



PARKS CIP PROJECT STATUS REPORT

August 2011

Ashwood Park – Temporary use of park

On July 18, the City Council approved agreements allowing the library to utilize portions of Ashwood Park during construction of a 3-level parking structure. Construction is expected to start in September. Though the parking lot will be used chiefly by library patrons, the majority of the park will remain open. At the completion of the project, the library will repave the parking lot and landscape the northern portions of the park and right-of-way. Athletic uses will be relocated during the expected one-year construction period.

Aquatic Facility Follow-up

More detailed site and financial information is being prepared in anticipation of a follow-up Council discussion to assess the feasibility of a major aquatic facility in Bellevue.

Bellevue Youth Theatre Design

Staff is responding to public comments submitted as part of the land use review process. Plans will be submitted for building permit application following land use approval, which is expected later this summer. We hope to receive building permit approval in early 2012. The King County Housing Authority has notified us that they have received partial funding for a series of projects under the federally-sponsored New Markets Tax Credit Program. The BYT was one of the projects identified in the County's application. We are awaiting direction as to whether, and under what circumstances, the City will request funding for the project.

Bellevue Airfield Park – Shared parking & landfill gas modifications

The City Council has agreed with a proposed change to the shared parking requirement that includes changes to scheduled use and quantity of shared parking for future park use. The agreement is stalled in legal, though the staff hopes to present a final agreement to the City Council later this year.

We are also working with our environmental engineers to develop plans to upgrade the landfill gas extraction system. The plans have been reviewed by the Department of Ecology, and we are now revising those plans in hopes of implementing these upgrades later this year.

Bellevue Airfield Park - Master Plan

Staff completed Master Plan environmental review documents, incorporating the off-leash proposal at Robinswood Park. Staff will return to Council for adoption when the environmental review is complete, anticipated by the end of the year. After Master Plan adoption, staff will seek proposals for design work. See also Robinswood Off-leash plan.

Bel-Red Planning

Staff is participating in several planning efforts that will likely affect the future park, open space, trail and greenway concepts adopted in the Bel-Red Corridor plans. The NE 15/16th roadway design, regional stormwater concepts, light rail station area planning, and stormwater enhancement plans for Utilities-owned property are all current planning projects that require parks planning participation. We have hired a design firm to assist the staff develop conceptual park/greenway plans along the West Trib and Goff Creek to help inform early decision-making.

Boys & Girls Club request

After failed attempts to secure park property at Surrey Downs and the Chapin site, the Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue has now requested the use of Hidden Valley Park to construct a gymnasium structure to house three basketball courts and other sports-related facilities. The City Council reviewed this request at an August study session, and we are now analyzing alternative plans for Hidden Valley Park, and developing cost estimates for installing synthetic turf on several athletic fields throughout the park system.

Downtown Park Memorial

The City has been approached by an individual who would like to restore the existing memorial in Downtown Park dedicated to three Bellevue men that died in World War I. We are working with the individual and the Eastside Heritage Center to determine the most appropriate and effective way to accomplish this goal.

Grant Applications

Staff has received a State of Washington Boating Facilities Program (BFP) grant to offset half the cost (up to \$100,000) to evaluate options and develop plans to accommodate transient moorage at Meydenbauer Bay, which is required by the State as a condition of the original acquisition grant funding. Council is scheduled to review and accept Grant funding September 6th. We are now negotiating a contract with an engineering firm to assist with the development of moorage plans.

Light Rail Impacts

The staff has evaluated the impacts of several alternative light-rail routes on Surrey Downs Park and Mercer Slough, and identify several options to mitigate for these impacts. The Final EIS has been published, and a final route has been approved by Sound Transit. Additional work is ongoing to assist the attorney's office prepare review letters to Sound Transit and the FTA, and to assist Council and the City Manager's office negotiate the mitigation requirements with Sound Transit and State agencies.

Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) Projects

Approved NEP projects being implemented by Planning and Design staff are as follows:

- **Playground equipment at Enatai Beach Park:** Staff will be purchasing the play equipment and expects the project to be constructed in late fall/early winter 2011. This will diminish any user impacts for the park during the high use summer period. Construction to begin in mid September.
- **Playground equipment at Newport Heights and Somerset Elementary:** Construction is nearing completion at both sites, and scheduled to be complete by the beginning of school.
- **Crossroads Park Walkway Improvements:** Staff has developed concept plans for a

walkway connection between the park, community center and adjacent shopping center. The Crossroads Mall management has also developed concept plans for their portion of the work, and we are now coordinating our efforts.

- **Restrooms at Robinswood, Ardmore, and Ivanhoe Parks:** the projects are being revised due to operating budget impacts. In lieu of permanent facilities, seasonal portable restrooms will be installed at Ardmore and Ivanhoe. Because of the presence of two already existing permanent restrooms, the Robinswood project will be eliminated in favor of an alternate NEP project.

Newport Hills/Tyler Property

Staff attended a recent Newport Hills Community Club meeting to discuss a neighborhood request to initiate a visioning process for this new park, and also attended a recent neighborhood “luau” at the swim & tennis club to gather input for the park. We are currently working with representatives of the NHCC to develop a process to achieve this goal.

