



New Mercer Slough Center in the works

Expansion will include 'wetlabs,' elevated boardwalks and tree house

The Mercer Slough Nature Park, a 320-acre preserve in the heart of Bellevue, is the largest urban wetland park in the region. Skyscrapers form a backdrop to the Slough's waterways, marshes, meadows and forests, which are home to a diverse population of wildlife.

For students who may rarely see a thriving wetland, Mercer Slough is a great outdoor laboratory. Now it will have an on-site education center to match, featuring classrooms, "wetlabs" and elevated boardwalks.

Groundbreaking for the new Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center is anticipated for the spring of 2007. Wetlands classes will be available elsewhere during construction.

"The Mercer Slough is a special place – a thriving, wild ecosystem on a city's doorstep," said Patrick Foran, director of the Parks & Community Services Department. "We're gratified to be able to expand and improve the opportunities visitors have to learn from it."

City officials first considered building an education center at Mercer Slough in the 1970s. In 1993, Sullivan House, on the eastern edge of the park at 1625 118th Ave. SE, was opened for classes, engaging participants in experiential education focusing on environmental stewardship, wetland ecology and nature awareness.

With the city and the Pacific Science Center jointly operating it, the current environmental education center draws more than 8,000 students each year, and demand increasingly overwhelms capacity.

Originally envisioned as a temporary facility, the current 1,300-square-foot Center (Sullivan House) can only serve a limited number of students. Due to space constraints, Pacific Science Center staff work and teach out of the Sullivan House and Bellevue staff work out of a second building, on the other side of the park. The



Rendering of the planned Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, designed by Jones & Jones Architects and Landscape Architects of Seattle.

current facility is also not equipped for the sometimes messy, watery job of teaching kids about wetlands.

In 1999, the city and the Pacific Science Center began to discuss building a better facility to meet the growing needs of the community. Their partnership has grown and now includes Puget Sound Energy, a major financial contributing partner.

With the help of \$3 million in federal block grants, the partnership has drawn up plans for a complex that includes a visitor center, a 2,600-square-foot multi-purpose building, two classroom buildings and two wetlabs (rugged classrooms that allow for hands-on study of water, animals, plants and soils). Combined with a tree house, slough overlook and mechanized tram, the boardwalk system will enable more students and visitors to see the Slough without disturbing it.

The new facilities will provide larger classrooms, which will allow more children and families in various camp programs and more school groups in field studies programs. (Pacific Science Center currently must turn away groups during the busy spring months).

Bringing Science Center and city staff together in one complex will increase visibility for each program and make things easier for visitors.

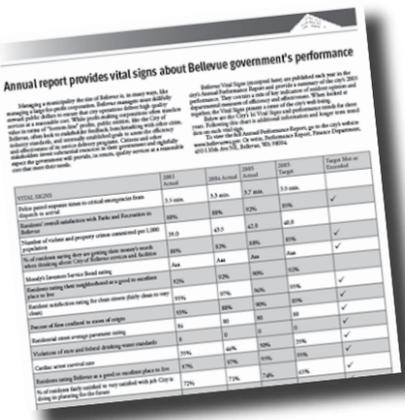
The new Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center will bring year-round wetlands education to a much larger audience, providing a place for interpretation, education and research of freshwater ecosystems, wetland ecology and the effects of urban development. It will be the keystone of interpretive facilities and programs for Bellevue as well as the Eastside focal point for the Pacific Science Center.

The design work on the new Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center is complete, and the project is currently in the permitting process. The construction will be phased to ensure that it stays within the Bellevue's annual budget. Phase I is scheduled for completion in mid-2008.

If you have any questions or comments about the MSEE project, contact project manager Ken Kroeger at 425-452-4624 or kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov.



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Children did a lot of learning outside at the old Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center.



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Council Corner



Fiscal constraints loom as city prepares new operating, capital improvement project budgets

By Bellevue City Councilmember Phil Noble

The last few years have been good ones for the City of Bellevue. We've witnessed the emergence of our downtown as a regional commerce center, completed major roadway and other capital investment projects, launched new programs to enhance neighborhoods, and expanded parks and human services and programs. And the list doesn't stop there.

What all this has translated into for Bellevue residents is a high level of city services - and a high quality of life. It also has led to high expectations of city government on the part of all of us who work and live here.

As the city moves closer to adopting its 2007-08 Operating and 2007-13 Capital Investment Project (CIP) budgets at the end of this year, it will be impossible to meet everyone's expectations. The requests for funding we have received are enormous, far outstripping city resources. At the city's first public hearing on the new budgets, for example, dozens of stakeholders sought more than \$200 million for various initiatives - an amount equaling roughly 80 per cent of the city's entire CIP budget for the next seven years.

But besides the enormity of the requests, the city also faces some very serious funding constraints in future years that will limit what the city can fund. These constraints will hamper the Council's ability to fund new initiatives, no matter how meritorious they may be.

The good news, of course, is Bellevue is in sound financial health. One reason is the healthy economy the Puget Sound region has experienced in recent years. Among other things, this has boosted city tax revenues collected from various sources, including retail sales and new development.

Another reason for the city's financial health is the fiscal pragmatism practiced in recent years by the City Council. The city has largely adhered to a pay-as-you-go, balanced budget approach, while at the same time working with staff to identify more efficient ways to do business. This has allowed us to largely hold the line on new taxes.

Developing the city's budgets always involves a certain degree of crystal-ball gazing. None of us can predict the future, including what may be in store for the region's economy the next several years, and how that might impact our tax revenues.

But we do know the city faces significant fiscal constraints over the span of the next budget cycles. These constraints include:

- Escalating employee pension costs. Under state legislation, the city's share of state employee pension costs is slated to rise significantly. In the next two-year budget cycle alone, the share will increase by 110 per cent, or \$4 million.
- A decrease in the Business and Occupation (B & O) tax. Because of changes in state law in the way B&O taxes are distributed among cities, the city expects to lose \$13.4 million through 2012 in B&O tax revenues.
- Loss of telecommunications tax revenues. As the use of new communications devices such as the internet has increased, the city's share of telephone utility taxes has decreased by 42 per cent, or \$2.2 million, over the last three years. These revenue losses are expected to accelerate in the years ahead.
- Limited share of retail tax collections. Even though Bellevue is among the premiere retail centers in the Pacific Northwest, the city's share of sales taxes is relatively small. For every dollar collected from the sales tax rate of 8.8 per cent, Bellevue receives less than ten cents. The lion's share - 74 per cent - goes to the state.
- Substantial capital needs and escalating costs: The city now estimates it has over \$400 million in new capital-CIP needs citywide, but only a small portion (about \$60- to \$65 million) of those needs can be funded through existing capital resources (the next seven-year CIP budget is expected to be just under \$250 million). Those citywide needs include new roadway, park development and other facilities to serve residents. But the needs also include maintenance of our existing infrastructure such as roadways, where costs have increased steadily and in some cases dramatically in recent years. The city's bill for re-paving a single, one-mile lane of pavement jumped nearly 35 per cent between 2004 and 2006.

These factors will be on the minds of the City Council as it works to finalize the city's budgets. The third and final public hearing on the budgets will be held Nov. 13 at City Hall, with the Council voting Dec. 4. The Council's challenge will be to craft budgets that maintain the current high level of city services, and meet emerging needs.

All of us who live and work in Bellevue have come to expect first-class government services. And rightfully so. But as we move into the next budget cycles, we should temper our expectations while seeking a balanced, citywide approach in line with fiscal challenges.

Celebrate GIS Day Nov. 15 at City Hall

There was a time not so long ago when people drafted maps painstakingly by hand. Small changes, including special details about different areas, necessitated the creation of a whole new map. In the early '60s, someone figured out how to generate a map on a computer and what is now called GIS (geographic information systems) was born.

In an effort to publicize GIS and geography in general, the National Geographic Society established GIS Day in 1999. Associated with Geography Awareness Week, GIS Day will be Nov. 15 this year.

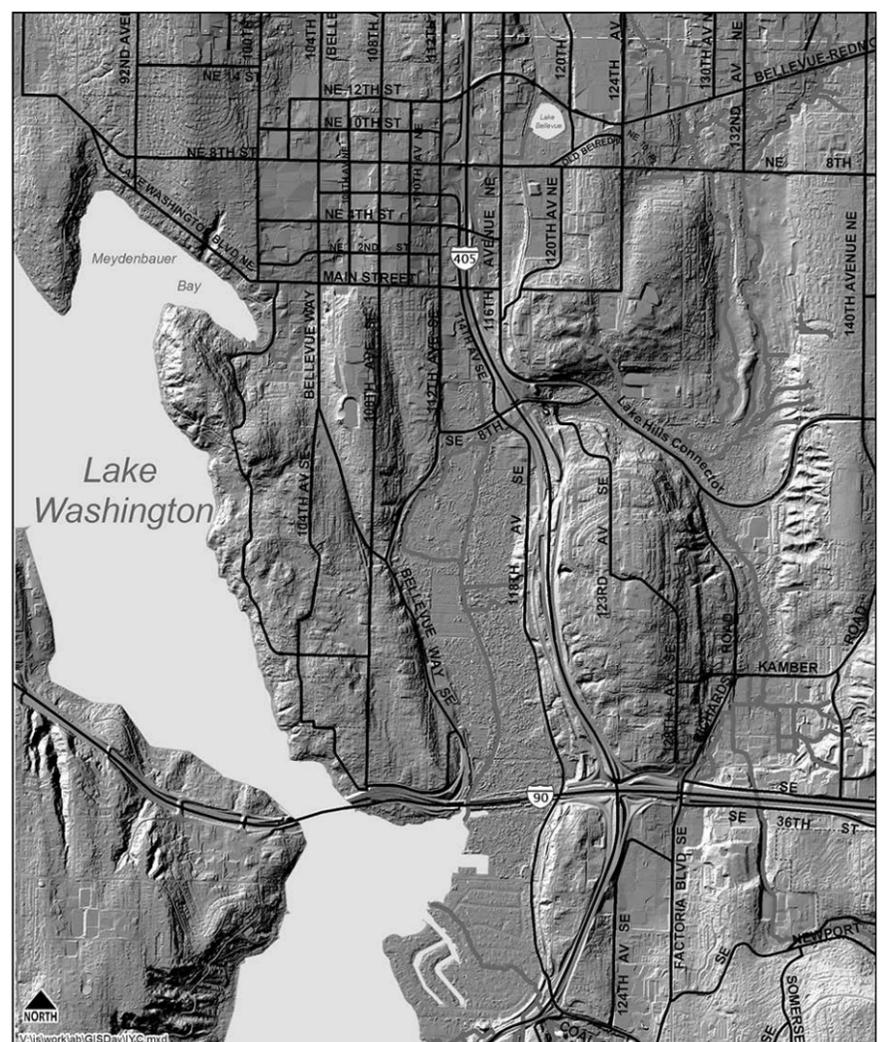
The celebration is coming to Bellevue City Hall, and the public is invited to a variety of geography-related festivities. GIS Services staff will demonstrate what GIS is and how it helps make Bellevue a better place to live, work and play. Come to City Hall, at 450 110th Ave. NE, and check out map displays, online displays and play GIS-related games. There will be prizes and refreshments.

Displays will include GIS maps generated for nearly every city department, from three-dimensional views of downtown to bike-pedestrian paths to crime area maps. Visitors will have access to computers with GIS applications on which they can browse with help from city GIS analysts.

Participatory activities will give people a greater understanding of what GIS is and why they might want to use it. Visitors can give staff information about themselves and see it translated onto a map.

GIS is much more than computer cartography; it offers a way to integrate all kinds of information about a place into an image or map of that place. Go online and type in an address or business name and you can see it on a map. Search for schools and see all of them show up at once.

