

Parks & Community Services Board

Regular Meeting

September 11, 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><i>Debra Kumar, Chair</i></p> <p><i>Heather Trescases, Vice-Chair</i></p> <p><i>Paul Clark</i></p> <p><i>Dave Hamilton</i></p> <p><i>Stuart Heath</i></p> <p><i>Eric Synn</i></p> <p><i>Pamela Unger</i></p> <p>City Council Liaison:</p> <p><i>Jennifer Robertson, Councilmember</i></p> <p>Staff Contacts:</p> <p><i>Camron Parker 425-452-2032</i></p> <p><i>Nancy Harvey 425-452-4162</i></p>	<p>Tuesday September 11, 2018 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Bellevue City Hall Conference Room 1E-113 450 110th Avenue NE Bellevue, WA 98004</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call to Order of Meeting – Chair Kumar Page 2. Approval of Agenda 3. Approval of Park Board Minutes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minutes from the July 10, 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.</i> 5. Communications from City Council, Community Council, Boards and Commissions N/A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to new Boardmember Pamela Unger 6. Director’s Report N/A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up on Oral Communications/public comments from prior meetings. 7. Board Communication N/A 8. Chair Communication & Discussion N/A 9. Boardmember Committee/Liaison Reports N/A 10. Discussion/Action Items <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Neighborhood Area Planning Program (informational) – Deborah Munkberg (Community Development) 9 b. Aquatics Center Study (informational) – Patrick Foran 11 	



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11. New Business	N/A
12. Proposed Agenda for Next Meeting	N/A
13. Other Communication	
a. CIP Project Status Report	43
b. Memo and attachments from Patrick Foran re Wilburton Hill Park proposal from Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue	47
c. Email re Bannerwood Park from Bellevue Chamber of Commerce	53
d. Email re Bellevue Aquatic Center swim lessons from Wei Lu	55
e. List of upcoming Parks special events	59
14. 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.</i>	
15. Adjournment	N/A

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/>

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

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

Tuesday
July 10, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kumar, Vice-Chair Trescases, Boardmembers Clark, Hamilton, Heath, Synn¹

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Betsy Anderson, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Emil King (Community Development), Glenn Kost, Ken Kroeger, Kevin McDonald (Transportation), Camron Parker

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kumar at 6:01 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Synn and second by Boardmember Hamilton to approve the June 12, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

None.

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

No report.

¹ Departed at 7:15 p.m.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran provided the following report:

- Twelve applications were received for the vacant Parks Board position. Interviews will be conducted later this month.
- The 27th Annual Bellevue Family 4th of July celebration was well attended without any significant incidences. Special recognition was extended to the Bellevue Downtown Association, Parks staff, and Bellevue Police and Bellevue Fire for their assistance.
- Council recently approved the acquisition of property located on West Lake Sammamish Parkway consisting of approximately 1.5 acres as an addition to Weowna Park. Mr. Foran commended Camron Parker and former City of Bellevue employee Lorrie Peterson for their efforts in the property acquisition.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Clark recently visited Downtown Park and checked out the progress at Meydenbauer Bay Park.

Boardmember Hamilton stayed connected with parks through the City's social media applications.

Boardmember Heath discussed the recent bear sightings in his neighborhood.

Vice-Chair Trescases enjoyed the Strawberry Festival and thanked Parks staff for their role with this event.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Kumar provided the following report:

- Visited Downtown Park and is looking forward to seeing the connection from the NE Corner Entry into the rest of the Downtown Park.
- Attended a recent City Council meeting to present the Board's memos to City Council regarding comments on the Draft Grand Connection Framework Plan, Sequence Two, and the Parks Budget/CIP.

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

None.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Wilburton Commercial Area CAC Vision**

Mr. King provided an overview of the Wilburton Commercial Area Citizen Advisory Committee process and recommendations. The overall process consists of the following:

- Citizen Advisory Committee (January 2017-April 2018)
- Transmit CAC Vision to Council (July 2018)
- Council direction to initiate policy and code work (Fall 2018)
- Commission/Board work on Comprehensive Plan Policies, Land Use Code, Design Guidelines (Late 2018 thru 1Q20)

Mr. King showed pictures of the Wilburton Commercial Area Study boundary, including the Grand Connection and East Link Light Rail. He also noted that three Wilburton Commercial Area alternatives were reviewed by the CAC:

- No Action – retain current zoning
- Alternative 1 – allow for a moderate increase in density
- Alternative 2 – allow for a greater increase in density

After evaluating the characteristics of each alternative, the CAC preferred a blend of the characteristics from Alternatives 1 and 2, so a hybrid alternative was prepared (CAC Preferred Alternative).

Vice-Chair Trescases suggested that the McDowell House be highlighted on the alternative options as a park property so that it remains intact in the selected alternative. Mr. King confirmed that there is a commitment to keep the McDowell House in all of the alternatives.

Mr. King summarized the proposed building height ranges for each of the preferred alternatives. The impacts of each of the options, including height ranges, are being evaluated and discussed with Council. Chair Kumar added that the CAC would like the block sizes decreased so people can easily navigate the Wilburton Commercial Area.

Mr. McDonald reviewed the vision for the parks and open spaces in the Wilburton Commercial Area. Pictures of potential visions for parks and open spaces were shown (i.e., activated Eastside Rail Corridor trail-oriented development; large central civic space; activated pocket parks and plazas; enhanced natural areas—Sturtevant Creek and wetland).

Mr. McDonald noted that the Eastside Rail Corridor Trail is a major component for mobility in the Wilburton Commercial Area. He added that it is a catalyst to create development potential for the area. The other mobility feature is 116th Avenue NE, converting this roadway toward an “urban boulevard” with better facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Boardmember Heath inquired if any of the alternatives will decrease traffic. Mr. McDonald explained that the intent is to maintain or enhance mobility choices with more connectivity and range of facilities, so there is less pressure on already-crowded streets and intersections.

Boardmember Hamilton asked if the bicycle traffic in the Wilburton Commercial Area will be predominately commuter or leisure bicyclists. Mr. McDonald noted that the hope is to draw both commuter and leisure bicyclists. He added that King County has developed a Master Plan for the rail corridor trail that includes functioning similarly to the Burke Gilman Trail. There is a large amount of commuters on the Burke Gilman Trail, but there is also enough space and delineation provided for leisure bicyclists.

Mr. McDonald noted that the transportation vision focuses on the following elements:

- Emphasis on the pedestrian realm
- Pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure
- Sustainable and green

Boardmember Synn requested clarification for the width of the Eastside Rail Corridor. Mr. McDonald explained that the width of the corridor varies. However, in the evaluated area, the width is approximately 100 feet +/- . He added that East Link is using a portion of the Eastside Rail Corridor and that the ST3 Plan may use the Eastside Rail Corridor for alignment, but there is enough space adjacent to the Wilburton Commercial Area station to accommodate both a trail and a high-capacity transit alignment. Boardmember Synn also inquired if there are Land Use Code incentives in the Wilburton Commercial Area. Mr. King clarified that the Downtown Land Use Code that was recently adopted did not include the Wilburton Commercial Area. Incentives, urban design and code structure will be prepared for the Wilburton Commercial Area at a later time.

Vice-Chair Trescases would like the vision and policy set to benefit the community. In other words, if a park is intended to be an active park, what ensures it remains active? She would like the visions heard and the implementation conducted.

Boardmember Heath requested that buffers between residential and commercial areas be kept in mind during the planning efforts. These might be beneficial places for parks.

B. Downtown Park NE Corner Entry

Mr. Kost provided a historical overview of Downtown Park and the NE Corner Entry. Some of the elements to ponder for the project goals/Board feedback include:

- Size/scale of entry plaza
- Type and location of water feature
- Placement and scale of public art work
- Treatment of connection to the circle
- Location of the Union High School Arch
- Open air pavilion or no pavilion

Mr. Kroeger showed concept images for the following:

- New entry plaza at Bellevue Way and NE 4th Street
- New water feature
- Integration of public art

- Pedestrian connection to the Downtown Park Circle
- Integration of the Union High School Arch and connection to the Formal Garden
- Open air pavilion

Boardmembers discussed the significance of the Union High School Arch and the commitment to the community to integrate the arch into the park. Mr. Kost noted that if the arch is incorporated, a storyboard would most likely be included to tell the story of the arch. Vice-Chair Trescases informed Boardmembers that Eastside Catholic students used the Union High School building as well. She stressed the importance of preserving history and the duty of the Parks Board to help make this happen.

Mr. Kroeger reviewed four design options for the NE Corner Entry. He also discussed the current right-of-way on the property and the impacts of vacating the “park section” of the right-of-way or the “commercial section” of the right-of-way.

Some of the project challenges include:

- Existing right-of-way/alley
- Topographical/ADA concerns
- Treatment of boundary of neighboring properties
- Long-term vs. short-term view of neighboring properties
- SEPA (Land Use process) for “new” uses

Board comments about the proposed options include:

- Want a concept to welcome park-goers into the park—not a commercial plaza.
- Want the entry to be clear that people are entering into the park.
- Don’t want to hide the park too much with greenery.
- Option 1 doesn’t look like a commercial plaza, which is good.
- Want to make sure that the arch is visible from the park and not hidden in the formal garden.
- Options 1 and 3 are good for the arch.
- Like Option 3—like the art and water feature in this option to pull visitors into the park. It’s like the Bean in Chicago—it pulls people into the park.
- Like the pavilion included in Option 3.
- Don’t necessarily see the appeal of the arch. If needed, maybe include the arch in the pavilion.
- The arch doesn’t need to be the centerpiece.
- Need to vacate the northern portion of the right-of-way.
- If the view into the park is opened up (i.e., trees removed), don’t plant new trees or something artificial (i.e., pavilion) to then block the view into the park.
- Don’t want the art and/or water feature too overbearing so people don’t wander past it into the park.
- There are a lot of places in the city to place art; this park is nature. If art is included, keep it small in scale.

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- May want to be mindful about how the NE Corner Entry looks from the high rise buildings.

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Heath to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Comments continued:

- Want to be mindful of how to flow people from the park to the Grand Connection.
- All options are good to open the park up more than the current state.
- Prefer Options 1 and 3.
- Option 2 is not as attractive as other options.
- Want the art to be useful but don't want a large scale fixture.

Mr. Kost will incorporate the Board's comments into the design elements and then potentially plan for a joint meeting with the Parks Board and Arts Commission.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

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

Mr. Parker noted that the August Parks Board meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting in September may be a joint meeting with the Arts Commission. In addition, Boardmembers would like to discuss funding alternatives at the next Board meeting.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Boardmember Clark to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. City Council Agenda Memorandum and Attachments re property acquisition
- C. Park Board Memo to City Council re Draft Grand Connection Framework Plan, Sequence Two
- D. Memo from staff to City Council re Parks & Recreation Month Proclamation
- E. Email from Pamela Johnston re Bridle Trails Bear

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F. List of upcoming Parks special events

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Trescases and second by Boardmember Heath to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).



Date: August 31, 2018
To: Parks & Community Services Board
From: Deborah Munkberg, Community Development
Subject: Neighborhood Area Planning Program
(Informational only)

The Neighborhood Area Planning (NAP) program is a multi-year effort to update the city's neighborhood area plans, some of which were originally adopted over 20 years ago and have not been comprehensively updated since original adoption. Through the update process, the NAP program seeks to develop neighborhood area plans that clearly reflect the distinct and unique character of each area and in which neighborhood residents and businesses have a strong sense of ownership.

The specific objectives of the program are:

1. To develop neighborhood plans that reflect current citywide and neighborhood priorities and address issues and opportunities that are relevant to neighborhood residents.
2. To conduct a planning process that based on a collaborative partnership between the city and neighborhoods; to expand community capacity for neighborhood leadership that will carry forward beyond this planning process.

The presentation to the Park & Community Services Board will provide a high-level overview of the program, including anticipated plan contents, work program, timeline, public engagement and next steps.

Neighborhood area plan contents

In contrast to the current policy-oriented neighborhood area (subarea) plans, the updated neighborhood area plans will be strategic and action-focused. The neighborhood area planning process will seek to work with neighborhood residents and businesses to identify their key priorities and to identify how the neighborhood and city can act in partnership to achieve local and citywide priorities. All strategies and actions identified in the plans will follow the city's adopted vision, goals and policies and framework for growth and service provision established in the Comprehensive Plan.

While the content of each neighborhood area plan will be unique and tailored to fit the neighborhood area, all plans will follow a consistent organizational structure and format.



Work program

The work program is organized into several distinct phases of activity that will allow participants to share information about their neighborhood, identify their vision and priorities, and consider strategic options in a logical and transparent manner.

Timeline

Two neighborhood area plans will be in process at any given time. To maximize public participation, the proposed timeline would generally follow the school-year calendar, publicly kicking-off in September and concluding in June. Each summer, staff will begin preparation for the next two plans and in the fall the Planning Commission and City Council will conduct their review of the prior year's draft plans while the upcoming year's plans are kicking off.

Public engagement

In support of the neighborhood planning process, public engagement goals are to:

- Facilitate a meaningful public dialogue tailored to each neighborhood and leading to a plan that is relevant to the neighborhood.
- Engage with and incorporate the perspectives of all residents, including those who have been historically under-represented.
- Enrich knowledge and understanding of neighborhood and citywide issues, priorities and opportunities.
- Establish communication channels that are flexible, accessible, transparent and welcoming.

The public engagement approach is intended to provide a robust and varied range of opportunities to participate. For those who want to participate in person opportunities may include traditional workshops, public meetings and small group meetings, as well as walking tours, youth/school involvement, neighborhood-sponsored photography, story-telling, artist-supported activities and others. Multi-lingual translation and interpretation services will be incorporated and may include specialized meetings for non-English speakers based on individual neighborhood needs and interests. For those who prefer to participate online, the project website will include project background and updates, interactive forums, surveys, questions and answers, story-telling, interactive maps and opportunities to post photos.

