

Parks & Community Services Board

Regular Meeting

February 13, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall

Room 1E-113

450 110th Avenue NE

Bellevue, WA



AGENDA

Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting

<p>Boardmembers:</p> <p>Mark Van Hollebeke, Chair</p> <p>Eric Synn, Vice-Chair</p> <p>Yu Deng</p> <p>Stuart Heath</p> <p>Debra Kumar</p> <p>Heather Trescases</p> <p>City Council Liaison:</p> <p>Jennifer Robertson, Councilmember</p> <p>Staff Contacts:</p> <p>Terry Smith – 425-452-5379</p> <p>Nancy Harvey – 425-452-4162</p>	<p>Tuesday February 13, 2018 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bellevue City Hall Conference Room 1E-113 450 110th Avenue NE Bellevue, WA 98004</p>																														
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">Page</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Call to Order of Meeting – Chair Van Hollebeke</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Page</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Approval of Agenda (1 minute)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Approval of Park Board Minutes (1 minute)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Minutes from the January 9, 2018 Regular Meeting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Oral Communications/Public Comments</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>Note: Three-minute limit per person; maximum of three persons permitted to speak to each side of any one topic. Five minutes if representing a group.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Communications from City Council, Community Council, Boards and Commissions (5 minutes)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Director’s Report (5 minutes)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• Follow-up on Oral Communications/public comments from prior meetings</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Board Communication (7 minutes)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. Chair Communication & Discussion (5 minutes)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9. Boardmember Committee/Liaison Reports (5 minutes)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee – Boardmember Kumar (See memo on page 19)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• Bylaws Subcommittee – Vice-Chair Synn and Boardmember Heath</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Page	1. Call to Order of Meeting – Chair Van Hollebeke	Page	2. Approval of Agenda (1 minute)		3. Approval of Park Board Minutes (1 minute)		a. Minutes from the January 9, 2018 Regular Meeting	1	4. Oral Communications/Public Comments	N/A	<i>Note: Three-minute limit per person; maximum of three persons permitted to speak to each side of any one topic. Five minutes if representing a group.</i>		5. Communications from City Council, Community Council, Boards and Commissions (5 minutes)	N/A	6. Director’s Report (5 minutes)	N/A	• Follow-up on Oral Communications/public comments from prior meetings		7. Board Communication (7 minutes)	N/A	8. Chair Communication & Discussion (5 minutes)	N/A	9. Boardmember Committee/Liaison Reports (5 minutes)	N/A	• Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee – Boardmember Kumar (See memo on page 19)		• Bylaws Subcommittee – Vice-Chair Synn and Boardmember Heath	
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10. Discussion/Action Items (time for presentation/discussion)	
a. Natural Resource Division Overview (20/10) (information) – Geoff Bradley	11
b. Downtown Park’s NE Corner Entry (20/25)(information) – Ken Kroeger, Glenn Kost	15
c. Board Retreat Planning (10) – Chair Van Hollebeke	N/A
11. New Business (1 minute)	N/A
12. Establish Agenda for Next Meeting	N/A
13. Other Communication	
a. CIP Project Status Report	17
b. Memo re Grand Connection and Wilburton Planning Next Steps	19
14. Information	
• List of upcoming Parks special events	23
• Next scheduled regular Park Board meeting – March 13, 2018.	N/A
15. Oral Communications/Public Comments	
<i>Note: Three-minute limit per person; maximum of three persons permitted to speak to each side of any one topic. Five minutes if representing a group.</i>	N/A
16. Adjournment	

Email the Board: parkboard@bellevuewa.gov

Online information about the Board -
<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/community-services/boards-and-commissions/parks-community-services-board/>

**WELCOME TO YOUR
BELLEVUE PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
MEETING**

Most Parks & Community Services Board business is conducted in public, and citizens are most welcome to watch and listen.

In order to hold a meeting, a quorum of at least four Boardmembers must be present. The Board follows the City Council's example, which operates under its own Rules and Procedures, and conducts its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Boardmembers may add items to the meeting's agenda for discussion or action, with a majority vote of those present, at the time when the agenda is approved.

Before any agenda item can be acted upon, the Chair will call for a motion to take action on that item. After the motion is seconded, the Board discusses the arguments for and against the motion.

Sometimes a Boardmember will propose a different course of action on a subject on the agenda. This is called a substitute motion and also requires a second. After discussion, the substitute motion is voted upon first. If a majority of the Boardmembers vote for the substitute motion, it passes and the matter is completed. If the substitute motion fails to obtain a majority, the Board returns to the original motion and continues to discuss and vote on it.

Other times, a Boardmember may wish to change a pending motion in some way. This is called an amendment. It also requires a second and is voted upon before a vote is taken on the main motion. If the amendment passes, the main motion is then voted upon "as amended." If the amendment does not receive a second or a majority vote, the main motion, as originally proposed, is voted upon.

When necessary, the Board may recess to an executive session. During these closed sessions, the Boardmembers are limited, by law, to discussing only such items as personnel issues, property acquisition and disposition; or to receiving advice from legal counsel on pending or potential litigation. The Chair or Vice-Chair will announce both the reason for any executive session and the anticipated time when the Board will return.

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday
January 9, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Van Hollebeke, Vice-Chair Synn, Boardmembers Deng, Heath, Kumar, Trescases

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmembers Nieuwenhuis and Robertson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Killeen

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash, *via recording*

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Van Hollebeke at 6:06 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Vice-Chair Synn to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the December 5, 2017 Parks & Community Services Board Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Deng to approve the November 14, 2017 Parks & Community Services Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Vice-Chair Synn to amend the main motion and correct page 3 of the meeting minutes, first paragraph, to read:

“Boardmember Heath reported that a written survey was distributed to City Councilmember candidates, and four noted on the survey that they would be in favor of special zoning to protect parks.”

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the main motion as amended.

Chair Van Hollebeke noted that discussions regarding the Downtown Park NE Corner have been postponed until the next meeting due to a delay in the design portion of the project.

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

5. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran discussed the following items:

- Councilmembers will be attending an upcoming Council retreat.
- Board interviews for the Parks Board vacancy will be conducted. *Kevin Killeen (attendee) was introduced as a potential candidate.*
- Follow-up on Oral Communications/Public Comments from prior meetings:
 - The Tree Master Plan petition that Pam Johnston and Betsi Hummer referenced at a previous Parks Board meeting was included in the Board Desk Packet.
 - There was a “high crime area” sign that was recently posted at Robinswood Park that Betsi Hummer referenced at a previous Parks Board meeting. Ms. Hummer specifically inquired why the EBCC was not notified of the recent signage. Staff has followed-up with police to identify protocol and deal with the issue.
 - There were questions raised by Betsi Hummer on whether or not the recent project in the Lake Hills Greenbelt was a Parks related project. A memo was included in the Board Packet to clarify the project that is being conducted by the Utilities Department to replace culverts in the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

Chair Van Hollebeke requested that the Tree Master Plan and safety in parks topics be added to a future Parks Board meeting agenda.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

Councilmember Robertson reported on the following items:

- Approximately 25 applications have been received for the vacant Parks Board position; approximately 10 of the applicants have been selected for interviews.
- There are two new Councilmembers on the City Council. In addition, a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor were selected. Council is also in the process of board and commission liaison assignments.

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- Council will have a retreat next week to get to know the new Councilmembers and discuss future visions and priorities. One of Councilmember Robertson's priorities is an aquatic facility. Councilmember Robertson would like the Parks Boards support/assistance when the time is appropriate.
- The East Main and Wilburton Land Use issues will be presented to Council in the near future.
- There has been growing desire from the public to start the Bel-Red Subarea planning process.

Chair Van Hollebeke inquired if there will be a more detailed update regarding the aquatic facility. This information will be presented to Council in March. Councilmember Robertson requested that courtesy copies of any aquatic facility materials presented to Council be also sent to Parks Boardmembers.