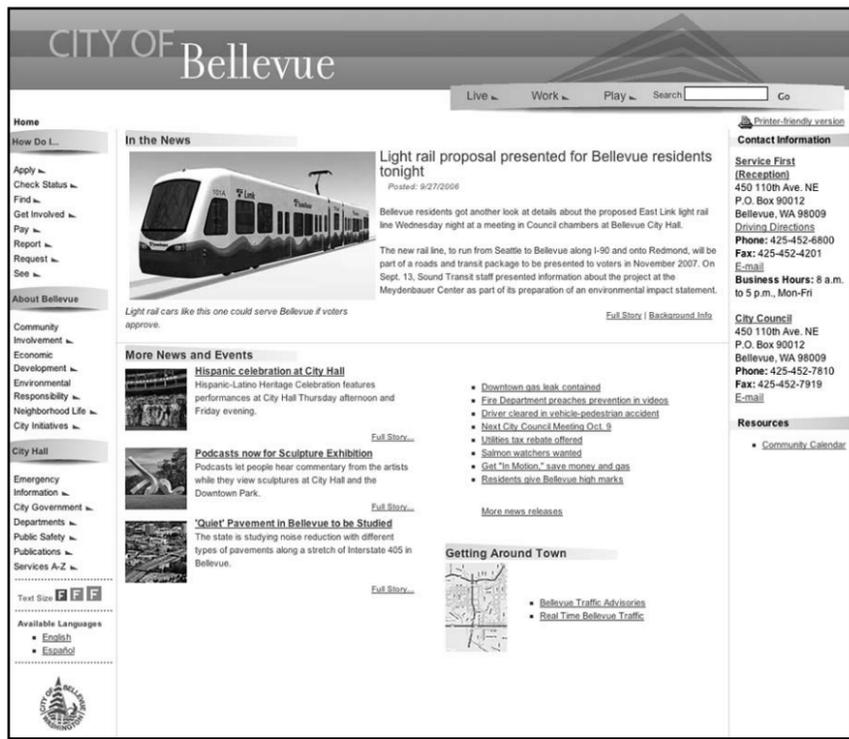
The City of Bellevue has been a leading user of GIS technology in the region since the 1980s. Many city departments rely on geographical analysis and tools in their day-to-day service to the public, from Service First answering questions using Mapster, to hiking trail maps in the Parks department, to flood control in Utilities, to sidewalk accessibility planning in Transportation. The Information Technology Department's GIS Services division provides the public with access to a variety of maps, showing everything from weekday traffic patterns to zoning.



A topographical map of Bellevue, generated with GIS (geographic information systems).



City revamps website



Recognizing that the Internet is the path to information for many people these days, the City of Bellevue has revamped its website. With a clean, modernist look, the site has been designed to be both appealing and easy to read. More importantly, www.bellevuewa.gov is easy to navigate, with most pages residents would seek accessible with just two or three clicks from the home page.

“The City Council cares deeply about informing and listening to residents,” noted City Manager Steve Sarkozy. “A new website, designed and continually updated with them in mind, enables the city to respond better and faster.”

The revamped site, bellevuewa.gov instead of cityofbellevue.org, went “live” the afternoon of Aug. 30.

City staff has always been serious about providing customers with the information they seek, and the old city website offered a wealth of knowledge. Unfortunately, the site was so packed with data, uploaded with little central organization, that people often had a hard time finding what they were looking for. The site search engine was limited, and offered little help.

Information is no longer presented by department, which made sense to staff but not to the public. The new site has been organized to serve the users, allowing them to follow intuitive paths to information. For instance, people seeking to apply for construction permits can find relevant requirements from the Planning & Community Development, Transportation and Utilities departments, all in one place.

Last, but not least, the City of Bellevue’s new website is dynamic, with news about the city updated weekly on the home page and elsewhere. In a new section called “About Bellevue,” citizens can learn all about their city, including demographic details, efforts to nurture small businesses and transportation initiatives.

A good website benefits from technical design elements, but humans make the difference. The city hired top consultants to help design the site. Usability testing during development ensured that the site would serve citizen needs well. To ensure that the site continues to be up-to-date and useful, a full-time online editor with editorial and technical expertise now manages all of the content, both text and images.

Bellevuewa.gov improves the way the city delivers information and services to residents, but it is still a work in progress. More images are being added to the site to make it visually more appealing, and the text continues to undergo refinement. The city welcomes your comments and suggestions at ciosso@bellevuewa.gov.

Bellevue paramedic recognized as one of county’s best



Bellevue firefighter/paramedic Rich Burke has won the 2006 “Spirit of Team Play” award, presented each year to the King County Medic One paramedic who best models the personal behavior consistent with the expectations of the public and the profession.

Fellow paramedic Phil Pierson nominated Burke, praising him for his work warning high schoolers against drunk driving and for leading a team of Bellevue firefighters in an honor guard that performs services at various government events.

“Rich consistently relates to the public in a fashion that brings honor to the medic program,” Pierson said. “He has proven his competence, courage and dedication amongst his peers. Rich is a passionate and influential speaker for DUI high school drills and has led a team of Bellevue firefighters in a well-used and recognized Regional Honor Guard.”

Burke was invited to throw out the first pitch at a Mariners game on Aug. 23.

Bellevue Firefighter/Paramedic Rich Burke throws out the first pitch at a Mariners game, August 23, 2006.

New NE 10th Street to provide hospital access

Construction begins this fall for a new section of Northeast 10th Street, to pass through the Overlake Hospital Medical Center campus and across Interstate 405. When the City of Bellevue completes the first stage of the project, possibly by the spring of 2008, 10th Street will extend from 116th Avenue Northeast past Overlake’s new South Tower and the new Group Health Specialty Center to the eastern edge of I-405.

In the second stage of the project, set to begin in early 2008, the state Department of Transportation will build an overpass for 10th Street to extend across I-405 to 112th Avenue Northeast. This will provide improved access in the north end of downtown Bellevue and relieve congestion on Northeast 8th Street.

Completion of the city’s part of the project will provide access from 116th Avenue to the front entrances of both of the Overlake and Group Health facilities under construction.

The first phase of the 10th Street extension will include widening 116th, from 8th Street to the Overlake Hospital entrance. The work will add one lane along 116th to the west. During construction, the two-way left turn lane along that section of 116th will close.

To maintain safety and traffic flow, mid-block vehicle movement will be restricted to right-turns only. Left turns will be allowed at signalized intersections.

Other than the turn restrictions on 116th, the first stage of the project will have minimal traffic impacts for the traveling public and users of the hospital. In summary:

- Through traffic on 116th will generally be maintained, with some lane closures for construction.
- Turn lanes at 8th/116th and at the existing signalized hospital entrance will be maintained.
- The city Transportation Department is working with the hospital and Fire Department to ensure continued emergency vehicle access.
- Road construction noise impacts are not likely to exceed impacts from hospital construction itself. There will be some night work (utility work, paving, etc.) on 116th, with some noise impacts.

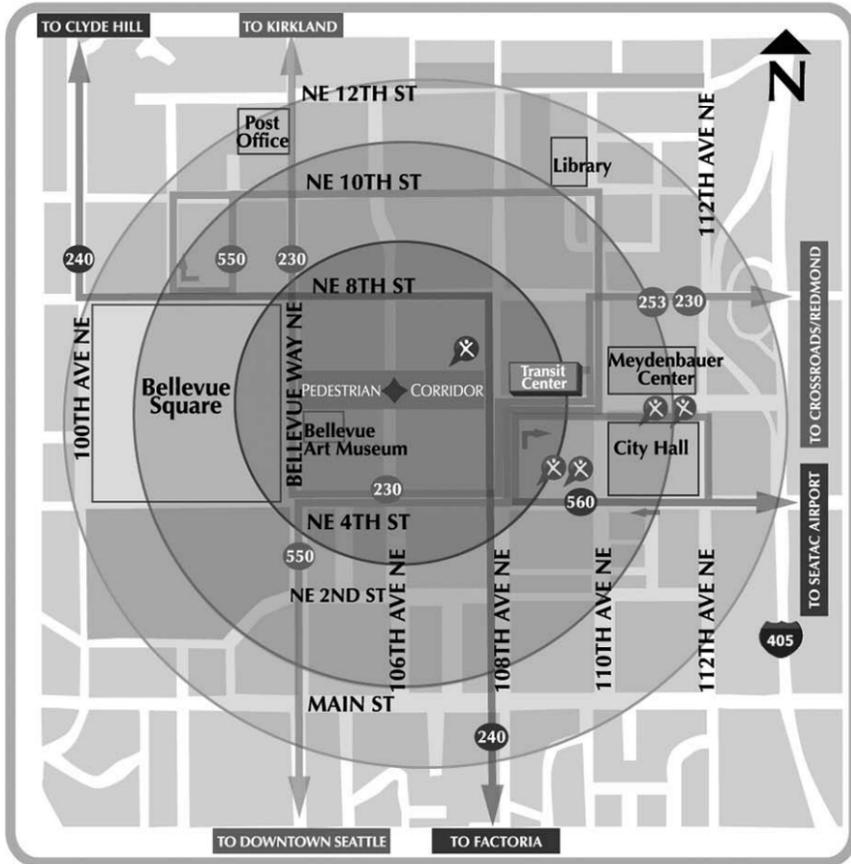
The I-405 overpass, targeted for completion by 2010, could include ramps at Northeast 10th Street connecting to State Route 520, but funding and a timeline have yet to be determined.

The City of Bellevue, WSDOT, Overlake Hospital and Group Health Cooperative are closely coordinating construction on the two medical center expansions and the road projects, collectively known as the Northeast 10th Medical District.

For more information on the Northeast 10th Street Extension, please see www.bellevuewa.gov/ne_10th_extension.htm.



Save gas and score gift certificates by getting out of your car and “In Motion”



If you live in downtown Bellevue, walking, biking or riding the bus beats driving your car in many ways. You aren't stuck behind the wheel in traffic or paying steep fees to park. With the new “In Motion” program, you can add gift certificates to the list of benefits of choosing alternative modes of transportation over your car.

In Motion, jointly sponsored by the City of Bellevue, King County Metro and the Bellevue Downtown Association, encourages downtown residents to consider riding the bus, carpooling, bicycling or walking instead of driving for some trips. The program has been a success in Bellevue's Crossroads neighborhood and Seattle's Columbia City, Madison-Miller and Ballard neighborhoods.

How the Downtown In Motion Program Works:

Walk, bike, carpool and use the bus while in downtown Bellevue, and In Motion will reward you with a Bellevue Collection gift card for up to \$50 worth of merchandise. The program is open for participants from Sept. 18 to Nov. 26.

Go online to <http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/transit/inmotion/bellevue/index.htm> and register to:

- Commit to reduce driving alone by at least two trips each week.
- Request information about how you can reduce your driving by taking the bus, biking, walking and sharing rides more often.
- Walk, bike, carpool and ride the bus more.

After you pledge, you can check in regularly with the In Motion website to report your progress and receive rewards for staying out of your car on trips through downtown.

With all of the businesses, shopping and entertainment outlets now in downtown Bellevue, getting around without a car has never been so easy and rewarding.

Details regarding Downtown Bellevue In Motion can be found at the In Motion website – <http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/transit/inmotion/bellevue/index.htm>. For more information about the program, contact Program Manager Sunny Knott at 206-263-6397 or sunny.knott@metrokc.gov.

Keeping beavers at bay

The current building boom in Bellevue isn't restricted to people. A burgeoning population of beavers are also changing the landscape, setting up housekeeping and constructing dams in city streams. Those pretty dome-shaped dams can cause flooding and block spawning salmon, so the city is exploring ways to control the beaver population and where the critters locate their homes.

Beaver ponds can be beneficial, slowing stormwater runoff, trapping sediments and providing pools that can provide habitat and refuge for young salmon. But flooding can occur if the dams block stream flow, especially near culverts built under roads.

Seeking to discourage beavers from settling in some areas or multiplying too much, the City of Bellevue is experimenting at the Kelsey Creek Wetland. With a grant from the King Conservation District, the city recently completed several projects near the Lake Hills Connector and at the SE 30th Street culvert, near Richards Road.

- **Beaver Deceiver.** A metal fence discourages beavers from building a dam due to its unnatural trapezoidal shape and large perimeter. Due to the constraints of the culvert at SE 30th Street, staff had to reshape the structure into a triangle. Heavy-duty posts are put into the bottom of the stream to anchor the fencing.
- **Raptor Perch.** Attracting natural predators such as hawks and eagles to beaver sites with a tall perch may help balance the beaver population. Soon after the perch was set up, staff spotted an osprey checking it out.
- **Browse Control.** To keep beavers from chewing up the raptor perch and to protect sensitive areas, staff and volunteers brushed the bottom of the perch and trees with a bitter-tasting paint.
- **Pond Leveller.** A fish passage area that's been blocked by a beaver dam can be opened up by removing a section of the dam and installing a 12-inch flexible pipe or pond leveller. Salmon can swim through the pipe and stream flow can continue. A wire cage is then placed at the upstream end of the pipe to keep beavers out.

For several years, the city hired trappers to trap beavers and take them to new locations in remote areas. But when beavers are removed from good habitat, new beavers simply move in. The best solution may be to work with the beaver and find cost-effective devices to prevent flooding and allow salmon migration.



Utilities worker Trish Tyo helps install fencing around the opening of a pond leveller, placed in a beaver dam to allow salmon passage and stream flow.



Protect your property from floods

Did you know that a “100-year storm” can occur more than once every 100 years? Community planners, insurance agents and others coined the term to calculate the frequency of large flooding events, but a 100-year storm could occur one day and be followed by another the next.