Next steps

On August 6, the City Council identified the Northeast and Northwest neighborhood areas for work on neighborhood area plans for the 2018 – 2019 planning year, followed by Newport and Crossroads in the 2019 – 2020 planning year. Outreach to the first two neighborhood areas begins this fall.

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: September 11, 2018

TO: Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Patrick Foran, Director

SUBJECT: Aquatics Center Study
(Informational, no Board action requested)

Several of you have asked about the status of the Aquatics Center concept and future steps towards building the facility. We will have the opportunity to discuss this at the September 11th Parks & Community Services Board meeting.

To give you some background information, I'm attaching these items from the 3-12-18 Council packet:

- Agenda Memo
- Attachment A – Concepts
- Attachment D – Executive Summary of the 2009 Aquatics Feasibility Study

You can view the entire 2009 Aquatics Feasibility Study here: <https://parks.bellevuewa.gov/planning-and-development/studies-plans/aquatics-feasibility-study/>

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Aquatic Center Update

STAFF CONTACT

Patrick Foran, Director, 452-5377
Parks and Community Services Department

POLICY ISSUES

Comprehensive Plan:

- PA-3. Equitably distribute a variety of parks, community centers and other indoor and outdoor recreation facilities throughout the City.
- PA-8. Develop partnerships with other public agencies and the private sector to provide parks, open space, and cultural and recreation facilities in the City.
- PA-15. Encourage the development of facilities for special purpose recreation.
- PA-25. Promote partnerships with public and private service providers to meet cultural, recreational, and social needs of the community.

In addition, the 2016 Parks & Open Space System Plan identified an opportunity for regional and private partnerships to help build and operate a competitive aquatics facility to serve the eastside. Finally, an aquatics facility would address several strategic target areas of Council’s adopted vision: great places where you want to be, economic development, regional leadership, and high quality built environment.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

ACTION

DIRECTION

INFORMATION ONLY

Staff seeks direction on whether to continue to evaluate alternatives for the development and operation of aquatic facilities in Bellevue and the Eastside, utilizing up to \$250,000 in Council CIP Contingency (CIP Plan No. G-107). This investment will more precisely define scale, scope and location options for aquatic facilities, finalize partnership alternatives, and develop a framework for capital and operating funding information necessary to assist Council in determining whether, and under what circumstances, to proceed with an Aquatic Center. Council could also conclude to take no further action.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Built in 1970, the existing Bellevue Aquatic Center has served Bellevue’s 140,000 residents for nearly 50 years, but it’s age and capacity is inadequate to meet the current and future demand for aquatic programming in Bellevue. The City is in an exploratory phase to evaluate alternatives and partnerships to develop a new, year-round aquatic facility that considers the full-range of activity and demographic market segments associated with contemporary, state of the art aquatic facilities (Attachment A).

In 2006, the City was approached by a local non-profit organization, Swimming Pools for Leisure, Active Sports, and Health (SPLASH), whose mission was to advocate for the development of aquatic facilities to meet the needs of the region. As part of the 2007-2008 budget, Council approved funding to complete a feasibility study for a new aquatic facility. Currently, an aquatics group called SplashForward is similarly advocating for a comprehensive, state-of-the-art community aquatics center.

The 2009 study (Attachment D) 1) explored a range of facility options with estimated financial performance; 2) analyzed the current aquatic market; 3) conducted a preliminary site analysis; and 4) explored a range of financing options. A public outreach effort included stakeholder meetings, focus groups and a public interest survey.

The study was presented to Council in March 2009. Council expressed support for a high profile, comprehensive aquatic facility (Option D: Regional Aquatic Center) and directed staff to explore regional partnerships with adjacent cities, school districts and King County. Staff reported back to Council in early 2010 that, after a thorough review, these potential partners were not prepared to pursue a project at that time. Because of the general lack of partner interest coupled with the severe impacts of the recession, Bellevue ceased further exploration of aquatics alternatives.

Since 2010 the cities of Redmond and Kirkland independently did work exploring aquatics alternatives. The City of Redmond recently completed a comprehensive public recreation facilities study and in 2015 the City of Kirkland's aquatic center ballot measure failed.

In 2017, King County Parks convened a process to explore the viability of a regional approach for filling the aquatic facilities gap on the Eastside. King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci secured an appropriation of \$2M to work toward a regional solution. This process is not complete and all parties continue to meet.

On May 1, 2017, staff presented the aquatics issue to Council and were directed to continue to evaluate both a regional alternative and a Bellevue option (Attachment B, C). This work would also include exploring additional public/private partnerships and identifying potential locations. City staff have been reviewing the aquatic needs within Bellevue and the region, participating in the King County process, exploring potential partnership opportunities, and identifying potential sites. Following is a summary of work in those areas to date.

King County Regional Process

Since the last Council update, the cities of Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue, and King County have continued to meet to share respective interests and explore regional partnership opportunities. This effort builds upon the research and public outreach each City has conducted on the supply and demand for a variety of recreation facilities and for aquatic facilities specifically. For aquatics, the findings similarly note the inadequacies of current facilities to meet the need for high demand aquatic programs. It is also clear that the competitive aquatics community is regional and highly mobile, with a high concentration of participation from Eastside cities. It is also valuable to examine the economic development impact of high profile, state of the art aquatics facilities of regional significance to further the Destination Tourism interests of Bellevue and the greater Eastside. Because of these commonalities, there might be synergies

among aquatic interests which might lead to a better coordinated and enhanced facility development and programming effort for the region.

Because of the complexities involved in a regional approach, multiple funding and operating options would be looked at, including a combination of funding. These options could include voter-approved levies and bonds, councilmanic bonds, revenue bonds, grants, and private/public partnerships. For example, one alternative discussed is the formation of a Metropolitan Park District to fund the construction and operation of multiple aquatic facilities. In this model, voters in each City would be asked to approve the formation of a special taxing district to construct and operate multiple aquatic facilities that collectively serve the population of the district.

The regional group is in the process of identifying potential sites for multiple facilities and more precisely defining what aquatic elements would be featured in each site. The next step in this process is for each City and King County to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines the tasks to finish this work. In general, the work would merge the independent effort of the parties into a collaborative facility and program plan with recommendations for governance and funding.

Bellevue Partnership Interests

In addition to the regional collaborations discussed above, partnerships to build and operate an aquatic facility have been encouraged with private non-profit organizations and private for-profit companies. The viability of partnerships can be evaluated based on whether they enhance the likelihood of meeting the current and future demand for aquatic facilities and programs. Partnerships should be consistent with and support the underlying principle of universal public access. Program capacity should be distributed equitably and fee structures should not pose a barrier to public participation.

Since the May 2017 Council presentation, staff has explored potential partnerships with the following groups, but additional work in this area is still warranted:

- The Bellevue School District (BSD) recently submitted a letter of interest to the City of Bellevue to meet the needs of their student athletes. It is expected that capital contributions would come through a future Bellevue School District capital levy.
- Bellevue College has expressed an interest in the possibility of siting an aquatic facility on their campus as a means of enhancing student services and exploring potential curriculum programs around health and wellness.
- There have been preliminary discussions with several health care providers exploring potential partnerships for the warm water therapy pool and wellness/fitness/rehabilitation components of a comprehensive aquatic center. Some initial feedback suggests that there needs to be more specificity about the scale, scope and location of an aquatic center and clarity about the process and timing for public investments.
- The City remains open and interested in pursuing public-private partnerships that directly advance the goal of an Aquatic Center. Specific examples include co-locating an ice skating facility on public land or partnering with the YMCA on building and/or operating a facility.
- Staff anticipates strong interest from national, state and regional competitive aquatics organizations. It is believed that this project advocacy might generate additional partnership opportunities beyond those described above.

Site Needs/Locations

Based on the 2009 Bellevue study, approximately 4-7 acres are needed to develop a comprehensive aquatic facility. This estimate ranges from approximately four acres with structured parking to seven acres with surface parking. The following sites were reviewed for suitability:

- Hidden Valley Park—a City-owned park that was subsequently redeveloped in partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue.
- Airfield Park (formerly Eastgate Area Property)—a City-owned future park parcel whose development was included in the 2008 Bellevue Parks & Natural Areas Levy. The City is currently working toward a master plan including an athletic complex and general outdoor recreation facilities.
- Marymoor Park (King County)—Refers to the larger County regional park.
- Marymoor Park (Bellevue Utilities)—Refers to the site which contains three ballfields. Use of this site would require fair market value compensation.
- SE Eastgate Way Parcel—a King County-owned former Park-n-Ride site.
- Highland Park—a City-owned park adjacent to the Bellevue Family YMCA.
- Bellevue College Campus—the Bellevue College updated master plan reserved space for a community partnership and college officials have indicated a willingness to explore this idea fuller.
- Bel-Red Corridor Study Area—not a specific site, but this location was evaluated as part of the long-range land use and transportation vision.

The above sites were each evaluated for the following criteria: location to population, relationship to other facilities, convenience, site cost and ownership, size and capacity for expansion, zoning/land use, constructability, utilities availability, and partnership potential.

No significant work has been done since the 2009 study to analyze the viability of these sites either for Bellevue’s needs alone or in collaboration with a regional approach. While several of these sites remain logical candidates at this point, it is expected that other sites will emerge as the process continues. Kirkland, Redmond and King County are also in the process of identifying other potential sites that would work either for their own needs or in collaboration on a regional approach.

Next Steps

City staff have been exploring options for an Aquatic Center for over a decade, during which time the lack of new facilities and continued population growth has only increased pressure for a solution. While the path toward a specific approach remains unclear, staff recommends we continue to participate in the King County regional process, including approval of a MOU, and continued exploration of partnership opportunities. While there is currently more energy and interest in collaborating on common interests than prior years, we believe that more time is needed for the ideas to evolve and become better clarified.

Staff seeks direction on whether to continue to evaluate alternatives for the development and operation of aquatic facilities in Bellevue and the Eastside, utilizing up to \$250,000 in available Council CIP Contingency. This investment will develop more precise information necessary to assist Council in determining whether, and under what circumstances, to proceed with an Aquatic Center, and includes the following tasks:

- Finalize the scale and scope of the program elements and prepare a schematic drawing and architectural rendering.

- Update the estimated capital costs by program element.
- Update the estimated operating cost performance by program element.
- Conduct a site feasibility analysis for several sites (including Marymoor and Bellevue College).
- Propose a financing and operational plan that could include public/private/nonprofit partnerships.
- Prepare communication tools and conduct a public outreach process to include public meetings and presentations.

Not proceeding would likely delay a decision to the upcoming or future budget cycles.

OPTIONS

1. Direct staff to utilize up to \$250,000 in available Council CIP Contingency (CIP Plan No. G-107) to develop more precise information necessary to determine whether Council wishes to proceed with an Aquatic Center including scale and scope, estimated costs, site feasibility, financing and operational plan, and communications and public outreach plan.
2. Do not proceed with additional work on an Aquatics Center and provide alternative direction to staff..

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Bellevue Aquatic Center Concepts
- B. 5-1-17 Council Presentation Agenda Memo
- C. 5-1-17 Council Meeting Minutes
- D. Executive Summary - 2009 Bellevue Aquatic Center Final Feasibility Study

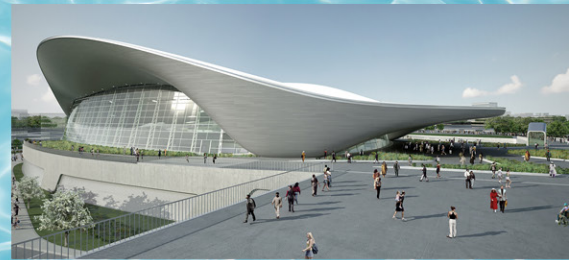
AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

Final Draft – Bellevue Aquatic Center Feasibility Study



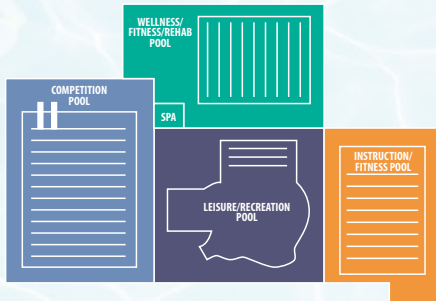
Bellevue Aquatic Center Concepts

Built in 1970, the existing Bellevue Aquatic Center has served Bellevue's 140,000 residents for nearly 50 years, but its age and capacity is inadequate to meet the current and future demand for aquatic programming in Bellevue. The city is in an exploratory phase to evaluate alternatives and partnerships to develop a new, year-round aquatic facility that considers the full range of activity and demographic market segments associated with contemporary, state of the art aquatic facilities.



DRAFT
NOT FOR PRINTING

Conceptual Facility Layout and Amenities



- 6,000 SF leisure/recreation pool with zero depth entry, interactive play features, water walk, lazy river, and slides
- 8 lane by 25 yard instruction/fitness pool
- 10-lane, 50 meter by 25 yd competitive pool with 1 and 3 meter diving boards and seating for 1,200
- Wellness/Fitness/Rehab warm water therapy pool
- Indoor support spaces and dry land amenities
- Annual Estimated Visits: 500,000+



Market Segments

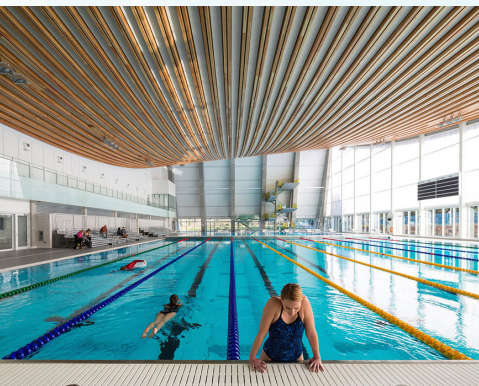
Leisure/ Recreation

Designed to be a flexible size and shape this pool will feature interactive play and a variety of features to entertain participants of all ages; generally shallow warmer water with a zero entry, water walk, lazy river, and slides.



