

Talking About Trees



**Neighborhood Leadership Gathering
February 26, 2019**

Welcome Video



Talking About Trees

Unlisted

- <https://youtu.be/MO8fhKLN0W4>

Tree Canopy Trends



**Jennifer Ewing,
Environmental Stewardship Program Manager**

Trees in Bellevue



Benefits of Trees



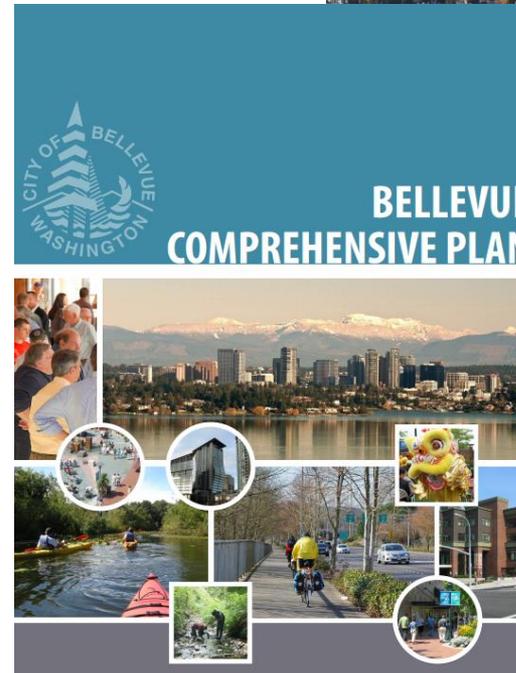
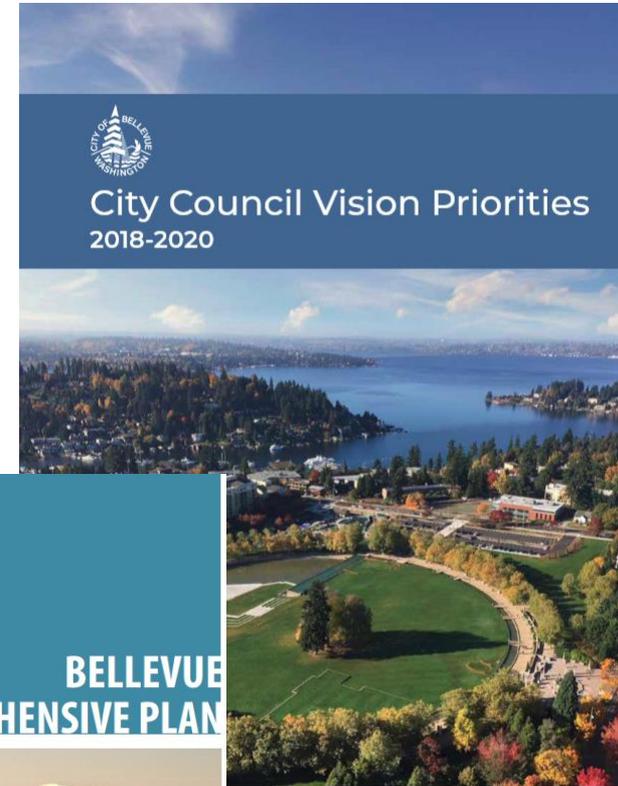
- **Neighborhood Character**
- **Clean air**
- **Stormwater management**
- **Health and wellbeing**
- **Absorb greenhouse gas emissions**