Alteration in meeting agenda:

Item 10 Discussion/Action Items

A. Recognition of Outgoing Boardmember Jared Nieuwenhuis

Councilmember Robinson read a Commendation for Mr. Nieuwenhuis to thank him for serving on the Parks Board. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Foran presented Mr. Nieuwenhuis with a plaque and framed picture as a token of appreciation. In addition, Boardmembers expressed their appreciation to Mr. Nieuwenhuis.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Trescases provided the following report:

- Visited Garden d'Lights.
- Enjoyed the Downtown Park Ice Rink.
- Attended the Sound Cities Association Dinner where an inspirational speaker talked about the importance of sharing the great things about a city to constituents.

Boardmember Deng provided the following report:

- Visited Garden d'Lights.
- Enjoyed a trip to California during the holidays and saw a similar playground to Inspiration Playground.
- Attended the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club Main Club Open House Sampler for adult programs. The event was well attended.

Boardmember Kumar provided the following report:

- Attended the various holiday events in Bellevue.
- Expressed appreciation to City staff for plowing and cleaning the snow throughout the City, particularly on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Vice-Chair Synn provided the following report:

- Attended the various holiday events in Bellevue.
- Visited Inspiration Playground.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Van Hollebeke provided the following report:

- Enjoyed seeing the many people at Inspiration Playground during the holidays.
- Presented the Board’s memo and priorities to City Council. Councilmembers Stokes and Robinson encouraged Boardmembers to clearly articulate budget considerations, (alternative funding, priorities, etc.) in the form of a request.
- Enjoyed the Parks Board holiday party.
- Selected a great artist for the Downtown Park NE Corner. Further information will be provided at the next Board meeting.

9. **BOARDMEMBER/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

A. Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee

Discussed later in meeting agenda.

B. Bylaws Subcommittee

Discussed later in meeting agenda.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Recognition of Outgoing Boardmember Jared Nieuwenhuis

Discussed above.

B. CIP Funding

Mr. Sanner reminded Boardmembers that previous CIP presentations have focused on the revenue side of the CIP. Staff then reviewed the long-term funding needs to identify the “most likely” projects over the next 20 years. Staff discussed some of the methods that went into calculating the project estimates. Mr. Parker reviewed projects for the following categories:

- Open space, greenways, wildlife corridors and trails (approx. \$30M)
- Parks Facilities (approx. \$43M)
- Active Recreation Facilities (approx. \$30-\$55M)
- Urban Parks Systems (approx. \$33-\$75M)
- Waterfront Access (approx. \$75-\$110M)
- Partnership Opportunities (approx. \$70-\$150M)

Boardmember Kumar questioned how much has been spent to date on Airfield Park. Mr. Kost clarified that approximately \$1.5M has been spent in design and permitting. The project is funded, in part, through the levy (approx. \$10M). Mr. Sanner clarified that the levy will be collected through 2028 and within that time horizon the funds will be available for the Airfield Park project.

Vice-Chair Synn inquired if the “Parks Facilities” noted in the project list includes acquisition costs. Mr. Parker explained that Parks Facilities is a very general category. He then discussed the list of “Recommended Capital Project List and Map” that was included on pages 15-17 in the Board packet.

Boardmember Kumar asked who owns Vasa Park. Mr. Parker clarified that Vasa Park is run as a business and that there is a Vasa Park Association. There has long been interest in expanding public access to Lake Sammamish, and that includes a priority for maintaining the public access that exists today at Vasa Park. Mr. Parker added that staff keeps in contact with the Vasa Park Association to see if there’s ever any interest in selling the property.

Mr. Sanner reviewed the list of unfunded Parks Capital Projects. The project total is approximately \$282-\$463M over a 20 year time horizon. The primary funding source for these projects is the Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET). Parks receives approximately \$7M per year with approximately \$2M per year available for new projects. This funding source can be supplemented with voter initiatives and other funding sources (i.e., grants, incentive zoning, leveraging, impact fees, etc.). Mr. Sanner discussed the challenges of identifying available funding sources. Overall, the existing funding for Parks may not be adequate.

Mr. Sanner outlined some actions the Board may take in the future:

- Develop Board communication to the Council about Parks capital funding.
- Review prior discussions, including the funding overview, the Parks Board roles in the 2008 Levy, and incentive zoning.
- Endorse the list of Parks capital projects to request as part of the 2019-2025 CIP (March/April).
 - Remaining levy projects (Airfield Park, Lake Sammamish neighborhood park).
 - Requests from last budget – Newport Hills (Tyler property), Bridle Trails (140th Avenue).
 - Other projects identified by the Board.

Mr. Foran clarified that a portion of REET is allocated to Parks. However, other City funding may be available. The Parks budget allocations compete with other City needs (i.e., roads, fire stations, etc.).

Boardmember Heath suggested that the Board consider requesting Council approval for a percentage of the overall City budget (i.e., 2%), rather than asking Bellevue citizens for additional funding.

Chair Van Hollebeke reminded Boardmembers that the Board sent a memo to Council approximately two years ago to call attention to the deficit in funding for parks. Since at that time additional funding was not allocated and two years have passed, Chair Van Hollebeke suggested the following actions be taken:

- Explain the Board’s “ask” to Council—Bellevue is committed to being a City in a Park. The City is becoming denser. In keeping with the goal of a City in a Park, the Board and Parks Department are facing challenges with the budget gap continuing to grow.
- Request that not only standard funding options be considered (i.e., REET, grants, levies) but also additional funding sources (partnerships, land use incentives, impact fees, etc.).
- Explain that the current funding allocations are not enough. Need to consider private/public partnerships as well as a Parks Foundation.

Chair Van Hollebeke suggested that Boardmembers send a memo to Council to inspire them about park-related issues. He suggested that the memo include both short-term and long-term projects as well as the budget short-fall. Some of the items that could be referenced in the memo include: aquatic center, major park in Bel-Red Area, neighborhood parks in the areas that are lacking, etc. In addition, Chair Van Hollebeke suggested that the memo note that the current funding methods are inadequate and other funding options need to be considered. Vice-Chair Synn added that the Board may want to offer good-better-best scenarios to be presented in the memo.

Boardmember Trescases favored the general concept of Chair Van Hollebeke’s suggestion and would like some context provided for the additional funding. She added that it’s important to explain the long-term vision and thoughtful process that the Board has conducted. In addition, Boardmember Trescases wants to ensure that acquisition funding be available in case an opportunity arises.

Boardmembers stressed the importance of a public engagement process to determine the community’s priorities.

Chair Van Hollebeke noted that the memo to Council should be presented in a helpful and collaborative manner. He suggested that Lee Springate’s *A Miracle in Downtown Bellevue* book be referenced in the memo. Bellevue Parks has had extraordinary planners and visionaries. However, Chair Van Hollebeke noted that it is evident that changes must be made to continue the vision. He suggested that the Parks Board Retreat include additional discussions about a Council memo and defining the following:

- Historical perspective of the Ask
- Ask
- Justification for the Ask
- Suggested ways to tackle the Ask

Mr. Foran noted that the Parks system needs to be viewed as an investment and there is significant return on the investment. With the growth throughout the City, particularly in the Bel-Red Area, there is potential for corporate investment. Mr. Foran cited Millennium Park in

Chicago that prominently recognizes the corporations who helped fund the park. Chair Van Hollebeke added that companies want park amenities to attract employees.

Boardmember Heath noted that few people attend Council meetings to advocate for parks. They advocate for homeless shelters and bicycles. Boardmember Heath supports a memo to Council that requests that Council prioritize adequate investment, rather than adequate funding, in parks as their 2018 priority.

Boardmember Trescases inquired if Boardmembers should start CIP discussions a few months prior to the next Council retreat, so that we do not miss the opportunity for parks to be part of Council retreat discussions concerning capital projects and city priorities in the future.

