



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 9, 2010

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Nancy Kartes, Bellevue Botanical Garden Manager
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Bellevue Botanical Garden
(Informational – no Board action requested)

At the Tuesday, November 9, 2010 Parks & Community Services Board meeting, I will present information about the Bellevue Botanical Garden, its' background and history, governance model and partners, and upcoming events and programs. Representatives from the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society will also be present to give you an update on the Garden D'Lights special event, scheduled to begin Saturday, November 27.

The Garden opened in 1992 with a mission to display plant collections for education and horticultural demonstration relevant to our region. The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society was founded in 1984 to support the garden's mission and goals. Eight other groups and organizations support the garden in a variety of ways including the Bellevue Sister Cities Association, Bellevue Utilities, East Lake Washington District of Garden Clubs, Eastside Fuchsia Society, Hardy Fern Foundation, North American Rock Garden Society, Northwest Perennial Alliance, and the Puget Sound Dahlia Association.

The garden receives 250,000 – 300,000 visitors annually. I look forward to sharing more about the Garden with you on November 9.



BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 20, 2010
To: Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board
From: Bellevue Botanical Garden Society
Re: 2010 Garden d' Lights Program

Invitation

The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society invites everyone to the 2010 Garden d' Lights Festival which will run from November 27 through January 1st. This year's festival will feature over half a million lights transforming the Bellevue Botanical Garden into a blossoming winter wonderland.

Gift to the Community

Since 1994, the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society has produced the Garden d' Lights Festival. From its modest beginning, Garden d' Lights has become a beloved holiday tradition for families in Bellevue and throughout the region. We are excited to present the 2010 Garden d' Lights festival as our holiday gift to the Community.

Changes

In 2009, over 150,000 visitors attended the Garden d' Lights festival, with attendance topping 10,000 on the busiest nights. This enormous growth is a blessing but also presents cost and logistical challenges. To proactively respond to these challenges we are making important changes that will ensure a safe, pleasant experience for visitors and volunteers and will minimize impacts to the surrounding Wilburton neighborhood.

Reservations

Overcrowding strains resources needed to properly manage the event, adversely affects the visitors experience and can be detrimental to the garden. In order to proactively manage these challenges an online reservation system has been established. Reservations are now required for all dates with a total of 5000 reservations available per night. Establishing a carrying capacity per night will spread the attendance out over more dates and relieve much of the impacts associated with overcrowding. A reservation fee of \$5 per person will be charged; children under 10 are free. Reservations can be made on line at www.gardendlights.org.

Free Nights

So that the event remains accessible to all, nine free dates have been scheduled; November 29 & 30, December 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15. Reservations will still be required but there will be no reservation fee or parking fee.

BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

a non-profit organization, P.O. Box 40536, Bellevue WA 98015-4536, Telephone 425.451.3755

The garden's location is 12001 MAIN STREET, BELLEVUE WA 98005

www.bell15.ebotanical.org

Parking

Free parking is available in the Bellevue School District parking lot across the street from the Garden's entrance and at Wilburton Hill Park. The Garden's parking lot is available for limited mobility visitors, volunteers, and event staff.

Staffing and Security

Trained Greeter and Special Event Support volunteers will assist throughout the event; a Bellevue Police Officer will be on duty each night to assist pedestrians crossing on Main St.; and at least one paid event staff member will be on site at all times.

Garden d' Lights is produced, managed and paid for by the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society. This wonderful event could not happen without the steadfast support of scores of hard working volunteers who donate their time, talent and money in order to create this remarkable holiday experience for all to enjoy. We also want to thank the City of Bellevue and the Parks & Community Services Department for their support and assistance to help us be successful.