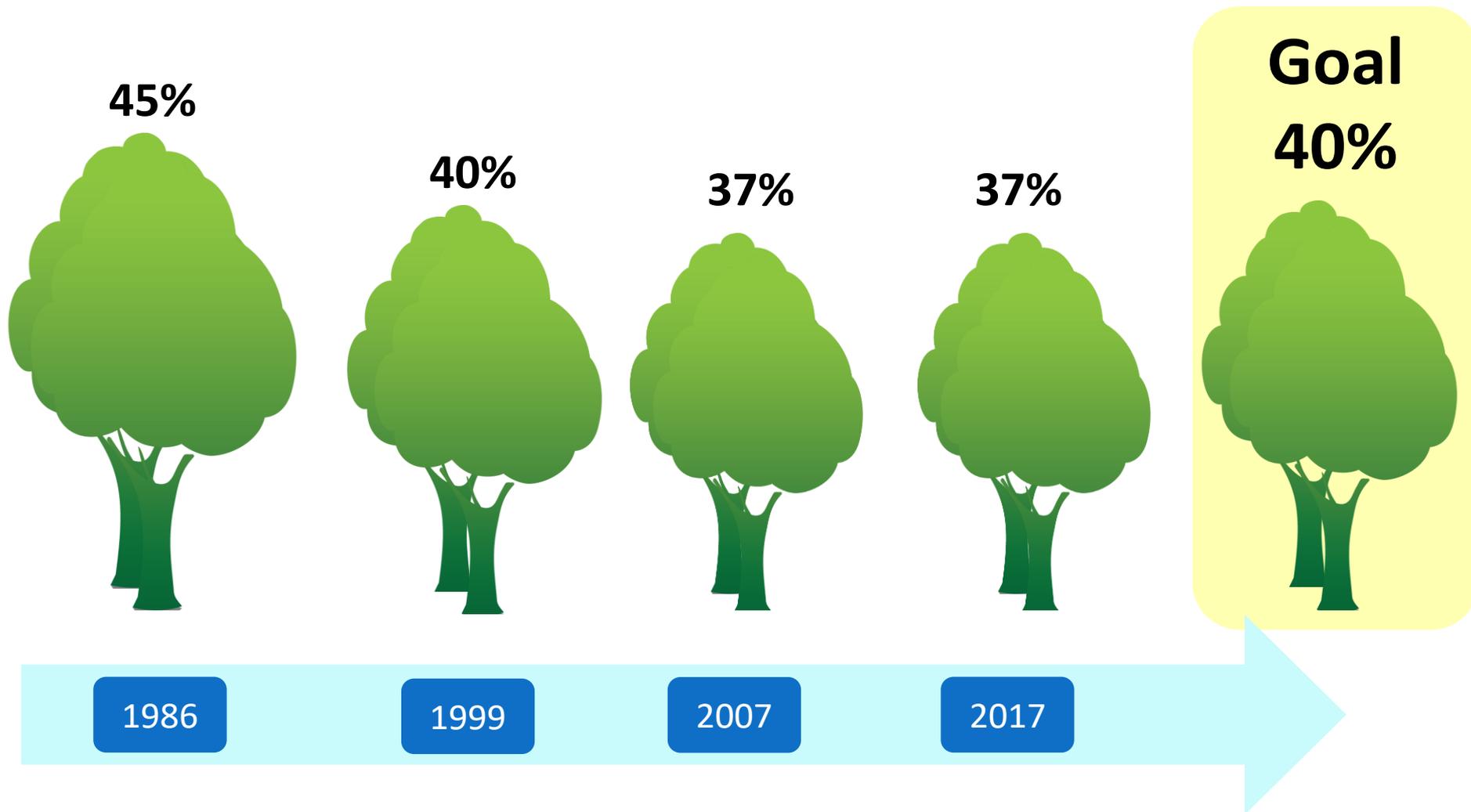
Tree Canopy Policies and Goals



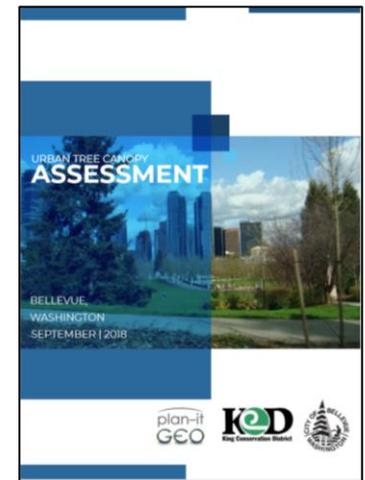
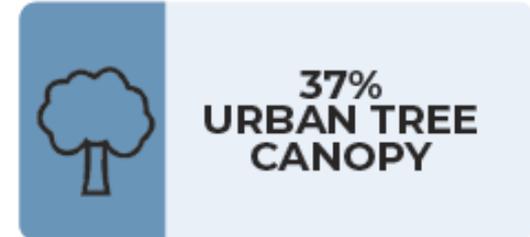
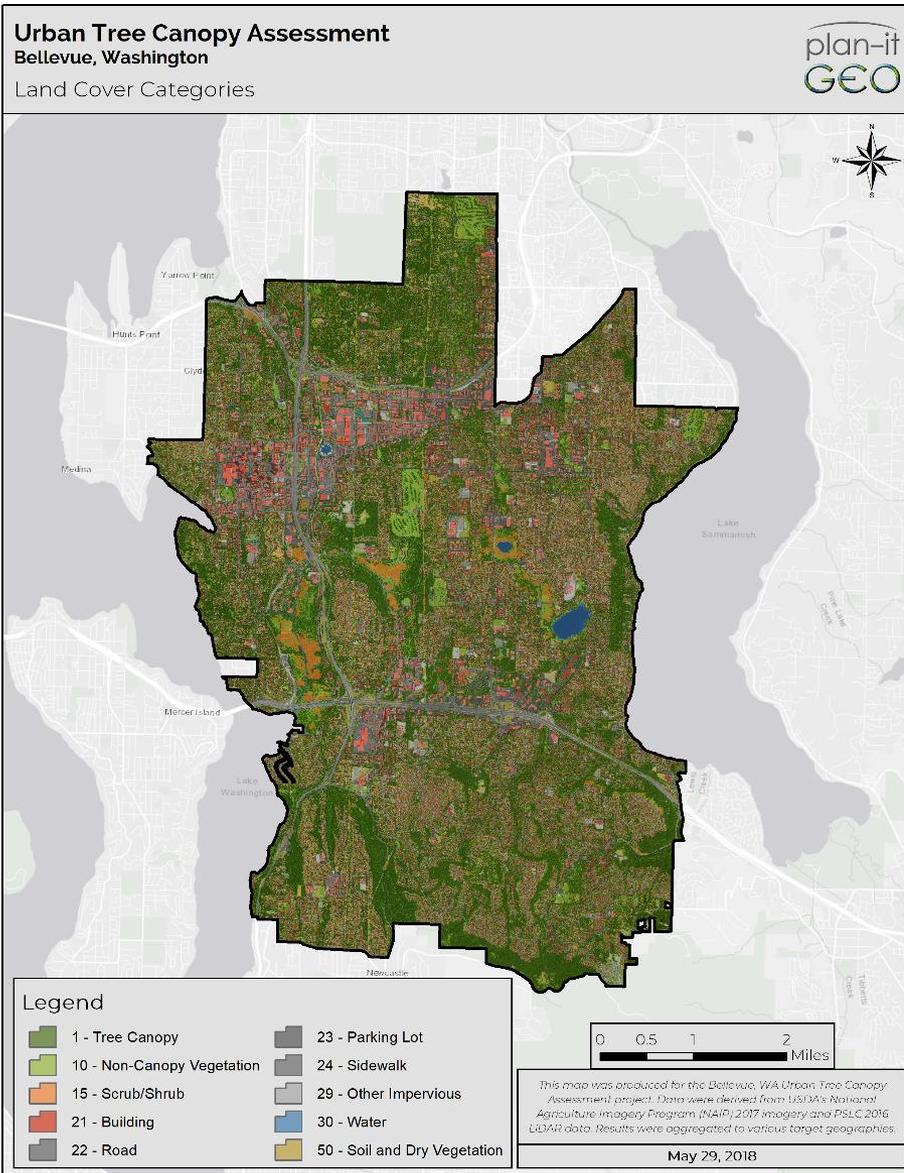
- **Council priority: Review and analyze additional steps that the City may take to achieve environmental goals (e.g., tree canopy)**
- **40% tree canopy goal that reflects our “City in a Park” character**
- **Maintain an action plan for meeting the target**
- **Manage Bellevue’s forest resources, to ensure their long-term vitality**