Motion by Vice-Chair Synn and second by Boardmember Heath to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

There was general consensus to have Chair Van Hollebeke have conversations with Councilmembers before their upcoming retreat to encourage them to make adequate investments in parks a priority.

C. Board Retreat Planning

Boardmembers would like a half-day retreat on a Saturday. Staff will survey Boardmembers to determine an agreeable date/time.

Alteration in meeting agenda:

Item 9 Boardmember/Committee/Liaison Reports

A. Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee

A *Wilburton Commercial Area Citizen Advisory Committee Design Statements* handout was included in the Board Desk Packet. Boardmember Kumar noted that her presentation to the Wilburton CAC was well received. She added that the work of the CAC is winding down. Boardmember Kumar reviewed the design guideline statements. She will request that any information forwarded to Council be also forwarded to the Parks Board. The final CAC report is expected to be complete in March, 2018.

Boardmembers are to review the *Wilburton Commercial Area Citizen Advisory Committee Design Statements* and provide feedback to Boardmember Kumar.

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Vice-Chair Synn to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

B. Bylaws Subcommittee

Vice-Chair Synn reported that the Bylaws Subcommittee met and is planning on meeting with staff from the City Attorney's and City Clerk's Offices in the near future.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

12. **ESTABLISHING AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Boardmembers suggested that the following topics be included in the next meeting agenda:

- Tree cover and Tree Master Plan
- Public Safety in Parks
- Park Zoning

Boardmember Trescases suggested that “mission moments” be added to future meeting agendas where Parks staff can share stories of their experiences. This could help with future advocacy. Chair Van Hollebeke also suggested that it might be helpful to have a presentation on social media related to Parks.

Mr. Smith reminded the Board that additional Board discussion about the Wilburton CAC should be included on a future meeting agenda, as well as the Downtown Park NE Entry Project. These would potentially be on the February agenda.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Memo from Utilities and Parks Staff re Culvert/Replacement Projects in Lake Hills Greenbelt
- C. Facebook compliments re park maintenance
- D. Email re Phantom/Larsen Lake Channel Improvements
- E. Email re Robinswood sign

14. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Next regular Parks Board meeting—February 13, 2018

These minutes are in DRAFT form until approved by the Parks & Community Services Board.

15. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Vice-Chair Synn to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).



Date: February 13, 2018
To: Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board
From: Geoff Bradley, Natural Resource Manager
Subject: Natural Resource Division Overview
(Information only; no Board action is requested.)

Mission

To promote stewardship of Bellevue’s natural and cultural resources and provide maintenance and management for Natural Resource Division managed lands.

Service Recipients

Natural Resource Division services are provided throughout the community to a wide spectrum of Bellevue residents of all ages, income levels, and ethnic backgrounds. The division also provides services within the Parks Department, interdepartmentally, and to the local business community who share an interest in the Street Tree and Arterial Landscape program.

Background

As Bellevue has rapidly grown from a bedroom community to a thriving metropolitan city it hasn’t forgotten it’s environmental roots. As communities grow it becomes increasingly important to preserve and maintain natural areas to help protect community benefits such as water quality, wildlife habitat, passive recreation, and land use buffers. The City of Bellevue has been a leader in efforts to preserve, maintain, and enhance open space lands, trail facilities, and tree lined streets that provide environmental benefits, recreational opportunities, and community character. The City’s Comprehensive Plan, Park Plan and land use codes all guide these efforts that improve the quality of life for present and future generations.

In nature, all things are connected. This statement reflects one of the guiding principle in the management of community open space; connecting lands to provide biological connectivity, wildlife corridors, and non-motorized recreational opportunities. Like the string connecting the pearls on a necklace the iconic Lake to Lake Trail and Greenway meanders through Mercer Slough, Wilburton Hill Park, Kelsey Creek Park, Lake Hills Greenbelt, and Weowna Park to connect Lake Washington to Lake Sammamish. These large open space gems comprise over 900 acres and represent the heart of Bellevue’s open space park system. With over 4.5 miles of trails the Coal Creek Natural Area offers a more “wilderness-like” experience while connecting regional open space in Tiger, Squak and Cougar Mountains to shores of Lake Washington. This interconnected system of parks and greenways reflect Bellevue’s commitment to connecting citizens to nature and providing high quality recreational opportunities for its citizens.

Similarly, the Street Tree and Arterial Landscape program provides beautification and environmental benefits along motorized transportation corridors, connecting parks, business, and residential communities. Likewise, the Nature Parks and Visitor Center program provides environmental education and community involvement opportunities that help connect citizens to both the land and their community.

Budget, Staffing, and Program Areas

The Natural Resource Division currently employs (21) full-time employees, (12) seasonal 9-month employees, (3) part-time variable employees, and up to (20) summer seasonal employees. It has an annual operating budget of approximately \$6,000,000.

Comprehensive natural resources management requires an integrated, holistic approach which includes planning, maintenance, renovation, environmental education and community involvement. To accomplish this the Natural Resource Division consists of six integrated program areas. A brief synopsis of Natural Resource Division program areas is listed below. These program areas support each other and function synergistically to provide seamless service delivery.

Forest Management and Native Growth Protection Areas

- Ongoing maintenance and renovation for over 2,000 acres of natural areas
- Annual inspection of 100 miles of public-private property line bordering over 2,600 private properties

Street Tree and Arterial Landscape Program

- Over 200 acres of streetscapes with 10,000 + street trees
- Development review services for both Transportation CIP and private development projects to ensure consistency with and protect integrity of arterial landscapes and irrigation systems

Greenway & Trails Program

- Trail planning, construction and maintenance for over 85 miles of multi-use trails
- On-going maintenance for the Mercer Slough and Larsen Lake blueberry farms

Community Parks & Visitor Centers

- Operation of 4 visitor centers focusing on environmental programming
- Community Farms and Gardens including agricultural leases, farm fresh produce stands, community p-patches and the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden
- Well KEPT (Kids Environmental Project Training) program
- Seasonal Park Ranger Program (Memorial Day – Labor Day)

Volunteer Program

- Stewardship Saturdays/Eco-Friday Program
- Master Naturalist/Park Stewards Program
- Partnership with the Pacific Science Center, Eastside Heritage Center, and Master Gardeners
- Annual Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration

Water Conservation & Irrigation Program

- 79 Developed Park sites and 52 Streetscape Sites
- Maxicom irrigation system software that controls irrigation water times and frequencies based on evaporation-transpiration rates monitored through the City's weather station.
- 225 Irrigation controllers with over 2,250 separate zones

Conclusion

As population, traffic, and housing densities in Bellevue continue to increase, so will the need for open space and natural areas to help mitigate the effects of urbanization. Urban forests provide tree canopy that helps intercept and detain storm water, buffer land uses, conserve plant and animal habitat, and protect air and water quality. Trails provide access into these areas creating opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and reflection. Arterial landscaping and street trees offer respite from traffic congestion and create community character. Environmental education and citizen involvement instill strong conservation ethics, reminding us we all live downstream and true success can only be achieved through community stewardship.

Urban natural areas are better thought of as loans from our children than gifts from our parents. To maximize the benefits derived from forests and open space, we must manage these resources with same skill and diligence as any other community asset. The Parks & Community Services Department will continue to be a strong advocate for the preservation, conservation, and restoration of urban open space to help reinforce Bellevue's "City in a Park" character.



Date: February 5, 2018

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Glenn Kost, Planning Division Manager
Ken Kroeger, Project Manager
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Downtown Park – NE Corner Entry
(Information; no Board action requested)

At your February meeting, we will provide a status report on this funded CIP project, which will create a park entry at the Downtown Park’s NE corner (SW corner of Bellevue Way and NE 4th). We will introduce several early site designs and update you on the schedule, the Board’s role and public art process.