Instruction/Fitness

This pool will feature deeper water (4'-5') and generous deck space for programs such as learn-to-swim, lifesaving certification, fitness classes, and lap swimming to name a few.



Competitive Programs

This pool will feature a 10 lane, 50 meter by 25 yard pool with 1 and 3 meter diving boards for all ages of youth and adult swimming competitions, diving, water polo, etc. Spectator seating and associated amenities will be included.



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Wellness/Fitness/Rehab

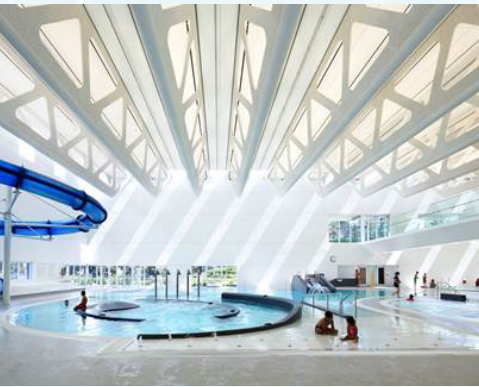
This pool will be designed to be a state of the art, medically integrated health and fitness facility, (including dry land amenities) featuring professionally administered programs and services to clients/patients providing a continuum of care for a variety of chronic or temporary health conditions. Programs and service that also focus on prevention will be key to a healthy community in the future. Requires 90-92 degree water, shallow water, gradual entry and dry land amenities.



User Demographics

- **Pre-school children** — generally needs zero-depth, warm water designed for interactive play with parents
- **School-aged children** — a wide range of needs from recreational swimming to competition and learn-to-swim programs
- **Teens** — similar to school-aged requirements, with greater emphasis on recreational elements and designated "teen" use
- **Families** — facilities that encourage multiple ages to participate in fun, interactive activities
- **Older Adults** — requires an increasing range of services, including aqua exercise, lap swimming and therapeutic conditioning
- **Competitors** — mainly school-aged through teen, with activities ranging from swim and dive teams to water sports
- **Wellness/Fitness/Rehab** — require warm, shallow water features and amenities as well as dry land features



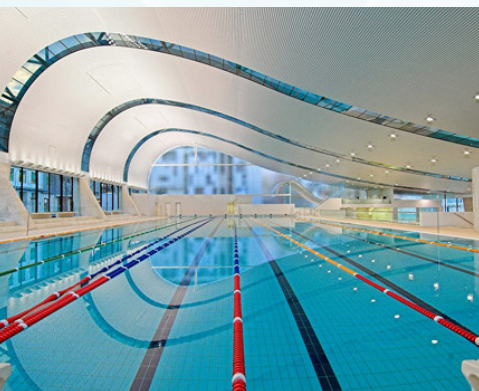


Partnership Opportunities

Partnerships are encouraged and can include other municipalities and public agencies, private nonprofit organizations and private for profit companies. The viability of partnerships will be evaluated based on whether they enhance the likelihood of meeting the current and future demand for aquatic facilities and programs. Partnerships must be consistent with and support the underlying principle of universal public access. Program capacity must be distributed equitably and fee structures should not pose a barrier to public participation.



To get involved contact Patrick Foran at 425-452-5377 or pforan@bellevuewa.gov



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**Executive Summary extracted from
FINAL DRAFT
Bellevue Aquatic Center Feasibility Study
UPDATED – January 2009**

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I. Introduction

In 2006, the City was approached by a local, non-profit organization - *Swimming Pools for Leisure, Active Sports, and Health (SPLASH)*, whose mission is to advocate for the development of aquatic facilities to meet the needs of the region. SPLASH seeks to bring together community partners to plan, construct, and operate a multi-purpose aquatic complex for all ages, ranges of health, level of experiences, and recreational and athletic interests.

SPLASH presented its goals to the Bellevue City Council and Parks and Community Services Board, and funding was approved to complete a study to determine the feasibility and costs of constructing and operating an aquatic facility.

In the fall of 2007, the City of Bellevue – Parks and Community Services Department (*Parks*) contracted with the team lead by Ballard*King and Associates to complete a comprehensive feasibility study for a possible new aquatic center for the City of Bellevue.

The City has not yet determined if, or to what extent, it supports the development of an aquatic center. This study is intended to assist the City in reaching that decision by exploring a range of facility options and operating models. Additionally, this study does not make any recommendations for which a potential aquatic scenario is appropriate for the City of Bellevue - the sole purpose is to provide factual information on the costs and benefits associated with constructing, operating and programming a variety of aquatic venues.

Should the City of Bellevue decide to further pursue any of the options described in this feasibility report, the City should conduct a more thorough analysis of the capital costs, operating costs, economic impacts, and funding options. That said, Parks believe the information presented within this document provides a fair and realistic appraisal of the fiscal, economic, and policy impacts of operating a new aquatic facility.

II. Demographic Analysis (Appendix A, p. 20)

Critical to the success of any major facility is an understanding of the market forces influencing the use of that facility. One key component of the market is knowing the demographics of the service area. Because different options serve potentially different markets, three different service areas have been identified. A service area is often defined as the distance people will regularly travel to utilize a program or facility. The primary focus for a new aquatic center is to serve the aquatic needs of Bellevue citizens, so the City is the study's primary service area. However, an aquatic facility with significant competitive and recreation amenities will likely draw from areas beyond the City limits, so a secondary service area that reflects the greater Eastside, including Bellevue, Sammamish, Issaquah, Newcastle, Renton, Kirkland, Redmond, and Mercer Island, has been identified. Daily use for most of the options studied will come from this geographic area, so the demographic statistics generally use this service area. A larger tertiary service area was identified that includes Seattle, and extends north and south to the intersection of I-5 and I-405.

Detailed population statistics and a demographic analysis for the service area are provided in Appendix A. Several trends are easily identified. The population is expected to increase steadily into the foreseeable future. Compared to the national average, the service area population is older,

has a higher median income, and has a substantially lower household size, which indicates fewer households with children.

III. Market Assessment (Appendix B, p. 27)

A. The state of aquatics in Bellevue and the Eastside

Swimming remains a very popular activity. Based on statistics compiled by the National Sporting Goods Association, nearly 19% of the population in the Pacific region participates in swimming, with users participating on the average of nearly once per week. Nearly half of all children ages 7-11 participate in swimming, and nearly one-third of all swimmers are under 18. Given the nearly half-million people living within the Eastside service area, there is a significant local market that could support a new aquatic center.

Locally, the Bellevue Aquatic Center, the City's only indoor public aquatic facility, attracted 146,000 visits in 2007, and Bellevue's beaches attract another 65,000 annual visitors. Additionally figures provided by SPLASH:

- 4,277 families are members of private outdoor pools in Bellevue;
- 471 students participate on one of Bellevue School District's aquatic teams (swimming, diving or water polo);
- 3,640 swimmers participate in the Midlakes Swim League, a league comprised of 26 primarily outdoor swim club teams on the Eastside.

Growth in many local aquatics organizations is capped due to a lack of pool time, and most teams travel long distances to substandard facilities for meets and practices. Many private facilities extend their seasons into the fall and winter to accommodate the need for pool time.

While there are a large number of aquatic facilities in the region, many are reaching the end of their useful lives and will need significant renovation or replacement within the next 5-10 years. This is especially true for many of the "Forward Thrust" indoor pools and some of the estimated 23 private outdoor pools. The following summarizes additional key findings of the current state of the Eastside's aquatic facilities:

- Most high schools do not have their own pools, relying on other aquatic facilities to serve their competitive swim programs. With no high school pools in Bellevue, students must travel to other communities for all meets and many practices;
- Because of their age, most Eastside pools are not designed to adequately serve the area's competitive aquatic needs;
- Most public indoor pools are stand-alone facilities with few dry side amenities;
- The key indoor pools that support the area's competitive aquatics market are the Bellevue Aquatic Center, Juanita High School pool in Kirkland, Julius Boehm pool in Issaquah, Mary Wayte pool in Mercer Island, and the King County Aquatic Center in Federal Way;
- The King County Aquatic Center is the primary competitive venue for regional and national events, and also supports a range of local programs and activities;
- Though immensely popular and financially viable, the new Henry Moses leisure pool in Renton is one of only three public outdoor pools in the area;

- The recreational swim needs of the Eastside are not being well served by existing facilities, which are generally more conventional in nature with deeper and colder water.

B. City of Seattle

Similar to Bellevue and the Eastside, the City of Seattle has limited pool space and has built only one pool in the last 30 years, despite the growing interest in aquatics.

Currently, there are eight indoor pools, two outdoor pools, and thirty wading pools in the Seattle Park system. However, none of the public pools have a graduated-entry ramp for wheelchairs, many are operating beyond capacity (kids are being turned away from swim lessons), and most are designed to provide only one type of activity at a time. Furthermore, most existing filtration systems are not designed to keep up with the heavy use, requiring each pool to close one day a week, for maintenance.

Seattle's two outdoor-public pools are often filled to capacity during the summer, though neither is centrally located (Colman is in West Seattle and Mounger in Magnolia). The Mounger Pool has been able to achieve an annual 87% cost-recovery rate, while Seattle's indoor pools currently recover between 36% and 61% of their operating costs

In early 2008, responding to a grassroots citizen interest group "Project Seattle Pools," the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department prepared a Preliminary Outdoor Pool Feasibility Study (See Appendix L, page 181) assessing the current state of public swimming in Seattle and potential for future outdoor facilities. As a result, the Seattle City Council passed a resolution requesting that the Mayor considered a park levy in 2010 that would include swimming pools. However, no funds were approved in the 2009 budget to complete the next phase of this initiative, which is the preparation of a Comprehensive Aquatics Study.

C. Aquatic Trends

Over the past two decades, the leisure pool has been the most dominant trend in the aquatics industry. The idea of incorporating water slides, lazy rivers, fountains, zero-depth entry and interactive water amenities has proven very popular with the recreational swimmer, particularly young children and families. The closest examples of this are Renton's Henry Moses outdoor pool which opened in 2006 and Federal Way's indoor leisure pool, which opened last year as part of a larger community center.

Another trend in aquatics has been the advent of the multi-functional, or full-service, recreational center that provides an array of recreational amenities including sports, fitness, aquatics and other community-based facilities. These centers have allowed for better operational cost recovery rates compared to the stand-alone aquatic facilities built from the 1950's through the 1970's.

The Pacific Northwest, and especially the State of Washington, has been slow to respond to these trends. Newer facilities in King County may be lacking due to the presence of many single-purpose, conventional indoor swimming pools built throughout the County as part of the Forward Thrust Bond Program in the 1970's.

Despite the recent emphasis on recreational swimming, the more traditional aspects of aquatics remain popular, including competitive swimming, aqua fitness and learn-to-swim programs. These programs remain a part of most aquatic centers. Though not as popular, competitive diving, water

polo, and synchronized swimming remain a part of the fabric of the aquatic community. A growing trend is the importance of the raised-temperature therapy pool for relaxation, socialization and rehabilitation. A good example of this is Bellevue's warm water pool that has proven very popular.

A relatively new concept in aquatics is the outdoor spray park, where a number of water spray features are designed in a playground setting with no standing water. The most recent example of this is the new Rotary water spray playground which opened in the Summer 2008 at Crossroads Community Park.

Nationally, though the popularity of swimming has declined slightly, it remains a very popular participation sport. However, the focus of swimming has changed from an activity oriented around competitive aquatics with deeper, colder water, to a more recreational approach that emphasizes shallow, warmer water, socialization, and interactive play.

D. Market Segments

The aquatic community consists of many user types with different facility and water requirements. Some segments have very specific size and water requirements that are incompatible with other uses, while other segments can share space and still others can adapt to many environments. The different uses with associated facility requirements are listed below:

- Leisure/recreation – includes the widest array of facility options that include zero-depth entry, water slides, seating area, decks, and play apparatus. Often combined with amenities like concessions and group activity areas;
- Instructional & fitness – includes learn-to-swim and life saving programs, fitness classes and lap swimming. Requires deeper (4'-5') water and generous deck space for instruction. Large amount of open water with lap lanes preferred;
- Therapy & rehabilitation - often offered by medical organizations, and requires warm, shallow water;
- Competitive swimming – requires specific length (25 yards to 50 meters), width (6 to 10 lanes) and depth (4'-7'). Spectator seating preferred;
- Competitive diving - 1 and 3 meter diving boards, with optional platform diving for national and international events. May require separate, deep water (min 12') tank;
- Team competitions – includes competitive water polo and synchronized swimming. Requires a minimum 7' depth and large pool area. Can use competition pool if deep enough;
- Special events/rentals – Separate areas or facilities used in conjunction with the aquatic facilities for birthday parties, corporate events and community gatherings;
- Social/relaxation – can be picnic areas or landscaped areas, but are generally non-aquatic spaces that serve to integrate social and aquatic activities. Most often associated with the leisure/recreation function above.

Water temperature also is critical to the success of the various aquatic uses, and varies widely. In general, the more active the use, the cooler the water: Competition pools, including lap swimming, generally maintain 80-83 degree water temperature; fitness and aquatic exercise programs require warmer (83-86 degree) temperatures; learn-to-swim programs, particularly for the younger ages, prefer at least 89 degree water; and therapy pools generally maintain 90-92 degree water.

A successful aquatic facility understands the demographic market segments, and targets specific segments to attract. The segments often have very different needs, including:

- Pre-school children – generally needs zero-depth, warm water designed for interactive play with parents;
- School-aged children – a wide range of needs from recreational swimming to competition and learn-to-swim programs;
- Teens – similar to school-aged requirements, with greater emphasis on recreational elements and designated “teen” use;
- Families – facilities that encourage multiple ages to participate in fun, interactive activities;
- Seniors – requires an increasing range of services, including aqua exercise, lap swimming, therapeutic conditioning and selected learn-to-swim programs;
- Competitors – mainly school-aged through teen, with activities ranging from swim and dive teams to water sports;
- Special needs population – require warm, shallow water features and amenities.