Although Bellevue doesn't have a 100-year storm every year – the last one was in 2003 – the city prepares annually just in case. With an average yearly rainfall of 34.24 inches, most of it falling between October and March, now is a good time for you to prepare for winter storms too. Test your sump pump if you have one and refresh emergency supplies.

Bellevue has more than 60 miles of streams, any of which can flood if flows exceed the stream's capacity to contain and convey the water. The result is that the land surrounding the waterway – known as the floodplain – is temporarily inundated with excess water.

While some of Bellevue's waterways become quite fast-moving in the rainy months, none meet the volume requirements to be “rivers.” The city's major streams are Kelsey Creek and its smaller tributaries (Valley, West Trib and Richards creeks), Coal Creek, Lewis Creek and Sturtevant Creek. Bellevue has historically protected floodplains from development, so the damage to personal property from floods has been minimal. Ordinances acknowledge the floodplain's natural function of storing excess stormwater.

Do you live in a floodplain?

If you want to find out if you live in a floodplain, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps the floodplains in communities in flood insurance studies. The flood insurance study for Bellevue and associated maps are available at Bellevue's Regional Library, 1111 110th Ave. Northeast, and at Development Services in City Hall, 450 110th Ave. Northeast. To find out if your property is located in a floodplain, call Utilities at 425-452-7869, and have the property address handy. You can also search for your parcel online at www.bellevuewa.gov/flood_insurance_rate_map.htm. To locate mapping information, please type “floodplain map” into the search box.

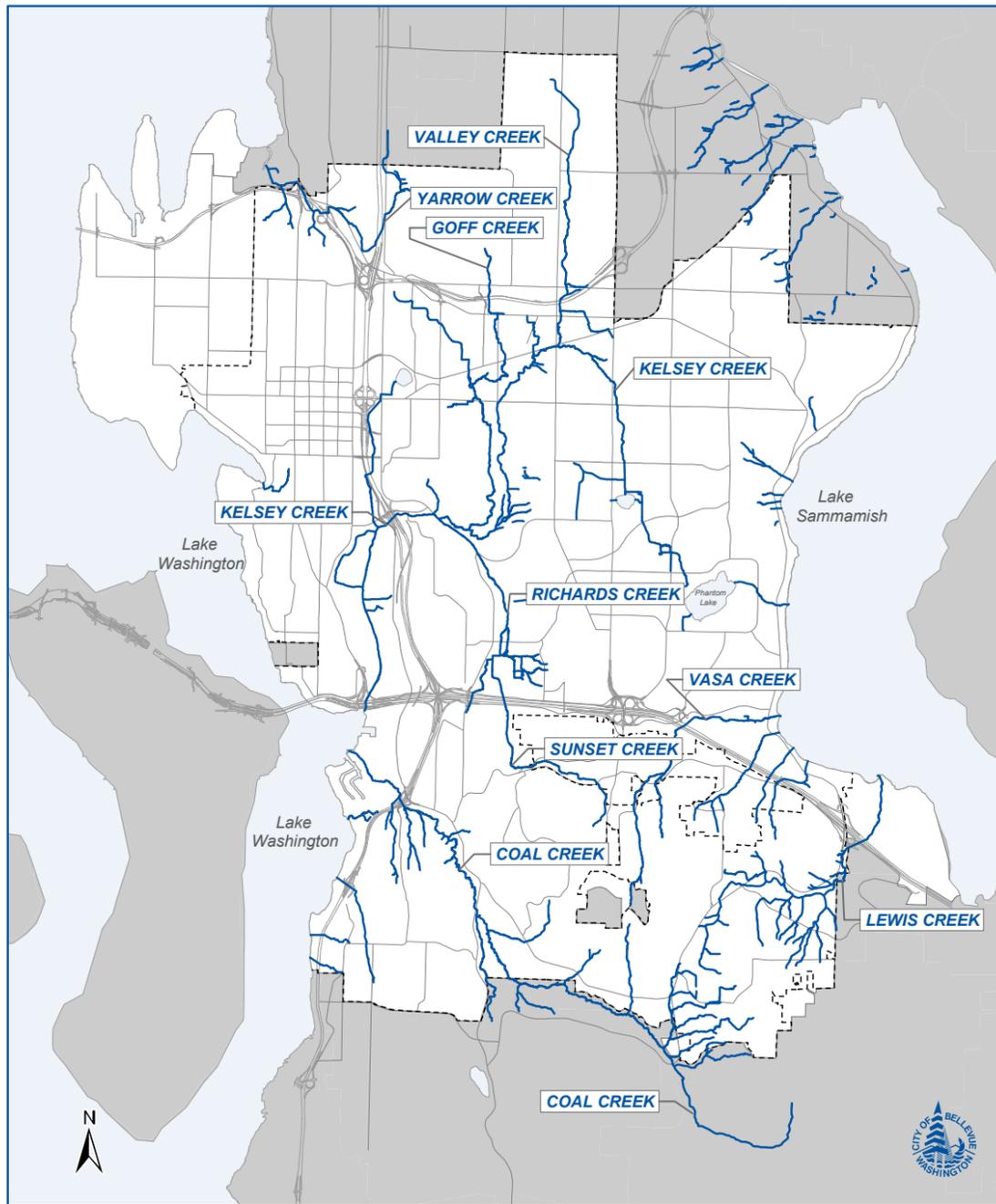
A standard homeowner's insurance policy typically does not cover flood damage unless the policy has special flood provisions. Flood insurance is available through the National Flood Insurance Program, designed to provide federally-backed flood insurance for residents of participating communities, such as Bellevue. City residents owning properties within a floodplain can purchase flood insurance at a 25 percent reduction. Flood insurance is available on all other Bellevue properties at a 5 percent reduction.

All development near streams and wetlands must meet setback requirements. For further information on permit requirements in floodplain areas, call the city's Development Services Center at 425-452-6864. Report non-permitted activities within a floodplain to the city's Code Compliance Office at 425-452-4570.

If you own a structure in a floodplain and are considering reconstructing, remodeling, repairing damage, an addition or other improvements, contact the Development Services Center regarding construction requirements in Special Flood Hazard Areas. When building improvements equal or exceed 50 percent of the building's market value, the city and NFIP have additional construction requirements. Elevation certificates for legal non-conforming structures – built in the floodplain prior to floodplain regulations – are maintained by the city and available to the public.

Bellevue has a sophisticated storm drainage system. Natural waterways, combined with 11 monitored regional stormwater storage facilities, hundreds of neighborhood and commercially-owned stormwater storage facilities and more than 400 miles of underground pipes, direct and manage stormwater runoff.

The Bellevue Utilities Department maintains a safe, reliable, cost-effective and innovative surface water system that protects the natural environment. Utilities staff advise residents about flood protection and retrofitting flood-prone structures.



Wherever you live in Bellevue, you're probably near water. The city has more than 60 miles of streams, 800 acres of wetlands, three small lakes and is bordered by Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish.

If your home is in danger of flooding

Bellevue Utilities provides 24-hour emergency service for flooding. Just call 425-452-7840. To prepare if your home is in danger of flooding:

- Use a sump pump to flush out rising floodwaters.
- Unplug all electrical appliances and turn off gas at the meter.
- Move valuables to higher levels.
- Stack sandbags well away from the building to avoid damaging walls.

To prevent flooding problems

Some simple steps can help you prevent flooding problems from developing:

- Remove leaves from clogged storm drain grates near your home.
- Install a sump pump or if you already own a pump, test it now.
- Preserve natural drainage systems by not filling in ponds, wetlands or ditches. Debris like trash and grass clippings can block stream flow.
- Leave natural vegetation on steep slopes and along streams and lakes. Plants slow stormwater runoff, filter pollutants and help stabilize the earth so it won't wash away.
- Contact Utilities for advice with a drainage problem.

When a flood comes

When a flood does occur, you can take steps to minimize problems for yourself and others.

- Do not attempt to drive through standing water.
- Stay away from fallen power lines and electrical wires.
- Remember that during a storm it's normal for streams to rise and that some parking lots and parks are designed to fill with water.
- Have an emergency kit stocked with bottled water, first aid kit, extra clothing, food, battery-operated radio and extra batteries, sleeping bag or blankets, prescription medication, etc.

City Hall events celebrate diversity



A dancer of the Bailadores de Bronce troupe holds a glass with a candle in it on her head as she dances.

The City of Bellevue celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month with food and performances at City Hall Sept. 28 and 29. Students from local Spanish classes reveled while they learned at the Sept. 28 afternoon event. People got a chance to enjoy many elements of Latin American culture, including food and music, the evening of the 29th.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated in the United States each year from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. Five Latin American countries -- Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua -- declared independence from Spain in mid-September of 1821. Mexico and Chile both also declared their independence in mid-September, in 1810.

In partnership with the Eastside Latino Leadership Forum, the City of Bellevue presents a Hispanic-Latino Heritage Celebration each year.

At the Sept. 28 event, Correo Aereo, an award-winning multi-instrumental and vocal duo, brought traditional and original music of Mexico, Venezuela and Argentina to the City Hall concourse. Then one man and two women from the Bailadores de Bronce troupe of Seattle drew the enthusiastic children out of their seats with rousing Mexican folk dancing and singing. They needed little encouragement to shout "Viva," at the conclusion of Bailadores de Bronce's performance.

Bellevue has an increasingly diverse population, including a growing Latino community, so celebrating occasions such as Hispanic Heritage Month is fitting.

The City of Bellevue's Cultural Diversity program, housed in the Parks & Community Services Department, was created in 1994 to address the various needs of the diverse communities in Bellevue, in addition to educating the overall community about diversity issues. Bellevue's demographics have changed significantly since 1980, with the non-Caucasian population growing from 8 percent to more than 30 percent in that time. There are more than 50 different languages spoken in Bellevue schools.

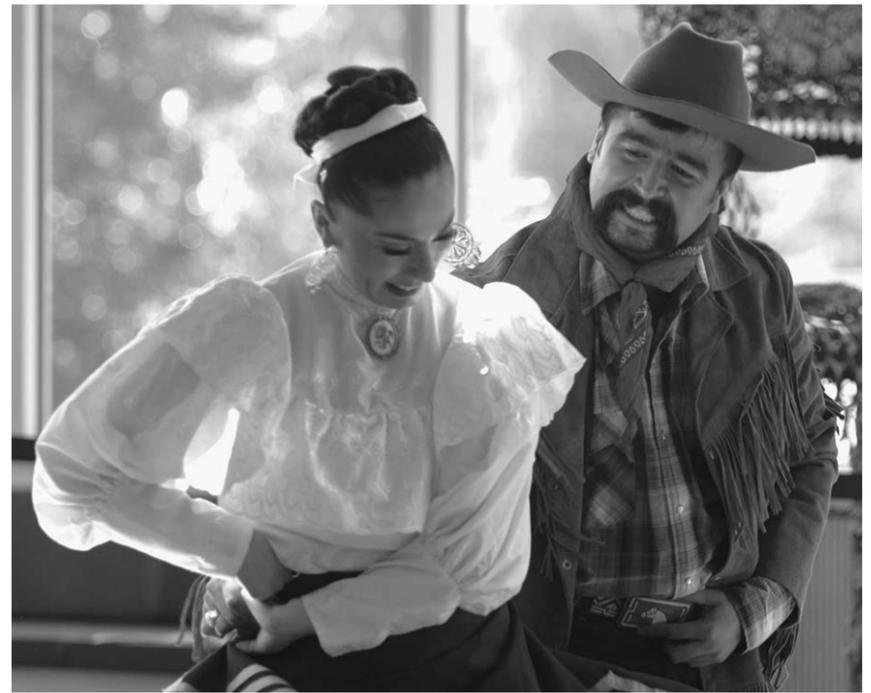
The Cultural Diversity program joins forces with Bellevue agencies, the Bellevue School District, community groups and professional organizations for events, programs and projects. The city allies with the Ethnic Heritage Council to present the annual Cultural Crossroads event. Scheduled for Nov. 3, 4 and 5 this year, Cultural Crossroads will feature 40 music and dance performances, children's activities and an international craft bazaar.

People can also sign up for the Conversations about Race and Culture series, which focuses on issues of race and culture. Other programs involving the community feature cultural events, diversity workshops, a video series and a Bellevue TV television and weekly radio show on KBCS-FM, 91.3, broadcasting from Bellevue Community College.

For more information, contact Kevin Henry, program coordinator, at 452-7886 or at khenry@bellevuewa.gov.



Multicultural and multi-instrumental, Correo Aereo performs in the City Hall concourse during the Hispanic-Latino Heritage Celebration.