PARKS CIP PROJECT STATUS REPORT January 2018

Bannerwood Park

The staff is working with representatives of Seattle University to provide additional upgrades to the Bannerwood baseball facility. SU would like to install a roof over the existing batting cages and to construct a small multi-use/clubhouse building behind one of the dugouts, all at the cost of SU. We are currently working to amend our current agreements with SU to facilitate these improvements.

Downtown Park – NE Entry

Design is underway to create a park entry at the NE corner of the park (SW corner of Bellevue Way and NE 4th). The project will also seek to incorporate the City's Grand Connection and public art concepts into the project. A consultant team is preparing design alternatives, and an artist has been selected to be part of the design team. A project update to the Park Board is scheduled for the February 13 Park Board meeting.

Meydenbauer Bay Phase 1 Park Development

Construction is approximately one-half complete, with expected completion at the end of 2018. Beach house walls are complete, and the major retaining walls are under construction. Stream bed construction is complete with the exception of landscape planting which will occur in spring. Most in-water work is complete, including shoreline restoration and installation of all pier pilings. The pier structure is in place, and the floating sections will be installed this spring. Work along the Lake Washington Boulevard right-of way is underway with the installation of a new water line completed. The work to bury the overhead wires along LWB is expected to be complete by February. Work along 99th Street is will begin in February with the installation of underground utilities followed by the construction of a series of retaining walls to provide ADA access to the water and establish the hand-carry boat launch. We continue to work with Whalers Cove to develop plans to restore their privacy once we remove a city-owned landscape hedge in the 99th Avenue right-of-way. The Whaling Building remodeling, which will include public restrooms, a meeting room and boat rental facility, is expected to begin first quarter of 2018.

Park & Natural Areas Levy Projects Summary

- **Synthetic Sportsfield at Wilburton Hill Park:** Project complete.
- **Synthetic Sportsfield at Newport Hills Park:** Project complete.
- **Lewis Creek Park Picnic Area:** Project complete.
- **BYT Construction:** Project complete. Construction is nearly complete on the conversion of the storage room into a second rehearsal space.
- **Bellevue Airfield Park:** Site analysis and initial schematic design is complete. The cost estimates for Phase 1 are significantly over the anticipated budget, so we continue to explore schematic design options and costs to determine the Phase 1 scope of work.

- **Botanical Garden Projects:**
 - **Ravine Garden:** Project complete.
 - **Visitor Center:** Project complete.
- **Neighborhood Parks:**
 - **Bridle Trails/140th Ave property acquisition:** Project complete.
 - **Bridle Trails Corner Park acquisition & development:** Project complete.
 - **Newport Hills Tyler/Patterson acquisition:** Project complete.
- **Downtown Park “Complete the Circle” Development:** Project complete.
- **Hidden Valley/Boys & Girls Club Partnership:** Project complete.
- **Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park:** No activity.
- **Surrey Downs Park Development:** Design revisions and permit review continue. Light rail construction is on schedule to allow park construction to begin April 2018. Park construction is out for bid. Bids are due February 8th and contract award is anticipated on February 20th. Staff continues to work with the adjacent neighbors to address property encroachment issues and to identify an appropriate boundary fence to install. The second set of letters to the neighbors will be sent in February. We continue to coordinate with Sound Transit, who is providing excess soil for park landscape berms and coordinating utility infrastructure.

Renovation Program

56 projects were completed in 2017. The following projects were deferred into the 2018 program:

- Drinking fountain replacement at 3 sites
- Sealcoat & restripe the golf course parking lot
- Resurface Cherry Crest tennis courts
- Forest Park trail repair
- Zipline storage/ticket booth
- Design for Kelsey Creek Ed Barn improvements, NWAC restroom and Wilburton synthetic turf replacement
- Interpretive signage at MSEEC
- Meydenbauer Whaling Building remodel
- Robinswood Tennis bubble replacement
- McDowell House repairs
- Paving and drainage improvements at Kelsey Creek
- Summit trail repairs

57 additional projects have been approved as part of the 2018 Renovation Program.

- Project updates will be provided in future reports.



Date: February 5, 2018
To: Parks & Community Services Board
From: Camron Parker, Parks Property & Acquisition Manager
Parks & Community Services
Subject: Grand Connection & Wilburton Planning Next Steps
(information only)

This year will be eventful for the continued planning and design of the Grand Connection as well as the Wilburton Commercial Area. Boardmember Kumar’s work on the Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee will continue through May, at which point the CAC will refine and complete their City Council-directed work to establish a future vision of the Wilburton area. The CAC’s work product will be presented to city boards and commissions in June (should the current schedule hold). This will allow the City Council to consider the CAC vision paired with any feedback that boards and commissions may choose to provide.

As part of the Wilburton planning process, the City has released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that analyzes the impacts of several different redevelopment scenarios. It also considers the impact of the three I-405 crossing types under consideration to connect Downtown Bellevue to Wilburton. These crossing types were presented to the Board at the July 2017 meeting. A notice with more detail on the DEIS is attached to this memo. The DEIS will provide useful insight for the second sequence of the Grand Connection that extends from the I-405 crossing to the Eastside Rail Corridor.

Finally, work will also commence on a more detailed design for the Grand Connection, as a whole. This work springs from the Framework Plan that the Board reviewed last year and the additional studies and reports described above. Selection of a design team is currently underway. That project will include public engagement opportunities later in 2018.

If you have any questions about these projects, please contact me at 425-452-2032 or cparker@bellevuewa.gov.



February 1, 2018

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Bellevue's Wilburton Commercial Area Land Use and Transportation Project

The City of Bellevue has identified the Wilburton Commercial Area as a future urban neighborhood providing new opportunities for businesses, entertainment, and housing, exhibiting a unique design aesthetic, and offering new transportation modes and connections. Wilburton is located between two high growth centers in Bellevue – Downtown and BelRed – and is slated for major transit, pedestrian, and cyclist connectivity improvements that will serve as a catalyst for change. East Link light rail will offer high capacity transit connectivity to the region by 2023; the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) will create a regional non-motorized connection for pedestrians and cyclists; and the City-led initiative of the Grand Connection will create opportunities to reconnect Downtown and the Wilburton Commercial Area for cyclists and pedestrians.

Based on a vision developed with the guidance of a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), amendments to **the City's Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Code, and Zoning Map will be made for City Council** consideration that would facilitate investment and redevelopment. To help the CAC and other City decision makers consider the environmental implications of land use and transportation options, this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) studies three alternatives:

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative is required by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and assumes the current Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Code, and Zoning Map are retained. The Wilburton Commercial Area could grow from about 3.6 million square feet of development to 4.2 million square feet of development. City-planned transportation investments in the current Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element could be made. However, the Grand Connection would be assumed to not be developed under the No Action Alternative. As a King County-led initiative, the ERC would be completed under the No Action Alternative.

Alternative 1: Under Alternative 1 the Wilburton Commercial Area Land Use & Transportation Project could encourage development of a more intense urban form and promote additional multimodal connections. New Land Use Code standards could increase allowable building heights and floor area ratios while providing custom design standards for buildings to create compatible urban forms. There could be a greater concentration of development and mix of uses, with an emphasis on adding housing, office/medical, retail, and hotel space. The amount of potential development could grow to 13.1 million square feet of development, or about 8.8 million square feet more than the No Action Alternative. The ERC could connect to the eastern terminus of the Grand Connection and could improve pedestrian and bicycle connections. Additional street connections could allow for smaller blocks different development patterns and opportunities. The range of building heights could be 35 feet to 250 feet, with a range between 120 feet and 160 feet being the most predominant building form.

Alternative 2: Alternative 2 is similar to Alternative 1 except that potential growth could be about one-third higher, up to 16.3 million square feet of development, or 12.1 million square feet more than the No Action Alternative, and the urban form could be more intense across the Study Area. Building heights between NE 8th Street, NE 4th Street, and west of 116th Avenue NE could reach 300 to 450 feet in height, with ranges between 200 and 250 feet, and 120 and 160 feet, being the most predominant. Additional street connections could allow for smaller blocks and a different development pattern and opportunities from the No Action Alternative.

