City of Bellevue
Parks & Community Services Department

Item No. 2(a)

MEMORANDUM

Phone: 452-5377

Date: May 5, 2014

To: Mayor Balducci and Councilmembers

From: Patrick Foran, Director

Subject: National Kids to Parks Day, May 17, 2014

National Kids to Parks Day is a nationwide grassroots movement, established as part of National Park Trust's ongoing efforts to connect youth across the country with nature and encourage them to explore outdoors – especially at parks in their communities. National Kids to Parks Day is held on the third Saturday every May and is responsible for bringing more than 100,000 kids and families to parks. This year, National Kids to Parks Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 17. Nationwide, cities, towns, and councils in 40 states have joined the official celebration by issuing proclamations and offering outdoor programs and activities on that day.

The City of Bellevue, widely known as a 'city in a park' has over 2,500 acres of park and open spaces, 85 miles of trails, 45 playgrounds, and 7 beach parks for public enjoyment. Programs and activities for all ages are scheduled year-round. On May 17, families and youth can participate in the following activities:

Coal Creek Park Hike, 10am–12pm, free
Red Town Trailhead (Cougar Mountain) on Lakemont Blvd SE

Fraser Cabin Heritage Program, 11am–3pm (drop-in), free
Kelsey Creek Farm, 410 130th Pl SE

Explorer's Club: Green Hour, 1–2pm, free
Lewis Creek Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Walk, 2–3pm, free
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street

Mercer Slough Nature Walk, 2–3pm, free
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

PROCLAMATION

Whereas; National Kids to Parks Day empowers kids and encourages families to get outdoors and visit a park; and

Whereas; National Kids to Parks Day is open to all children and adults across the country to broaden children's appreciation for nature and the outdoors; and

Whereas; This day encourages younger generations to visit parks and inspires environmental awareness and stewardship; and

Whereas; It encourages young people to lead active, healthy lifestyles; and

Whereas; Outdoor play encourages youth to choose rewarding paths to adulthood by providing opportunities to build physical, intellectual, emotional, and social strength; and

Whereas; Bellevue Parks & Community Services offers a myriad of organized and coordinated recreational activities and services in Bellevue's extensive park system; and

Whereas; Bellevue, widely known as a 'city in a park' has over 2,500 acres of park and open spaces, 85 miles of trails, 45 playgrounds, and 7 beach parks for public enjoyment; and

Whereas; The City of Bellevue, through strategic design, has invested in local parks and playgrounds as a way of encouraging families and kids to embrace healthy life-choices and value outdoor recreation.

Now, therefore, I, Claudia Balducci, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim **May 17, 2014**:

National Kids to Parks Day

and urge the citizens of Bellevue to take the children in their lives to a local, state, or national park.

Claudia Balducci
Mayor