



About Bellevue

This chapter provides information about the City of Bellevue, its form of government, management structure, location, population, and business climate. This information will aid the reader in understanding Bellevue's service programs. Budgetary values have more complete meaning when placed in this context.

A. Form of Government and Organization

The City of Bellevue is a noncharter optional code city. It was incorporated on April 1, 1953. From its incorporation, Bellevue has maintained a Council-City Manager form of government. The City Manager is appointed by the Council as the chief executive officer of the city and is responsible to the Council for the proper administration of all city affairs. Councilmembers are elected at large by Bellevue voters, and each serves a four-year term. Councilmembers are part-time officials who exercise the legislative power of the city and determine city policy. Bellevue has a seven-member Council, one of whom is elected by his or her fellow members to serve as Mayor for two years. The Mayor serves as chairperson of the Council, makes appointments to Council committees, and presides over weekly Council meetings. The Mayor has an equal vote with other Councilmembers.

The offices of City Clerk, City Treasurer, and Chief of Police are subordinate positions required by state statute. They are established by the Council and appointed by the City Manager. The City Clerk is responsible for keeping public records, and the City Treasurer is responsible for the receipt, disbursement, and custody of public monies. Though the City Clerk position, by statute, can include the duties of Treasurer, the City of Bellevue has established both positions, with the City Treasurer being defined as the Finance Director. All officers and/or department directors of the city are appointed by the City Manager.

The following pages contain several different organization and responsibility charts. These charts illustrate the city's management organization from different perspectives.

Figure 3-1 presents an organization chart that shows the reporting relationships that currently exist.

Figure 3-2 presents a functional organization chart showing the principal activities for which each organization is responsible. These functional responsibilities are shown in detail in the department organization charts presented in the departmental chapters of the Budget.

Figure 3-3 lists the current Councilmembers and department directors.

Figure 3-4 presents and describes the array of advisory boards and commissions.

Figure 3-5 shows the age distribution of Bellevue's population from 1970 through 2017.

Figure 3-6 shows the race / ethnic distribution of Bellevue's population in 2017.