E. Hosting Major Events

Much attention is paid to the notion of attracting major regional, national and international events to a facility, and the potential financial benefits to the facility and host city. The King County Aquatic Center (KCAC) is one of approximately 20 state-of-the-art facilities nationally that compete for a limited number of major regional or national aquatic events such as the US Olympic Trials or Pac-10 Conference championships. Most of these venues are associated with large universities. Some of the larger national events are beginning to utilize large stadiums with temporary pools that have the ability to accommodate 10,000-15,000 people. In addition to a potential new facility having to compete with the KCAC for major events, there are a diminishing number of events to attract. The host facility often absorbs a financial loss to host a major event, though the loss is sometimes offset by potential tourism dollars, positive image and economic benefit to the host community. A more realistic goal for a competitive aquatic center in Bellevue would be to concentrate on hosting more local events and activities.

IV. Public Input (Appendix C, p. 51)

An important aspect of gauging public interest in an aquatic facility is a comprehensive community involvement process. Three techniques were utilized to gather information regarding the need and demand for a new aquatic facility. The key findings from each technique is summarized below, with detail provided in each appendix:

A. Stakeholder Meetings

Discussions were held with thirteen stakeholder groups during November and December 2007, including representatives of six nearby cities, three school districts, King County, the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue Downtown Association, and Bellevue Community College. The basic findings were:

- All recognized a need for additional aquatic facilities on the Eastside;
- There is very limited capital funding and no property available from these groups;

- Several cities expressed interest in exploring partnerships to develop a regional facility. The location of the facility is key to each community's level of interest or support;
- The Cities of Sammamish and Issaquah are collaborating on a joint aquatic center feasibility study;
- The only school district-owned swimming pools in the area are in Kirkland (Juanita HS) and Renton (Hazen HS), and no school districts are planning to build pools. The Juanita Pool is aging, and the Lake Washington School District may close this facility in the near future;
- The Bellevue School District has no property or funding for this facility, but would be interested in renting pool time;
- King County is concerned that a facility that attracted regional or national events would compete with the King County Aquatic Center.

B. Focus Groups

A series of nine focus group sessions were held with aquatics interest groups on October 29 and 30, 2007. Individuals representing the coaching community, neighborhood swimming pools, area swimming, diving, and water polo teams, medical/therapy groups, the YMCA, and others participated in these focus groups. Key findings were:

- The Eastside is a strong region for competitive swimming that is constrained due to a lack of pool time;
- An aquatic center should serve a wide variety of aquatic needs, including non-aquatic amenities;
- The competitive swim market is relatively large, and the water polo market is small, but growing. The diving and synchronized swimming markets are much smaller, but could grow if more pool time were available;
- The YMCA would consider a future partnership that might include a capital contribution, but they will require operational control of the facility;
- There is some concern about the potential impact of a new facility on several smaller, neighborhood swimming pools;
- A convenient location is critical to the success of a new facility, as most users are not willing to drive more than 15-20 minutes to use a pool.

C. Public Interest Survey

The market research firm Leisure Vision conducted a statistically valid phone survey to assess the future direction of aquatics facilities and services in Bellevue. Responses were obtained from 406 Bellevue residents in November 2007. The responses from these households indicated that:

- 46% of respondent households use swimming facilities and/or programs;
- The three most popular swimming types are recreational swimming (60%), fitness/lap swimming (35%), and swim lessons (28%);
- The aquatic features identified as most needed include areas for swim lessons, lanes for lap swimming, and a recreation-oriented pool;
- The most frequently cited reasons that households would use an aquatic center are for recreation swimming (56%) and fitness and exercise (49%);
- 48% of respondents indicated that the aquatic facilities they are currently using meet all of their needs, while 47% indicated that they meet some of their needs;

- If a new facility is built, 48% of the respondents prefer a facility with both indoor and outdoor aquatic amenities, while 38% preferred an indoor aquatic center;
- Half of the respondents are willing to drive less than 15 minutes to the aquatic center if it had the amenities important to them; 37% would drive more than 15 minutes..
- Compared to other park investments, a new aquatic center is a high priority for 23%, medium priority for 40%, and low (or no) priority for 24% of the respondents.
- 53% of the respondents would support a property tax increase of at least \$50/year to build a new aquatic facility, while 44% would not support any tax increase.

V. Facility Options and Capital Costs (Appendix D, p. 92)

Based on the information gathered from the market and demographic analysis, together with the input received from the community, the project team developed five facility options for study. Each option is summarized on the following pages, including a conceptual plan, brief description of the target audience, facility size and components, construction and operational costs, estimated site size required, and the projected annual attendance. Detailed descriptions and cost estimates of each facility option are provided in Appendix D..

The capital costs are meant as planning level estimates, and don't include land acquisition or unusual site conditions. The specific components of each facility also provided the basis to project annual attendance, and to estimate the operational revenue and expense for each option. In developing the operational estimates, the assumptions about attendance, fees, facility hours, and staffing levels are identified in the appendices. Many factors, including organizational policies, marketing efforts and facility location, can greatly influence these estimates. Other facilities' financial experiences are provided for comparison.

Option A: Outdoor Seasonal Aquatic Center

Target audience: The main focus would be the seasonal recreational user, but also allows for seasonal competition, fitness/lap swimming, diving and lessons.

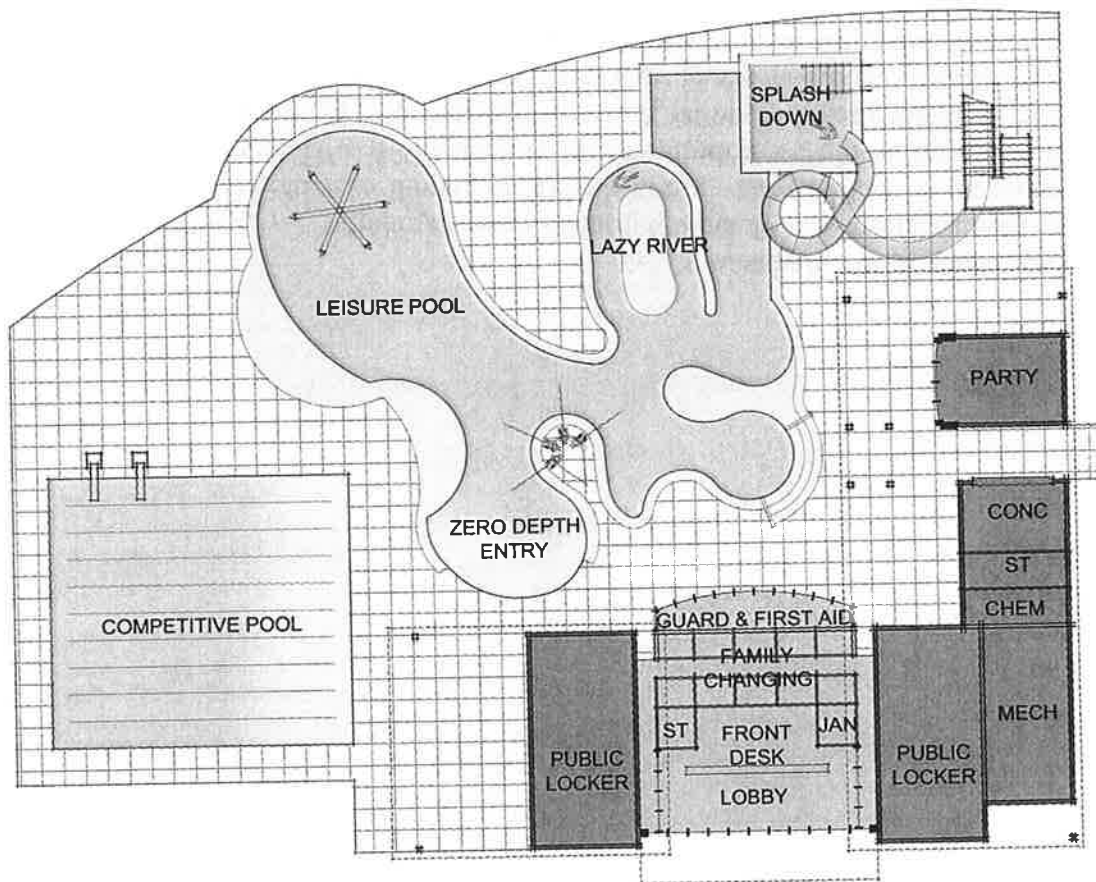
Facility size & components: Approximately 70,000 sq ft, including an outdoor 13,500 sq.ft. leisure pool with a zero depth entry, interactive play features, lazy river, and slides. Includes extensive deck areas, shade structures and grass areas, and a separate outdoor 10-lane, 25 yard by 25 meter competitive pool with 1 and 3 meter diving boards. Indoor facilities include a bath house with a concessions area, locker rooms, a meeting party room, and other support spaces.

Capital Cost: \$19.1 million

Annual Operating Surplus/Deficit: +\$130,000

Site Requirement: 5.5 acres

Annual Visits: 77,250



Option B: Indoor/Outdoor Year-Round Aquatic Center

Target audience: Same user profile as Option A, but also provides for year-round activity. The leisure pool is smaller but includes both indoor and outdoor elements.

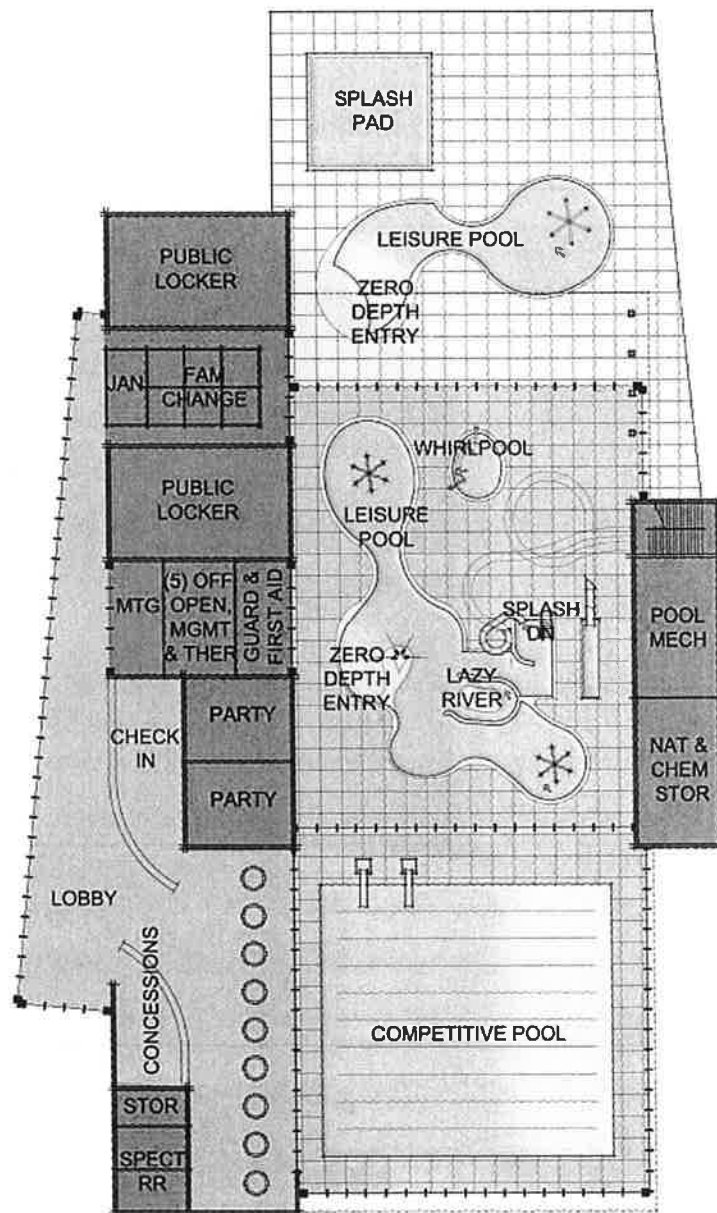
Facility size & components: Approximately 60,000 sq. ft., including an indoor 4,000 sq.ft. leisure pool and outdoor leisure pool of 2,500 sq.ft., each with a zero depth entry, interactive play features, and slides. Includes an indoor adult whirlpool and an outdoor 1,000 sq.ft. splash pad. Separated by a glass wall, an indoor, 10-lane 25 yard by 25 meter competitive pool with 1 and 3 meter diving boards is included. The aquatic center will also include a concessions area, locker rooms, a meeting/management room, party rooms and other support spaces.

Capital Cost: \$28.5 million

Annual Operating Surplus/Deficit: -\$670,000

Site Requirement: 5 acres

Annual visits: 155,200



Option C: Indoor Competition and Training Aquatic Center

Target Audience: Still accommodates the year-round recreational swimmer, but also provides a greater focus on the year-round competitive swimmer, including the ability to host high school and club level practices and meets. Accommodates simultaneous competitions along with fitness/lap swimming or lessons, and accommodates competitive water polo, synchronized swimming and therapy. Fewer outdoor recreational amenities than Options A or B.