In traditional Mexican garb, dancers of Bailadores de Bronce show how it's done at City Hall.

Signs of the times



Campaign signs are an accepted and important form of free speech, but they become useless clutter after the election. Many citizens find them annoying during the election season.

"We get complaints about them all the time," noted Jim Gough, code compliance supervisor with the City of Bellevue. "People hate them."

Political signs are covered in a section of Bellevue's sign code. The code limits the permissible size and location of signs. Perhaps most importantly, it requires that political signs come down within seven days of the election. (If a candidate advances past the primary, their sign doesn't have to be removed until sometime the week following the general election.) Violators have to pay a \$100 penalty.



Annual report provides vital signs about Bellevue government's performance

Managing a municipality the size of Bellevue is, in many ways, like managing a large for-profit corporation. Bellevue managers must skillfully steward public dollars to ensure that city operations deliver high quality services at a reasonable cost. While profit-making corporations often translate value in terms of “bottom-line” profits, public entities, like the City of Bellevue, often look to stakeholder feedback, benchmarking with other cities, industry standards, and internally established goals to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of its service delivery programs. Citizens and other stakeholders invest substantial resources in their government and rightfully expect the government will provide, in return, quality services at a reasonable cost that meet their needs.

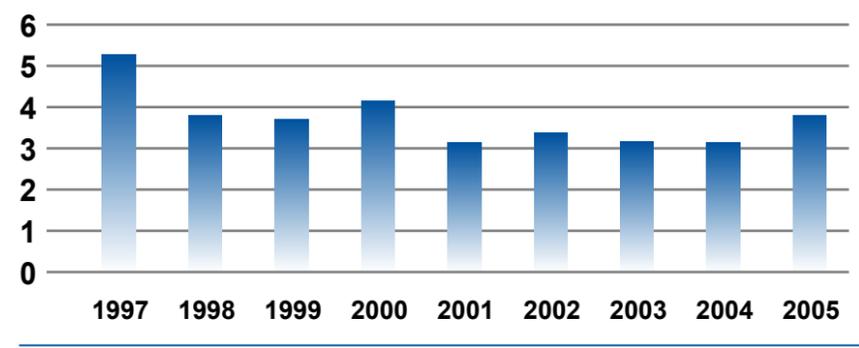
Bellevue Vital Signs (excerpted here) are published each year in the city’s Annual Performance Report and provide a summary of the city’s 2005 performance. They contain a mix of key indicators of resident opinion and departmental measures of efficiency and effectiveness. When looked at together, the Vital Signs present a sense of the city’s well-being.

Below are the City’s 16 Vital Signs and performance trends for three years. Following this chart is additional information and longer term trend data on each vital sign.

To view the full Annual Performance Report, go to the city’s website www.bellevuewa.gov. Or write, Performance Report, Finance Department, 450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004.

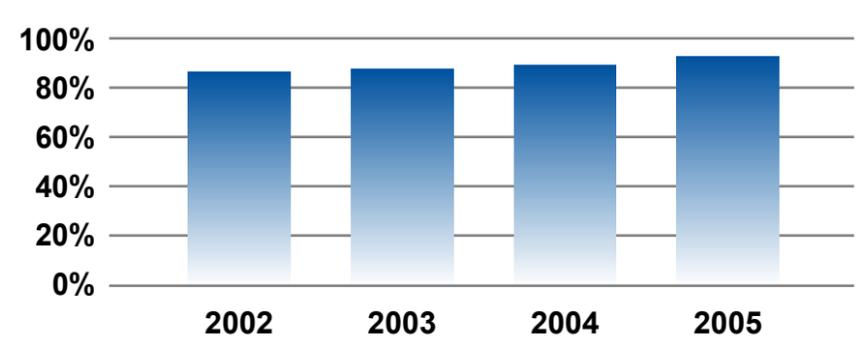
VITAL SIGNS	2003 Actual	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2005 Target	Target Met or Exceeded
Police patrol response times to critical emergencies from dispatch to arrival	3.5 min.	3.3 min.	3.7 min.	3.5 min.	
Residents’ overall satisfaction with Parks and Recreation in Bellevue	88%	88%	92%	85%	✓
Number of violent and property crimes committed per 1,000 population	39.0	43.5	42.0	40.0	
% of residents saying they are getting their money’s worth when thinking about City of Bellevue services and facilities	80%	82%	88%	85%	✓
Moody’s Investors Service Bond rating	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	✓
Residents rating their neighborhood as a good to excellent place to live	92%	92%	90%	92%	
Resident satisfaction rating for clean streets (fairly clean to very clean)	95%	97%	96%	95%	✓
Percent of fires confined to room of origin	93%	88%	90%	85%	✓
Residential street average pavement rating	86	80	80	80	✓
Violations of state and federal drinking water standards	0	0	0	0	✓
Cardiac arrest survival rate	35%	46%	50%	35%	✓
Residents rating Bellevue as a good or excellent place to live	97%	97%	95%	95%	✓
% of residents fairly satisfied to very satisfied with job City is doing in planning for the future	72%	71%	74%	65%	✓
Water service interruptions per 1000 service connections	2.9	2.2	1.57	3.00	✓
Residents saying Bellevue is headed in the right direction	79%	78%	86%	80%	✓
Percent of Mobility Management Areas achieving concurrency	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓

1. Patrol response times to critical emergencies from dispatch to scene arrival (in minutes)



When a life is threatened, people want a quick response from their Police Department. In Bellevue, Police respond quickly to these emergencies. Although Priority 1 calls make up a small percentage of all dispatched police calls (historically about 1 percent), they are the most critical. Participants in the city’s 2005 Citizen Engagement Project rated police response to emergencies as the most important Bellevue Vital Sign. In 2005, police reported a 3 minute and 43 second average response time to most important calls, somewhat slower than the 2004 response time average of 3 minutes and 17 seconds, and slightly higher than the response time target of 3 minutes and 30 seconds. There were 114 Priority 1 calls in 2005, compared to 176 in 2004.

2. Percent of citizens somewhat satisfied to very satisfied with Parks & Community Services in Bellevue

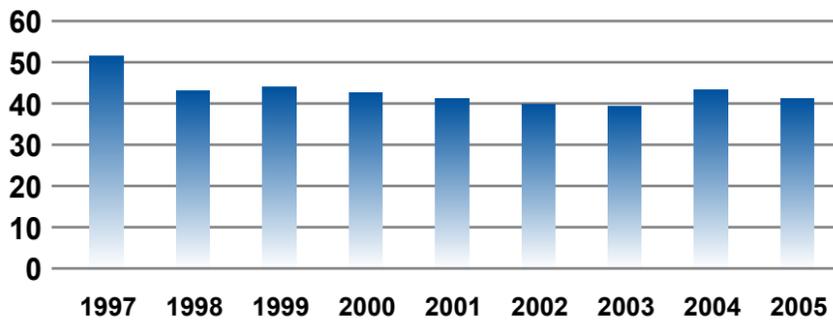


Residents were first queried about overall satisfaction with Parks and Recreation in Bellevue in 2002.

In 2005, slightly more than 9 in 10 (92 percent) respondents are either very or somewhat satisfied, overall, with parks and recreation in Bellevue, with twice as many who are very satisfied (65 percent) than are somewhat satisfied (27 percent). This is a significant increase over 2003 (87 percent satisfied) and 2002 (86 percent satisfied).

Very few respondents are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (5 percent), somewhat dissatisfied (1 percent) or very dissatisfied (<1 percent). Only one percent (1 percent) are unable to rate their satisfaction with parks and recreation in Bellevue, significantly fewer than in both 2004 (4 percent don’t know) and 2003 (6 percent don’t know).

3. Crimes committed per 1,000 population

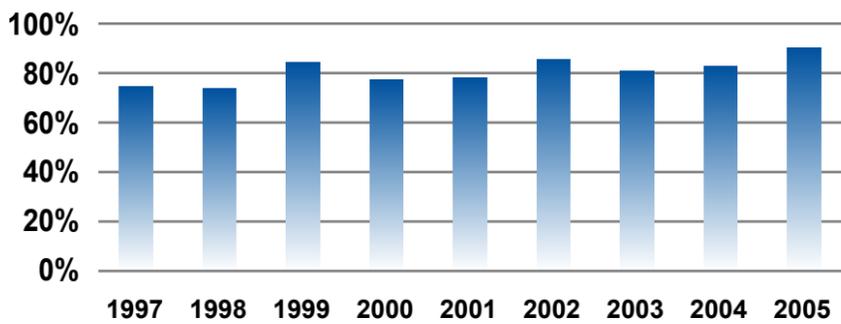


Part 1 crimes include violent crimes, such as murder and rape, and crimes against property, such as burglary, auto theft and arson.

4,833 Part 1 crimes or 42/1,000 population occurred in 2005. This is higher than the performance measurement target of 40/1,000 population but lower than the 43.5/1,000 population that took place in 2004. Auto thefts decreased for the first time in six years from the 608 in 2004 to 567 in 2005, a 7 percent decrease. Bellevue was the only regional jurisdiction that actually showed a decrease in the number of vehicles reported stolen in 2005.



4. Getting money's worth



Almost nine in ten (88 percent) respondents feel they are getting their money's worth for their tax dollar. This is significantly higher than results in 2004 (82 percent), 2003 (80 percent), and 2001 (77 percent). The percentage of respondents who feel they are not getting their money's worth (7 percent) is significantly lower than in 2003 (13 percent), 2002 (11 percent), and 2001 (14 percent). The percentage of respondents who indicate they do not know if they are getting their money's worth has decreased significantly compared to 2004 – 4 percent compared to 8 percent.

Respondents were read a brief description summarizing the types of services and facilities the City provides, including the following: police and fire services, parks and recreational facilities and activities, local roads and sidewalks, environmental protection, neighborhood preservation, long range planning, sewer and drainage services, and funding for social services. Respondents were then asked whether they feel they are getting their money's worth for their tax dollar.



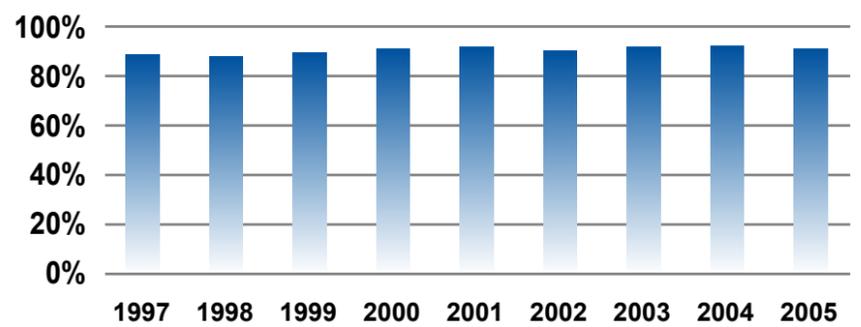
5. City bond rating

A municipal bond rating is very similar to an individual credit rating. In a similar way that a credit rating estimates an individual's financial creditworthiness, a municipal bond rating represents the city's creditworthiness. Bellevue's bond rating of Aaa is the highest provided by Moody's Investor Services, one of the nation's most respected bond-rating agencies. Bonds that are rated Aaa are judged to be of the best quality and carry the smallest degree of investment risk.

Bellevue continues to retain the Aaa rating, which reflects the City's overall prudent fiscal practices.

Bellevue maintains adequate cash reserves for all of its funds, has very little long-term debt, and consistently receives awards of excellence for both budgeting and financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. Additionally, Bellevue has received a Certificate of Distinction from the International City and County Managers Association (ICMA) for its work with performance measuring. Bellevue is one of a handful of jurisdictions whose annual performance report meets the suggested guidelines of the Government Accounting Standards Board and has received recognition from the Association of Government Accountants for citizen reporting. Simply put, the City of Bellevue is well managed and financially strong. Bonds that are rated Aaa are judged to be of the best quality and carry the smallest degree of investment risk. Bellevue continues to retain the Aaa rating, which reflects the City's overall prudent fiscal practices.

