



MEMORANDUM

Phone: 452-6882
Date: May 13, 2008
To: Parks & Community Services Board
From: Glenn Kost, Planning & Development Manager
Subject: Bel-Red Parks Projects

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Endorse park plan, list of park projects, and letter to Planning Commission

At your February 12 and April 8 meetings, the Parks & Community Services Board reviewed the conceptual plan and project list for the Parks, Open Space, Trails and Streams components of the Bel-Red Corridor Plan. We are requesting that the Board endorse the attached plan and project list, which are identical to those included in your previous packets, and approve a letter to the Planning Commission.

At your April meeting, you were presented with comments from Joel Glass, Transportation Commissioner and former member of the Bel-Red Steering Committee, expressing concern that the Steering Committee’s recommended “Park Blocks” concept along the NE 15th/16th corridor had essentially been reduced to a series of wide planter strips. The Board generally shared this concern, and deferred action on the plan and project list pending receipt of additional information on the current plans for NE 15th/16th. Emil King from PCD will attend your May 13 meeting to present the current plans for the NE 15th/16th corridor, the rationale for modifying the park block concept, and answer any questions the Board may have.

The Board also expressed concern that the overall Parks, Open Space, Trails and Streams Plan provided insufficient green space, was potentially inconsistent with the rest of the City’s level of service, and not reflective of Bellevue’s image as a “City in a Park.” The chart below compares Bellevue’s existing park and open space level of service with the plan proposed for Bel-Red:

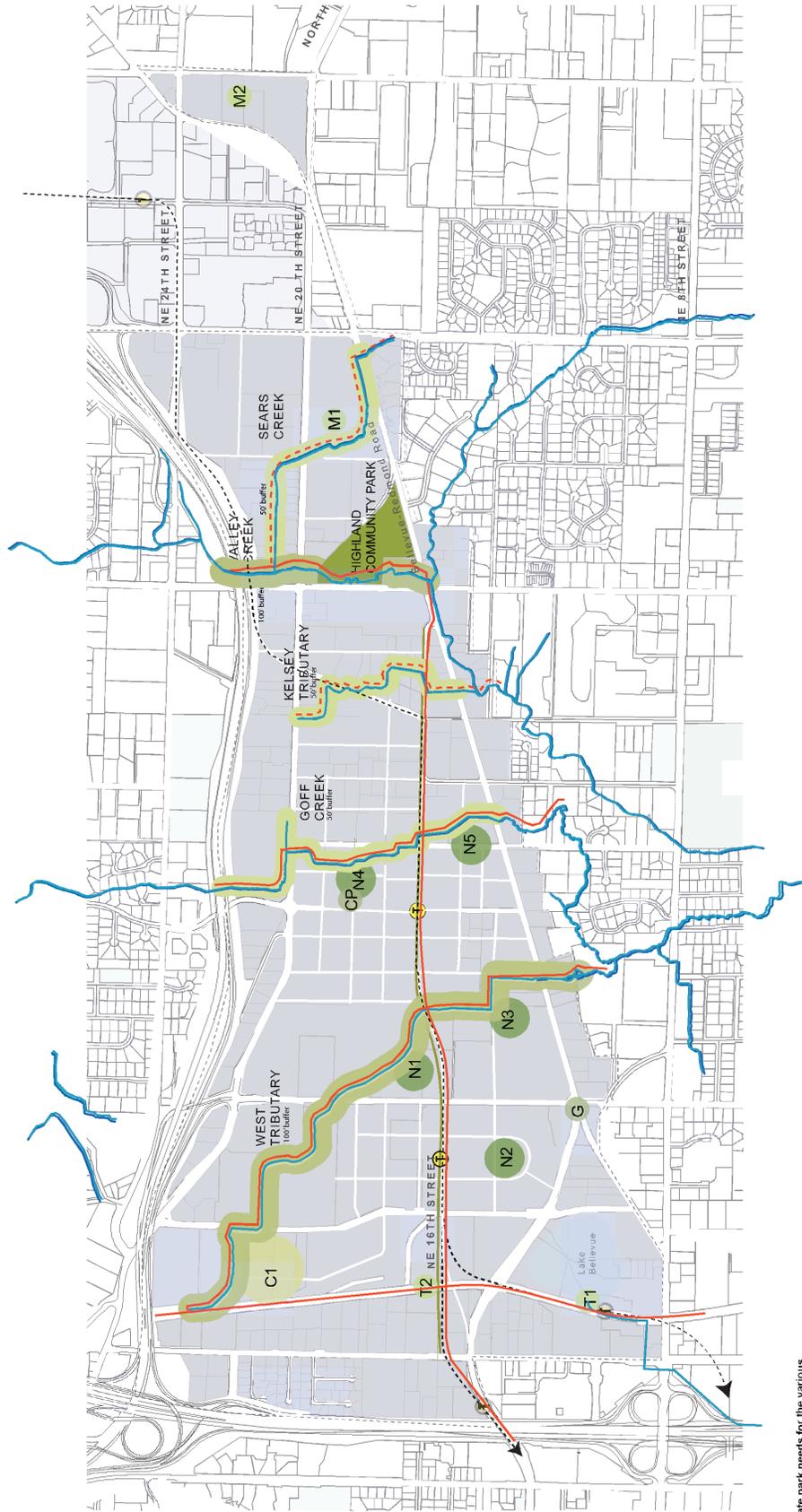
	<u>Existing Citywide</u>	<u>Proposed Bel-Red</u>
• Population Density (pop/sq mile)	3,753	6,109
• Park Acres/1,000 pop	9.1	6.6
• Parks & Open Space Acres/1,000	20.1	14.4
• Trail Miles/1,000	0.8	0.7
• Parks & Open Space Coverage (%)	11.8	12.6