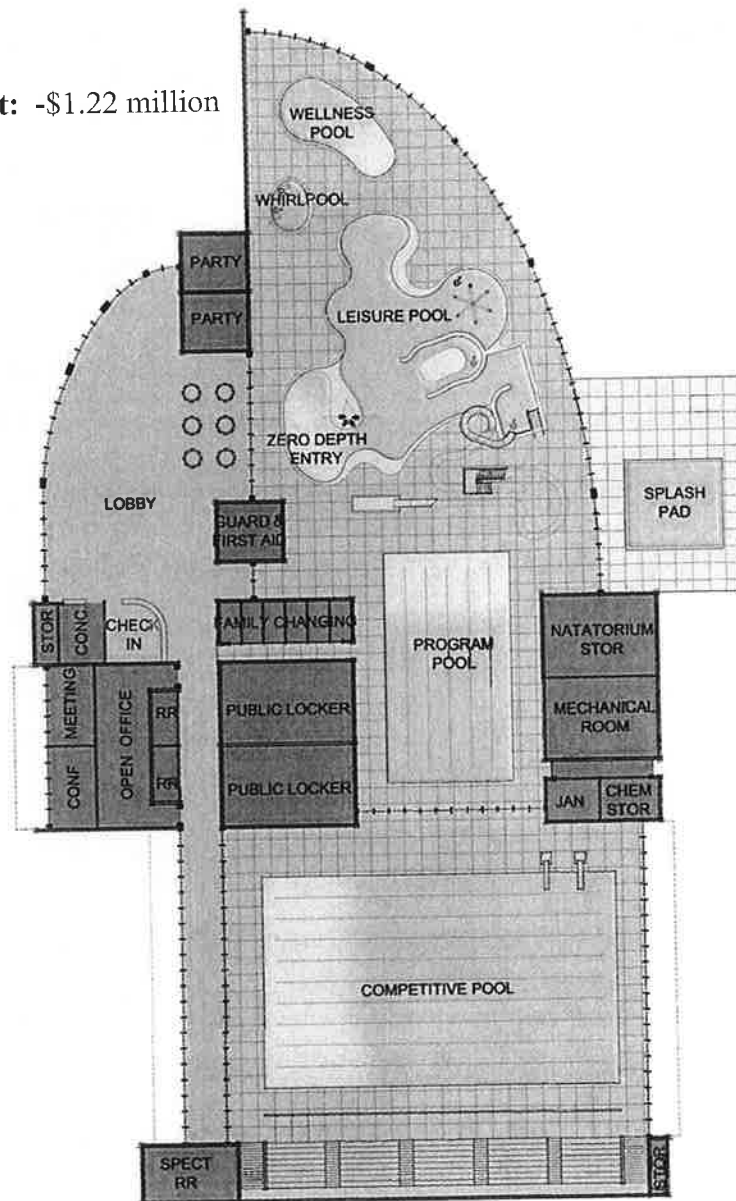
Facility size & components: Approximately 70,000 sq. ft., including an indoor 5,500 sq.ft leisure pool with a zero depth entry, interactive play features, lazy river, slides and an adult whirlpool. An indoor 6 lane by 25 yard program pool is added. Separated by a glass wall, a stretch 10-lane competitive pool with 1 and 3 meter diving boards and seating for 500 is included. There will also be a dedicated 1,200 sq.ft. warm water wellness/therapy pool and an outdoor splash pad adjacent to the leisure pool. The center will include a concessions area, locker rooms, meeting/party rooms, meet management room, and other support spaces.

Capital Cost: \$45 million

Annual Operating Surplus/Deficit: -\$1.22 million

Site Requirement: 6 acres

Annual visits: 205,000



Option D: Indoor Regional Aquatic Center

Target audience: Similar to Option C, but also accommodates regional/collegiate competitions, and provides greater capacity in both the competition and program pools. A slightly larger capacity leisure pool is provided.

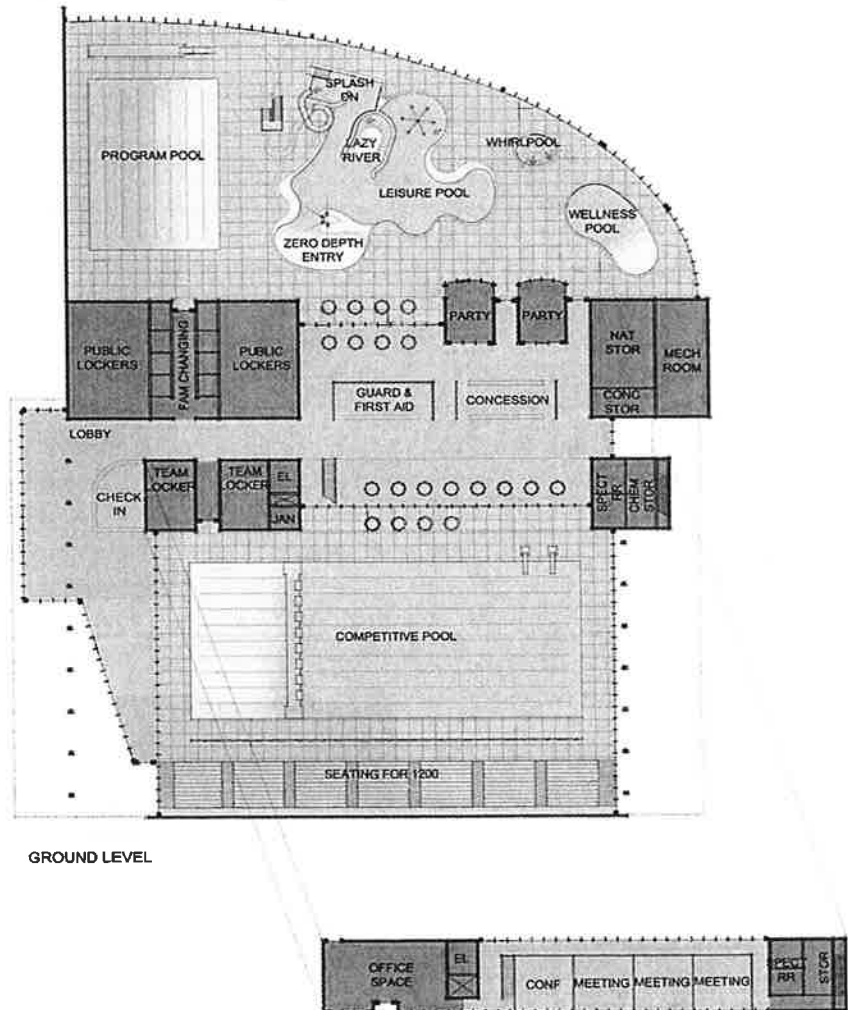
Facility size & components: Approximately 88,000 sq. ft., including a 6,000 sq.ft. leisure pool with a zero depth entry, interactive play features, lazy river, slides, water walk and an adult whirlpool. An 8-lane by 25 yard program pool is included. Separated by a glass wall, a 10-lane, 54 meter by 25 yard competitive pool with two bulkheads, 1 and 3 meter diving boards, and seating for 1,200 is provided. Includes a dedicated 1,200 sq.ft. warm water wellness/therapy pool as well as a concessions area, locker rooms, a meet management room, meeting/party rooms, coach's offices, team locker rooms, and support spaces.

Capital Cost: \$53.3 million with surface parking
 \$71.8 million with parking structure

Annual Operating Surplus/Deficit: -\$1.35 million

Site Requirement: 7.5 acres with surface parking
 4 acres with parking structure

Annual visits: 226,000



Option E: Indoor National Aquatic Center

Target audience: Similar to Option D, but also provides expanded facilities for elite training and competitions, including Olympic performance levels. Provides for competitive diving and space for dry land training.

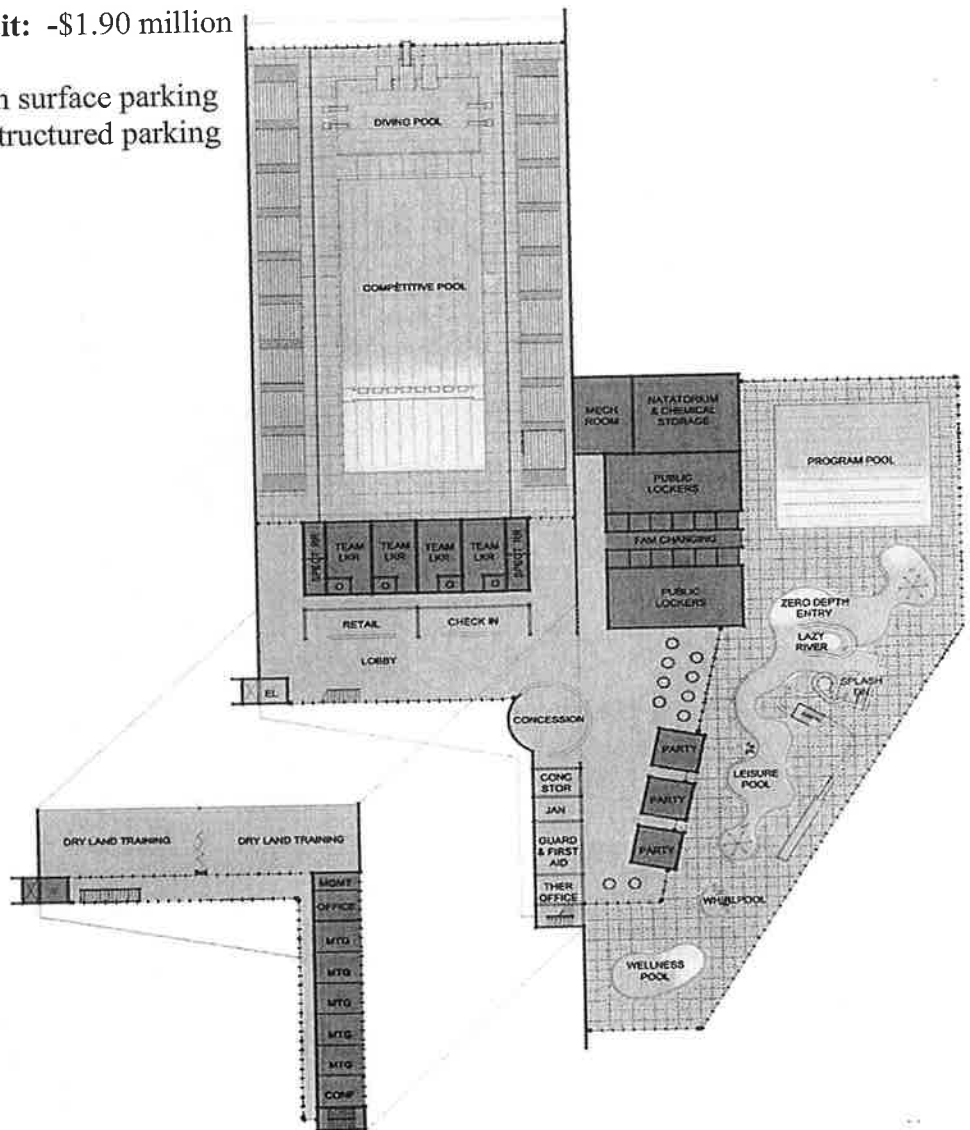
Facility components: Approximately 139,500 sq. ft., including a 6,000 sq.ft. leisure pool with a zero depth entry, interactive play features, lazy river, slides, water walk as well as adult and family whirlpools. A 10-lane 25 yard by 25 meter program pool is included. Separated by a glass wall, a 10-lane 54 meter by 25 yard competitive pool with two bulkheads and a separate diving pool with 1 and 3 meter boards plus a platform diving tower will be included. There will be seating for 3,000. A dedicated warm water wellness/therapy pool is provided, as well as a concessions area, locker rooms, a meeting management room, dry land training areas, several meeting/party rooms, coach's offices, team locker rooms, and other support spaces.

Capital Cost: \$83.7 million with surface parking
 \$114.2 million with parking structure

Annual Operating Surplus/Deficit: -\$1.90 million

Site Requirement: 10.5 acres with surface parking
 6 acres with structured parking

Annual visits: 247,000



VI. Site Analysis (Appendix E, p. 130)

Seven locations were studied as potential sites for a new aquatic center, including four City-owned park properties, one parcel owned by King County, and two that represent general areas, as follows:

- Hidden Valley Park – a 12-acre City-owned park
- Eastgate Area Property – a 27-acre City-owned future park
- Marymoor Park – a 20-acre City-owned portion of the larger park.
- Highland Park – a 12-acre City-owned park
- SE Eastgate Way Parcel – King County-owned former Park-n-Ride site
- Bellevue Community College – a 96-acre campus
- Bel-Red Corridor Study Area – a 910-acre area

The analysis does not recommend an actual site for an aquatic center, but compares the merits of each location based on a set of criteria deemed important to the success of an aquatic facility, and to understand the potential impacts if a large facility were to be constructed. The various options have widely varying needs. For example, Option A requires a 5-acre site, while Option E may require up to a 10.5-acre site. It should be noted that neither King County nor Bellevue Community College has expressed support for the use of their property to construct an aquatic facility, and that locating a facility in the Bel-Red Corridor would require the acquisition of property.

Evaluations of each specific location, a location map and comparative evaluation tools are included in Appendix E.

VII. Estimated Financial Performance (Appendix F, p. 136)

Below is a summary of the anticipated financial performance of the different facility options. A full discussion of the financial assumptions and detailed revenue and expenditure projections are included in Appendix F.

Category	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Revenue					
Fees	678,850	1,101,657	1,642,261	1,891,573	2,069,738
Programs	41,500	225,000	425,500	442,500	526,000
Other	111,500	187,000	227,000	283,000	322,000
Total Revenues	\$831,850	\$1,513,657	\$2,294,761	\$2,617,073	\$2,917,738
Expenses					
Personnel	391,279	1,461,274	2,394,758	2,625,809	3,042,098
Commodities	111,000	155,500	221,000	300,500	352,000
Utilities/Prof Services	200,000	564,000	898,313	1,045,000	1,426,250
Operating Expenses	\$702,279	\$2,180,774	\$3,514,071	\$3,971,309	\$4,820,348
Renovation/Refurbishment	220,000	330,000	520,000	880,000	1,120,000
Total Expenses	\$922,279	\$2,510,774	\$4,034,071	\$4,851,309	\$5,940,348

Operating Surplus/Deficit	\$129,571	-\$667,117	-\$1,219,310	-\$1,354,236	-\$1,902,610
% Operating Cost Recovery	118%	69%	65%	66%	61%

Total Surplus/Deficit	-\$90,429	-\$997,117	-\$1,739,310	-\$2,234,236	-\$3,022,610
% Total Cost Recovery	90%	60%	57%	54%	49%

This operational and financial analysis was completed based on the best information available and a basic understanding of the project. However, there is no guarantee that the expense and revenue projections outlined above will be met as there are many variables that affect such estimates that cannot be accurately measured at this point. That said, these figures represent a true and fair assessment of the likely financial performance of the five scenarios studied.

