

Date: February 2016
To: Parks & Community Services Board
From: Curtis Kukal, Park Ranger & Environmental Programs Coordinator
Geoff Bradley, Environmental Programs Supervisor
Dan DeWald, Natural Resource Manager
Subject: 2015 Volunteer Program Brief – Natural Resource and Resource Management Divisions

INTRODUCTION

The Natural Resource and Resource Management Divisions of Bellevue Parks & Community Services have completed another successful year partnering with the Bellevue community. During 2015, we engaged with citizens and invested in our city’s future by facilitating valuable volunteer opportunities throughout the city’s parks and open space system.

Our divisions coordinate a wide variety of opportunities for meaningful volunteerism. Groups contribute year-round as part of our Eco Friday & Stewardship Saturday programs, as well as at our annual Arbor Day – Earth Day volunteer event. Individual citizens are also encouraged to volunteer through our Master Naturalist, Trail Steward, Habitat Steward, Canoe Steward, and environmental educator programs.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2015

Volunteer Involvement:

- 37 volunteer projects completed throughout Bellevue
- Individual and group volunteers donated a total of 4,806.25 hours of community service, with an estimated value of \$45,515.19

Installed Native Plants Throughout Bellevue:

- Enhanced 11 parks and open spaces
- 4,762 native plants – 649 trees and 4,113 shrubs

Helped Control Invasive Species in our Urban Forest:

- Enhanced 6 parks and open spaces
- Removed approximately 175.5 yrd³ of noxious weeds
- Began a new initiative called *Ivy Out!*

Maintained & Expanded Bellevue’s Trail System:

- Maintained, restored, or constructed approximately 3,731 ft (0.7 miles) of Bellevue’s trail system

Bellevue Master Naturalist Training Program:

- 5 new Bellevue Master Naturalist stewards recruited and trained
- 26 active Master Naturalist during 2015



A volunteer pulls a noxious weed from the Mercer Slough Nature Park

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Engaging with the Bellevue community is critical to the long-term health of our park system. The list below includes just some of the groups with whom we partnered during 2015:

- Samsung
- Expedia
- Moxie Software
- Booking.com
- The North Face
- Russell Investments
- The Pacific Science Center
- Pamona College Alumni
- Boy Scouts of America (8 Eagle Scout projects)
- Bright Horizons
- Chinook Middle School
- Bellevue Big Picture School
- Open Window School
- The University of Washington



A volunteer takes a break from a trail maintenance project

ONE CITY

The City of Bellevue is committed to our community's excellence. In 2015, we fulfilled the following city goals:

Responsive Government:

- Addressed residents' desire to engage with their parks through meaningful volunteerism.

Improved Mobility:

- Improved, restored, maintained, and expanded Bellevue's trail system

Economic Growth & Competitiveness:

- Connected some of Bellevue's largest employers to the park system

Healthy & Sustainable Environment:

- Worked to restore local parks by removing noxious weeds and installing thousands of native plants
- Increased environmental awareness amongst Bellevue citizens

Safe Community:

- Bellevue Trail Steward reports help city staff identify and address potential safety concerns, helping to ensure that Bellevue's trail system remains one of the safest in the region

Innovative, Vibrant, & Caring Community:

- Helped foster a citizenry dedicated to improving community sustainability
- Encouraged community pride through local park improvement projects
- Hundreds of citizens are now more active members of their community

Quality Neighborhoods:

- Improved the trails, parks, forests, and arterial landscapes that contribute to a higher standard of living in our community

CONCLUSION

The Natural Resource and Resource Management Divisions' volunteer program served the Bellevue community during 2015 by providing meaningful opportunities to connect with the park system, encouraging diverse and widespread citizen participation, creating partnerships to expand service delivery, educating the community on important environmental issues, and creating a social atmosphere of mutual cooperation and trust. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with the Bellevue community during the coming year.