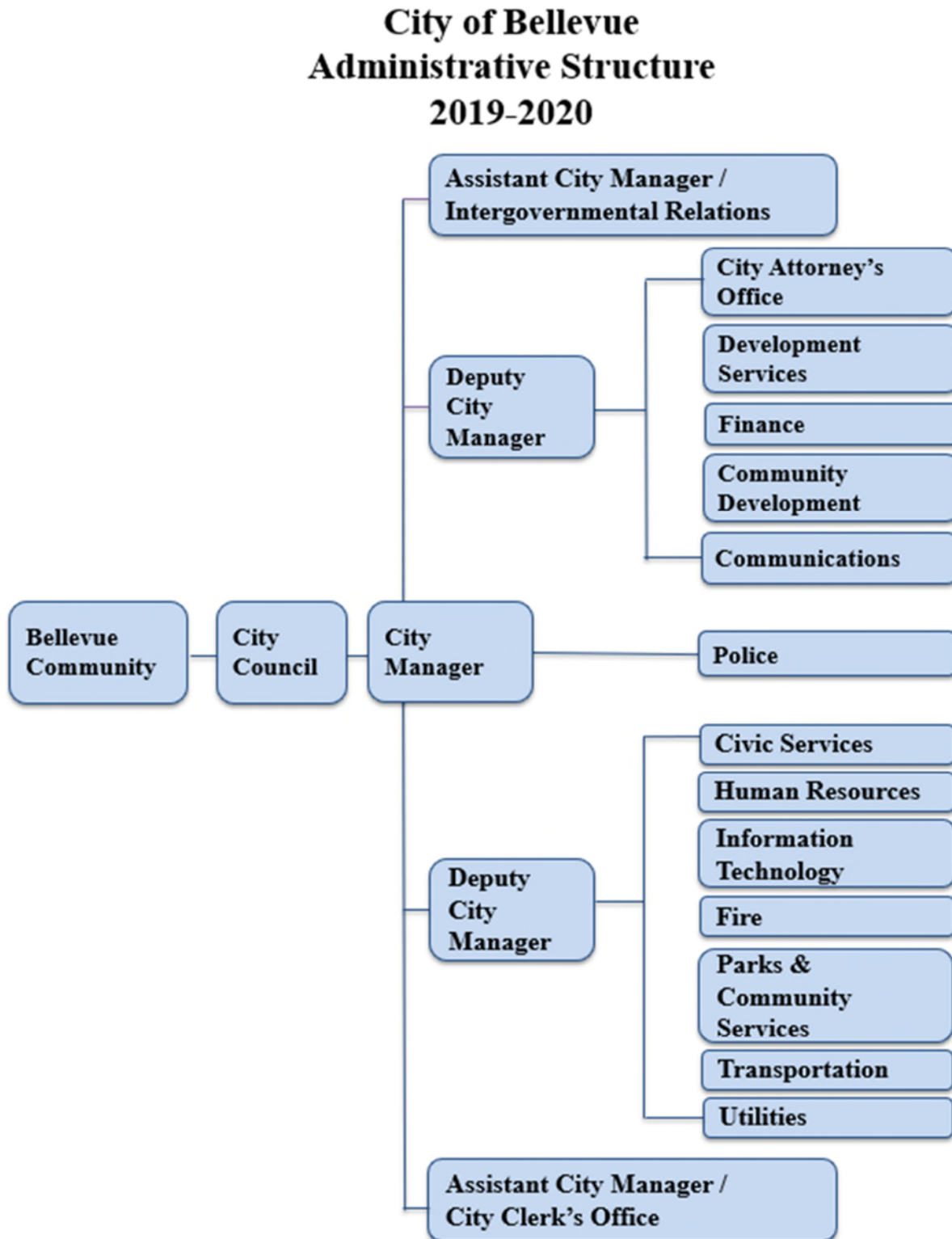


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Figure 3-7 shows key demographic characteristics over the past three U.S. Census periods.

Figure 3-8 summarizes other trends for 2014 through 2018.

Figure 3-1 City of Bellevue Hierarchical Org Chart





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Figure 3-2 Principal Activities

City Attorney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal support for City Council, all departments, and boards and commissions • Prosecution • Litigation • Risk Management 	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General supervision over the city's financial affairs
City Clerk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council support • City records and documents • Hearing Examiner staffing • Community Council staffing 	City Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City administration • Intergovernmental relations • Media relations • Publications
Human Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel services, recruitment, selection • Matters of personnel policy • Compensation and classification • Workforce diversity • Staff training 	Fire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire suppression and rescue services • Fire prevention and education • Emergency medical services • Disaster preparedness • Hazardous materials emergency management
Civic Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service First Public Service Desk • Facilities services • Mechanical and electronic equipment repair 	Development Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development review and permitting • Clearing and grading permitting and inspection • Code enforcement
Parks & Community Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of city parks and recreation programs • Youth Link • Human services • Human Services Commission staffing • Probation • Park planning and development • Park Board staffing 	Community Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rezones • Affordable housing • Citywide policy coordination • Comprehensive planning • Community outreach • Planning Commission staffing • Economic and demographic statistical analysis • Community development functions of CIP • Arts program and Arts Commission staffing • Enhance the economy • Business development and retention • Redevelopment of small neighborhood centers • Promote tourism and international trade
Information Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of city's computer and telecommunications systems • Telephone systems management • Computer applications programming • Geographic information systems (GIS) 	Utilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, sewer, storm and surface water, and solid waste utilities • Private utility franchising • Utility billing • Environmental Services Commission staffing
Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing functions • Police-related community programs • Park patrol • Public safety communications center 	Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street maintenance • Transportation planning, design, construction management, and operation • Transportation Commission staffing



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Figure 3-3 Current Councilmembers and Directors

Elected City Council

Mayor John Chelminiak
Deputy Mayor Lynne Robinson

Council Conrad Lee
..... Jared Nieuwenhuis
..... Jennifer Robertson
..... John Stokes
..... Janice Zahn*

Appointed Administrative Staff

City Manager Brad Miyake
Deputy City Manager..... Mary Kate Berens
Deputy City Manager..... Nathan McCommon
Director of Intergovernmental Relations Joyce Nichols
City Attorney Lori Riordan
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk..... Kyle Stannert
Development Services Director Mike Brennan
Civic Services Director (Interim)..... Laurie Leland
Finance Director..... Toni Call
Fire Chief Jay Hagen
Human Resources Director Joy St. Germain
Chief Information Officer Sabra Schneider
Parks & Community Services Director..... Patrick Foran
Community Development Director..... Mac Cummins
Police Chief..... Steve Mylett
Transportation Director..... Dave Berg
Utilities Director Nav Otal

*Elected to complete an unexpired term.