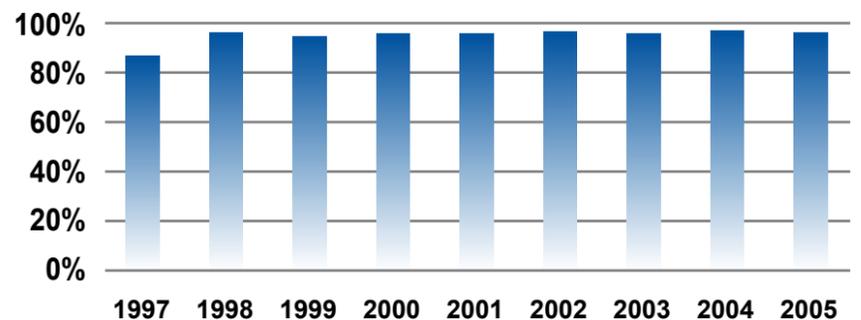
6. Residents rating their neighborhood good or excellent



Cities are ultimately defined by the livability of their neighborhoods. Bellevue is not an exception. A very large percentage of residents (90 percent) reported that their neighborhood is a good or excellent place in which to live (this was slightly lower than the revised 2005 target of 92 percent). Similar to the percentages reported in the past (92 percent 2004, 92 percent 2003, 89 percent 2002, and 91 percent 2001), ninety percent (90 percent) of 2005 respondents consider their neighborhood to be an excellent (51 percent) or good (38 percent) place to live.

Very few respondents reported their neighborhood is a fair (9 percent) or poor (1 percent) place to live.

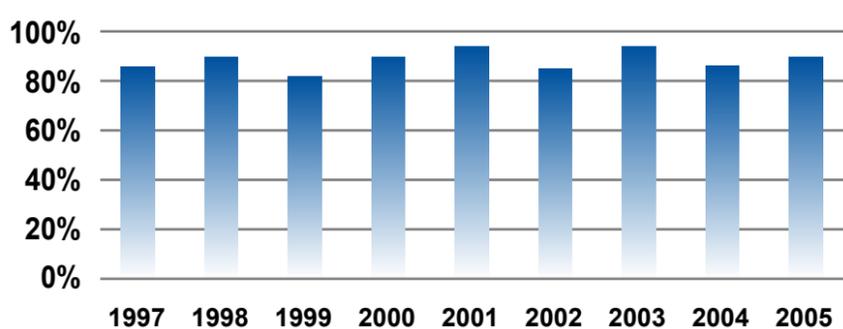
7. Customer satisfaction rating for clean streets (fairly clean to very clean)



Bellevue residents are pleased with the level of street cleaning in the City and have been for quite some time. The 96 percent satisfaction rating for 2005 continues to be high and still above the target of 95 percent. During the last eight years, residents' satisfaction rate for clean streets has never been lower than 94 percent. Bellevue cleans residential streets quarterly, and arterials and collectors monthly. Bike lanes are swept twice per month.

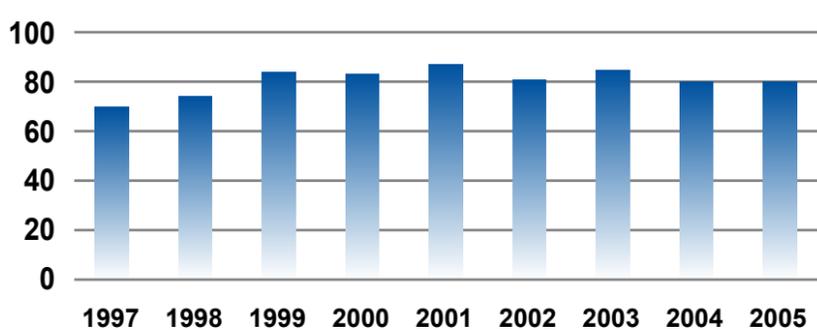


8. Percent of fires confined to room of origin



The ability to contain a fire to the room of origin is a key measure of the effectiveness of a community's fire prevention and suppression programs, as well as its building codes. Over the years, the combination of strengthened codes, such as requiring sprinkler systems in commercial occupancies and multi-family housing complexes, newer and more fire retardant building materials, and proactive prevention programs, has significantly influenced the containment of fires to the room of origin. The Fire Department contained 90 percent of all structure fires to the room of origin during 2005, five percent better than the 2005 target of 85 percent.

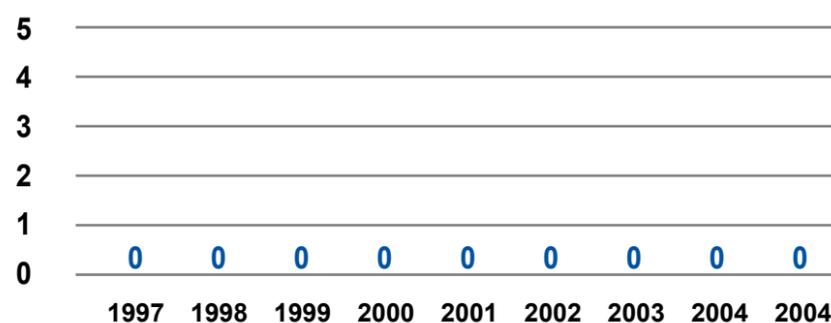
9. Average pavement rating for residential streets



The City of Bellevue employs a pavement rating system that considers a number of factors, including traffic volume, asphalt wear, ride comfort and age. The City maintains a computerized pavement database and regularly assesses pavement condition. Average pavement ratings are determined through assessments that consider the extent and severity of the pavement defect observed. Roadways are rated on a scale from 0-100, with 100 being a new surface. Residential streets were rated at 80 in 2005. Roadways are typically a candidate for maintenance when a score reaches 50 for arterial streets and 30 for residential streets. Additional information about the city's pavement rating system is included in the annual State of Mobility Report, available from the Transportation Department.

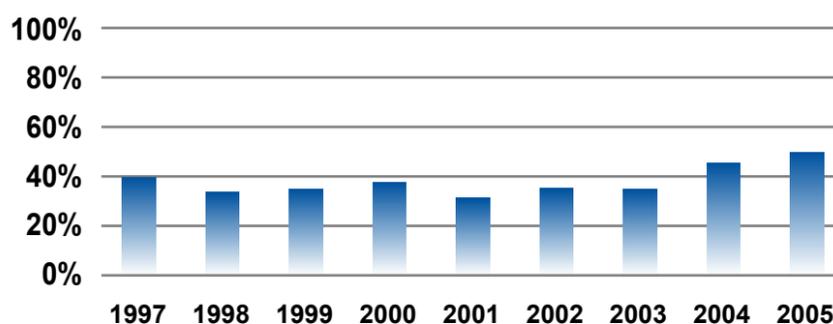
Comprehensive programs for street cleaning and repair help to preserve the City's investment in existing facilities, minimize potential City liability, and reduce the long-term costs of major reconstruction. Current city policy requires that adequate resources be allocated to preserve the city's existing infrastructure before targeting resources to new facilities that require additional maintenance obligations. This commitment to existing infrastructure maintenance means that future stakeholders will not be subjected to deteriorating roads and other facilities or to excessive future costs related to "catching up" on needed repairs.

10. Number of cited violations under Clean Water Act



Bellevue's water is safe and clean. In 2004, Bellevue, once again, incurred no violations of state and federal drinking water standards. The Utilities Department enforces high design and maintenance standards that translate to quality water. In response to a question in the 2005 Performance Measures Survey 92 percent of respondents said that Bellevue Utilities does a good to excellent job in providing water that is safe and healthy to drink.

11. Cardiac arrest survival rate

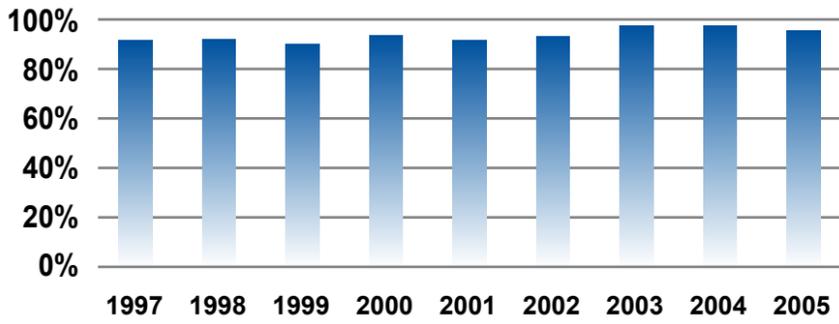


The percentage of patients in full cardiac arrest who have a pulse upon delivery to a medical facility is internationally accepted as an indicator of performance. The outcomes during the past five years have ranged from a high of 50 percent in 2005 to a low of 31 percent in 2001. The 2005 rate of 50 percent is above the 35 percent performance target set by the Fire Department and the highest survival rate achieved since reporting data in 1997. Some Emergency Medical Service (EMS) professionals believe that cardiac arrest survival rates are generally indicative of an EMS system's overall effectiveness.

In addition, an impressive number of Bellevue's residents are trained in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). According to the 2004 Performance Measures Survey conducted the previous year, 65 percent of respondents said that they were trained in CPR. This is slightly less than the 71 percent who said that they were trained in CPR in 2003. Slightly more than 4 in 10 (44 percent) of those surveyed in 2005 and trained in CPR indicate they would be very likely (rating of 7) to perform CPR if confronted with a situation that required it.



12. Percent of citizens rating Bellevue as good or excellent place to live



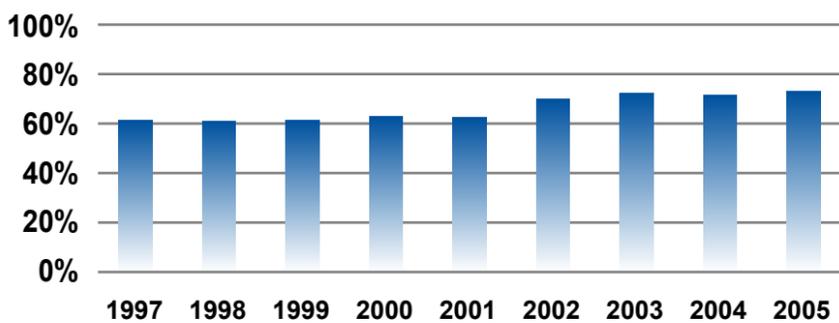
Nearly all (95 percent) residents surveyed describe Bellevue as a good or excellent place to live. This is slightly less than the percentage (97 percent) reported in the prior year's survey. In 2005, respondents were significantly more likely to say Bellevue is an excellent place to live (the highest rating) than they were in 2003, 2002, 2001 or 2000 (55 percent in 2005 versus 45, 40 percent and 42 percent respectively).

When asked to mention characteristics of Bellevue that make it a "high quality" community, respondents mentioned several City services, such as good police services, good roads and streets, good park and recreational facilities. Additionally, respondents mentioned several city amenities such as nice homes, low crime, places to shop and dine, a good hospital, and the library.

When asked about "low quality" aspects of the City, 25 percent mentioned "too much traffic". This is slightly lower than the percentage that cited "too much traffic" the previous year (29 percent). It is a significant decrease from the 34 percent who cited traffic in the 2002 survey and may indicate that the City is gaining ground on addressing resident concerns relating to traffic. Respondents cited other road and traffic signal issues such as potholes, not enough sidewalks, and traffic signals impeding traffic flow as "low-quality" characteristics. Additional "low-quality" characteristics mentioned by survey respondents were few and included issues related to the city government (7 percent) [such as not enough streetlights, unresponsive government, poor planning, not enough police].

Fifteen percent of those responding answered "Don't Know," suggesting that they could not think of anything "low quality" about Bellevue in general.

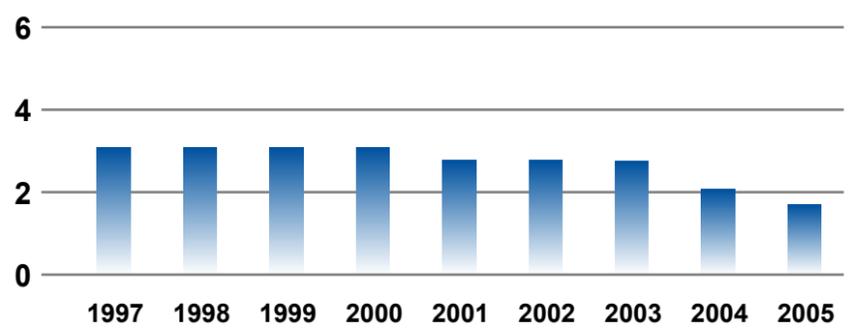
13. Citizen satisfaction with Bellevue's planning for the future



Nearly equal percentages of 2005 (74 percent), 2004 (71 percent), 2003 (72 percent) and 2002 (70 percent) respondents report satisfaction with the job the City is doing in planning for the future. Significantly fewer 2001 and 2000 respondents reported satisfaction with City planning (63 percent in both years). In 2005, significantly more respondents report being very satisfied than in 2003, 2002, and 2001 – 30 percent compared to 24 percent, 21 percent, and 20 percent, respectively.

