

## **History and Maintenance Responsibilities of Forest Drive**

Within the Natural Resource Division of the Parks & Community Services Department, the Street Tree and Arterial Landscape Program manages arterial street trees and landscaping throughout the City of Bellevue. With nearly 10,000 street trees and over 120 acres of landscaping, it is the intent of the Program to work with the City's Transportation Department to provide attractive, beneficial and sustainable landscape and street tree features throughout the city. As part of this program, a portion of Forest Drive between Southeast 63rd Street and 152nd Avenue Southeast has historically been maintained under this program as a "category five" or Natural Streetscape concept.

The Parks, Transportation and Utilities departments share in the maintenance of Forest Drive. The Transportation Department's primary area of interest along Forest Drive is traffic operations, Utilities is tasked with ensuring that the storm drains and open ditches flow as designed during rain events, and the Parks Department is concerned with the landscaping and livability of the corridor.

In addition to each Department's responsibilities along the Drive, many home owners associations provide maintenance to landscaping, lighting and other features throughout the corridor, including fences. Fences along Forest Drive are currently on private property and were constructed by developers or private parties. The fences are currently owned and maintained by adjacent property owners or home owners associations.

Over the past few years and through several different city programs, additional areas of maintenance within the Parks Department have come on board under the Streetscape Program. These include cleaning the asphalt pathway installed as a Transportation improvement in 2005; the landscaping and maintenance of the Westwood Highlands entry on Highland Dr. at the intersection of Forest Dr., installed as part of the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) in the Winter of 2007/2008; and the maintenance of the Summit Ridge Division 1 frontage west of 153rd Ave SE as an agreement with the Home Owners Association in Fall of 2007.

Also within the Natural Resource Division, the Forest Management Program is responsible for the oversight of nearly 1500 acres of open space and natural areas throughout the City. Along Forest Drive, there are several greenbelts that intersect, cross or run adjacent to the arterial. Most of the larger greenbelts have trails through them accessible from Forest Drive that connect to the greater Citywide trail system encompassing over 35 miles of trails throughout the City. Additionally, the Forest Management program maintains the greenbelts for wildlife habitat, privacy screening and to ensure the preservation of natural areas.