Two alternative letters to the Planning Commission have been attached for your review. The first expresses satisfaction with the plan and project list as presented. The second requests that a more robust greenway concept comparable to the “park blocks” concept be reconsidered in the final plan for Bel-Red’s NE 15th/16th corridor.

Attachments

- Bel-Red Parks, Open Space, Trails and Streams Plan
- Bel-Red Parks, Open Space, Trails and Streams Project List
- Draft letters to the Planning Commission (2)

BEL-RED SUBAREA Parks, Open Space, Trails & Streams



Park areas are shown to conceptually illustrate park needs for the various Bel-Red nodes. Actual park may vary from the locations shown on the illustration. The major recreational facility is not shown on the map.

- riparian greenway opportunity area
- riparian waterway
- paved multi-purpose trail
- soft surface trail
- C community park
- M mini park
- N neighborhood park
- G gateway park
- CP civic plaza
- T trailhead

**Bel-Red Corridor Project
Parks, Open Space, Trails and Streams Component**

Map ID	Park	Acres
N-1	Neighborhood Park – Along West Trib, adjacent to NE 16 th Parkway. Integrates major trail systems and regional detention, with neighborhood park facilities. – 3 acres Neighborhood Park / 1 acre remnant Transportation acquisition	4
N-2	Neighborhood Park – Located between 120 th Ave NE and 124 Ave. NE and south of NE 15/16 Street. Provides neighborhood park and sports facilities to serve residential and commercial mixed use development	4
N-3	Neighborhood Park – Along West Trib, adjacent to Bel-Red Road. Integrates major trail and neighborhood park facilities. – 3 acres Neighborhood Park / 1 acre riparian	4
N-4 / CP	Neighborhood Park/Civic Plaza – Along Goff Creek, north of NE 16, between 130 th Ave NE and 132 Ave NE. Integrates approximate 1 acre urban plaza along pedestrian oriented retail street with adjacent 3 acre neighborhood park and trail facilities along 1 acre riparian corridor.	5
N-5	Neighborhood Park – Along Goff Creek, between Bel-Red Road and NE 16 th . NE. Integrates trail system along riparian corridor with neighborhood park facilities. – 3 acres Neighborhood Park / 1 acre riparian	4
G	Gateway Park – Near the intersection of 124 th Ave NE and Bel-Red Road. Integrates mini park facilities and potential art component near major road intersection to serve as gateway to the Bel-Red Corridor.	1
T-1	Trail Head - located adjacent to BNSF at Lake Bellevue. Integrates a trailhead with mini park facilities at BNSF regional trail and Lake Bellevue.	1
T-2	Trail Head – located at the BNSF regional trail corridor and the NE 15 th /16 th Parkway. Integrates a trailhead with mini park facilities at the crossing of the two major multi purpose trails.	1
M-1	Mini Park – Along Sears Creek west of 148 th , between Bel-Red Road and NE 16 th . Integrates trail system and riparian corridor with mini park facilities.	1
M-2	Mini Park – Centrally located between Bel-Red Road, 156 th Ave. NE , and NE 20 th . Incorporates mini park facilities to serve node.	1
C-1	Community Park – Along West Trib. adjacent to 120 th Ave. NE. Incorporates trailhead and trail system along West Trib. and BNSF with community park facilities. -10 acre acquisition through purchase for community park facilities. - 7 acre open space dedication by adjacent owner .	17
N/A	Community Park – Existing Highland Park located at 140 th Ave NE and Bel-Red Road.	11.2
N/A	Major Indoor Recreation Facility – 150,000 sf - Components could include sports, health and fitness facilities and major aquatic center , together with companion outdoor sports facilities. Location not shown on map.	10