At a programmatic level, each alternative is evaluated in terms of beneficial and adverse effects associated with geology and soils, water resources, air quality/greenhouse gas, ecosystems, land use and economic activity, neighborhoods and population, aesthetics, transportation, noise, energy, environmental health, and public services and utilities.

You may provide comments on the Draft EIS over a 45-day comment period, from February 1 to March 19, 2018. Written comments must be submitted by March 19, 2018. Written comments may be submitted:

By email to: bcalvert@bellevueawa.gov

By letter to:
City of Bellevue
Planning and Community Development
Department
Attn: Bradley Calvert
450 110th Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

The DEIS can be found at the following:

https://planning.bellevuewa.gov/planning/planning-initiatives/wilburton-grand-connection/citizen_advisory_committee/

A public hearing to present oral or written comments is planned on February 28, 2018 at 4:30 pm, at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98004.

Thank you for your interest in the future of the Wilburton Commercial Area. If you have questions, please contact Bradley Calvert, 425-452-6930.

Sincerely,
Bradley Calvert, AICP



Community Development Program Manager
Department of Planning & Community Development

**Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Events List
(This list is a guide. Details may change.)**

FEBRUARY 2018

- Feb 2 and 9 Painting the Bellevue Skyline**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Bellevue Main Club, 209 100th Avenue NE
Enjoy the sweeping view as you paint the Bellevue City Skyline with Downtown Park in the foreground. Work at your own pace or alongside seasoned artist and teacher, Shelly Vollstedt. All materials (including canvas) and basic instruction are included. This is a two-session class. **Ages:** Adults. **Cost:** \$35/residents and \$40/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Feb 2 Lewis Creek Story Time: “Wonderful Evergreen Trees”**
Two sessions, choose one – 11 a.m. –noon OR 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Look, listen and create during an indoor hour of stories and crafts. What do evergreen trees mean to you? During this story time we’ll explore the importance of trees to different people and animals. We always make a fun craft to take home. **Ages:** Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for children and adults. **Info and to register:** 425-452-4195.
- Feb 3 Lewis Creek Ranger-Led Hike**, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Park Ranger to explore the natural and cultural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife, and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Distance:** Approximately 1 mile. **Level of difficulty:** Easy-Moderate (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Feb 3 Getting to the Points: The Early Days of Medina, Hunts Point and Yarrow Point (Eastside Heritage Center program)**, 2 p.m. – 3p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
The Points Communities were among the earliest places settled on the Eastside, and evolved very differently from the surrounding areas of Bellevue and Kirkland. Their terrain made them less suited to agriculture and convenient ferry service stations to Seattle. This would result in them evolving early into sought-after locations for summer homes, large estates and commuter suburbs. This heritage program will be led by Eastside Heritage Board Member and former Mayor of Medina, Mike Luis. Light bites and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. This event is supported by 4Culture and presented in partnership with Bellevue Parks & Community Services. **Cost:** Free and open to the public, but a suggested donation of \$5-\$10 is warmly appreciated. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** info@eastsideheritagecenter.org or 425-450-1049. **Info:** <http://www.eastsideheritagecenter.org/>

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Feb 4** **Mercer Slough Family-Friendly Ranger Walk**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This family-friendly program allows parents and their kids to explore the mosaic of habitats while learning more about the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. This hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge on the shores of the Slough. From there you can continue to explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** mseec@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Feb 4** **Tricky Crafty Camouflage**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Is seeing believing? Just because we don't see animals doesn't mean they're not there. Discover how animals trick your eyes using different camouflage methods, before heading outside to test your spotting skills with a fun foraging quest! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Feb 5** **Sewing Sampler & Machine Maintenance**, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Cheryl Kuczek presents the sewing workshop for anyone who desires to be engaged in and educated about sewing as a life skill. Topics will focus on mending techniques, making pillow covers, jewelry bags, zip bags, hand sewing, patchwork embellishment, quilting, and making t-shirts. Students will be given material supply lists for each project before that project is started. You can bring your own well-running sewing machine to learn how it runs, or borrow one from the instructor. **Ages:** 16 years and older. **Cost:** \$40/residents and \$48/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Feb 6** **Positive Discipline for the Early Years**, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Bellevue Main Club, 209 100th Avenue NE
Join us to learn tools and strategies for parenting the 1 to 5 year-old. Solve problems, teach your child to listen, and learn ways to develop a family culture of respect and peace. Techniques will help parents stay calm in the face of the parenting storm. Enjoy the adventure of parenting! No child care provided. **Ages:** Adults only, ages 18 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Feb 9** **Lovely Ducks**, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
It's hard to imagine a wetland in the Pacific Northwest without our web-footed friends. Enjoy a talk about our local ducks and how they raise ducklings together in the spring! **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** 425-452-6993.
- Feb 10** **Valentine Fun**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
Adult and child will team together to create beautiful Valentine cards, share your love with a farm animal, and participate in some fun holiday activities. **Ages:** 3 to 6 years old. **Cost:** \$25/residents and \$30/non-residents. Additional family member - \$5/residents and \$6/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.
- Feb 10** **Family Fun: Funny Little Valentine**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Robinswood Barn, 2432 148th Avenue SE
Make a special gift for your special pal to take home! Sing song, do a little dance, and complete the morning decorating a sweet Valentine treat. This is a child and caregiver class. Come join the fun! Karen Renfroe-Gielgens, instructor. **Ages:** Best for ages 2-5 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** \$30/residents and \$35/non-residents. Additional family member - \$6/resident and \$7/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Feb 10** **Tricky Crafty Camouflage**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Is seeing believing? Just because we don't see animals doesn't mean they're not there. Discover how animals trick your eyes using different camouflage methods, before heading outside to test your spotting skills with a fun foraging quest! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Feb 11** **Coal Creek Natural Area Ranger Hike**, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Meets at: Cinder Mine Trailhead (Newcastle Golf Course Road, west of Redtown Trailhead)
Discover Bellevue's largest park and get lost in the wilderness while still in the city! This area is rich in history and wildlife. **Distance:** 2 miles. **Level of difficulty:** Moderate (100 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Feb 12** **Sewing Workshop: How to Hem Anything!** 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Cheryl Kuczek presents the sewing workshop for anyone who desires to be engaged in and educated about sewing as a life skill for all-purpose needs. Hemming is an essential skill that never goes out of style. Learn a variety of sewing techniques that help you adapt or repair current clothing. **Ages:** 16 years and older. **Cost:** \$40/residents and \$48/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Feb 13** **Washington Native Plant Society Lecture: “Learn to Identify the Common Mosses and Liverworts of Western Washington,”** 7 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Stewart Hougen of the Mountaineers will present a workshop with a field trip on the following weekend at the Redmond Watershed for more hands-on experience. **Info:** http://www.wnps.org/cps_programs.html
- Feb 14** **Happy Love Day! (Early Release Wednesday),** 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
Help create enrichment opportunities to actively engage and entertain our farm animals. Learn how they think, how each animal needs different activities based on their instincts, and why it’s important for animals to stay busy. Let’s make our farm animals’ habitats rewarding and fun. We’ll work in the farm yard and do art/craft activities, too. **Ages:** 5 to 9 years old. **Cost:** \$25/residents and \$30/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.
- Feb 14** **Sweetheart Hike at Lewis Creek Park,** 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Get outside before your dinner date! Bring your sweetheart or best friend, and join a Park Ranger on a hike to celebrate Valentine’s Day. Learn about native animal pairs and more, as we wander through Lewis Creek Park. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Feb 16** **Night Hike,** 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
When the sun sets and the dark of night creeps in, Lewis Creek Park comes alive! Learn about the different nocturnal and crepuscular species that call Bellevue home, and join a park ranger on a hike through the woods after dark! Bring a flashlight or headlamps, as well as good shoes and warm clothes, for the journey! **Ages:** 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for children and adults. **To register:** 425-452-4195. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Feb 16** **An Evergreen Evening (Hike)**, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
Join us for an evening hike in the Lake Hills Greenbelt. Bring your flashlight and a warm coat as we listen for and learn about creatures that get active in the dark hours! **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** 425-452-6993.
- Feb 17** **Garden Class: “Making Paper Icelandic Poppies,”** 10 a.m. - noon
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
During this class, taught by Kate Alarcon, you’ll make your own colorful Icelandic poppies! They are made from hand-colored fine crepe paper in shades of ombre pink, coral, and orange, wrapped around a wire. You’ll receive supplies to make three poppies, as well as a supply list to make more on your own. You’ll also learn how to color the petals so you can make your own custom-colored paper at home. This class is perfect for beginners with lots of individualized attention to help you create these beautiful flowers. **Cost:** \$55 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$65/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>
- Feb 17** **Family Discovery Series: Amphibians & Reptiles – For Goodness Snakes,**
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Have you ever wondered what cold-blooded critters may be slithering or sauntering throughout the Mercer Slough Nature Park, what to do if you see one? Join a Park Ranger to learn more about our wetland amphibians and reptiles and their role in the ecosystem. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Feb 18** **Tricky Crafty Camouflage**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Is seeing believing? Just because we don’t see animals doesn’t mean they’re not there. Discover how animals trick your eyes using different camouflage methods, before heading outside to test your spotting skills with a fun foraging quest! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Feb 23** **Nature Movie: “Life in Cold Blood – Sophisticated Serpents,”**
5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Prepare to be amazed as this documentary, a joint effort by the BBC and Animal Planet, gets you up close and personal with these masterful hunters. This program is a special presentation from the City of Bellevue’s Master Naturalists. **Ages:** All ages welcome; however, this film contains some graphic predator-prey interactions that may not be appropriate for some younger viewers. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Feb 23** **Disco Fever Dance, 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**
Highland Community Center, 14224 Bel-Red Road
This event is facilitated for individuals living with intellectual disabilities. This groovy affair is the perfect opportunity to dust off those culottes and bell bottoms. Boogie on down to Highland Community Center as we jive the night away. **Ages:** 16 years and older, individuals living with intellectual disabilities. **Cost:** \$10/resident; \$12/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** Contact Mary Boyle at Mboyle@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4118. **Info:** 425-452-7686.
- Feb 23** **Garden Lecture: “Botanical Gardens and Environmental Education: An Exchange between the Pacific Northwest and Eastern Russia”, 7 p.m.**
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Since 2009, botanic gardens in the Russian Far East and the Pacific Northwest have been participating in an exchange of ideas and knowledge. This lecture will explore three Russian botanic gardens, their surrounding native floras, and their growing environmental education programs. Join us for this lecture by project initiator and Seattle native, Tony Allison, and two of his colleagues from the Russian Far East. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Recommended. **Info:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>
- Feb 24** **Living with Wildlife: That Woodpecker is Driving Me Crazy!**
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Ever wonder which species of bird is making that obnoxious sound on the chimney and nearby trees? Of the eleven species of woodpeckers that live in Washington, the northern flicker is probably the most commonly seen and heard. Come learn about the benefits of having woodpeckers in your yard, and how we can get along together. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** 13 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Feb 26** **Sewing Workshop – Easy Drawstring Gift Bags**, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Cheryl Kuczek presents the sewing workshop for anyone who desires to be engaged in and educated about sewing as a life skill for all-purpose needs. Heming is an essential skill that never goes out of style. Learn a variety of sewing techniques that help you adapt or repair current clothing. **Ages:** 16 years and older. **Cost:** \$40/residents and \$48/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Feb 28** **Positive Discipline for the Early Years**, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Join us to learn tools and strategies for parenting the 1 to 5 year-old. Solve problems, teach your child to listen, and learn ways to develop a family culture of respect and peace. Techniques will help parents stay calm in the face of the parenting storm. Enjoy the adventure of parenting! No child care provided. **Ages:** Adults only, ages 18 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.

**Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Events List
(This list is a guide. Details may change.)**

MARCH 2018

- March 1** **Garden Class: “Grow Your Own Plant Starts,”** 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Taught by Tilth Alliance. Get a head start on spring and summer by starting your organic veggie garden indoors now! Learn about supplies needed for setting up your indoor growing space, planting and caring for vegetable seeds and seedlings, organic practices not requiring synthetic chemicals, and how to harden off and transplant your little plants. **Cost:** \$25 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>
- March 2** **Lewis Creek Story Time: “Slippery, Slithery Ssssnakes” (presented by Bellevue Master Naturalists)**
Two sessions, choose one – 11 a.m. –noon OR 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Look, listen and create during an hour of stories and crafts presented by the Bellevue Master Naturalist Corps. Did you know that snakes can “smell” the air with their tongues when hunting for prey, or that they can unhinge their jaws? Join us for stories about these incredible creatures! We always make a fun craft to take home. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for children and adults. **Info and to register:** 425-452-4195.
- March 2** **Bellevue College Science Workshop for Children: Kitchen Chemistry,**
4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Come learn about science with your child, and do experiments that can be done easily with supplies from your kitchen. Parent can attend with child, but no under-age siblings are permitted. **Ages:** 5-8 years old. **Cost:** \$20/resident and \$24/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- March 3** **Garden Class: “Hydrangea How-To,”** 10 a.m. - noon
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Taught by Kit Haesloop, President of the Northwest Perennial Alliance. Learn how to get peak performance from hydrangeas in your garden. Kit will provide guidance on growing conditions, bloom color, and pruning options for different species, as well as a demonstration of proper pruning techniques on several species that grow in the NPA Perennial Border at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Class is indoor/outdoor. **Cost:** \$25 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members and Northwest Perennial Alliance members; \$35/non members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- March 3** **Garden Class: “Native Bees & Bee Hotels,”** 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Taught by Crown Bees. In this family class, appropriate for adults and children, you will learn how hole-nesting bees live, what they need in your garden to thrive, and how to provide them with a five-star bee hotel. Your class fee includes nesting hole materials and the Native Bee Guide (26-page reference booklet) for you to take home. **Cost:** \$15 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$25/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info:**
<http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>
- March 3** **Lewis Creek Ranger-Led Hike,** 10:30 a.m. - noon
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Park Ranger to explore the natural and cultural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife, and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.
Distance: Approximately 1 mile. **Level of difficulty:** Easy-Moderate (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us!
Cost: Free! **Pre-registration:** Required by 4 p.m. the Friday before the event.
Info and to register: 425-452-4195.
- March 4** **Mercer Slough Family-Friendly Ranger Walk,** 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This family-friendly program allows parents and their kids to explore the mosaic of habitats while learning more about the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. This hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge on the shores of the Slough. From there you can continue to explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** mseec@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- March 4** **Making Tracks in Lewis Creek Park,** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Park Ranger to learn Bellevue’s animal signs, then head outside on a scavenger hunt to see what animals have been through Lewis Creek Park! We’ll look for prints, feathers and even scat to see what’s been happening in the park. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- March 7** **Frisky Goats (Early Release Wednesday)**, 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
Help create enrichment opportunities to actively engage and entertain our farm animals. Learn how they think, how each animal needs different activities based on their instincts, and why it's important for animals to stay busy. Let's make our farm animals' habitats rewarding and fun. We'll work in the farm yard and do art/craft activities, too. **Ages:** 5 to 9 years old. **Cost:** \$25/residents and \$30/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.
- March 9** **The March of Dogs**, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
Where did dogs come from? What makes them different from coyotes and wolves who live in the wild? Join us for a short educational walk learning about the origin of dogs. Well-behaved dogs may absolutely join us for this walk. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** 425-452-6993.
- March 10** **Northwest Perennial Alliance March Mania Plant Sale**, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Shop for spring ephemerals and choice garden plants not readily available at other times of the year. Learn from nursery experts, and let them help you choose some of the earliest bloomers of the season. Most of the sale is held indoors, where the kids can enjoy fun activities just for them while you shop. Shop these specialty nurseries: Botanica, Bouquet Banque, Dan Hinkley's Windcliff, Fancy Fronds, Growing Girls, Lee Farm, and Taking Root Nursery. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the educational programs of NPA and the NPA Border. **Cost:** No admission fee; open to the public. Cost of plants will vary. **Info:** http://www.northwestperennialalliance.org/march_mania.php
- March 10** **Lakemont Highlands Open Space Ranger Hike**, 10 a.m. - noon
Meets at: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Explore the lesser-known trails of South Bellevue. Parks and open spaces guide you (and wildlife!) through friendly neighborhoods. **Distance:** 3.5 miles. **Level of difficulty:** Difficult (350 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- March 10** **St. Patrick's Day at the Farm**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m..
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
Adult and child will team together to make a green treat, get up close with a farm animal and hunt for a pot of gold in the barnyard. This program is for adult/child teams only. **Ages:** Children 3 to 6 years old and their adult. **Cost:** \$25/residents and \$30/non-residents. Additional family member - \$5/resident and \$6/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- March 10** **Lucky Leprechauns**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Robinswood Barn, 2432 148th Avenue SE
Top o’ the mornin’ to ya! Join us for art, games, music, and all things green! Don’t forget to have your leprechaun wear something green so you won’t get pinched. There’s a pot of “gold” waiting for you at the end of the rainbow! This is a child and caregiver class, taught by Miss Karen. **Ages:** 2-5 years old. **Cost:** \$30/resident and \$35/non-resident. Additional child - \$6/resident and \$7/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- March 15** **Garden d’Lights Orientation**, 10 a.m. - noon
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Join the Garden d’Lights team at a FREE orientation. We’ll tell you how the light displays are built and what it takes to install and repair them, and we’ll demonstrate our techniques. You’ll view partially-constructed lights, then join a small group that will work with a member of the Garden d’Lights build team, who will show you how the features are built. Everyone will be able to bunch lights onto a rod and use a cable tie to anchor them in place. We will also show you how we repair lights. You will not be able to leave with the results, but if you’ve been thinking of volunteering, this is a great way to join the team as it starts to prepare for the 2018 Garden d’Lights season! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required; space is limited. **Info:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>
- March 16-17** **Puget Sound Dahlia Association Tuber Sale**, 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Thousands of tubers with hundreds of different varieties will be available for sale, priced around \$5 each. Several of our most knowledgeable dahlia growers will be available to help you with your selections. Come early for the best selection! Open to the public. **Cost:** Free admission; cost of tubers varies. **Info:** <http://www.pugetsounddahlias.org/>
- March 16-25** **“The Last Unicorn” (Bellevue Youth Theatre Play)**,
March 16, 17, 23 and 24 at 7 p.m.; March 18, 24, and 25 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
Come see Peter S. Beagle’s classic story of a young unicorn as she and a bumbling sorcerer embark on a long and dangerous journey to find out what happened to the other unicorns. This story is adapted from the animated cartoon and book. Approximate run time is 90 minutes. **Ages:** All ages, but the Red Bull sequence may be too intense for some younger children. **Cost:** Advance tickets are \$12. Price increases to \$15 on March 12. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.