Background - Tree Canopy Trends



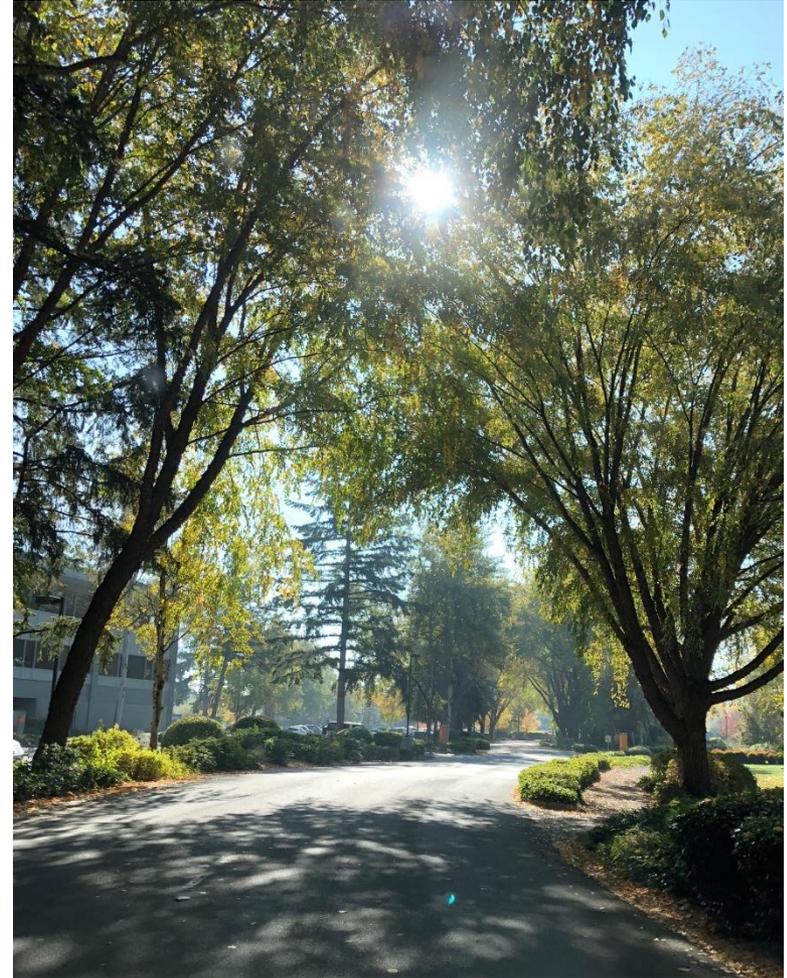
Citywide Tree Canopy



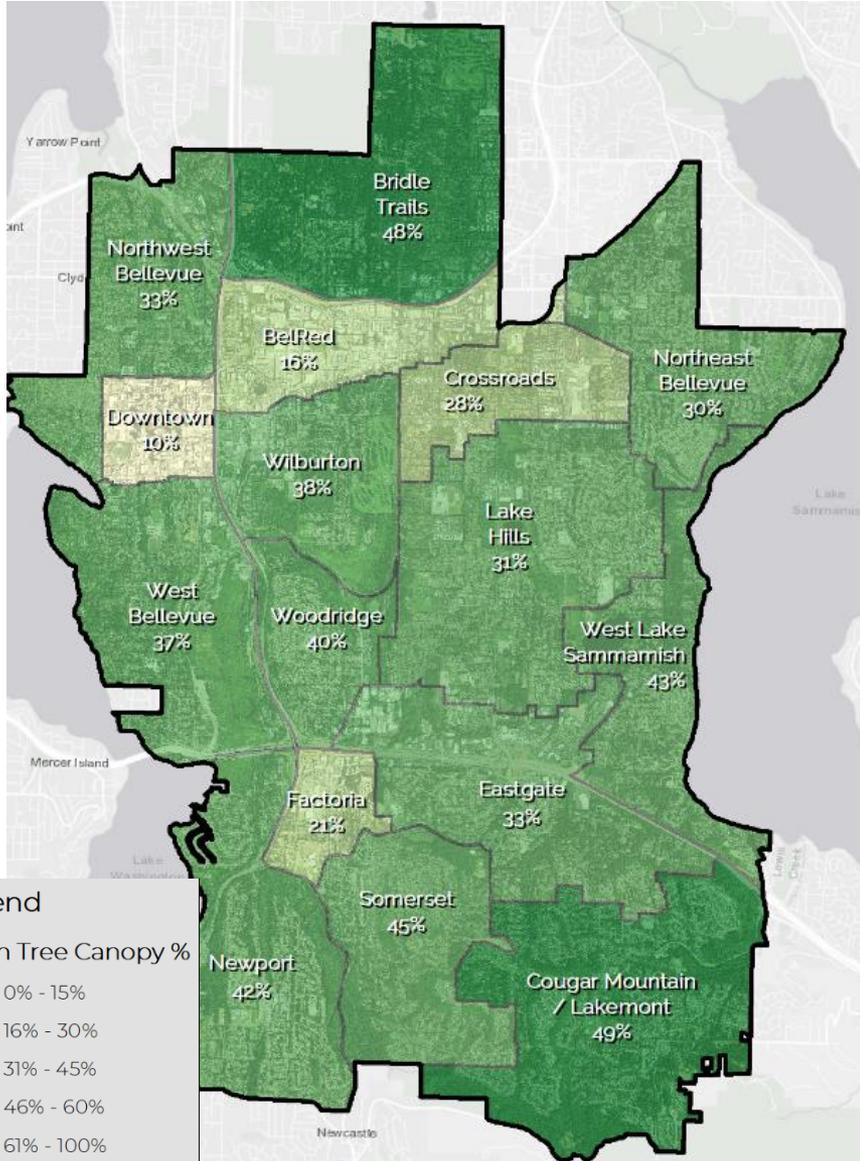
Key Findings



- **Majority of the city's tree canopy is in suburban residential areas (65%)**
- **Bellevue parks and public open spaces are heavily forested, but only account for 20% of all trees**
- **Need 670 Acres of Canopy to reach 40% goal**