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Figure 3-4 Advisory Boards and Commissions

Arts Commission

Number of Members:	7
Appointed By:	Mayor. Confirmed by City Council.
Purpose/Comments:	<p>To perform the necessary functions in order that Bellevue may provide leadership in the Arts and to advise the City Council on matters of the Arts.</p> <p>The Board meets once a month, and staffing is provided by the Community Development Department.</p>

Bellevue Convention Center Authority Board

Number of Members:	7
Appointed By:	City Manager. Confirmed by City Council.
Purpose/Comments:	<p>To govern the affairs of the Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA), which was established by City Council action on December 4, 1989. All corporate powers of the BCCA are exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Directors.</p> <p>The BCCA Board meets monthly, and staffing is provided by Meydenbauer Center staff.</p>

Civil Service Commission

Number of Members:	5
Appointed By:	City Manager
Purpose/Comments:	<p>1) To provide for, formulate, and hold competitive tests to determine the relative qualifications of persons who seek employment for the position of Police Officer or Firefighter with the City of Bellevue; 2) to provide for promotion on the basis of merit; 3) to give uniformed personnel tenure; and 4) to provide for a commission to investigate, by public hearing, suspensions, demotions, and discharges.</p> <p>The Board meets quarterly and as needed, and staffing is provided by the Human Resources Department.</p>



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Diversity Advisory Network

Number of Members: 21

Appointed By: City Manager

Purpose/Comments: 1) To provide counsel to the city on how to better reach, serve, communicate and collaborate with Bellevue's diverse community; 2) to collect community feedback to help assess city services from a cultural competency lens; 3) to engage in cross cultural dialogue focused on diversity issues; and 4) to provide feedback and insight on issues relevant to communities in Bellevue.

The group meets monthly, and staffing support is provided by the City Manager's Office.

Environmental Services Commission

Number of Members: 7

Appointed By: Mayor. Confirmed by City Council

Purpose/Comments: To act in an advisory capacity to the City Council regarding city water, sewer, storm and surface water, and solid waste utility programs. The Commission makes recommendations to the Council as needed regarding short- and long-term planning, rates and rate structures, annual budgets, and other policies directly related to utility functions.

The Commission meets monthly, and staffing is provided by the Utilities Department.



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Human Services Commission

Number of Members:	7, plus city staff from the Police and Parks & Community Services Departments, appointed as ex-officio members by the City Manager
Appointed By:	Mayor. Confirmed by City Council.
Purpose/Comments:	<p>To make recommendations to the City Council regarding human services issues, such as the community's needs, policy development, and the allocation of local and federal funds.</p> <p>The Commission meets once a month and is staffed by the Parks & Community Services Department.</p>

LEOFF 1 Disability Board

Number of Members:	5
Appointed By:	Membership includes: two Council members, appointed by the Mayor; one firefighter elected by the city's firefighters; one law enforcement officer elected by the city's law enforcement officers; and one member of the public appointed by the City Manager.
Purpose/Comments:	<p>To act upon, approve, or deny firefighters' and law enforcement officers' claims for disability leave/retirement or medical benefits.</p> <p>The Board meets once a month, and staffing is provided by the Human Resources Department.</p>

Library Board

Number of Members:	7
Appointed By:	Mayor. Confirmed by City Council.
Purpose/Comments:	<p>1) To serve as a liaison between the libraries and the community; and 2) to cooperate with the local, regional, and national trustees associations to participate in library matters.</p> <p>The Board meets once a month, and staffing is provided by the local libraries.</p>



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Parks & Community Services Board

Number of Members: 7

Appointed By: Mayor. Confirmed by City Council.

Purpose/Comments: The Parks & Community Services Board advises the City Council on policies regarding parks and open space issues such as park planning; design and construction; development, redevelopment and renovation; enterprise management; and natural resources, land stewardship, and environmental education. The Board also advises the City Council on policies regarding community services issues such as recreation opportunities for a wide range of interests, ages, and abilities; cultural diversity; community centers; Parks & Community Services Department-related special events; and probation services.