Streams and Trails	Size/ Length
West Trib Riparian Corridor - Restore 200’ average width native plant riparian corridor on both sides (+/- 100’ each side) of the West Tributary from the BNSF right of way to Bel-Red Road with a paved ped-bike path (10ft) on one side of the stream. Improve fish passage, and rehabilitate in-stream habitat.	6350 lf stream 27 acre riparian corridor
Goff Creek Riparian Corridor - Develop a 100’ average width (+/- 50’ each side of creek) native plant and social amenity riparian corridor integrating natural drainage practices, 8’ paved/boardwalk trail, art and place-making features as part of redevelopment north of NE 16th. Realign and daylight Goff Creek with additional floodplain storm water capacity. Restore fish passage.	4200 lf 7 acre
Kelsey Creek Trib Riparian Corridor - Restore a 100’ average width (+/- 50’ width each side of creek) native plant and social amenity riparian corridor. Integrate natural drainage practices, soft surface pathway, art and place-making features in corridor. Restore fish passage.	2000 lf 12 acre
Valley Creek Riparian Corridor - Restore a 200’ average width (+/- 100’ each side of creek) native plant riparian corridor between Highland Community Park and Hwy 520. Includes paved multi-use trail/boardwalk on one side.	500 lf 3 acre
Sears Creek Riparian Corridor - Restore a 100’ average width (+/- 50’ width each side of creek) native plant riparian corridor along Sears Creek. Rehabilitate salmon habitat, channel capacity, restore riparian functions and provide soft surface pedestrian pathway. Daylight piped area of stream.	1300 lf 8.5 acre
NE 15th/16th Parkway Multi-use trail Integrates 12’ wide paved multi-purpose trail with significant greenway along major transportation corridor.	7,900 lf



MEMORANDUM

Phone: 452-6882
Date: May 13, 2008
To: Planning Commission
From: Merle Keeney, Parks & Community Services Board Chair
Subject: Bel-Red Parks, Open Space, Trails & Streams Plan and Project List

At our meetings of February 12, April 8, and May 13, the Parks & Community Services Board reviewed the conceptual plan and project list for the Parks, Open Space, Trails and Streams components of the Bel-Red Corridor Plan. The documents presented are consistent with the General Policy Direction endorsed by the Board last December, and closely follow the relevant sections of the draft Bel-Red Subarea Plan endorsed by the Board on February 12.

At our May 13 meeting, the Parks & Community Services Board endorsed the attached conceptual plan and project list. We continue to believe that, if fully implemented according to the policies and plans that we have reviewed to-date, it will provide an outstanding park and open space system for the Bel-Red Subarea, with the potential to become a model for environmental sustainability in our community.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this exciting project, and we look forward to our continued involvement through the implementation process.

Sincerely,

Merle Keeney, Chair

Attachments

Bel-Red Parks, Open Space, Trails & Streams Plan
Bel-Red Parks, Open Space, Trails & Streams Project List



MEMORANDUM

Phone: 452-6882
Date: May 13, 2008
To: Planning Commission
From: Merle Keeney, Parks & Community Services Board Chair
Subject: Bel-Red Parks, Open Space, Trails & Streams Plan and Project List

At our meetings of February 12, April 8, and May 13, the Parks & Community Services Board reviewed the conceptual plan and project list for the Parks, Open Space, Trails and Streams components of the Bel-Red Corridor Plan. We also reviewed the current plans for the NE 15/16th corridor.

The park and open space concepts are consistent with the *General Policy Direction* endorsed by the Board last December, and closely follow the relevant sections of the draft *Bel-Red Subarea Plan* endorsed by the Board on February 12. However, the plans for the NE 15th/16th corridor differ substantially from the "Park Blocks" concept depicted in the Steering Committee's Final Report to the City Council, and described throughout the Steering Committee process. The plans substantially erode the strong green infrastructure concept supported by the Steering Committee.