Tree Canopy by Neighborhood

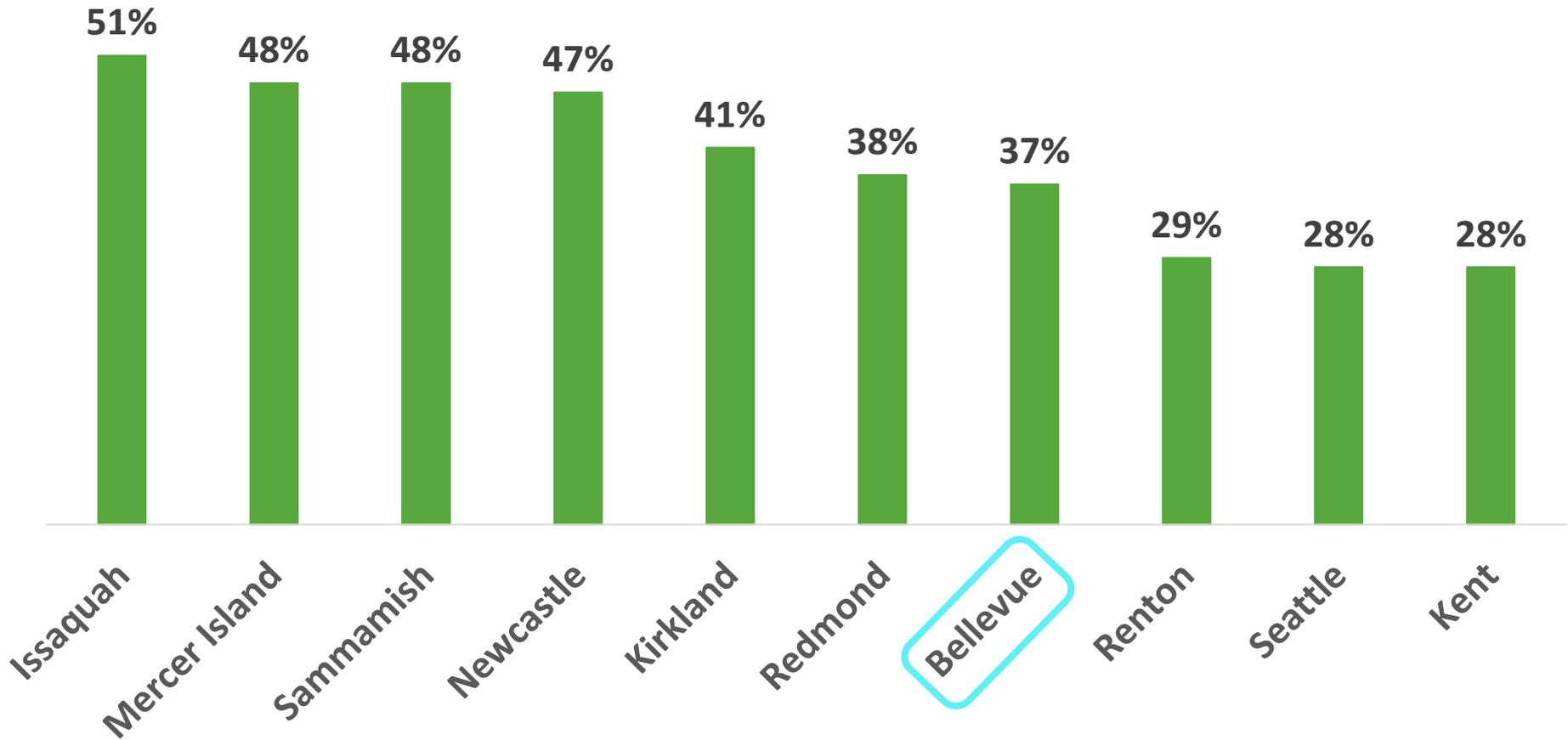


	Urban Tree Canopy	
	Acres	%
BelRed	148	15%
Bridle Trails	977	48%
Cougar Mountain/ Lakemont	1,155	49%
Crossroads	225	28%
Downtown	45	10%
Eastgate	586	33%
Factoria	83	21%
Lake Hills	689	31%
Newport	720	42%
Northeast Bellevue	427	30%
Northwest Bellevue	438	33%
Somerset	584	45%
West Bellevue	621	37%
West Lake Sammamish	472	40%
Wilburton	416	38%
Woodridge	289	40%
Total	7,875	37%

Comparison with Other Cities



Tree Canopy



How to Get Involved



- ESI Strategic Plan Update
- Tree Tours
- Tree Ambassador Program
- Parks Volunteer programs
- Great Neighborhoods

www.Bellevuewa.gov/trees



Trees and Development



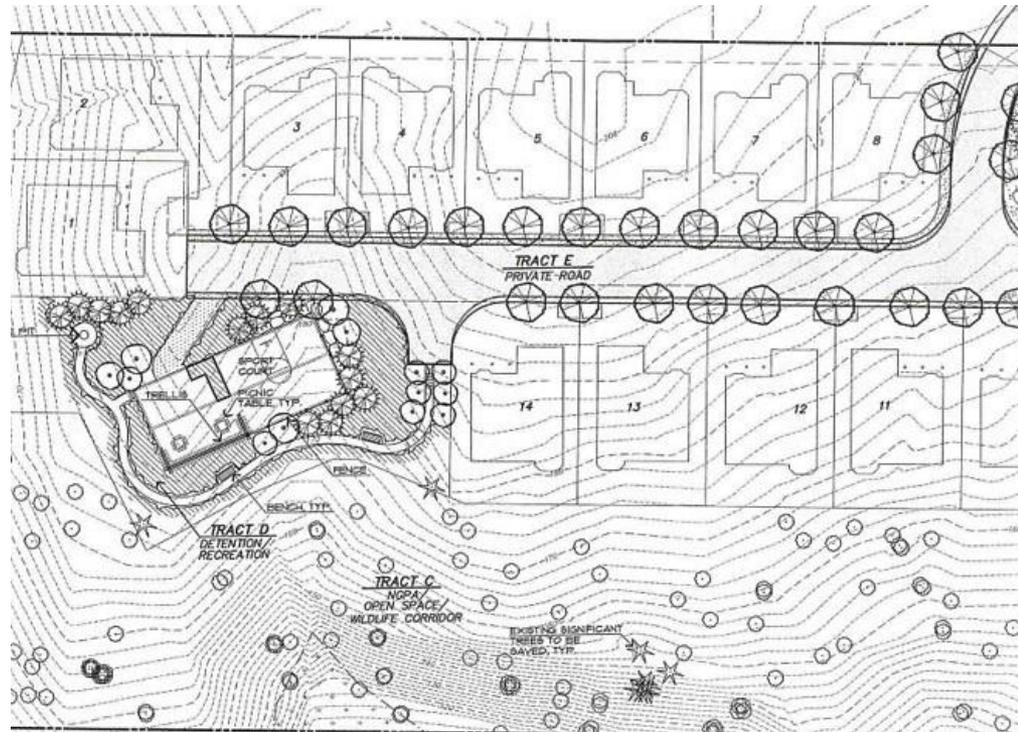
**Matthews Jackson,
Neighborhood Development Planning Manager**