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(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- March 17 Family Discovery Series: Have You Seen all the Critter Litter?**
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Have you ever been curious about what animals leave behind or what signs to look for, telling you they have been nearby? We may not always see these animals, but they often leave clues. Become a Nature Detective, and discover who may be visiting our park. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- March 17 Making Tracks in Lewis Creek Park, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Park Ranger to learn Bellevue’s animal signs, then head outside on a scavenger hunt to see what animals have been through Lewis Creek Park! We’ll look for prints, feathers and even scat to see what’s been happening in the park. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required by 4 p.m. the Friday before the event. **Info and to register:** 425-452-4195.
- March 18 Living with Wildlife: There’s a Bear in the Yard! 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.**
Lewis Creek Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Springtime in south Bellevue often means hungry, roaming bears. Learn all about black bears in our area, including how to prevent conflicts at your home, and what to do if you see one. **Ages:** 13 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- March 21 Lovable Bunnies (Early Release Wednesday), 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.**
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
Help create enrichment opportunities to actively engage and entertain our farm animals. Learn how they think, how each animal needs different activities based on their instincts, and why it’s important for animals to stay busy. Let’s make our farm animals’ habitats rewarding and fun. We’ll work in the farm yard and do art/craft activities, too. **Ages:** 5 to 9 years old. **Cost:** \$25/residents and \$30/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.
- March 21 BBGS Lecture: “Tapestry Garden: The Art of Weaving Plants and Place,”**
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Taught by Marietta O’Byrne, co-owner of Northwest Nurseries. Timber Press will soon publish Marietta’s book, *Tapestry Garden, The Art of Weaving Plants and Place*, that will illustrate the wide variety of mouth-watering planting combinations Marietta has created. During her presentation, she will give us a pictorial tour of her exuberant garden. **Cost:** \$5 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$15/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Recommended. **Info:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- March 23** **Bunny Ball: Father-Daughter Dance Event**, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Create lasting memories at this night-out opportunity with Dad (or other father figure such as grandpa or uncle). Dress up in your finest clothes, and enjoy celebrating an evening of dancing, tea time with scones, commemorative photo with Dad, decorating your picture frame, and even a special visit from Bop'in Bunny. Register early to secure your space, as space is limited for this event. Each child is registered separately. Father attends free with child. Free parking on site. **Ages:** 3-10 years old. **Cost:** \$30. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** 425-452-4106. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- March 23** **Frog Hop!** 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
One of the earliest sounds of spring is the constant rib-bit song of frogs. Learn about the amazing life cycle of these amphibians, as well as the kinds of frogs that live in Western Washington. Then join us to explore Lewis Creek using your ears to guide the way! Bring a flashlight or headlamps, as well as good shoes and warm clothes, for the journey! **Ages:** 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for children and adults. **Info and to register:** 425-452-4195.
- March 24** **Garden Class: “Top Ten Spring Bulbs of Merit,”** 10 a.m. - noon
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Taught by George Lasch. Join us for a quick slide show and then a stroll through the Garden to talk about the best bulbs and how to get the most from them. George will share his top ten and will likely throw in a few “why bother?” ones too. Known for his humorous opinions on plants and gardening, George was the Border Supervisor of the Perennial Border at the BBG for eight years. **Cost:** \$25 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>
- March 24** **Coal Mining at Cougar Mountain (presented by Eastside Heritage Center),**
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
This program focuses on 100 years of local coal mining. In 1888, there were 20 mules and 200 men employed here! Exporting coal to San Francisco turned Seattle into a dominant seaport. Learn what is underneath a mountain that is older than Rainier. Presented in partnership by the Eastside Heritage Center and Bellevue Parks & Community Services. **Ages:** 13 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- March 25 Northwest Perennial Alliance Lecture – “Vietnam’s Northern Mountains,”**
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Lecture by Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson, who run Far Reaches Botanical Conservancy. Last fall they explored high peaks and ridges in northern Vietnam in search of new plants. This area is a geographical plant convergence zone and one of the world’s hotspots of biodiversity. Surprisingly, many plants from this region are proving much more hardy than common sense would suggest. Explore with Sue and Kelly as they recount their journey and some of these incredible plants. Doors open at noon for plant sales. **Cost:** \$5/Northwest Perennial Alliance members; \$20 for non-members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info:** <http://www.northwestperennialalliance.org/Lectures.php>
- March 25 Making Tracks in Lewis Creek Park,** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Park Ranger to learn Bellevue’s animal signs, then head outside on a scavenger hunt to see what animals have been through Lewis Creek Park! We’ll look for prints, feathers and even scat to see what’s been happening in the park. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required by 4 p.m. the Friday before the event. **Info and to register:** 425-452-4195.
- March 30 Nature Movie: “Fresh Water,”** 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Only three percent of the world’s water is fresh, yet all life forms depend on it. This *Planet Earth* episode follows the journey of our fresh water and demonstrates how various species take advantage of this precious natural resource. David Attenborough narrates this film. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- March 30 – April 8 “Winnie the Pooh” (Bellevue Youth Theatre Play),**
March 30, 31, April 6 and 7 at 7 p.m.; March 31, April 7 and 8 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
Join us in the Hundred Acre Wood to visit the beloved little bear who loves honey and all his friends, including Tigger and Christopher Robin. This story, created by A.A. Milne, is approximately 90 minutes long. **Ages:** All ages, suitable for the entire family. **Cost:** Advance tickets are \$12. Price increases to \$15 on March 26. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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March 31 **Peep Peep!** 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Robinswood Barn, 2432 148th Avenue SE