The Board meets once a month, and staffing is provided by the Parks & Community Services Department.

Planning Commission

Number of Members: 7

Appointed By: Mayor. Confirmed by City Council.

Purpose/Comments: To make recommendations to the City Council regarding land use issues such as Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan, Subarea Plans, land use management ordinances, potential annexations, etc.

The Commission meets at least twice a month, and staffing is provided by the Community Development Department.

Transportation Commission

Number of Members: 7

Appointed By: Mayor. Confirmed by City Council.

Purpose/Comments: To advise the City Council on transportation issues and to make recommendations to the City Council regarding transportation facility plans and related transportation capital investment projects.

The Commission meets monthly and is staffed by the Transportation Department.



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Youth Link Board

Number of Members:	12
Appointed By:	The Board consists of six youths and six adults appointed by the City Manager, with two ex-officio positions, representing the City Council and the Bellevue School Board.
Purpose/Comments:	<p>To advise the City Council on issues facing Bellevue's youth, to involve youth in current community issues, to utilize youth ideas to address community concerns and to create new outlets for youth opportunities.</p> <p>The Board meets monthly and is staffed by the Parks & Community Services Department.</p>

B. Location, Population, and Business Climate

A Growing City

Spanning an area of 4.7 square miles near Meydenbauer Bay, the City of Bellevue incorporated in 1953, with a population of 5,950. Development continued in areas east of the city, including the building of the Lake Hills planned community, which brought hundreds of new families to the area. Construction of the Evergreen Point Floating bridge also facilitated further growth. The young city proceeded to annex neighboring areas, growing to span over 28 square miles and reaching over 61,000 in population by 1970.

During the 1970s and 80s, annexation and population growth continued, but at a slower pace. Instead, employment growth took off with the number of jobs quadrupling. For the first time, in 1990, the number of jobs in Bellevue, 89,910, surpassed the number of residents, 86,874.

Over the last couple of decades Bellevue has grown beyond its “suburban” status to become a thriving metropolitan city that is home to many of the world’s leading high-tech firms. Today Bellevue has an estimated population of 142,400 (the fifth largest city in the state), and an equally large employment base of 147,647 jobs. By 2035, Bellevue is projected to reach over 160,700 residents and nearly 192,800 jobs.



Location

Strategically located at the intersection of Interstate 90, State Route 520, and Interstate 405, Bellevue is both the geographic center and the economic anchor of the Eastside. It is 11 miles from Seattle to the west, 28 miles from Everett to the north and 36 miles from Tacoma to the south. Bellevue is also about three hours north of Portland, Oregon, and three hours south of Vancouver, Canada.

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A “City in a Park”

With the Cascade Mountains to the east, the Olympic Mountains to the west, and Mount Rainier to the south, Bellevue is surrounded by natural beauty. When viewed from the air, Bellevue clearly fulfills its image as a “City in a Park.” Lying between Lakes Washington and Sammamish, interlaced with miles of urban forests, open streams, wetlands, freshwater lakes, and foothills rising to almost 1,500 feet, Bellevue is blessed with a rich natural environment. The city treasures and protects these natural places, maintaining more than 2,700 acres – nearly 13 percent of its land area – in city-owned open space, including natural areas and developed parks, greenbelts, and wetlands. Even in the heart of the downtown business district, Bellevue’s Downtown Park provides a green respite, an informal gathering place and a popular location for special events and celebrations. Abundant vegetation softens the impacts of commercial areas and blends them into the natural environment.



Bellevue provides residents and visitors with a wealth of year-round outdoor recreation opportunities, including sailing, fishing, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, bicycling, golf, and water skiing.



Quality Neighborhoods

Visitors to Bellevue often remark that the city feels “safe and clean.” Residents and businesses value well-maintained homes and properties. The city places a high priority on maintaining public infrastructure, opting to ensure that existing facilities are in good condition before building new ones. Bellevue is also a safe place, with relatively low crime rates for a community of its size.

In 2017, there were more than 58,000 households residing in Bellevue. Residents choose from a variety of housing types and living environments, ranging from quiet, older neighborhoods to new high-rise communities in Downtown, to modern view homes on Cougar Mountain near Bellevue’s southern edge. Convenient and family-friendly neighborhoods offer excellent schools and neighborhood amenities. Senior and assisted

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housing are also available for residents who wish to stay in Bellevue as their housing needs change.