In order to validate the financial performance estimates summarized above, this study gathered information from other aquatics facilities with a combination of competitive and recreational elements. Financial performance from this group ranged from 37% cost recovery at the Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center in Beaverton, OR, to 71% cost recovery at the Saanich Commonwealth Place in Victoria, BC. The results above are also consistent with a recent survey published in Aquatics International that found that aquatic facility operating cost recovery ranged from 51% at indoor competition facilities to 132% at outdoor recreation-only facilities.

VIII. Economic Impact (Appendix G, p. 156)

In addition to the direct financial performance of the various operating models discussed above, the City should consider the broader economic impacts of such a facility on the community. In 2002, for example, William B. Beyers of the University of Washington and GMA Research Corporation produced a report entitled “An Economic Impact Study of the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center” (June 2002). This study estimates that KCAC generated aggregate spending of \$7.5 million in Washington State, 98 jobs, \$3.1 million in labor income, and \$0.6 million in tax revenues. The study notes that KCAC is unique in that most spending associated with the use of this facility comes from people who live outside the local area, and therefore about 80% of these economic impacts represented “new money” to the local economy.

While a similar analysis was not part of this project, the City should consider the potential economic impacts if one or more of the various aquatic facility models is further evaluated. In general, a more locally-focused facility (options A-C) will create significantly less economic impact than a regional or national facility (options D and E) that generates a significant number of trips, visits, and spending from outside the local area. Components for further study could include the following: hotel stays, car rentals, airfare, and other spending; job creation and labor income; and local tax revenue.

IX. Partnerships (Appendix H, p. 158)

An initial partnership assessment was done for the five different Bellevue Aquatic Center options. Three different levels of partnerships were identified:

Primary or Equity Project Partners – These would be the main partners in the project who have the most interest, the ability to fund, and a willingness to be a part of the development and operation of the facility.

Secondary Project Partners – These organizations have a direct interest in the project but not to the same level as the primary partners. Capital funding for the project is unlikely, but there can be some assistance with program and service delivery.

Support Partners – These organizations support the concept of the aquatics center project but would have limited to no direct involvement in the development or operation of the center.

Foundation- Under this format, the partners would place the responsibility for operations and management of the center under the control of a non-profit foundation established for the center. The center would operate as a public facility and would be under the direct control of the partners through an executive board made up of representatives of each organization. Board membership numbers for each partner should be determined based on the level of contribution to the project.

This arrangement would allow the center to enjoy the benefits of public operation, without the limits of mandated personnel requirements and other issues. It also ensures that each of the partners' interests are represented and their issues are heard. This option does complicate operations and requires the establishment of an additional organization.

Each of the five options was then evaluated to see what level of partnership might be possible:

- *Option A* – This option is the least likely to attract a partnership. It is doubtful that a primary partner will have interest in the project. A few secondary partners may be available.
- *Option B* – This option should be able to attract both primary and secondary partners, but the development and operation of the aquatic center would not be dependent on any primary partners being part of the project.
- *Option C* – Much like Option B, there will most likely be interest in the project from both primary and secondary partners. Having the participation of primary partners would be beneficial, but not essential.
- *Option D* – With the size and magnitude of this option, attracting at least one key primary partner will be essential, and there will need to be a significant number of secondary partners as well.
- *Option E* – In order to make this option a reality, there will need to be multiple primary partners and an extensive number of secondary partners. In addition, the importance of support partners for this option becomes much more critical.

X. Financing Options (Appendix I, p. 164)

Determining a method for funding the capital development costs and annual operating subsidy for a new aquatic center will be a challenge. Several different funding sources may need to be utilized for the center to become a reality. As a result, a number of possible funding sources were investigated:

- *Option A* – With a definite Bellevue focus, it is unlikely that there will be any equity partners for the project. While there is the possibility of fundraising dollars, the vast majority of funding will probably need to come from City of Bellevue funding sources.
- *Option B* – Much the same as with Option A, this option continues to have a Bellevue focus. However, with a more comprehensive indoor center, the opportunity to bring in equity partners and for increasing fundraising and grant/endowment dollars grows considerably. It could still be expected that the City of Bellevue will serve as the primary funding agent for the project.
- *Option C* – The level of funding from equity partners and fundraising should continue to increase. This option could offer the opportunity for some sponsorship dollars, as well as component naming rights revenue. Despite a broader base of capital funding, it could still be expected that the City of Bellevue will need to fund a majority of the project.
- *Option D* – With a much more regional focus to the aquatic center, it will be essential that significant revenue sources beyond the City of Bellevue be tapped. The concept of establishing a Park District needs to be seriously explored. Much stronger revenues from equity partners and naming rights/sponsorships should be expected as well. If the City of Bellevue is still the primary force behind the project (no Park District), then it should be expected that more of the project will have to come from City funding. The concept of establishing a Park District or Public Development Authority needs to be seriously explored.
- *Option E* – The same funding scenario as outlined for Option D would be in place for this option.

XI. A Regional Approach (Appendix J, p. 168)

The City of Bellevue will need to determine what role, if any, the City will want to have in the development of a new aquatic center. If option D or E is chosen, considering the large capital and operational costs of these options, a regional approach to the development and operation of such a facility will be likely. Key issues include:

- Identifying other equity partners with an interest in such a project, including other cities, school districts and non-profit agencies.
- Identifying a site large enough to support such a facility that is conveniently located for the partners in the project; and one that has relatively easy access from I-405, SR 520, and I-90. This will be a significant challenge for the project.
- Establishing a development agreement and operations plan that is satisfactory and equitable to all partners.
- Explore other taxing options, such as the formation of a Parks District, as a way to broaden the tax base for a regional facility.

XII. Key Issues (Appendix K, p. 171)

A number of key issues should be identified and resolved should the City choose to move forward with the development of an aquatic center:

- What is the City's role in providing for aquatics in Bellevue?
- The established goals and policies of an aquatic facility will dramatically affect its capital and operating costs, such as the target market, cost recovery goals and fee policies;
- Facility location will greatly influence its use, capital costs and partnership potential;
- Generally, outdoor aquatic facilities recover a greater percentage of their operating costs than indoor facilities, and recreation-oriented facilities recover a greater percentage of operating costs than competitive-oriented facilities.
- While this study focused on aquatic-oriented facilities, the addition of non-aquatic (dry-side) facilities such as fitness space, gymnasiums and other community amenities can increase market draw and improve overall cost recovery.



PARKS CIP PROJECT STATUS REPORT

July 2018

Aquatic Center Study

Staff has reviewed ten proposals and have developed a short list of four teams to interview in order to select a consulting team to explore the potential scale and scope of an aquatic facility, estimated capital and operating costs, site feasibility, and potential partnerships. The initial feasibility study done in 2009 will be updated to serve as a foundation for this new work. We anticipate the feasibility work to begin this fall.

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.

2019-25 CIP Budget

The Park Board approved a letter to the City Council endorsing the 2019-25 CIP budget projects. The Leadership Team delivered a recommendation to the City Manager in August. The requests include continued funding for the Renovation Program, Park & Open Space Acquisition, and Park Planning; neighborhood park development in Bridle Trails and Newport Hills; construction at Airfield Park; planning and construction of future phases of Meydenbauer Bay; supplemental funding for Downtown Park's NE Gateway; and initial funding for Bel-Red parks and streams.

Downtown Park – NE Gateway

The Park Board was briefed July 10th on the site conditions, strategies, and challenges facing the Gateway project. The four options presented included strategies for the placement of the Union High Arch, interaction with the adjacent commercial properties, integration of public art, differing water features, gateway plaza, and connections to the DTP. We are now developing a preferred plan based on the comments received and hopes to present a preferred site plan to the Board at a joint Park Board/Arts Commission meeting this fall. We met with the artist in August and will be refining the initial concepts for review by the Arts Commission.

Meydenbauer Bay Phase 1 Park Development

Construction is now 80% complete, with expected completion at the end of 2018. The beach house exterior and interior finish work is ongoing. The swimming platform and the floating pier sections are now installed. Final beach construction and shoreline restoration is underway. Concrete retaining walls are nearly complete, and the rock retaining wall and terrace work is also nearing completing. Pedestrian pathways and stairways will be paved over the next several weeks, and right-of-way work along 99th Ave. and LWB is complete except for driveway and parking lot approaches, which will be complete in September. A pedestrian crossing at LWB and 99th St. is being installed. The Whaling Building renovation is underway. We are now developing a parking plan to address the busy summer season, as we expect that parking will be challenging during hot summer days.

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.
- **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:** Park construction is about 80% complete and on track for completion by year’s end. We continue to coordinate park work, construction access and utility infrastructure with Sound Transit. Concrete work is being finished up, topsoil spread, and landscape planting has begun. Play equipment installation and irrigation work continue and picnic shelter installation has begun. Water and sewer to the park has been completed and final electrical work is in-process. Some planting/restoration work may continue next spring depending on weather and light rail construction. Staff continues to work with the adjacent neighbors to address property encroachment issues and the new boundary fence. The last (3rd) letter prior to fence installation work has been sent to neighbors notifying them that fence removal and replacement will occur this fall.

Renovation Program

Project Status: Planning (P); Design & Bid (DB); Under Construction (U); Complete (C); Deferred (D)

The following 2017 projects were deferred into 2018:

- Re-coring of parks facilities (U)
- Multi-site drinking fountain (P)
- BGC Parking lot sealcoat & restripe (U)
- Cherry Crest Resurface sport courts (C)
- Eastgate Park Ticket booth & deck (DB)
- Forest Park Trail landslide repair (C)
- Wilburton Hill Turf Replace A&E (P)
- NWAC Restroom Remodel (DB)
- Robinswood Tennis Bubble (U)
- Kelsey Educational Barn A&E (D)
- MSEEC Interpretive Signage (C)
- McDowell House Repairs (C)
- Summit Trail Repairs (C)
- Kelsey Cr Paving & Drainage (DB)
- Meydenbauer Whaling Building (U)

59 projects are approved for the 2018 program, as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Programmatic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park furnishings (U) • Robinswood House ADA (D) • Multi-site asphalt repairs (U) • Energy Conservation (U) • Outdoor Skate Park Refurb. (C) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPDES requirements (U) • Natural Area Restoration (U) • Urban Forestry Park Sites (U) • Streetscapes (U) • Greenways & Trails (U) |
| Bannerwood Ballfield Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking Lot Improvements (U) • Concession Stand Improvements (C) | |
| Chism Beach Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking Lot Sealcoat & Curb (U) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burrows Cabin Insurance Claim (P) |
| Coal Creek NP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Bridge Replacement (U) | |
| Crossroads Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spray Park A&E (DB) • Air Handler Replacement (DB) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comm. Center Carpet & Paint (C) |
| Downtown Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dumpster, Fence & Gator Storg (U) • Irrigation Improvements (C) • Canal pump replacement (DB) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground Restroom Floor (C) |
| Eastgate Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little League Field Irrigation Replacement (DB) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge Course Improvements (P) |
| Forest Glen Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground Equipment Repl. (DB) | |
| Goldsmith Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Court Repair & Fence Replacement (C) | |
| Highland Community Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation Replacement (U) • Exterior Painting (U) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A&E for 2019 Boiler Repl & AC at Gym (P) |
| Kelsey Creek Farm Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking Lot Lighting Repl (U) • Boardwalk Foot Bridge Replacement Phase 1 (U) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Coop Roof Repl & Rabbit Hutch Improvements (U) |
| Lake Hills Nursery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exterior Painting (C) | |
| Lakemont Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace Sewer Pumps (C) | |
| Lattawood Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace Play Equipment (DB) | |
| Lewis Creek | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor Center Exterior Coatings (C) | |
| Mercer Slough | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siding, Decking & LED Imp. (U) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooring Replacement at Classrooms, Labs (DB) |
| Environmental Education Center & Nature Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor Center A/C (DB) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A&E for Overlake Blueberry Drainage (C) |
| Meydenbauer Whaling Building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretive Signage (DB) | |
| Newcastle Beach Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic Shelter, Caretaker House Painting (U) | |
| Northwest Arts Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boiler Replacement (DB) | |
| Odle Trail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paving (C) | |
| Robinswood Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis Center Fire System (DB) | |
| Robinswood Park North | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricket Pitch Replacement & Practice Pitch Install (DB) | |
| Sunset Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pickleball Court Conversion (Cancelled) | |
| Spiritridge Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation System Replacement (DB) | |
| Westwood Highlands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Court Resurface (C) | |
| Wilburton Hill Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBG Ground Cover Garden Irrigation (C) • WHP Field 1 Drainage Install (U) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBG Shorts House Security FA Panel (C) |

From: Foran, Patrick

Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 5:10 PM

To: Park Board

Cc: Brittingham, Shelley; Esparza, Toni; McVein, Shelley; Camron Parker; Sanner, Doug; Stephens, Helena

Subject: Wilburton Hill Park Boy and Girls Club proposal

Chair Kumar and Board,

Attached are two communications regarding a recent proposal from the Boys and Girls Club of Bellevue (BGCB) to develop, in partnership with the City, an indoor youth sports program facility at Wilburton Hill Park, similar to the one we developed at Hidden Valley Park several years ago. As you can see, this is very preliminary, no decisions have been made and we have just started the due diligence work including public outreach specifically with the Wilburton neighborhood. The first Word document is a brief background and summary of the proposal by the BGCB and the second (PDF) is a copy of the Wilburton Community Association newsletter containing information about this idea. Please note that the BGCB and Bellevue Parks staff will be at annual picnic September 8th at Kelsey Creek Park to provide information and receive feedback. That event is only an introduction and there is much work to be done to vet this idea fully with the neighborhood, Parks Board and City Council. In the meantime, give me a call if you have any questions.