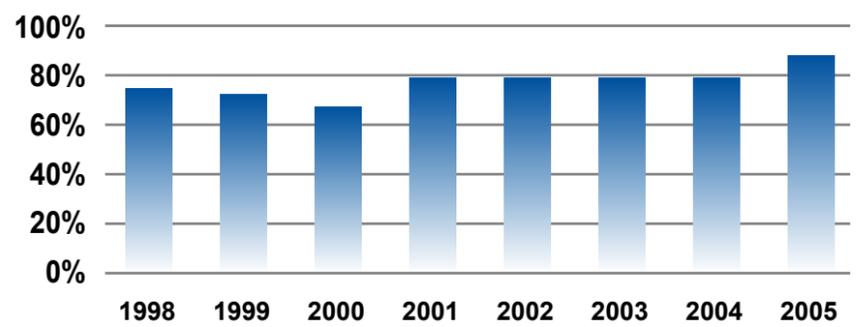


14. Unplanned water service interruptions per 1,000 service connections



Reliability of water service is often looked at in relation to the number of water service interruptions per 1,000 service connections. The number of service interruptions for 2004 of 2.18 per 1,000 connections is lower than the number of interruptions in 2003 and below the 2004 target of 3.0.

15. Percent of citizens saying Bellevue is heading in the right direction

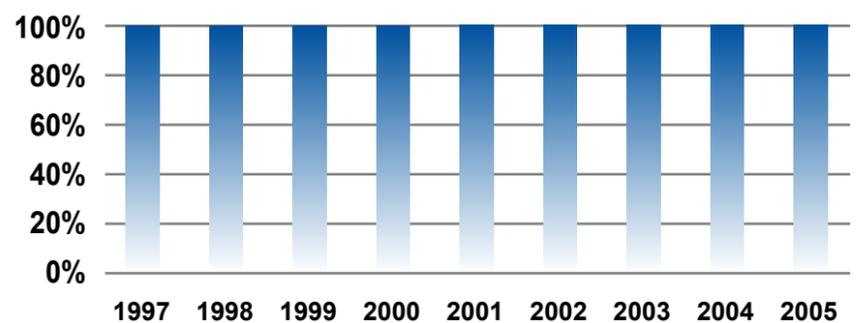


At eighty-six percent (86 percent) the percentage of respondents who feel that the City, as a whole, is generally headed in the right direction is significantly higher than each of the four prior years – 78 percent in 2004, 79 percent in 2003, 78 percent in 2002, and 78 percent in 2001. The percentage of respondents who feel the City is off on the wrong track (6 percent) is the same as reported in 2004, slightly lower than in 2003 (9 percent) and significantly lower than reported in 2002 (13 percent), 2001 (13 percent) and 2000 (16 percent). Significantly fewer respondents in 2005 indicate they don't know if Bellevue is headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track – 8 percent in 2005 compared to 14 percent in 2004 and 12 percent in 2003.

When asked to indicate why they feel the City is headed in the right direction, respondents mention: City government services (57 percent), improving traffic/transit (8 percent), "things" being generally good (9 percent), and Parks (8 percent).

When asked to indicate why the City is headed in the wrong direction, only a small number of respondents replied; traffic congestion/transportation problems (2 percent), too much growth/construction (4 percent), high cost of living (2 percent), and City government services (2 percent).

16. Percent of areas achieving concurrency



Traffic in Bellevue continues to be high on the list of challenges facing the City. The Transportation Department works to ensure that necessary infrastructure improvements come with new construction. Capital projects are contributing substantially to congestion reduction: Without these projects, six intersections would fail Level of Service (LOS) standards compared to two intersections. All of Bellevue's 13 sub areas (Mobility Management Areas or MMAs) met the LOS standards that are set in the adopted Comprehensive Plan.



South Bellevue projects underway

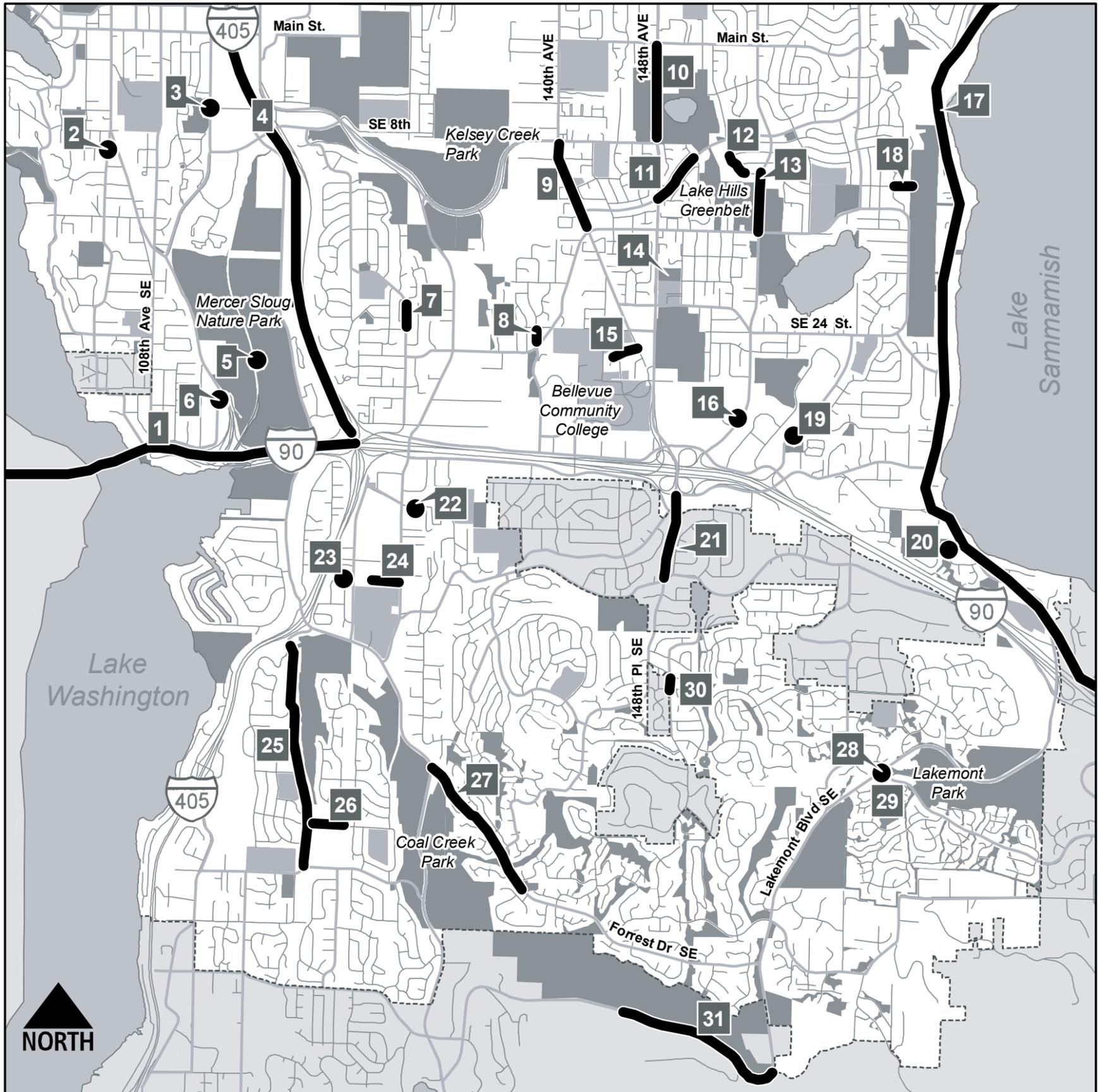
Introduction

As you have probably noticed, there is a lot of construction going on in the south area of Bellevue. There are also many projects heading to construction in the next few months. Here is a brief update on the status of these projects.

There are more than 30 projects mentioned in this update, including capital

improvements, crosswalks, park restrooms, park trails, regional, sanitary sewer, sidewalk, street light projects, street tree, storm water, traffic calming, traffic circles and traffic signals.

To find projects taking place in your neighborhood, please refer to the map below. The neighborhood areas are: West Bellevue, Wilburton, Woodridge, West Lake Hills, Sammamish/East Lake Hills, Newport, Factoria/Sunset, Somerset and Eastgate/Cougar Ridge.



West Bellevue Neighborhood Area

1. I-90 Two-Way Transit/HOV Projects

Project Need: Over the past decade, increasing traffic congestion on I-90 between Bellevue and Seattle requires transportation improvements.

Proposed Improvements: This project will be implemented in stages allowing for final evaluation and design of light rail elements as financing becomes available. Stage I is fully funded and includes widening the outer roadway through Mercer Island, constructing new ramps on Mercer Island, reconstructing the barrier between the center and westbound roadways, modifying the Bellevue Way SE ramp, replacing the bridge expansion joints, and constructing detention and drainage facilities.

Benefits: Will improve speed, reliability and access for regional transit, while minimizing impact to other travel options.

Schedule: Stage I construction work is expected to begin in February or March 2007 and will continue through 2009.

Total Project Cost: Stage I is part of the overall project estimated at \$128 Million. Estimates will be updated as design progresses to reflect current economic conditions.

Project Manager: Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 or Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov

Sound Transit Project Manager: Hank Howard, 206-398-5078 or Howardh@soundtransit.org

2. 104th Avenue SE and SE 10th Street Demonstration Traffic Circle Project

Project Need: To address vehicle operations and safety at this intersection, as well as identify this entrance into the Enatai neighborhood.

Proposed Improvements: Install a demonstration traffic circle to determine its effectiveness and if it will be constructed permanently.

Benefits: Reduction of vehicle speeds and accidents.
Construction Schedule: Construction recently completed. This fall will be a trial demonstration.
Total Project Cost: \$7,500
Project Manager: Linda Glas, 425-452-2841 or Lglas@bellevuewa.gov

3. 112th Avenue SE/SE 6th Street Signal Project

Project Need: This intersection meets criteria for a traffic signal.
Proposed Improvements: Install a new traffic signal at this intersection.
Benefits: Increased safety for pedestrians and accessibility for drivers.
Construction Schedule: Install signal this month.
Total Project Cost: \$442,000
Project Manager: Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905 or Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

4. I-405: 112th Avenue SE to SE 8th Street Widening

Project Need: This section of highway through Bellevue is one of the worst congestion chokepoints along the I-405 corridor.
Proposed Improvements: Widen I-405 between 112th Avenue SE and SE 8th Street. The main features of the 112th Avenue SE to SE 8th Street project are one additional southbound lane from SE 8th Street to I-90 and one additional northbound lane from 112th Avenue southbound to SE 8th Street. Other improvements include a new northbound structure over Coal Creek Parkway, a new three-lane southbound bridge over I-90, a new ramp meter at 112th Avenue SE, and enhanced stormwater management facilities.
 As this I-405 project moves forward, WSDOT will continue to work with applicable agencies regarding an appropriate future crossing at Wilburton as the needs for the BNSF corridor are determined.