Development Services



One-stop permit shopping for land and building development

- Plan review
- Inspections
- Code compliance
- Public assistance



Our services are intended to ensure that projects are safe and aligned with federal, state, and city codes

Regulatory Background



Land Use Code is established by the City Council

- **Policy direction from the Comprehensive Plan**
- **Codes are intended to be fair and balanced**
- **Regulations are intended to allow some flexibility**
 - **Alternative Tree Retention and Replacement**
 - **Alternative Landscape Option**
- **Land Use and Clearing and Grading reviewers approve**
- **Licensed Consulting Arborist on Land Use Staff**



Tree Retention Regulations



- Short Plats and Plats
- New single family structure
- Major expansions of homes
- Stand alone tree removal
- Bridle Trails R-1 zone
- Critical areas
- Commercial and Multifamily
- Public input



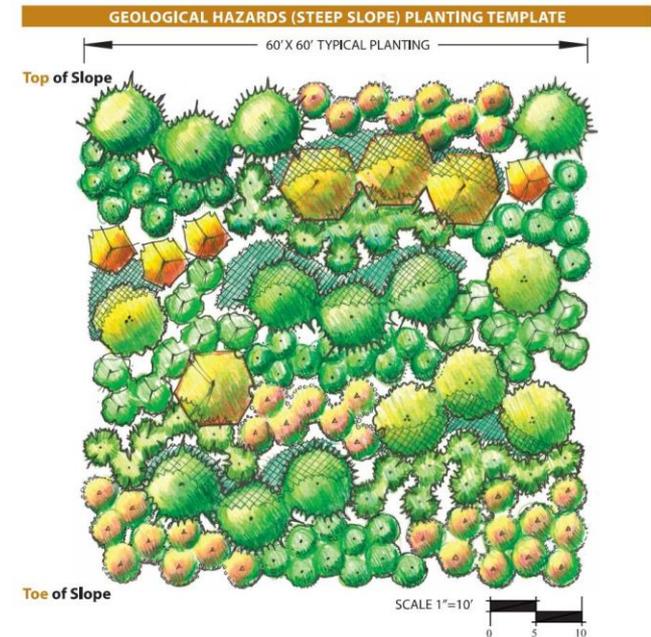
Other Services and Tools



- Planting Templates
- Critical Areas Handbook
- Advice on appropriate pruning
- Advice on hiring an arborist
- Permit Center staff and resources

PLANT LEGEND FOR SUNNY SITES		
LATIN NAME/ COMMON NAME	TYPICAL SPACING/ AVERAGE HEIGHT	CHARACTERISTICS
TREES		
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i> / Blackfield maple	9 feet on center/ 7.5 feet	Yellow fall color, provides understory shade, largest leaf of all maples
<i>Ailanthus rubra</i> / Red alder	9 feet on center/ 80 feet	Vigorous grower, provides cover quickly for other plants
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / Douglasfir	9 feet on center/ 100 feet	Highly adaptable, fast grower
SHRUBS		
<i>Corylus cornuta</i> / Boiled hazelnut	6 feet on center/ 11 feet	Edible acorns, wildlife food, Small understory tree, yellow fall color
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i> / Queenstraw	4.5 feet on center/ 7 feet	Spectacular fall color, attracts hummingbirds and butterflies
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i> / Mock orange	4.5 feet on center/ 8 feet	Fragrant white blossom
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i> / Thimbleberry	4 feet on center/ 8 foot	Delicious edible berries, fast grower, likes sun
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> / Snowberry	4.5 feet on center/ 5 feet	White berries, gawain performer in tough conditions
GROUNDCOVERS & PERENNIALS		
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> / Ranunculus	*24 in. on center/ 6-8 in.	Evergreen groundcover, great for rockeries and full sun areas
<i>Trifolium chilense</i> / Coastal strawberry	*24 in. on center/ 4-6 in.	Tough, highly adaptable groundcover w/ red stems and edible berries
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i> / Idaho fescue	*24 in. on center/ 2.5 feet	Bluish leaves, clumping
<i>Polypodium montanum</i> / Sword fern	*24 in. on center/ 5 feet once mature	Semi-evergreen fern, highly adaptable
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i> / Hireweed	*24 in. on center/ 1.5-2 feet	Big purple flowers on a tall stem

* Indicates plants are to be irregularly spaced for the area shown. See page 23 for irregular spacing.