A Vibrant Downtown

Downtown Bellevue is among the Northwest's most distinctive business districts, featuring a successful mix of office towers, stores, theatres, restaurants and hotels, along with such institutions as the Bellevue Arts Museum, the Bellevue Regional Library, and the Meydenbauer Convention Center. Over 50,000 jobs are located Downtown and an increasing number of people (13,400 in 2018) live in Downtown, where new apartments and condominiums are coalescing into true urban neighborhoods. A majority of the city's future growth is planned to occur in Downtown and BelRed as those neighborhoods continues to redevelop.



A Strong Economy

As part of a large and complex metropolitan region of 4.0 million people, Bellevue is a hub for information technology, aerospace, business services, and retail companies. Microsoft, T-Mobile, Expedia and Boeing are some of its largest employers.

The city also has three of the premier health care providers in the region, Overlake Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, and Children's Hospital, located just east of Downtown, in Bellevue's medical district.

The Global Innovation Exchange (GIX), a global partnership between the University of Washington and Tsinghua University, two major research universities, with early support from Microsoft, launched its first degree programs in the fall of 2017. GIX is located in Bellevue's Spring District in the BelRed subarea.

Meydenbauer Convention Center attracts over a quarter of a million people to the city each year. The Port of Seattle, the seventh largest container port in North America, is less than 20 minutes from Downtown Bellevue. The city is less than half an hour from the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and several commuter airfields, which provide links to other cities in the Pacific Northwest as well as international destinations.



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Downtown's luxury shopping centers, the Bellevue Collection, and the Shops at the Bravern, pull in tourists from all over the world. Bellevue's current daytime population is estimated at 224,000, and Bellevue ranks second in the state for retail sales and second in King County for property values (as measured by assessed valuation).

Bellevue Schools and Higher Education

Bellevue's strong economy is directly related to Bellevue being one of the most highly educated communities in the nation, with 68 percent of its adult residents having achieved a Bachelor's Degree or higher in 2017. The city's schools are also consistently rated among the best in the country, which attracts families to the city.

With a total enrollment of 20,262 students in 2017-2018, the Bellevue School District includes 15 regular elementary schools, one Spanish Immersion elementary school, one Mandarin dual language elementary school, five regular middle schools, four regular high schools and two alternative middle/high schools. Two of Bellevue School District's regular high schools were awarded gold medals by the U.S. News and World Report's 2016 ranking of Best High Schools.

Bellevue is also home to Bellevue College, the third largest institution of higher learning in Washington. While the majority of Bellevue College students come from communities throughout the greater Puget Sound region, many students come from all over the world, including 1,800 international students from more than 70 countries. Bellevue College had an average quarterly enrollment of 17,700 students for the 2017-2018 enrollment year.

Climate

Mild winters and cool summers characterize Bellevue. High temperatures in July average about 75° F (24° C) compared to an 86° F (30° C) United States average, while low temperatures in January average 36° F (2° C) compared to a 23° F (-5° C) United States average. Average rainfall in the region is about 41 inches per year compared to 24 inches in San Francisco, 38 inches in Chicago, and 49 inches in Boston.