At our May 13 meeting, the Parks & Community Services Board endorsed the conceptual park and open space plan and project list subject to the inclusion of a more robust greenway for NE 15th/16th comparable to the park blocks concept. As the first major element of the Bel-Red Corridor Plan to undergo more detailed design, we trust that the erosion of the strong "green concept" for NE 15th/16th does not signal a similar fate for the remaining green elements of the Bel-Red Corridor Plan. We continue to believe that, if fully implemented according to the policies and plans that we have reviewed to-date, this plan will provide an outstanding park and open space system for the Bel-Red Subarea, with the potential to become a model for environmental sustainability in our community.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this exciting project, and look forward to your support, and to our continued involvement through the implementation process.

Sincerely,

Merle Keeney, Chair

Attachments

Bel-Red Parks, Open Space, Trails & Streams Plan
Bel-Red Parks, Open Space, Trails & Streams Project List



DATE: May 13, 2008
TO: Parks & Community Services Board
FROM: Emil King AICP, Strategic Planning Manager PCD, 452-7223
eaking@bellevuewa.gov
SUBJECT: Discussion of the design and function of Bel-Red's NE 15th/16th Street

At the May 13 Parks & Community Services Board meeting, PCD staff will provide an update on the current design and functionality of the NE 15th/16th Street project. The NE 15th/16th project was a major transportation, parks and open space, and placemaking project identified during the Bel-Red Steering Committee process. The project has been discussed over the past weeks at varying levels by the Board as well as the Transportation Commission, Planning Commission and City Council.

Background

The development of a new NE 15th/16th Street through the heart of the Bel-Red Subarea is a lynchpin project for the corridor. It is also a very ambitious project, provided the number of functions envisioned, and that the city currently has very little right-of-way where the new street is planned. The new NE 15th/16th Street would extend from the existing NE 16th Street right-of-way east of 134th Avenue NE to the west, connecting with NE 12th Street. As currently envisioned, NE 15th/16th would include the following major components:

- Four lanes of vehicle movement with turning pockets
- Light Rail Transit at-grade alignment with stations in the median
- Required ground-floor commercial uses in station areas
- In portions of the nodes, a local access road to the north with on-street parking
- Wide sidewalks both sides
- An off-street pedestrian and bicycle path
- Integration of connective green elements throughout the corridor
- Connection to adjacent parks and open spaces

As staff went through the process to develop the current design concept for NE 15th/16th, the following considerations were included:

- Multi-modal focus: The cross-section needs to accommodate light rail, automobiles (4 lanes), pedestrians, and bicycle facilities (recognizing that this will be the main non-motorized corridor through the area connecting pedestrians and bicyclists to Downtown Bellevue)
- Signature green linkage/connection with open space and amenities
- Strong interface with adjacent land use and with light rail stations
- Integrate natural drainage practices where appropriate
- Right-of-way cost considerations
- Base design of roadway on proven examples

Discussion

Based on discussions to date at the board/commission level and at Council, staff will be working with these groups to understand how the parks/open space components as well as other key pieces are currently configured for NE 15th/16th.

As currently designed, NE 15th/16th would be approximately 197 feet in width at station locations (the station platform adds more required space at these locations), roughly 150 feet in areas without a station or local access road, and bridge structures in other locations. One element that was identified as part of the Bel-Red Steering Committee recommendation was a “park blocks” concept along NE 15th/16th. This idea was shown to the committee in June 2007 as a concept that would include a wide (60 to 100 foot) area for open space, pedestrian trail, and other uses on the north side of the roadway. The current design for NE 15th/16th does not include a “parks block” concept. The park/open space component would be treated as more urban (plazas, etc.) in the development nodes, with broader parks/open space adjacent to NE 15th/16th included outside of the nodes. The Transportation Commission has forwarded a recommendation to the Planning Commission on all projects except NE 15th/16th, pending further information on how parks and open space concepts would be addressed along the corridor. The Transportation Commission is currently scheduled to further consider the NE 15th/16th design at their May 22 meeting; following the Parks & Community Services Board’s discussion on May 13.

The Planning Commission has reviewed the current design concept for NE 15th/16th at their April 23 meeting, and raised several questions about the project as well (their general comment was that the cross-section appeared too wide). City Council is scheduled to have an update on the project design later in May; this is tentatively scheduled to occur on May 27.