Benefits: When complete, the I-405 widening from 112th Avenue SE to SE 8th Street will improve traffic flow northbound from Renton into Bellevue, and southbound from north of Bellevue to I-90 and improve safety by reducing weaving and merging conflicts. It will also be environmentally sensitive by providing noise mitigation, enhancing and restoring wetlands and wildlife habitat, and improving water quality by treating highway stormwater runoff.
Construction Schedule: Construction will begin in 2007 and be completed in 2009.
Total Project Cost: \$208.3 Million
Project Manager: Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 or Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov
WSDOT Project Manager: Stacy Trussler, 425-456-8563 or trusslers@wsdot.wa.gov

5. Mercer Slough Nature Park Trails/Boardwalks Neighborhood Enhancement Project

Project Need: Lack of trail connections for pedestrians using the park.
Proposed Improvements: Add trails and habitat restoration in the Mercer Slough.
Benefits: Increased trail connections, improved wildlife habitat and expanded water access.
Project Schedule: Under design. Construction is scheduled to begin Summer 2007 and end in the Fall 2007.
Total Project Cost: \$150,000
Project Manager: Geoff Bradley, 425-452-2740 or Gbradley@bellevuewa.gov

6. 113th Avenue SE and SE 30th Street Neighborhood Traffic Calming Project

Project Need: To address motorists using the SE 30th Street cul-de-sac off of 113th Avenue SE as a U-turn route.
Proposed Improvements: Construct a landscaped curb extension to narrow the entrance and install a slightly raised colored entry treatment.
Benefits: Reduce U-turns.
Construction Schedule: Winter 2006
Total Project Cost: \$35,000
Project Manager: Brian Casey, 425-452-6867 or Bcasey@bellevuewa.gov

Woodridge Neighborhood Area

7. 128th Avenue SE Sidewalk Neighborhood Enhancement Project

Project Need: This is a Neighborhood Enhancement Project requested and selected by residents of the Woodridge NEP area as a priority project.
Proposed Improvements: Construct concrete curb and gutter, and a six-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side of 128th Avenue SE from SE 22nd Place to SE 25th Street.
Benefits: Increases pedestrian safety and connectivity.
Construction Schedule: Fall 2006
Total Project Cost: \$198,000
Project Manager: Vangie Parico, 425-452-6103 or Vparico@bellevuewa.gov

West Lake Hills Neighborhood Area

8. 139th Avenue SE Speed Hump Revision

Project Need: To reduce vehicle speeds and cut-through traffic in the neighborhood.
Proposed Improvements: Construct two asphalt speed humps to replace three rubber speed humps for better continuity.
Benefits: Reduced speeds and cut-through traffic.
Construction Schedule: Fall 2006
Total Project Cost: \$20,000
Project Manager: Linda Glas, 425-452-2841 or Lglas@bellevuewa.gov

9. 145th Place SE: SE 8th to SE 16th Street, Phase 1 - Neighborhood Investment Strategy Project

Project Need: This project was identified through the West Lake Hills Neighborhood Investment Strategy.
Proposed Improvements: Adding bike lanes, intersection modifications, sidewalks, and a center two-way left-turn lane and medians, where needed.
Benefits: Improved access for bicyclists, pedestrians and transit riders.
Schedule: Construction is pending; it may begin this month and last through November 2007.
Total Project Cost: \$3,100,000 (NIS Funding)
Project Manager: Nancy LaCombe, 425-452-4382 or Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov

10. 148th Avenue SE Street Lights: Main Street to SE 8th Street

Project Need: This is a Neighborhood Enhancement Project, requested and selected by residents of the NEP area as a priority project.
Proposed Improvements: This project will install new streetlights on 148th Avenue SE which will match the existing street lights.
Benefits: To enhance visibility for motorists and pedestrians.
Construction Schedule: Winter 2007
Total Project Cost: \$130,000
Project Manager: Mike Whiteaker, 425-452-4230 or Mwhiteaker@bellevuewa.gov

11. Lake Hills Boulevard: 148th Avenue SE to 150th Avenue SE

Project Need: This project was identified through the West Lake Hills Neighborhood Investment Strategy.
Proposed Improvements: Construct five-foot-wide bike lanes and five-foot-wide concrete sidewalks on both sides of the street, with a four-foot-wide planter on the south side of the street to accommodate new street trees. In addition, the left-turn lane on Lake Hills Boulevard approaching 148th Avenue SE will be lengthened to improve roadway capacity. Traffic signal and pedestrian crossing improvements will also be made to the 148th Avenue SE/Lake Hills Boulevard intersection.
Benefits: Improve pedestrian and bicycle access and traffic flow, while completing and enhancing the remaining section of Lake Hills Boulevard.
Construction Schedule: Construction is expected to start this December, depending on weather, and end in Spring or Summer 2007.
Total Project Cost: \$1.4 Million
Project Manager: Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905 or Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov



12. 154th Avenue SE: SE 9th, SE 10th, and SE 11th Neighborhood Traffic Calming Project

Project Need: Cut-through traffic occurs on 154th Avenue SE. A traffic committee has been formed of neighborhood volunteers and meetings will begin this fall to develop a plan for this area.

Proposed Improvements: To be determined through the work of the Traffic Committee and input from the community.

Benefits: To reduce cut-through traffic

Construction Schedule: Fall 2007

Total Project Cost: \$40,000

Project Manager: Rebecca Rodni, 425-452-6160 or Rrodni@bellevuewa.gov

13. 156th Avenue SE: SE 11th Street to SE 16th Street

Project Need: Biking and walking facilities were lacking and there was minimal protection from motorists.

Recent Improvements: Added a new boardwalk on the east side of 156th Avenue SE. At the north end of this boardwalk, a developer is installing underground utilities. After the utilities are installed, the remainder of the boardwalk and sidewalk will be completed.

Benefits: Improved access for pedestrians and bicyclists along 156th Avenue SE.

Schedule: Completion is expected this fall.

Total Project Cost: \$1,400,000

Project Manager: Tricia Thomson, 425-452-6014 or Tathomson@bellevuewa.gov

14. North Robinswood Sports Field Restroom Neighborhood Enhancement Project

Project Need: There are only portable toilets at this park.

Proposed Improvements: Construct a permanent men's and women's restroom facility at the southeast corner of the park.

Benefits: Improved restroom facilities for park users.

Schedule: Construction will be complete by the end of 2007

Total Project Cost: \$150,000

Project Manager: Randy Ransom, 425-452-2036 or Rransom@bellevuewa.gov

15. Sunset Ranch Neighborhood Traffic Calming Project

Project Need: To address cut-through traffic from Bellevue Community College (BCC) and heighten motorists' attention to the Sunset Neighborhood.

Proposed Improvements: Install two neighborhood entry treatments on SE 26th Street and 146th Avenue SE which is a 10' wide, brick colored, slightly raised (2") concrete section that identifies the entrance to a neighborhood.

Benefits: To reduce cut-through traffic and identify the neighborhood.

Construction Schedule: Fall 2006

Total Project Cost: \$34,000

Project Manager: Linda Glas, 425-452-2841 or Lglas@bellevuewa.gov

16. 156th Avenue SE Crosswalk Improvements

Project Need: This existing crosswalk has experienced several pedestrian accidents in recent years.

Proposed Improvements: An in-pavement flashing crosswalk system will be installed along the existing crosswalk markings, including several signs with flashing LED lights.

Benefits: Improved safety for pedestrians and other non-motorized users at the crossing.

Schedule: Installation this fall.

Total Project Cost: \$60,000

Project Manager: Kurt Latt, 425-452-6020 or Klatt@bellevuewa.gov

Sammamish/East Lake Hills Neighborhood Area

17. West Lake Sammamish Parkway: North City Limits to I-90

Project Need: Presently, pedestrian and bicycle facilities are only available on the west side of the roadway. Other issues are speeding, pavement roughness, noise when driving over the pavement seams, and difficult turning movements on to and off of the Parkway.

Proposed Recommendation: Two years of public involvement produced a preferred alternative that balanced the community's desire to maintain the "rural character" of the parkway with requests to enhance the facilities and connections to the non-motorized system. There is also the need to preserve the roadway, which is falling apart. The project will enhance system connectivity, preservation, and safety.

Benefits: The community and the city had an opportunity to jointly develop a recommendation for improvements to West Lake Sammamish Parkway.

Current Status: City staff is actively seeking funding for this project through various federal, state, and local funding sources.

Project Schedule: Once project funding is secured, a project schedule will be determined.

Total Analysis Cost: \$410,000

Project Manager: Nancy LaCombe, 425-452-4382 or Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov

18. SE 12th Street Sanitary Sewer Repair

Project Need: The existing sanitary sewer on the end of SE 12th Street and east of 167th Avenue SE, on the west edge of Weowna Park, has collapsed.

Proposed Improvements: Repair broken sanitary sewer and replace the interim temporary sewage pumping system.

Benefits: Protects human health and avoids pollution of surface water bodies.

Schedule: Replacement is underway and will be completed in October.

Total Project Cost: \$100,000

Project Manager: Bob Bergstrom, 425-452-4474 or Bbergstrom@bellevuewa.gov

19. Spiritridge Park Restroom Neighborhood Enhancement Project

Project Need: This is a Neighborhood Enhancement Project requested and selected by residents of the NEP area as a priority project.

Proposed Improvements: Construct a concrete structure housing a men's and women's bathroom facility with a sink, toilet, and electricity.

Benefits: Improved restroom facilities for park visitors.

Schedule: Construction is expected to end Winter 2007

Total Project Cost: \$120,000

Project Manager: Randy Ransom, 425-452-2036 or Rransom@bellevuewa.gov

20. Norelius Property/41.5 Open Space Trails

Project Need: This is a Neighborhood Enhancement Project requested and selected by residents of the NEP area as a priority project.

Proposed Improvements: Construct a trail system through the Norelius Property and 41.5 Open Space (south of SE 38th Street and west of West Lake Sammamish Parkway), connecting to adjacent neighborhoods.

Benefits: Connecting nearby neighborhoods to the park.

Schedule: Construction will continue through the fall.

Total Project Cost: \$150,000

Project Manager: Jim Bennett, 425-452-6855 or Jbennett@bellevuewa.gov

Factoria/Sunset Neighborhood Area

21. 150th Avenue SE: SE 36th Street to SE Newport Way

Project Need: There is major congestion along this roadway during peak travel periods.

Improvements Underway:

- Widen 150th Avenue SE to accommodate:
 - Right-turn lane for northbound traffic between SE 38th and SE 37th Streets.
 - Right-turn pocket for southbound traffic between SE 37th and SE 38th Streets.
 - Left-turn pocket for northbound traffic at SE 38th Street.
- Add six-to-eight foot wide sidewalk along the east side of 150th Avenue SE from SE 37th Street to the end of the church property south of SE 38th Street.
- Restrict turns to and from Allen Road at SE 38th Street.
- Add a U-turn pocket on SE 38th Street.
- Add new traffic signals at the SE 37th and SE 38th Street intersections.
- Improve landscaping, the storm drainage system, and street lighting in the area.

Benefits: Improved traffic flow along 150th Avenue.

Construction Impacts and Schedule: Construction is expected to be completed by this December. Use alternate routes when possible.

Total Project Cost: \$5.7 million

Project Manager: Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905 or Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

22. SE 38th Street Mid-block Crosswalk east of Factoria Boulevard

Project Need: Citizens requested a new crosswalk on Factoria Boulevard through the Factoria Area Transportation Study sub-area plan.

Proposed Improvements: Build a mid-block crosswalk on SE 38th Street east of Factoria Boulevard, eliminate parking and rechannelize SE 38th Street.

Benefits: Improve pedestrian safety.

Construction Schedule: Construction this fall.

Total Project Cost: \$50,000

Project Manager: Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 or Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

23. Fire Hydrant Replacement at SE 42nd Street and 123rd Avenue SE

Project Need: Fire hydrants in this area have aged and need to be replaced.

Proposed Improvements: Replacing existing two-port fire hydrants with three-port fire hydrants.

Benefits: Improves water flow and the response time in the event of a fire.

Schedule: Installation will occur by this fall.

Total Project Cost: \$15,000

Project Manager: Vanaja S. Rajah, 425-452-4881 or Vrajah@bellevuewa.gov

24. SE 42nd Street Sidewalks west of Factoria Boulevard

Project Need: Citizens requested construction of missing sidewalk links through the Factoria Area Transportation Study sub-area plan.

Proposed Improvements: This project will install a concrete curb, gutter and five-foot-wide sidewalk both sides of SE 42nd Street west of Factoria Blvd.

Benefits: Increases pedestrian safety and connectivity.

Construction Schedule: Under construction through this month.

Total Project Cost: \$110,000

Project Manager: Kevin McDonald, 425-452-4558 or Kmcdonald@bellevuewa.gov

Newport Neighborhood Area

25. 119th Avenue SE: SE 60th Street to Lake Heights Street Sidewalk

Project Need: Adequate pedestrian and bicycle facilities are lacking.

Improvements Underway: A new sidewalk on the east side of 119th Avenue SE, a new asphalt overlay over the existing roadway pavement, improved street lighting system, and minor storm drainage improvements.

Benefits: Improved access for pedestrians.

Construction Schedule: Under construction through the end of the year, depending on weather conditions.

Total Project Cost: \$1,700,000

Project Manager: Mike Rodni, 425-452-4586 or Mrodni@bellevuewa.gov

26. SE 56th Street - Street Tree Replacement (east of 114th Avenue SE)

Project Need: Trees in this area were damaged when they were pruned to avoid contact with the overhead utility cables.

Proposed Improvements: Planting an appropriate species of tree on the north side of SE 56th Street, east of 119th Avenue SE.

Benefits: SE 56th Street will be enhanced with new trees.

Total Project Cost: \$150,000

Project Manager: Dan Dewald, 425-452-6048 or Ddewald@bellevuewa.gov

Somerset Neighborhood Area

27. Forest Drive: Coal Creek Parkway to SE 61st Street, Phase 2

Project Need: There have been frequent traffic accidents at and near the intersection of Coal Creek Parkway and Forest Drive.



Proposed Improvements: Phase 2 would add a 300-foot right-turn lane on westbound Forest Drive as it approaches Coal Creek Parkway.

Benefits: Drivers will be informed sooner to the steep grade and will have improved stopping ability as they approach Coal Creek Parkway.

Schedule: Phase 2 is pending City Council direction and pending the environmental permit process.