Volunteers show off the noxious weeds they've removed from the Lake Hills Greenbelt



We partner with local businesses, civic groups, faith organizations, and schools



A Bellevue Master Naturalist shows off a garter snake at an Eco Friday volunteer event

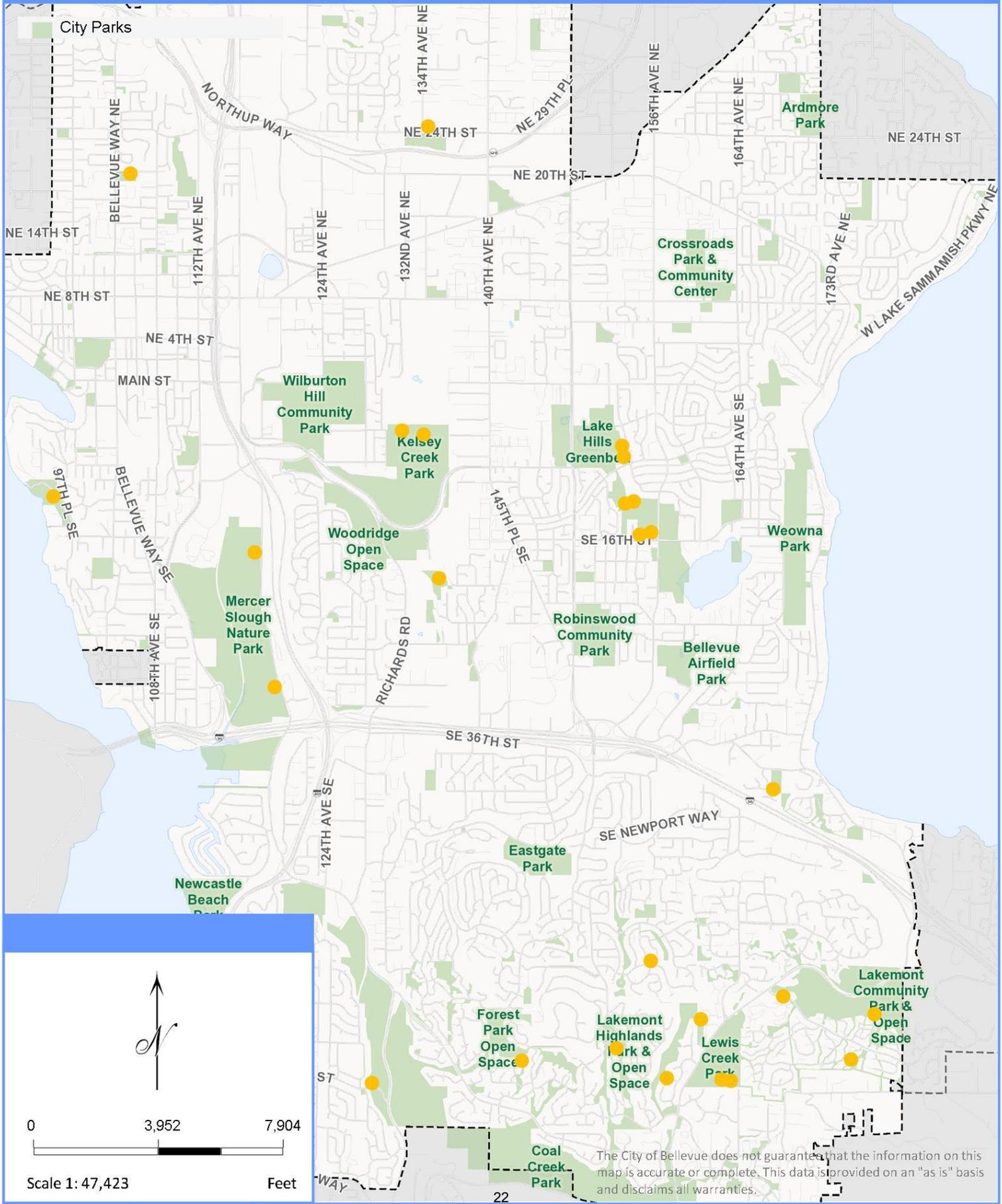


Samsung volunteers restoring a trail at Lakemont Park



Volunteers plant thousands of native trees and shrubs every year

Volunteer Projects During 2015



The City of Bellevue does not guarantee that the information on this map is accurate or complete. This data is provided on an "as is" basis and disclaims all warranties.

City Parks

0 3,952 7,904

Scale 1: 47,423 Feet