



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 2, 2015

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Patrick Foran, Director
Lorrie Peterson, Parks Property & Acquisitions Manager
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Parks Property Acquisitions long-range planning update.
(No Board action requested)

On January 5, 2015, staff presented an overview of the parks property acquisitions - long-range planning update to the Bellevue City Council. The presentation provided a history of park acquisitions and identified the priority areas throughout the City moving forward. This presentation will be shared with the Parks & Community Services Board at your February 10, 2015 meeting.

Background

Since the City incorporated in 1953, Bellevue has systematically acquired and developed its Parks & Open Space system in conjunction with City's policies and planning initiatives. Bellevue's park system serves the present users, while also focusing on future needs to provide recreational opportunities and open space protection for future generations. Acquiring land for preservation and/or development to meet increased current and long-term needs has been a high priority.

Land acquisition is highly dependent on availability and affordability. Because of increasing development pressures for property, suitable and affordable property is evaluated for acquisition when opportunities arise. Priority acquisitions are properties that fit within the vision for the park system including the new park areas throughout the City as population growth and use patterns change.

Voter initiatives and leveraging non-city funding has helped the City create the park system and stay ahead of the park and open space needs. In 2008, the voter-approved Park & Natural Areas Levy provided funds to acquire land that complements the existing parks system to increase public access to lake shores, preserve open space, protect water quality, increase trail connectivity and create opportunities for new neighborhood parks. Since passage of the initiative, the City has acquired the Tyler property in Newport Hills; Moon/Ross properties in Mercer Slough; Manoojian/Galpin properties along NE 2nd, and the Pashchinskiy property, recently developed as the new Bridle Trails Corner Park. Most recently, on October 20, 2014, Council authorized the purchase of the Ginzburg property (Bridle Trails), which will be developed as a neighborhood park in the future.