Steep slopes commonly have fragile, erodible soils. Planting can be difficult to establish in these areas as gravity, wind, and rain have a tendency to pull nutrient-rich soil down the slope. In addition, sunny sites require drought-tolerant plants, while both sunny and shady sites require plants with strong, root systems to keep soil intact. On the next two pages you will find one legend designed for sunny, steep sites and one designed for shady, steep sites. The plants chosen for these templates are known for drought tolerance and soil-binding characteristics. With the successful establishment of plants on steep slopes, the potential for erosion decreases. For additional information on Steep Slopes, refer to the section on *Geological Hazard Areas* in *Chapter One* and the City's *Critical Areas Ordinance*. Note, these templates are to be used for stable and undisturbed sloping sites. If your site has experienced a landslide or substantial erosion, do not use this template; consult a professional.

Caring for Trees in Our Parks



**Geoff Bradley,
Natural Resource Manager**

Parks & Community Services



- ↑ **2,700 acres of land**
- ↑ **13% of land base**
- ↑ **Existing canopy > 65%**
- ↑ **9,454 trees planted (2018)**
- ↑ **14,409 shrubs planted (2018)**
- ↑ **Restored 13+ acres (2018)**



Natural Resource Division



An Ecosystem Approach

- ♣ **Integrated Program**
- ♣ **Multiple Use Philosophy to Maximize Public Benefits**
- ♣ **1,951 Acres of Natural Areas**
- ♣ **Over 280,000 Trees**
- ♣ **165 Acres of Streetscapes**
- ♣ **90+ Miles of Trails**
- ♣ **3 Environmental Education Centers**

Natural Resource Division



Multiple Use Goals

- 🌲 **Ensure Public Safety**
- 🌲 **Improve Forest Health**
- 🌲 **Enhance Fish and Wildlife Habitat**
- 🌲 **Protect Water Quality**
- 🌲 **Buffer Land Uses**
- 🌲 **Provide Opportunities for Recreation**
- 🌲 **Create Opportunities for Environmental Education and Community Involvement**



Program Areas

- ‡ **Forest Management**
- ‡ **Street Trees and Arterial Landscapes**
- ‡ **Greenways and Trails**
- ‡ **Environmental Education & Community Involvement**
- ‡ **Water Conservation and Irrigation**



Forest Management

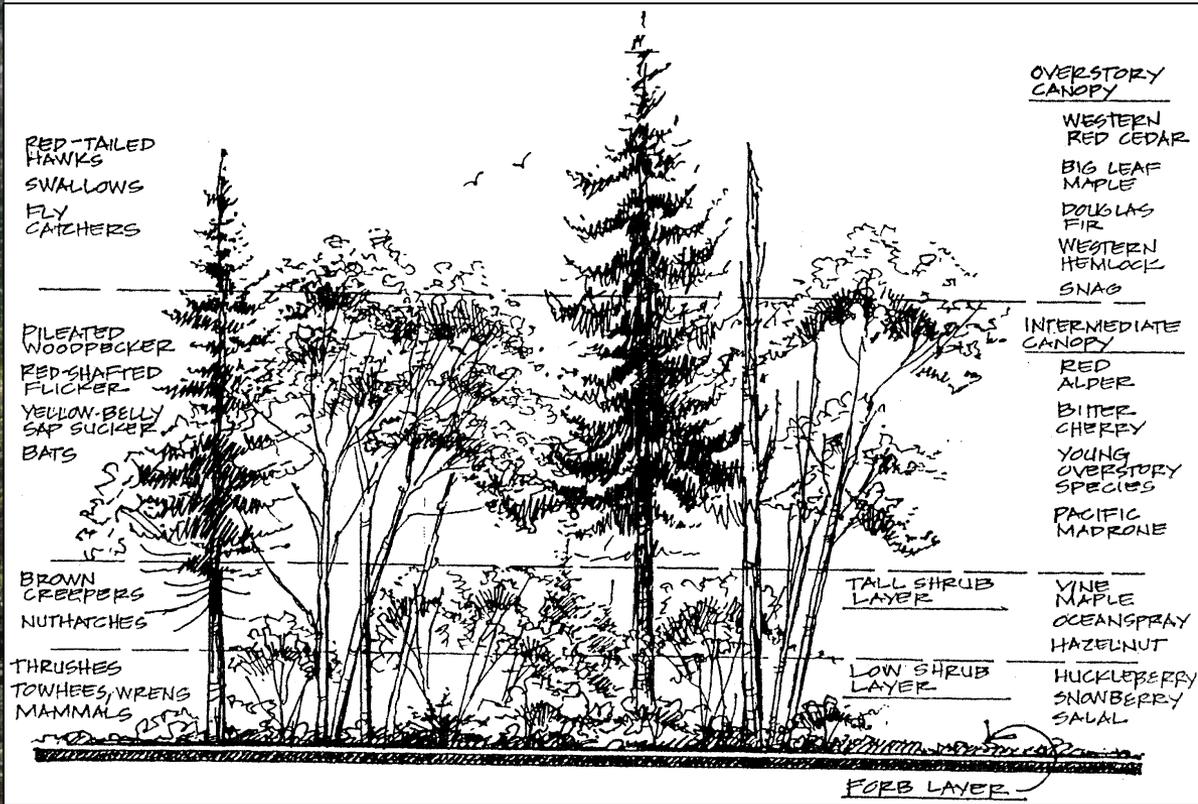
Ecosystem Sustainability

- ↑ Improve Forest Health
- ↑ Accelerate Forest Succession
- ↑ Provide Ecological Connectivity
- ↑ Ensure Future Canopy
- ↑ Goal = 7 acres/year