Total Project Cost: \$2.7 Million

Project Manager: Nancy LaCombe, 425-452-4382 or Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov

Eastgate/Cougar Mountain Neighborhood Area

28. Lakemont Boulevard/Village Park Drive Traffic Signal

Project Need: This intersection meets criteria for a traffic signal.

Proposed Improvements: Install a new traffic signal at this intersection.

Benefits: Increased accessibility for drivers and safety for pedestrians.

Construction Schedule: Construction is expected to start in 2007.

Total Project Cost: \$300,000

Project Manager: Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-6937 or Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

29. Lakemont Boulevard Wetland Mitigation

Project Need: This work is required to mitigate the impacts from the Lakemont Boulevard project built a few years ago.

Proposed Improvements: Construct new and enhance existing wetlands.

Benefits: Enhance and protect existing wetlands.

Schedule: Under construction through the end of the year.

Total Project Cost: \$600,000

Project Manager: Tricia Thomson, 425-452-6014 or Tathomson@bellevuewa.gov

30. 150th Avenue SE Sidewalk: SE 46th Street to SE 46th Way

Project Need: Pedestrian access is lacking.

Proposed Improvements: Constructing a six-foot wide sidewalk, with curb and gutter, on the east side of 150th Avenue SE from SE.

Benefits: Improved pedestrian access.

Construction Schedule: Construction complete this fall.

Total Project Cost: \$75,000

Project Manager: Vangie Parico, 425-452-6103, or Vparico@bellevuewa.gov

31. Coal Creek Overbank Stormwater Outfall Improvements along Lakemont Drive and Newcastle/Coal Creek Road.

Project Need: The existing outfalls have discharge points high on the bank, causing hillside erosion.

Proposed Improvements: Repair several existing storm culvert outfalls in the King County portion of Coal Creek.

Benefits: Proper storm drainage operations protect the natural environment and downstream properties.

Schedule: Under repair through October 2006.

Total Project Cost: \$350,000 for Newcastle/Coal Creek Road; \$475,000 for Lakemont Drive/Newcastle-Coal Creek Road.

Project Manager: Bruce Jensen, 425-452-7240 or Bjensen@bellevuewa.gov

Commercial & Private Development Projects

Project Name	Description	Address
Calvary Chapel	Church	5220 - 164th Ave SE
Martin Phase II	11 single family lots	6031 - 168th Pl SE
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center	Environmental education center	1625 - 118th Ave SE
Hillside Property	41 single family lots	5027 - 159th Place SE
Advanta Office Commons	Three seven-story buildings	3000 Block of 160th Ave SE
Lakemont Restoration	Restore Lakemont Park	Lakemont Park
The Bevedere	103 lot short plat	166th Way & SE 73rd St

The **South Bellevue Projects Update** is published for people who live, work, or do business in the area south of Main Street. If you have questions or comments about this information, please call 425-452-4638 or write Tresa Berg, Public Involvement Manager, City of Bellevue Transportation Department, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012 or Tberg@bellevuewa.gov

Transportation Director: Goran Sparrman



Community Calendar

Kelsey Creek Farm Fair

Old-time activities that provide fun for the whole family: live entertainment, heritage demonstrations, kids' crafts, tractor-pulled hay rides, pony rides, barnyard animals and much more! Kelsey Creek Farm, 410 - 130th Pl. SE. Admission is free, cost varies depending on activity. For information, call 425-452-7688.

Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 14 & 15, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.,

Cabin Capers and Chores

Bellevue's pioneer history is celebrated at Fraser Cabin at Kelsey Creek Park. Visitors can play 1888 settlers when they play games, wash and dry clothes, hunt for eggs, pump water, grind wheat and dress up in period clothing. This is a free event. 410 - 130th Pl. SE. For information, call 425-440-1049.

Saturday, Oct. 21, Noon - 3 p.m.

Stewardship Saturday

Community volunteer projects in various parks throughout Bellevue. Free. Groups and individual volunteers welcome. For information and registration, call 425-452-7225.

Saturday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sonics Legends Tour at Crossroads Community Center

Dedication of refurbished basketball court at the Center with Detlef Schrempf and other Sonics legends. Free. Food, music, mini-skills clinics and autograph session with Sonics. 16000 NE 10th St. For information, call 425-452-4874.

Saturday, Oct. 28, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Nature Walks in the Mercer Slough

Guided nature walk in Bellevue's largest wetland park, led by a park ranger. Free. Winters House, 2102 Bellevue Way SE. For information, call 425-452-2752.

Saturday, Oct. 21, and Saturday, Oct. 28, 2 - 3 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden Tours

Join docents for free tours of the gardens. 12001 Main St. For information, call 425-451-3755.

Oct. 21, 22, 28 and 29, 2 - 3 p.m.

Garden Cleanup/Closing Workshop

Learn how to prepare your garden beds for the winter from a master gardener at the Lake Hills Greenbelt Demonstration Garden, 156th Avenue SE and SE 16th Street. For information, call 425-452-7225.

Saturday, Oct. 28, 10:30 a.m. - Noon.

House on Haunted Hill

A "spookical" about neighborhood kids who take a dare to spend the night in an abandoned house. They meet a ghost, a mummy, Frankenstein's monster, Count Dracula and a werewolf. Recommended for ages 6 and older. \$8, Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16661 Northup Way. For information, call 425-452-7155.

*Friday, Nov. 3 & 10 - 7 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 4 & 11 - 7 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 5 & 12 - 2 p.m.*

How the Penguins Saved Santa Claus

Follow a band of penguins as they try to save Santa after he crashes in the Antarctic. Recommended for ages 4 and older. \$8, Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16661 Northup Way. For information, call 425-452-7155.

*Friday, Nov. 24 & Dec. 1 - 7 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 25 & Dec. 2 - 7 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 25 - 1 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 3 - 2 p.m.*

Garden D'Lights at the Bellevue Botanical Garden

This popular holiday tradition features thousands of twinkling lights that transform the Bellevue Botanical Garden into a winter wonderland during the annual Garden d'Lights festival. Inspired by plants found in Northwest gardens, hundreds of volunteers have made new creations such as a swan in a lily pond and daffodils and clematis to add to the favorites, such as Charlotte in her web and the large green frog by his favorite pond. Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St. This event is free, with a suggested donation of \$1 per person, \$3 per family.

Saturday, Nov. 25 through Sunday, Dec. 31, 5 - 9:30 p.m.

Hilltop Holiday Craft Show

Craft show featuring thousands of hand-crafted items from more than 80 Northwest crafters. Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th St. Admission is free.

*Wed., Thurs., Fri., Nov. 29 - Dec. 1 - 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 2 - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

Seattle Civic Christmas Ships

Beach celebrations to welcome the Seattle Civic Christmas Ships to Bellevue. Bonfires and hot cider will be provided at Newcastle and Meydenbauer parks. No bonfires or hot cider at Chism Beach Park. For information, call 425-452-4106.

*Sunday, Dec. 3, 6:50 - 7:10 p.m.
Newcastle Beach Park, 4400 Lake Washington Blvd. SE*

*Monday, Dec. 4, 8:50 - 9:10 p.m.
Chism Beach Park, 1175 - 98th Ave SE*

*Thursday, Dec. 21, 8:20 - 8:40 p.m.
Meydenbauer Beach Park, 419 - 98th Ave NE*

Babes in Toyland

A classic holiday musical stars toys, animals and many favorite storybook characters. Recommended for ages 4 and older. \$10, The Theatre at Meydenbauer, 11100 NE 6th St. For information, call 425-452-7155.

*Friday, Dec. 8 - 7 PM
Saturday, Dec. 9 - 7 PM
Sunday, Dec. 10 - 2 PM*

Family Fireside Storytelling

Storytellers recount the Eastside's history by the fireside at the historic Winters House. Historic and modern toys will be on display, as well as a special Santa collection. Visitors can make a toy to take home and tour the house and grounds. This is a free event. Winters House, 2102 Bellevue Way SE. For information, call 425-450-1049

Saturday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Historic Winters House Tour

Winters House, 2102 Bellevue Way SE. Tour this Spanish Eclectic home built in 1929 by Cecilia and Frederick Winters. An Eastside Heritage Center docent will explain the early life and industry of this Mercer Slough Family who bought the land in 1917. For more information, call 425-450-1049.

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SOUTH BELLEVUE COMMUNITY CENTER

a partnership for a healthy community



Happy Birthday, South Bellevue Community Center!

Bellevue's newest community center celebrates its first year of existence with free activities for all ages and free sampler classes. South Bellevue Community Center, 14509 SE Newport Way. For information, call 425-452-4240.

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 5 - 7 p.m.



The Mercer Slough offers views for kayakers and walkers.

City Contact Information

Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Ave. NE/P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

City of Bellevue web site: www.bellevuewa.gov

Information Center: 452-6800

City Council Office: 452-7810

City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Mondays each month: study session 6-8 p.m., regular session 8-10 p.m.
2nd and 4th Mondays each month: extended study session 6-10 p.m.

Community Council Meetings

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.
Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Board & Commission Meetings

Call 452-6805 for meeting locations/agendas

Arts: 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Civil Service: 2nd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Jan., Mar., July, Oct.

Environmental Services: 1st Thursday, 7 p.m.

Human Services: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Library Board: 4th Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Parks & Community Services Board: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Planning: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Transportation: 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Youth Link Board: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

City Offices (all city phone numbers use the 425 area code)

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 452-6464

City Manager: 452-6810

Community Centers

Crossroads: 452-4874

Highland: 452-7686

North Bellevue Senior: 452-7681

South Bellevue: 452-4240

Community Council: 452-6805

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Fire & Emergency Medical

Emergency Only: 911

Business and Information: 452-6892

Inspection/Fire prevention: 452-6872

Human Resources: 452-6838

Job Line: 452-7822 or www.bellevuewa.gov

Information Technology: 452-4626

Marina Hotline: 452-6123

Neighborhood Mediation Program: 452-4091

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

Parks & Community Services

Parks Information: 452-6881

Recreation Registration: 452-6885

Youth Sports: 452-6887

Ballfields: 452-6914

Picnics/Rentals: 452-6914

Park Maintenance: 452-6855

Human Services: 452-6884

Cultural Diversity: 452-7886

Probation: 452-6956

Recreation & Special Services Division: 452-6885

Planning & Community Development: 452-6800

New permit applications and application status: 452-6800

Code compliance: 452-4570

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

Police

Crossroads Station: 452-2891

Factoria Station: 452-2880

D.A.R.E.: 452-7895

Emergency Only: 911

Administration: 452-6952

Complaints and Information: 452-6917

Detective Division: 452-5373

Crime Prevention: Commercial 452-6915; Residential 452-6916

Traffic Safety/Enforcement: 452-6940

Transportation

Administration/Information: 452-6856

Transportation Construction Hotline: 452-7933

Utilities

Administration/Information: 452-2977

Billing/Customer Service: 452-6973

Water, Sewer, Street, & Surface Water Maintenance and Emergency: 452-7840

Other Numbers (Not city government)

King County Animal Control: 206-296-PETS

Allied Waste/Rabanco: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)

Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000

Bellevue IT'S YOUR CITY

It's Your City is published for people who live or work in Bellevue, WA. If you have questions or comments about this publication or city services, call 425-452-4090; or write: Editor, *It's Your City*, City of Bellevue, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012;

or send e-mail to trwaters@bellevuewa.gov
City Manager: Steve Sarkozy
Communications Director: Tim Waters
Graphics: Ted Van Dyken

www.bellevuewa.gov



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Bellevue City Council



Grant Degginger
Mayor



John Chelminiak
Deputy Mayor



Claudia Balducci



Don Davidson



Conrad Lee



Connie Marshall



Phil Noble

Bellevue TV wins national award

Bellevue TV's "It's Your City" program has won first place in the magazine format series produced by a mid-sized city, an award given by the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA).

"It's Your City" is a monthly program that covers people, events and issues in Bellevue. The show is produced with assistance from students enrolled in Bellevue Community College's video production program. John Burwell and Robin Haaseth are executive producers for the show, and Haaseth is the regular host. The program, which first aired in 1999, can be seen on channel 21 in Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond. Old episodes of the monthly program can be viewed in the video archives on the City of Bellevue website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov>.

The NATOA awards, presented in August, recognize excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. Jurisdictions competed nationally against others with similar operating budgets. This year, NATOA received more than 1,100 entries representing 180 agencies from 28 states across the country.

Santa Barbara, Calif., took second place behind Bellevue in the NOTOA contest and St. Paul, Minn., took third. Bellevue Television also received an honorable mention in the community awareness category for a video about the Cascade Water Alliance.



Producer-director David Bruckner films Bellevue TV host and executive producer Robin Haaseth for an episode of the award-winning "It's Your City" program.