



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 28, 2009

To: Parks and Community Services Board

From: Camron Parker, Senior Planner
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Parks & Open Space System Plan Update – Public Participation Plan

At the Board's June meeting, staff gave a presentation on the process the department is undergoing to update the Parks & Open Space System Plan. The public participation process for the plan update is now well underway. This memo highlights some of the activity that has occurred to date and what is planned over the next few months.

The cornerstone of the public participation process is a statistically valid public opinion survey that will be fielded during the month of September. Approximately 3,200 Bellevue residential addresses were chosen at random to receive a detailed survey that can be completed on paper, on a dedicated web page or over the phone. The survey asks questions about the household's current use of parks and recreation facilities, and requests opinions on future development priorities, current policies for recreation programming, and perceptions of walkable access to existing parks.

Since not everyone will be chosen to participate in the public opinion survey, several other opportunities to comment on the provision of parks, open space and recreation in Bellevue are being provided. These include internet-based strategies, such as the Bellevue Parks Blog (currently active at www.bellevue-parks.blogspot.com) and an open community-wide web survey that will be available in late September, as well as more traditional presentations to other City boards, commissions, advisory committees and community groups. The information collected through these measures will not be statistically reliable in the same way as the public opinion survey, but will provide excellent qualitative information on park use, demand and opinions on future development priorities.

An overview of all the public participation opportunities is given on the web page for this project: www.bellevuewa.gov/park_plan_update.htm. As soon as data becomes available from these participation methods, we will schedule a presentation for a future Park Board meeting to review and discuss the results.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Parks & Open Space System Plan update, please contact me at cparker@bellevuewa.gov or (425) 452-2032.