Forest Succession



Diversity => Healthy





Street Trees and Arterial Landscapes



Right Tree – Right Place

- ♣ Neighborhood Identity
- ♣ Sense of Place
- ♣ Reduce Traffic Speeds
- ♣ Safe Pedestrian Environment
- ♣ Environmental Benefits
- ♣ 10,000+ Street Trees
- ♣ 165 acres of Streetscapes



Everything is Connected

How You Can Help?

- ♣ Practice Stewardship at Home
- ♣ Take a Class
- ♣ Participate in Stewardship Saturdays/Eco Fridays Events
- ♣ Become a Park Steward or Master Naturalist
- ♣ Celebrate Arborday with Us
- ♣ Join One of our Partners



Bellevue Botanical Garden



A Place of Beauty and Learning

- 🌲 **53 Acres of Gardens, Woodlands and Wetlands**
- 🌲 **Curated Plant Collections**
- 🌲 **Docent-led Tours**
- 🌲 **Classes, Workshops and Lectures**
- 🌲 **Volunteer Program**
- 🌲 **Community Events**
- 🌲 **Join One of Our 10 Partner Organizations**





Discussion



- **How can we preserve and grow our tree canopy?**
- **What can the City, along with residents, businesses, and other partners do to help achieve the 40% tree canopy goal?**



Closing Remarks



Resources and Opportunities for Engagement



Resources

- **Environmental Stewardship Initiative Strategic Plan Update**
www.bellevuewa.gov/environment
- **Tree resources**
www.bellevuewa.gov/trees
- **Great Neighborhoods**
www.Engagingbellevue.com
- **Volunteering**
<https://bellevuewa.gov/volunteering>

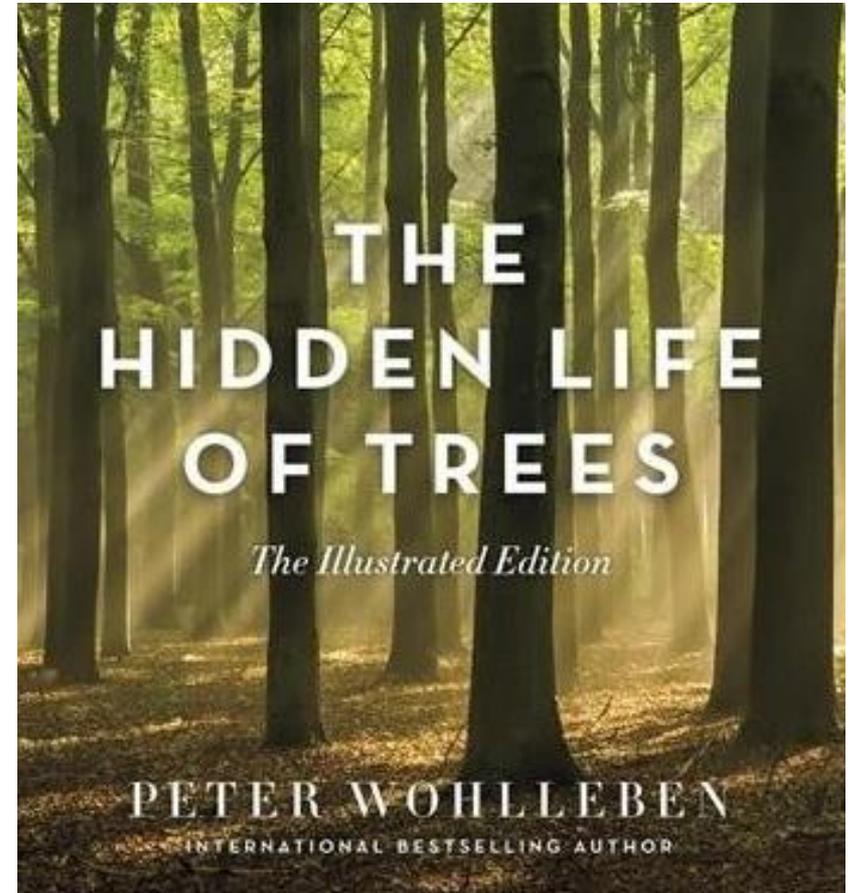
Events

- **Tree Tours**
Saturday 3/2 Weowna Park, 11:00
Saturday 3/16 Ardmore Park, 11:00
- **Tree Ambassador Workshop**
Saturday 3/30, sign-up in advance
- **Arbor Day / Earth Day Event**
Saturday 4/20, Lewis Creek Park
- **ESI Strategic Plan Engagement Events**
Dates TBA

Raffle



***Bellevue Botanical Garden
Family Membership***



***NY Times Bestseller,
The Hidden Life of Trees***

Thank You!