Make cheerful chicks that peek out of decorate eggs as well as other springtime creatures. Music and an egg hunt will round off our morning of fun! This is a child and caregiver class, taught by Miss Karen. **Ages:** 2-5 years old. **Cost:** \$30/resident and \$35/non-resident. Additional child - \$6/resident and \$7/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.

**Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Events List
(This list is a guide. Details may change.)**

APRIL 2018

March 30 – April 8 “Winnie the Pooh” (Bellevue Youth Theatre Play),

*March 30, 31, April 6 and 7 at 7 p.m.; March 31, April 7 and 8 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street*

Join us in the Hundred Acre Wood to visit the beloved little bear who loves honey and all his friends, including Tigger and Christopher Robin. This story, created by A.A. Milne, is approximately 90 minutes long. **Ages:** All ages, suitable for the entire family. **Cost:** Advance tickets are \$12. Price increases to \$15 on March 26. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.

April 4 Communicative with Children, 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street

Bellevue College’s Parent Education Faculty will present the challenges of achieving effective communication with children. Often problems in communication are not based on a lack of hearing or interest from the child, but on understanding the word choices used by parents. Discussion will include dealing with children’s feelings, gaining cooperation from children, and freeing children from playing roles. No child care is provided for this event. **Ages:** Adults only. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.

April 6 Lewis Creek Story Time: “Night Creatures”

Two sessions, choose one – 11 a.m. –noon OR 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Look, listen and create during an hour of stories and crafts presented by the Bellevue Master Naturalist Corps. When you’re going to bed at night, some animals are just waking up! Discover what nocturnal animals stay up all night and why you shouldn’t be afraid of them. We always make a fun craft to take home. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for children and adults. **Info and to register:** 425-452-4195.

April 7 Lewis Creek Ranger-Led Hike, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Join a Park Ranger to explore the natural and cultural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife, and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.

Distance: Approximately 1 mile. **Level of difficulty:** Easy-Moderate (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

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- April 8** **Mercer Slough Family-Friendly Ranger Walk**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This family-friendly program allows parents and their kids to explore the mosaic of habitats while learning more about the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. This hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge on the shores of the Slough. From there you can continue to explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** mseec@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- April 8** **April Showers Make... Watersheds?** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
We know April means rain showers, but what happens after the rain falls? Join a Park Ranger to learn the ins and outs of watersheds and the important part they play in the water cycle. We'll start our own mini rain showers, and afterwards we'll discuss different ways we can help our watersheds. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- April 10** **Garden Lecture: The Prairies of Western Washington,** 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
The prairies of Western Washington are an unexpected surprise in an area renowned for its trees. Jon Bakker will review their history, importance and their current status. He will illustrate current restoration practices and highlight some fascinating elements of their ecology. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** https://www.wnps.org/cps_programs.html
- April 13** **When Bees Spring into Action!** 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
The pollination season is approaching, and our little buzzing companions are waking up and getting to work! Join us at the Lake Hills Ranger Station to learn about the many different local pollinators and all that they do for us. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** 425-452-6993.
- April 14** **North American Rock Garden Society Plant Sale**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Rock Garden Society members and regional specialty growers will offer a wide range of plants that grow in the mountains, forests and deserts of the West, along with plants from Europe, Asia and South America. Members will be available to demonstrate growing conditions and to give advice. Open to the public. **Cost:** Free admission; cost of plants will vary. **Info:** <https://www.nargsnw.org/2018-spring-plant-sale>

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- April 14** **Family Discovery Series: Insect Investigation**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Without insects to help break down and dispose of nature’s waste, our environment would be a whole lot messier. In addition to insects being some of nature’s greatest recyclers, they also play a critical role in the food web. Come prepared to get a little muddy while we investigate further into the world of insects. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- April 20 – May 12** **“The Wizard of Oz” (Bellevue Youth Theatre Play)**,
April 20, 21, 27, 28, May 4, 5, 10, 11, and 12 at 7 p.m.;
April 21, 22, 28, 29, May 5, 6, and 12 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
Follow the Yellow Brick Road in this amazing story by L. Frank Baum. No classic tale has captured the imagination of young people more than the tale of Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion since the 1939 movie premiered. This show includes all the classic music such as “Follow the Yellow Brick Road” and “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” Approximate run time is 1 hour 45 minutes. **Ages:** All ages, suitable for the entire family. **Cost:** Advance tickets are \$12. Price increases to \$15 on April 16. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.
- April 21** **Arbor Day-Earth Day Family Festival**, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Bellevue’s annual Arbor Day-Earth Day event will mark the city’s 27th year of being recognized as a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation. Local environmental stewardship organizations will host free activities and eco-demonstrations. Kids can grab an Arbor Day-Earth Day activity passport from a Park Ranger and journey through various eco-stations. Completed passports will be entered into a prize drawing. At 11:30 a.m., Bellevue Park Rangers and elected officials will plant a ceremonial tree and recognize environmental volunteers. **Ages:** All ages are welcome; family event. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- April 21** **April Pools Day** – 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center, 601 143rd Avenue NE
Children will have the opportunity to learn basic self-help skills in a water emergency with water safety demonstration, lifejacket fitting, and a visit from Mercer Island Marine Patrol and their rescue boat. There will also be free raffles for prizes! **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** 12 and under swim for free; 13 and older swim for \$7. **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4444 or sarmstrong@bellevuewa.gov

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- April 27** **Nature Movie: “Seasonal Forests,”** 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
This episode of *Planet Earth* explores our seasonal coniferous and deciduous woodland habitats and the animals that depend on them. David Attenborough narrates this film. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- April 28** **Kelsey Creek Farm Sheep Shearing,** 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
Watch the sheep being shorn of their winter coats. Enjoy wool spinning demonstrations, children’s activities, tractor/wagon rides, pony rides, food, and animal viewing areas. Free shuttle service will be available at Wilburton Park & Ride and Bannerwood Sports Park. Please note: No pets are allowed in the barnyard area. **Ages:** All ages welcome; family event. **Cost:** Free admission. Costs vary for food and activities. No ATM is on site, and credit cards are accepted for pony rides only. **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.
- April 28** **April Showers Make... Watersheds?** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
We know April means rain showers, but what happens after the rain falls? Join a Park Ranger to learn the ins and outs of watersheds and the important part they play in the water cycle. We’ll start our own mini rain showers, and afterwards we’ll discuss different ways we can help our watersheds. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- April 29** **Living with Wildlife: Not So Coy Coyotes,** 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
So... there’s a coyote in the yard... Should I be worried? Nope, but there are definitely some tips and tricks to keep this fascinating urban creature as wild as possible. Join us to learn how! This is an indoor program. **Ages:** 13 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- April 30** **Slime Fest,** 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Come prepared to make a mess as you concoct your own slime, goo and gak. This program will be led by Bellevue College’s Parent Education teachers. **Ages:** 5-8 years old. **Cost:** \$20/resident and \$24/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.