



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 9, 2014

To: Mayor Balducci and City Councilmembers

From: Bellevue Parks & Community Services Park Board

Subject: 2015-2021 Parks Capital Investment Program (CIP)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Parks 2015-2021 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. We hope that these comments will be helpful to you as Council prioritizes the City's capital investment needs for the next seven years.

The Parks & Community Services Board reviewed the budget process and provided direction on Parks CIP proposals at our meetings in March and April. Board direction and priorities included:

- Continue the commitment to the voters from the 2008 levy, utilizing levy funds and the remaining City matching dollars to focus on Downtown Park, Surrey Downs, Property Acquisition, Airfield Park, and Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park.
- Initiate the first phase of park development at Meydenbauer Bay;
- Maintain existing capital infrastructure, including both the Parks Renovation and Enterprise Facility improvement programs;
- Continue to invest in the ongoing planning of Bellevue's park and open space system, including funding for the Ashwood Master Plan.
- Request new CIP investments to complete the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center and the Inspiration Playground at Downtown Park (funded by private contributions from the Bellevue Rotary).

In September, we reviewed the initial CIP recommendations presented by the Leadership Team CIP Panel at the July 28 City Council budget workshop, and summarized in the table below:

Parks CIP Project	2015-2021	
	Recommended	Comment
P-AD-87 Downtown Park Development (Levy)	11,300	Fully Funded
P-AD-86 Surrey Downs Park Development (Levy)	6,940	Fully Funded
P-AD-82 Park & Open Space Acquisition (Levy)	14,300	Partially Funded
P-AD-88 Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park (Levy)	1,000	Fully Funded
P-AD-83 Bellevue Airfield Park Development (Levy)	1,125	Partially Funded
P-AD-92 Meydenbauer Bay Phase I Park Development	11,000	Fully Funded
P-AD-27 Park Planning & Design	2,300	Fully Funded
P-AD-79 King County Parks Levy	2,070	Fully Funded
P-AD-94 Inspiration Playground at Downtown Park	2,000	Fully Funded
P-R-11 Parks Renovation & Refurbishment Plan	33,575	Fully Funded
P-R-02 Enterprise Facility Improvements	2,450	Fully Funded
P-AD-93 Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center	0	Requested \$1.5M

While the above projects have not been formally incorporated into the City Manager's Preliminary Budget, we would like to make the following comments:

- The City has made good progress on implementing the projects identified in the 2008 Parks Levy, but we encourage Council to restore the requested City match funds for Property Acquisition (\$10M) and Airfield Park Development (\$4M). The Board believes that Property Acquisition is a high priority that only becomes more expensive over time, and that development of Airfield Park should not be delayed beyond the 2015-2021 plan. The full slate of levy projects was overwhelmingly approved by Bellevue voters in 2008, and the public remains very interested in completing the remaining commitments including Airfield Park.
- We also think it is unfortunate that there are not sufficient funds available to complete the final classroom building at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center. We hope the City and the Pacific Science Center will continue to work toward a solution to completing the final piece of this great community asset in the near future.

We understand that the Leadership Team developed a resource constrained budget recommendation, and that the City Council is discussing policy and revenue options to supplement current City capital funding. While the list of capital needs facing the City is undoubtedly large, we encourage Council to dream big and develop a balanced and sustainable approach for advancing the City's long-term vision. In addition to completing the levy commitments and funding the larger Meydenbauer Bay Master Plan, additional funds will be needed to create parks in the Bel-Red area, provide additional green space in downtown Bellevue, and create additional opportunities for the aquatics community.

Once again, we appreciate the ability to provide comments on the 2015-2021 Parks CIP Plan, and look forward to continued discussions as the budget process moves forward. Feel free to contact any of the Parks & Community Services Board members if you have questions or comments about the content of this message.