



# MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 29, 2014

TO: Sherry Grindeland, Chair  
Members of the Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Camron Parker, Senior Planner, Parks, 452-2032  
[cparker@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:cparker@bellevuewa.gov)

SUBJECT: Update on East Link Light Rail & Mercer Slough Nature Park Conversion  
(No Board action requested)

At the September meeting, the Board will be given a status report on the tasks being undertaken by Parks & Community Services as part of the final design process for East Link Light Rail. The update will focus on Mercer Slough Nature Park, the F.W. Winters House and Surrey Downs Park.

At Mercer Slough Nature Park, many of the features and attributes located along the western edge of the park are being re-designed to allow for the light rail facility adjacent to Bellevue Way. These facilities include the Overlake Blueberry Farm, the Heritage Loop Trail, the historic F.W. Winters House and the Perimeter Loop Trail. Plans for these changes have been shared previously with the Board.

Another element of the park mitigation plan is the need to replace land along Bellevue Way SE that will be converted from park use to transportation use. Sound Transit and the City are obligated to replace land both in size and value for parcels originally acquired using state and federal grant funding. The plan for replacement is developed and will be shared with the Board. The plan is currently available for review and comment by the public (see attached notice).

The public comment period extends through the September Board meeting. This gives individuals an opportunity to hear more information and provide comments during Oral Communications. This is not a formal public hearing, and the Board is not asked to make a decision or recommendation.

Design coordination with Sound Transit also continues at Surrey Downs Park. Previously, the Board reconsidered the park master plan in light of the fact that East Link will close the current vehicular and pedestrian access points along 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. The Board's recommended plan was presented to the City Council and is currently undergoing environmental review (SEPA) prior to being brought back to the Council for adoption. Design development work continues, and coordination with Sound Transit on retaining wall placement along 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE is ongoing.

General background information on East Link can be found on the following web sites:

<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm>

<http://projects.soundtransit.org/Projects-Home/East-Link-Project.xml>

If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact me at (425) 452-2032 or [cparker@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:cparker@bellevuewa.gov).



## Public Comment Opportunity

### **Mercer Slough Nature Park      East Link Parkland Conversion and Replacement**

The City of Bellevue is requesting approval of the State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and the National Park Service to convert 1.06 acres of parkland to transportation use. The conversion involves two separate parcels on the western edge of Mercer Slough Nature Park that received state outdoor recreation grants, including a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant, for acquisition in the 1970’s. As required by the grant conditions, replacement parkland will be acquired on the east edge of the same park that is similar in function and value of the area being converted (see map on next page).

The conversion is for the East Link Light Rail Extension, sponsored by Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration. East Link will bring high-capacity transit service from Seattle, through Bellevue to Redmond. Along Bellevue Way SE, East Link requires use of park land, but maintains park recreational functions and attributes by preserving or relocating certain driveways, sidewalks, trails and park facilities. These impacts, the proposed parkland conversion and the process for parkland replacement were evaluated and published as part of the East Link Environmental Impact Statement process.

The proposed replacement property exhibits the same wetland and wetland buffer conditions as the areas of the park being converted. The replacement property also connects two sections of the park that have long been separated. The property is large enough to offer sufficient area to match and exceed the area being converted and to exceed the value of the area being converted as well.

<b>Property</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Value</b>
<i>North Parcel</i>	<i>0.77 acre</i>	<i>\$240,000</i>
<i>South Parcel</i>	<i>0.29 acre</i>	<i>\$255,000</i>
<b>Total Area to Convert</b>	<b>1.06 acre</b>	<b>\$495,000</b>
<b>Replacement Property</b>	<b>6.00 acres</b>	<b>\$633,120</b>

**Written comments on the conversion will be accepted through September 19, 2014. Email comments to [cparker@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:cparker@bellevuewa.gov), or mail to Bellevue Parks, Attn: Camron Parker, P. O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012. Call (425) 452-2032 with any questions.**

More detailed information on the proposed parkland conversion will be presented to the Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board, where comments can be provided in-person during Oral Communications at the beginning or end of the public meeting.

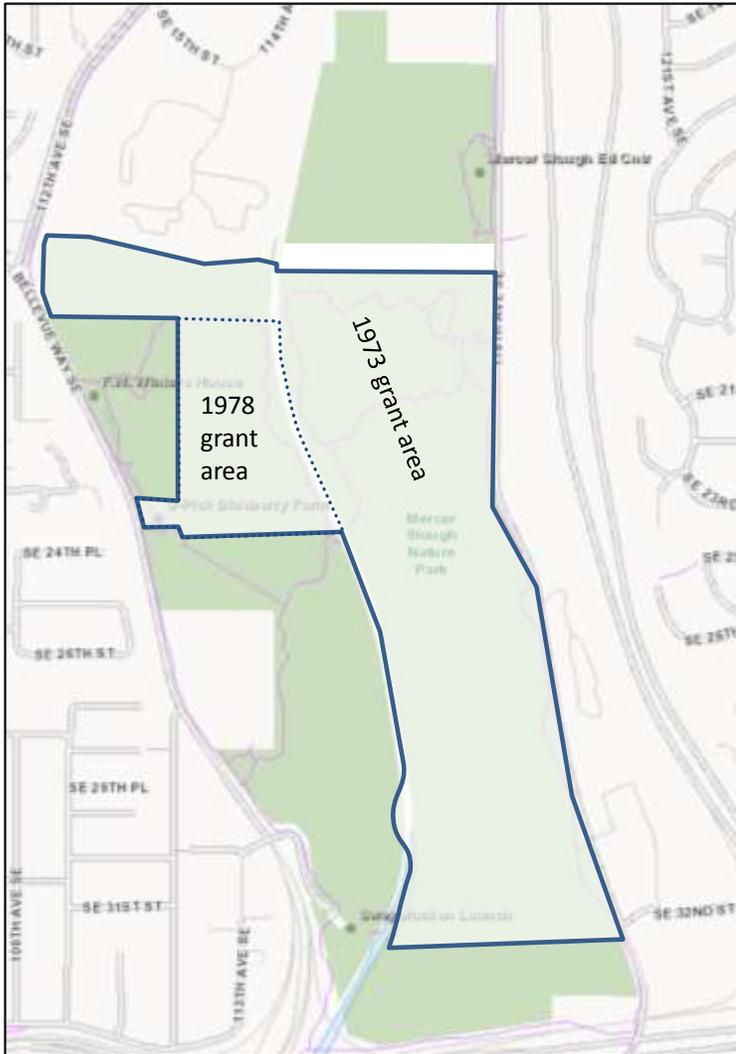
DATE/TIME: Tuesday, September 9, 2014 • 6:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Bellevue Golf Course • Clubhouse Conference Room  
5500 140th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA

Wheelchair accessible. American Sign Language (ASL) or other interpretation available upon request. Call at least 48 hours in advance for any request. (425) 452-4162 or Relay Service 711.



# Mercer Slough Nature Park Conversion

## Existing Boundary



## Proposed Boundary