Off-Leash Dog Area Study/Robinswood OLA Expansion

A preferred plan to expand and enhance the off-leash facilities at Robinswood Park has been incorporated into the environmental review documents for the Bellevue Airfield Master Plan. The plans are consistent with concepts previously endorsed by Park Board and Council. An environmental study has completed and submitted for land use review along with the SEPA for Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan.

Park & Natural Areas Levy Projects

- Synthetic Sportsfield at Wilburton Hill Park:** Project complete.
- Synthetic Sportsfield at Newport Hills Park:** Project complete.
- Lewis Creek Park Picnic Area:** Construction is underway and expected to continue through the end of the year. Current work includes completing the plumbing connections, installing the entry gabion retaining walls, and completing the rough grading. Concrete block installation for the restroom and picnic shelters will begin shortly.
- BYT Construction:** See BYT design above.
- Botanical Garden Projects:**
 - **Ravine Garden:** On July 20, the Council awarded a construction contract to JEM contractors. Construction has started, and expected to continue through the end of the year.
 - **Wetland-Sun Terraced Garden:** Land Use approval has been secured. The project is now on-hold pending the availability of project funding.
 - **Visitor Center & Parking Lot:** No Change. The Conditional Use and environmental review (SEPA) permits were submitted in mid May and under review by City review staff. The public hearing for the CUP will occur in September. A Critical Areas Land Use permit is required, and the design team is working with Staff to complete the application. The team is approximately 75% complete with the construction documents and will apply for building permits towards the end of 2011.
 - **Fundraising:** Commitments received to-date from the Garden Society’s ongoing fundraising efforts total over \$1.5m of their \$5m goal.

- Bridle Trails Neighborhood Parks:** Meetings are ongoing with representatives of State Parks to discuss future rights to the Acheson property. We have completed initial clean-up and boundary fencing on the recently acquired Pashchinskiy property and will begin initial master planning work with the neighborhood later this year.
- Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park:** No activity.
- Surrey Downs Park Development:** No activity. See Surrey Downs Master Plan.
- Bellevue Airfield Park Development:** No activity.
- Downtown Park Development:** No activity.

Major 2011 Renovation Projects

- Sportsfield lighting system renovation at Wilburton Hill Park is complete. Materials for the Bannerwood sportsfield lighting renovation have been delivered to the site, and installation will start in early September;
- The installation of a heat recovery system at the Aquatic Center, which is projected to save significant utility costs, has been delayed until next year;
- The estimated cost to construct a small animal barn at Kelsey Creek exceeded the budget, and we are now re-scoping the project.
- Work is underway to re-roof one small barn and a portion of the house at Kelsey Creek Park, the whaling building and caretaker's house at Meydenbauer Marina and the Botanical Garden visitor center. Work will be complete this summer;
- Ball field improvements at Hidden Valley #1 and Wilburton Hill #1 & #2 will be delayed pending the outcome of the discussions between the City and the Boys & Girls Club. Drainage improvements at Bannerwood and infield reconstruction at Ivanhoe will proceed as scheduled this fall;
- A series of energy-efficiency projects are underway throughout our buildings, including replacing inefficient mechanical units and light fixtures.
- Painting is underway at the Bannerwood stadium, and will begin in September at the Kelsey Creek Barns, Enatai Beach trellis, Newcastle Beach lifeguard stand, and Robinswood Tennis Center. Work will be complete in October;
- Mechanical units have been replaced at Crossroads Community Center and Bellevue Aquatic Center, and will be replaced at Northwest Arts Center and Robinswood Tennis Center later this year;
- Boundary fences have been replaced at Enatai Neighborhood Park and Killarney Glen, and sports fencing will be replaced this fall at Highland, Lakemont and Killarney Glen.
- Phase 1 of the irrigation system replacement at McCormick Park is complete;
- Parking lot repairs, sealcoating & restriping at the Hidden Valley Sports Park, Robinswood Tennis Center and Meydenbauer Marina are underway, with work complete by the end of summer;
- Plans to remove exterior staircases at Lakemont and Highland Park and reconstruct staircases at Enatai and Chism Beach are underway, with construction this fall;
- Plans to expand the storage yard and develop an access drive at the Botanical Garden/Koh Property are underway, with some of the work expected to be complete by the end of the year, and the remainder in 2012;
- Work continues on updating the 7-year Renovation Plan, which is expected to be complete this fall.

Surrey Downs Master Plan

On hold pending resolution of the light rail alignment and building issue.

Shoreline Master Program

The City is updating its 1974 Shoreline Management Plan to meet State requirements. The goal of the Plan is to ensure ecologically appropriate development. Park staff has provided feedback to the Development Services Staff regarding proposed policy and regulation updates and their potential impacts to park use and future park development. Significant public feedback has been received. The Park Board reviewed the draft policies at the April Board meeting, and approved a response to the Planning Commission at their May meeting. Discussions with the Planning Commission are expected to continue through the end of the year.