Patrick Foran

Director, Parks & Community Services

City of Bellevue

pforan@bellevuewa.gov

425-452-5377



Phone: 452-5377

Date: August 21, 2018

To: Parks and Community Services Board

From: Patrick Foran, Director, Parks & Community Services

Subject: Bellevue Boys & Girls Clubs fieldhouse concept

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue (BGCB) has proposed that they fund the design, construction, maintenance and operation of an athletic fieldhouse on City property similar to our gymnasium partnership at Hidden Valley Park. Programming of the facility would be a collaboration between the BGCB and the City with each party providing programs unique to their respective program goals.

The City and BGCB have partnered on several successful projects including the construction and joint programming at the South Bellevue Community Center, Hidden Valley Gym and fields, and the Boys & Girls Club Main Club in downtown. The BGCB also utilizes Crossroads Community Center to provide after-school youth programs and the Lake Hills Clubhouse for teen programs and services.

The facility would be approximately 30-40,000 sf in size. For comparison, South Bellevue Community Center is about 34,000 sf, the Hidden Valley Gym is 23,000 sf, and our other community centers are about 20,000sf. The facility would be designed to accommodate a broad spectrum of the athletic community, including low-income youth and teens, for field sports such as soccer, lacrosse, cricket, field hockey, football, baseball & softball training.

The BGCB's target service area is east Bellevue, though broadly defined as east of I-405 and north of I-90. Locating a facility of this size, given its parking requirements and the City's well-developed park system, is extremely challenging. A quick review of sites identified Wilburton Hill Community Park as a potential location, but more precise work needs to be done including public outreach to the surrounding neighborhood. To that end we have prepared a brief description of the proposal that will appear in the upcoming Wilburton Community Association's newsletter, and City and BGCB staff will attend WCA's annual picnic on September 8 to provide information and seek feedback.

Like the Hidden Valley Park project, the current BGCB proposal includes the use of public property so underlying all work on this proposal will be strict adherence to State Law regarding Gift of Public Funds.

If you have any questions, please contact me.



SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE

Bring Your Patience with You as You Travel Through Wilburton this Summer. Two projects are affecting traffic through the area:

1. Kelsey Creek Culvert replacement on NE 8th St. Construction continues until about November 20th and requires significant work on NE 8th St. between 132nd Ave. NE and 134th Ave. NE. Most of the time there will be only a single lane of traffic in each direction. Importantly there will be a complete closure of NE 8th St. from August 15th - Sept. 16th. EXPECT DELAYS AS YOU TRAVEL THROUGH THIS AREA.

For updates, check out: <https://goo.gl/2kyaY6>, or <https://utilities.bellevuewa.gov/utilities-projects-plans-standards/projects-in-your-neighborhood/kelsey-creek-culvert-replacement>; and

2. Sidewalk Construction Projects. In preparation for the new Wilburton Elementary School, sidewalks are being installed in several places:

- A. 118th Ave. SE (short section south of Main St.), in progress through end of August.
- B. NE 2nd St. north side from 124th Ave. NE to 128th Ave. NE. In progress through end of August.
- C. Main St. just west of 124th Ave. NE (in front of the WISC). During the month of August.
- D. 128th Ave west side from SE 6th Pl. to NE 2nd St. Begins mid-August; ends late November.

For updates, check out: <https://goo.gl/BKx1wV>, or <https://transportation.bellevuewa.gov/traffic-conditions/traffic-advisories>.

Contributed by Ann Breese

Downtown Bellevue Road Construction & Closures

Bellevue and our region continue to make huge progress on projects to improve access and travel times. However, this progress also means a busy summer construction season and some delays. For anyone looking for a quick guide to the longer-term construction-related closure in and around Downtown Bellevue, look no further. Just goto:



<https://goo.gl/dn4s7M>, or visit <https://www.bellevuedowntown.com/post/construction-in-and-around-downtown-bellevue>

Web article by Emma Sullivan

The Wilburton Community Association Dues

If you have not yet paid the recommended \$20.00 per Household voluntary dues for 2018, send in your dues with the Membership slip that was in the April newsletter. If you are not sure if you have paid, ask at the sign in table at the WCA Picnic on Sept 8, at Kelsey Creek Park. They will be happy to accept your dues. Be sure to sign in at the WCA Picnic and confirm that your information is on file along with current phone number and e-mail address.

Absentee Ballot 2018-19 WCA Officer Elections

Ashley Kaiser (President) Jim Duong (Treasurer)
 Write-In Candidate Name: _____ Write-In Candidate Name: _____
 Santiago Naranjo (V-Pres): _____ Madelyn Bushnell (Secretary): _____
 Write-In Candidate Name: _____ Write-In Candidate Name: _____

MEMBER SIGNATURE: The undersigned member of the Wilburton Community Association hereby casts his / her vote for the election of officers at the Annual Meeting of the Association. Copies may be made as needed for each Wilburton resident 18 years and older.

Signature: _____
 Printed Name: _____
 Address: _____



August 2018

20th Annual WCA Community Picnic!



Join your neighbors in celebrating the picnic's 20th Anniversary while enjoying good food and a great company! The picnic will be held on a Saturday this year, September 8th from 3:00 - 6:00 at the Kelsey Creek Park Picnic Shelter. The WCA will provide hot dogs and beverages. We will have children's activities and prize drawings from local merchants. Bring a potluck dish to share. Neighbors are also encouraged to bring a non-perishable or monetary donation for Hopelink.

Note: please leave pets at home. Questions or want to help? Email susanmyer@comcast.net.

THE WILBURTON HILL PARK FIELD HOUSE CONCEPT

The Boys & Girls Clubs (BGCB) have approached the City with a proposal to construct and operate an athletic fieldhouse at Wilburton Hill Park. The facility would provide indoor field sports opportunities such as soccer, lacrosse, cricket, field hockey, baseball & softball. The BGCB would fund the construction and operation of the facility, and both agencies would provide programs and activities for all ages.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue Community Services



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BELLEVUE

More analysis is needed before a decision is made on whether to move forward with this idea. Several potential locations have been identified within the park for this facility, but since we are in the initial stages of discussion, we do not have a design. However, we would like an opportunity to introduce the concept to the Wilburton community. Representatives of the City and BGCB will be at your annual picnic in Kelsey Creek Park on September 8 to provide additional information, hear your thoughts and answer questions.

Contributed by Glenn Kost, Bellevue Park Planning & Development

Wilburton Elementary Is Back To School Ready

A few important dates to note as we get closer to the start of the school:

- **September 4:** First Day of School for Students in Kindergarten. Give yourself more time to get around, as traffic will be heavier than usual in our neighborhood.
- **September 20:** We are invited to join celebrating the opening of the new school from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pml More details will be posted at <https://bscd405.org/wilburton/>.
- **August 28:** Wilburton family Meet/Greet with staff. Parents and children will get a chance to meet their teachers.
- **August 30:** First Day of School for students in grades 1-5. Be cautious on the road as we'll find more children walking around.

Contributed by Jim Duong

UPDATE SPRING DISTRICT PROJECT, BEL-RED CORRIDOR

Gone are the days when you could stop at the Dairy Queen at NE 8th and 112th for a shake and a burger. Whenever I crest the hill on I-405 northbound, just past I-90, I am amazed at the collection of skyscrapers that now comprise downtown Bellevue. We are witnessing the development of the Bel-Red corridor which is undergoing massive construction.



East Link, the planned light rail system, has now tunneled under downtown on its way out to Redmond and continues to be scheduled for operation in 2023. The new Urban Village known as the Spring District, at 124th and Bel-Red, is open for business.

Completed Projects:

The first completed project was an apartment complex called Sparc. It opened in 2017 with 309 units. Sparc now includes a child care and nursery facility.

The Steve Balmer Building is the first phase of GIX University, a consortium of University of Washington and Tsinghua University Beijing. This project receives financial support from Microsoft, and has commenced operations.

By 2019 the Spring District is expected to have roughly 800 apartments. Several other developments will be opening in coming years, including Block 24, a nine story development with more than 166,600-square-feet of office space. The Arras apartments will add another 309 apartments and is scheduled to open this year. Finally, ALMI Residential Properties is building 204 apartment units in a complex, which will open in late 2019.

The Spring District is a 16-block, 36-acre development area being guided by Wright-Runstad with the intention of creating a transit-oriented district with retail, office and residential uses.

Next Major Projects

Pine Forest Properties is seeking to build a transit-oriented development at 1445 120th Avenue Northeast across the street from the site of the coming light rail station, which is expected to be completed in 2023. The project would demolish three existing industrial buildings and warehouses on three parcels. They would be replaced with six new buildings, totaling more than 889,000 square feet, along with nearly 2,000 underground parking stalls on the 8.35 acre site. This site is adjacent to the new Light Rail Maintenance Yard now under construction.

The Wilburton Community Association (WCA) Mission

The mission of the Association shall be to promote a strong community spirit and to keep Wilburton a safe and desirable community. This mission will be accomplished through information monitoring and distribution to residents, social functions, and communication with a strong collective voice to other organizations.

Men's Low-Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lincoln Center – UPDATE

On July 26, 2018, the Bellevue City Council voted to adopt a land use code amendment (LUCA) to address how and where a homeless shelter can be sited in Bellevue. Mayor John Chelminiak, Deputy Mayor Lynne Robinson, and council members John Stokes and Janice Zahn voted in favor of it, council members Conrad Lee, Jared Nieuwenhuis and Jennifer Robertson voted against it.

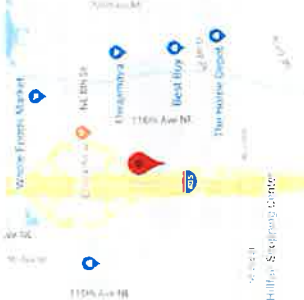
The LUCA vote, however, does not include the selection of a specific site for the permanent men's homeless shelter. The three sites still being considered for a permanent site are: 1) Lincoln Center, 555 116th Ave. NE (Wilburton); 2) Eastgate near the Eastgate Public Health Center and; 3) the Sound Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility East near the Spring District along 120th Avenue, NE.

A proposal for funding (and required upgrades) to the Lincoln Center site in preparation to become a year-round temporary low-barrier men's homeless shelter, is expected to be submitted and discussed this Fall 2018 by the City Council as part of its 2019-2020 budget discussion.

The upcoming budget discussion by City Council is significant because it "green lights" the likelihood that the Lincoln Center (Wilburton) men's low barrier homeless winter site will become a year-round low barrier men's homeless shelter site beginning Spring 2019 and potentially, the future site of the permanent low-barrier men's homeless shelter.

Neighbors who wish to voice an opinion or who may require additional information about the LUCA and/or the homeless shelter can contact any of the Bellevue City Council member listed above at 425-452-7810 or rauncill@bellevuewa.gov, and/or Nancy LaCombe, Assistant Director, City Manager's Office, NLacombe@bellevuewa.gov, telephone 425-452-4382, and/or Toni Pratt, Senior Planner, TPratt@bellevuewa.gov.

contributed by Madelyn Bushnell



Slate of WCA Officers 2018 - 2019

If you can't make the General Meeting at the summer picnic, you may cast an absentee vote by filling out the absentee ballot form included on the back of this newsletter. Ballots can be dropped off in the blue ballot box under the "Little Free Library" at 12927 SE 6th Pl. Extra ballots are available inside the library box. If you have any questions, please contact us at:

wilburtonpresident@gmail.com

Cast your vote today!

Ashley Kaiser (President): A Wilburton resident since 2011, Ashley and her family can be found walking in Kelsey Creek Farm Park, playing in their yard, or socializing with neighbors. She has served as WCA President since 2016 and previously served six years on the board of an Oregon nonprofit professional organization in a variety of roles.

Santiago Naranjo (Vice President): A Wilburton resident since 2013, Santiago along with his partner and adorable chihuahua dog Tito can be found walking about Wilburton Park and the Kelsey Creek Trails on any given evening (weather permitting). Santiago is a small business owner, working primarily within the wedding industry as a wedding officiant, master of ceremonies, and mobile DJ provider. Santiago also volunteers part-time as a conciliator for Bellevue's Conflict Resolution Center and is active within the Toastmasters community.

Jim Duong (Treasurer): A Wilburton resident since 2009, Jim can be sighted running through the various Wilburton trails most evenings. Jim and his family can also be spotted biking, scooting, and walking through Kelsey Creek Farm Park. IT Consultant by trade, Jim works with local organizations to leverage technology for streamlining processes and reducing operating costs. Jim has served as the WCA Treasurer since 2016.

Madelyn Bushnell (Secretary): A Wilburton resident since 2002, Madelyn is retired. In her spare time, Madelyn volunteer teaches English as a Second Language at Bellevue College in its adult literacy program. She also founded the Neighbors' Book Club (NBC). She is actively engaged with Habitat for Humanity and Fuller Center home builds and volunteers for the American Red Cross. On any given day, Madelyn, her husband, and dog are regular walkers to/ at Kelsey Creek, Wilburton Hills Park or Home Depot. She has been the Wilburton Community Association Acting Secretary since last year.

From: Bellevue Chamber of Commerce Chris Johnson
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 6:42 PM
To: Harwood, Brad <BHarwood@bellevuewa.gov>
Cc: Faine, Christina <CFaine@bellevuewa.gov>; Bowers, Mike <MBowers@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: Bannerwood Park Amenities in Place

Brad - Good to chat with you at the Council Study Session earlier this week.

While Council is necessarily preoccupied with important policy matters, it is reassuring that city staff are hard at work performing ongoing tasks such as maintaining and improving our parks. A terrific example are the amenities recently installed at Bannerwood Park on Richards Road. As you may know, this is a wonderful active recreation site, with an enclosed baseball field, which happens to serve as home field for the Seattle University Redhawks.

