Pikes Peak Open Space
- Richards Creek Open Space
- Richards Valley Open Space
- Robinsglen Nature Park
- Robinswood Park
- Saddleback Open Space
- Saddleback Park
- SE 40th Street Boat Launch
- SE 63rd Greenbelt North
- SE 63rd Greenbelt South
- SE 6th Street Open Space
- Silverleaf Open Space
- Silverleaf Park
- Sixth Street Park
- Skyridge Park
- Somerset East Open Space
- Somerset Highlands Open Space
- Somerset North Slope Open Space
- Somerset Park
- Spiritridge Park
- Spiritwood Park
- Spring Hills Property
- Stratford Open Space
- Sunich Property
- Sunrise Park
- Sunset Mini Park
- Sunset Ravine Open Space
- Tam O'Shanter Park
- The Heights Open Space
- The Summit Open Space
- Viewpoint Park
- Vuemont South Open Space
- Weowna Park
- West Kelsey Open Space
- West Summit Open Space
- Westwood Highlands Open Space
- Westwood Highlands Park
- Whispering Heights Open Space
- Wilburton Hill Park
- Wildwood Park
- Winfield Open Space
- Woodridge Open Space
- Woodridge Water Tower Park
- Woodside East and Wetherburn Open Space



Chapter 9G:

Resolution Adopting Park Plan

1043-RES
9/10/2003

ORIGINAL

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 6903

A RESOLUTION authorizing the City Manager or designee to adopt the 2003 Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan (Park Plan), which updates the 1993 Parks & Open Space System Plan.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Manager or designee is authorized to adopt the 2003 Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan (Park Plan), which updates the 1993 Parks & Open Space System Plan, a copy of which has been given Clerk's Receiving No. 34502.

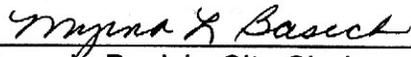
Passed by the City Council this 15th day of September, 2003, and signed in authentication of its passage this 15th day of September, 2003.

(SEAL)



Connie B. Marshall, Mayor

Attest:



Myrna L. Basich, City Clerk