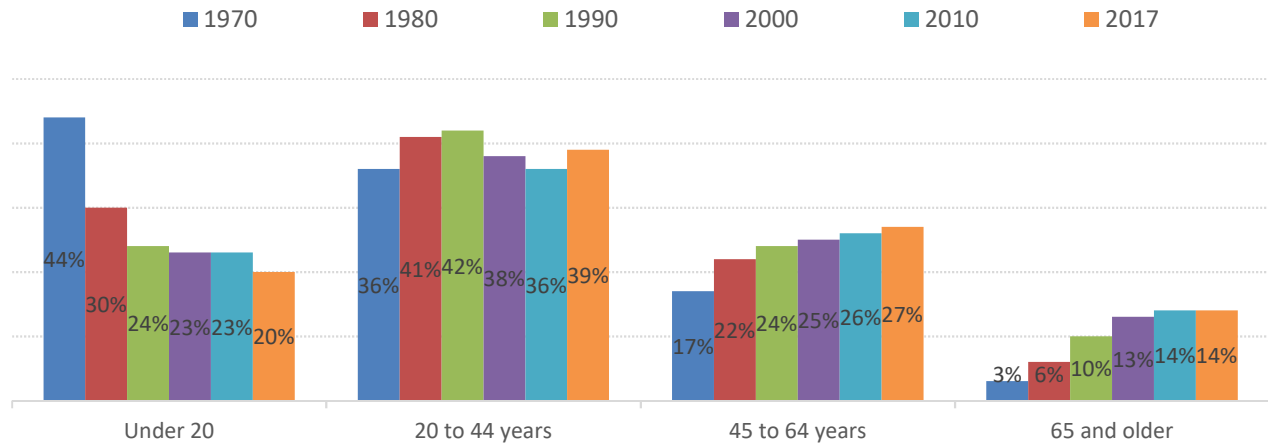
Demographics

Bellevue's estimated population as of August 1, 2018 was 142,400, and it is projected to reach 160,700 by 2035. As the city has matured over the decades and its population has grown, Bellevue has become more diverse socially, culturally and economically as demonstrated by the charts below.



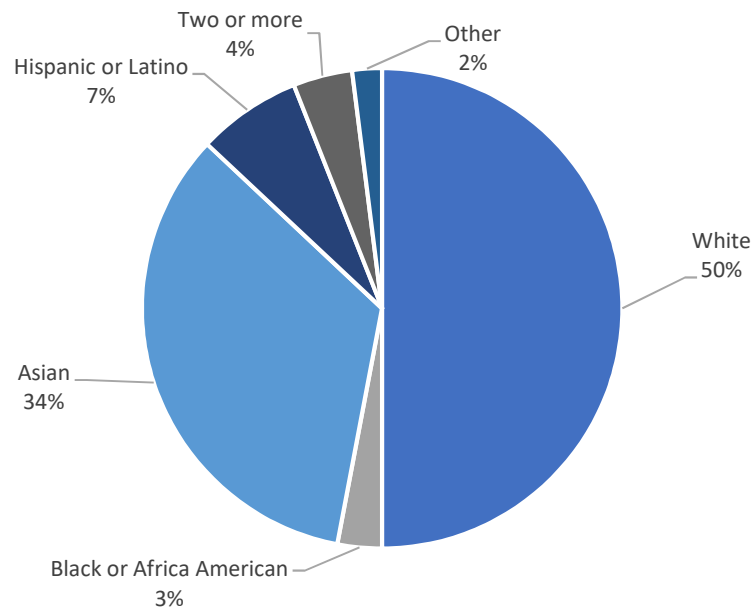
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Figure 3-5 Age Distribution of Bellevue's Population, 1970 – 2017



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010 Census and 2017 American Community Survey; 1970 and 1980 pulled from Minnesota Population Center. National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 2.0. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota 2011.

Figure 3-6 Race / Ethnic Distribution



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey; Washington State Office of Financial Management for citywide population

Figure 3-7 Summary of Key Demographic Trends

Demographic Characteristics	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census/ ACS*	2017 ACS*
Median age	35.4	38.2	38.5	37.4
Percent of population age 65 or older	10%	13%	14%	14%
Percent of a minority race or ethnicity	15%	28%	41%	50%
Percent Asian	10%	17%	28%	34%
Percent population foreign born*	13%	25%	33%	39%
Percent of population (age 5+) that speak a language other than English at home*	14%	27%	38%	43%
Percent of adults (age 25+) with a Bachelor's degree or higher*	46%	54%	59%	68%
Percent of employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations*	40%	53%	60%	64%
Household median income (in 2017 inflation adjusted dollars)*	\$82,824	\$89,179	\$91,993	\$121,168
Percent of individuals with incomes below poverty*	6%	6%	7%	7%
* Note: Not all American Community Survey estimates are directly comparable to decennial census figures.				

Source: US Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, 2010 Census and 2017 American Community Survey.

Figure 3-8 Other Trends

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*
Unemployment rate	4.1%	3.7%	3.9%	3.4%	3.9%
Assessed Value (billions)	\$36.0	\$41.3	\$44.4	\$49.4	\$56.5
Total Budget All City Funds (millions)	\$789.1	\$916.2	\$869.3	\$970.3	\$944.1

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, King County Assessor, City of Bellevue amended budget.

*September 2018 data