Bannerwood is also a great place for people in the neighborhood to enjoy nature and exercise with their pets. Until now, there has been no place to sit outside the baseball field. Thanks to Mike Bowers and his colleagues, Bannerwood now has a picnic table and wonderful bench, which residents and visitors of all ages can enjoy. I visit the spot nightly, so I can experience the sites and sounds of the Richards Creek Basin.

I do hope you will consider retelling this story, as a small example of city staff responding to simple request.

Thanks - Chris

Chris Johnson | Director of Government Relations
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
P: 425.213.1208 | F: 425.462.4660 | E: cjohnson@bellevuechamber.org
330 112th Ave. NE, Suite 100, Bellevue, WA 98004



From: Bowers, Mike
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2018 9:36 AM
To: Purcell, Thomas <TPurcell@bellevuewa.gov>
Cc: Faine, Christina <CFaine@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: FW: Bannerwood Park Amenities in Place

Gary Sherman did a lot of the work on this area and deserves a lot of praise for it.
Looks good over there..
Big plus to the area...

From: Purcell, Thomas
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2018 9:39 AM
To: McVein, Shelley <SMcVein@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: FW: Bannerwood Park Amenities in Place

Just FYI

Kudos to Gary Sherman.

Thomas (Tom) Purcell
Structural Operations Manager, Parks & Community Services
City of Bellevue
425-452-2036
Cell: 509-520-3209
*Planning-Procedures-Execute-Oversight
(IAATP) Est circa omni populo*

From: Lei Wu

Date: August 7, 2018 at 9:56:51 PM PDT

To: Debra Kumar, [Councilmember Robertson]

Cc: Camron Parker; Nancy Harvey; Aquatics

Subject: **Swim lessons at the Bellevue Aquatic Center need to come back**

Dear Council member Robertson, Chair Kumar, and Parks Commission members,

For the first time ever, the Bellevue Aquatic Center is not offering swim lessons for youth in the fall. The Center is only offering a couple of swim lessons for preschoolers. Nothing for anybody else. No group lessons. No private lessons.

That really shocked me. So many kids in the community have grown up with swim lessons at the BAC. What happened to those wonderful lessons?

So I chatted with staff at the BAC. That chat made me very sad. While nationwide there is a shortage of lifeguards and swim instructors, the pay rate for our staff at the BAC does not help the matter. Our lifeguards are paid less than people who work at the nearby YMCA do. Some lifeguards are not even earning City of Seattle minimum wage.

If my above understanding is fair, please make working for the BAC more attractive. Also, please support current staff to get lifeguard certificate so that they can teach swim lessons.

We want swim lessons to come back and continue for many more kids to come.

Thank you!

Lei Wu

From: Bennett, Brad
Sent: Thursday, August 9, 2018 9:27 PM
To: Lei Wu
Subject: Swim lessons at the Bellevue Aquatic Center need to come back

Dear Lei,

I received your email yesterday regarding swim lessons at the Bellevue Aquatic Center. I am gathering information from the BAC management regarding your concerns. I will be out of the office tomorrow and Monday. Please look for an email from me later next week.

Regards,

Brad Bennett
Parks & Community Services Manager
City of Bellevue
bbennett@bellevuewa.gov
425-452-2813

A CAPRA Accredited Agency
NRPA Gold Medal Winner
America's Promise, 100 Best Communities for Youth

The contents of this electronic mail message do not necessarily reflect the official views of the elected officials or citizens of the City of Bellevue.

From: Lei Wu
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2018 6:56 AM
To: Bennett, Brad
Subject: Re: Swim lessons at the Bellevue Aquatic Center need to come back

Thanks Brad! The management and staff at the BAC are wonderful. It sounded that there was staffing shortage to me.

Lei

On Mon, Aug 20, 2018 at 3:52 PM, Brittingham, Shelley <SBrittingham@bellevuewa.gov> wrote:

Dear Lei Wu - Brad Bennett is out of town this week until Wednesday, and asked me to forward you this further information regarding swim lessons at the Bellevue Aquatic Center. Thank you –

*Shelley Brittingham
Assistant Director
City of Bellevue Parks & Community Services*

425-452-5213

Lei,

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding swim lessons at the Bellevue Aquatic Center. According to Scott Armstrong, Aquatic Center Manager, it is true that there is a nationwide shortage of lifeguards and swim instructors. We are experiencing the same effect locally. Staff are exploring reasons why there is a shortage and will work on a recruitment plan to remain competitive with other aquatic centers in the area. A Fall Lifeguard Training course will be offered to help recruit new staff. Feel free to contact Scott Armstrong at 425-452-2806 if you have any questions.

Regards,
Brad Bennett
Parks & Community Services Manager
425-452-2813

From: Lei Wu

Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 6:43 PM

To: Brittingham, Shelley

Cc: Bennett, Brad; Foran, Patrick; Parker, Camron; Harvey, Nancy; Robertson, Jennifer S.; Council; Debra Kumar

Subject: Re: FW: Swim lessons at the Bellevue Aquatic Center need to come back

Hi Brad and Shelley,

Thank you for looking into this issue and looking for solutions!

Our Bellevue Aquatic Center has great facilities and wonderful staff. I look forward to a healthy staffing level.

Best,
Lei

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

SEPTEMBER 2018

- Sept 1** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lewis Creek Park, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**
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 (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Sept 2** **Mercer Slough Family-Friendly Ranger Hike, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., rain or shine**
Meet at: Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Park Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This kid-oriented program aims to educate kids and their parents about the Nature Park while discovering the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. The hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge in the middle of the park. From there you will be able to continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Distance:** 1.5+ miles. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (30 feet elevation change). **Ages:** Family event; all ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Sept 2** **The Washington State Sea Turtle Race, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Did you know that leatherback sea turtles forage for jellyfish just off the coast of Washington State? Join us to learn about their biology. We'll play a fun sea turtle migration game outside. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Sept 3** **Holiday Farm Tour: Labor Day, 11 a.m. – noon or 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**
Kelsey Creek Farm Park Animal Barn Foyer, 410 130th Place SE
Come visit our resident farm animals! Meet our ponies, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, and rabbits, all while discovering what it takes to be a farmer. You will get to pet many of our animals and even feed some of them. **Ages:** 2 years and older, with an adult. **Cost:** \$8/resident and \$10/non-resident per person. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1835371 for the 11 a.m. tour, and course #1835372 for the 1:30 p.m. tour.

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

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Sept 7** **“Wild Kratts: Build It Beaver” (Nature Movie)**, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
When the Wild Kratts accidentally break a beaver dam, they must help the beaver family rebuild it and restore the pond’s ecosystem. Watch this family educational show with a Bellevue Park Ranger, and stick around afterward for a beaver program! **Ages:** 3 to 8 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6993.
- Sept 7** **Lewis Creek Story Time: “The Salamander Room”**
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! Have you found a salamander hidden in the forest or wondered about what our mysterious amphibian friends are up to? There are thirteen species of salamander that call Washington home, and they come in all sizes and colors. This story time, we’ll read two stories all about some of our favorite amphibians! This is an indoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Sept 8** **Hardy Fern Foundation Plant Sale**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Purchase unusual ferns for your garden, and learn about ferns from the experts! Sale is hosted by the Hardy Fern Foundation and is open to the public. **Cost:** Free admission and parking; costs vary for plants. **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** <http://www.hardyferns.org/>
- Sept 8** **The Washington State Sea Turtle Race**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Did you know that leatherback sea turtles forage for jellyfish just off the coast of Washington State? Join us to learn about their biology. We’ll play a fun sea turtle migration game outside. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Sept 11** **Bellevue Main Club Open House**, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Bellevue Main Club, 209 100th Avenue NE
Sample upcoming Fall fitness programs for free at the Bellevue Main Club. Try 50-minute fitness classes to get you moving, as well as classes that create connections and promote lifelong learning. Class start times: Jazzercise (8 a.m.), Strength Training (9:15 a.m.), Mindful Movement (10:45 a.m.). Also, learn about upcoming education and enrichment classes. Fall topics include creative writing, intellectual property, and acrylic painting. The Fall session starts on September 17. Visit the Bellevue Main Club web page for more information about our programs. **Ages:** Adults, 18 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Sept 14** **Garden Class: Mindfulness in the Garden – Deepening Your Awareness,** 10:30 a.m. - noon
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Integrating elements of mindfulness meditation and Shinrin Yoku (Japanese Forest Bathing), we will cleanse and free our mind, body and spirit, creating a sense of inner strength, spaciousness and stillness. Instructors Deborah Wilk, LMFT, and Jessica Volpentesta, LMHC, are psychotherapists in private practice and co-founders of Mindful in the Wild. **Cost:** \$25 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>
- Sept 15** **Painting with Chickens,** 10 a.m. – noon
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Create a painting with a chicken! Children will work with a chicken to create a fun, colorful piece of artwork, combining your child’s creativity with the footprints of one of our resident chickens. Children will also get to pet the chicken artists and feed them some yummy treats. All activities will be inside, but dress warmly because the barn is not heated. The nontoxic children’s finger paint is washable, but have your child wear clothes that you don’t mind getting dirty. **Ages:** 5-9 years old. **Cost:** \$25/resident and \$30/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1835361.
- Sept 15** **Garden Class: Top Ten – Fabulous Foliage for Autumn,** 10:30 a.m. - noon
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
This class, taught by George Lasch, will focus on the top ten trees that color up well before shedding. We will talk about how and why foliage changes, and best ways to maximize the show. The walk and talk will focus on good garden trees that reliably show off in the October drizzle. One of our most popular and entertaining speakers, George was the Supervisor of the Perennial Border garden at BBG for eight years. **Cost:** \$25 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>
- Sept 15** **Fraser Cabin Heritage Program,** 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
The Fraser Cabin, built in 1888, comes to life with activities and interpretation presented by volunteers and staff from the Eastside Heritage Center. Visitors are invited to participate in hands-on activities that relate to 1880s settler life: agriculture, dairy, household tasks, log cabins, games and Eastside history. Fraser Cabin Heritage Programs are presented by the Eastside Heritage Center in partnership with Bellevue Parks & Community Services. **Ages:** All ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** Eastside Heritage Center – www.eastsideheritagecenter.org or 425-450-1049.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Sept 16** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lakemont Highlands Open Space**, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Bellevue Park Ranger at the Lewis Creek Visitor Center to explore the Lakemont Highlands Open Space trail system. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Distance:** Approximately 3.5 miles. **Level of difficulty:** Moderately difficult (680 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Sept 16** **Northwest Perennial Alliance Lecture: Truly Compelling Combinations – Creating Sizzle and Subtlety**, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Award-winning author and garden designer Brenda Adams will explain how and why plant combinations work to create more beautiful and compelling spaces. You will discover new ways to use foliage, color, texture, form and other plant attributes to design upbeat, dazzling and exciting combinations as well as those with a calm, more subtle, but still very memorable presence. **Cost:** Free for Northwest Perennial Alliance members; \$15 for non NWPA members. **Pre-registration:** Recommended. **Info and to register:**
http://www.northwestperennialalliance.org/Brenda_Adams_lecture.php
- Sept 19** **Flu Shot Clinic and Community Resources Fair**, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m., rain or shine
Stevenson Elementary School, 14220 NE 8th Street
Bring the whole family to visit the new Stevenson Elementary building! Join vendors, organizations, and community services providers at a fun event for everyone. Limited free flu shots will be available to low-income individuals and families. Bellevue organizations will share their informational materials at their tables. **Ages:** Family event; all ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** Cecilia Martinez-Vasquez at cmartinezv@bellevuewa.gov or 425-456-6000.
- Sept 19** **BBG Society Lecture: Entertaining – White House Style**, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Laura Dowling was the Chief Floral Designer at the White House from 2009-2015. This program will include a slide show of White House events and a presentation about stylish entertaining at home. This lecture is presented by the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society and is open to the public. **Cost:** \$5 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$15 for non BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Recommended. **Info and to register:**
<https://bellevuebotanical.org/>

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Sept 21** **The Good Garter Snake**, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
Garter snakes are the only native snake in Bellevue. Nearly harmless, they slither through the wetlands hunting insects, frogs and other small creatures. Join us as we learn about this awesome snake, who was recently named the Master Naturalists' Creature of the Year! **Ages:** 3 to 8 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6993.
- Sept 21** **Welcoming Week Event – Brazilian Drumming Workshop**, 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Create rhythms in an intuitive, spontaneous way. Brazilian instruments will be available as well as buckets, plastic oil pans, and anything that can make sound. Learn to play traditional and contemporary Brazilian grooves, and explore your own creativity. Enjoy playing as an ensemble with an instructor who has performed for celebrities such as Nelson Mandela, Paul Simon, Pope John II and the 14th Dalai Lama! **Ages:** Ages 10 to adults. **Cost:** \$10/resident and \$12/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106, course 1803693.
- Sept 22** **Master Gardeners of King County – Speaker Series and Plant Sale**,
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Shop cool plants from unique, local nurseries, and attend sessions with excellent speakers. Master Gardeners can earn Continuing Education credits for these sessions. **Cost:** Free parking and admission to the plant sale; costs of plants and speaker session fees vary. **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** <http://www.mgfk.org/events>
- Sept 22** **Fall Farm Fun: Sheep, Chickens, and Bunnies, Oh My!** 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park Animal Barn Foyer, 410 130th Place SE
Meet a sheep, feed a chicken, and pet a bunny! Enjoy a fall morning on the farm in the company of our animals. Activities include animal petting, crafts, and snack time. Come dressed for the weather. This event is for adult/child teams only. **Ages:** 3-6 years old. **Cost:** \$25/resident and \$30/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803644.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Sept 22** **Family Discovery Series: Nature's Recyclers**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Who is cleaning up the forest floor? Fungus, bacteria and invertebrates are nature's busy recyclers working endlessly to break down organic material. Not only do they break down decaying matter, but they also turn it into rich, nutrient-filled soil necessary for healthy forests. Join a Park Ranger to enjoy a story, hand-on activities, and a chance to meet some wiggly recyclers. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Sept 22** **The Washington State Sea Turtle Race**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Did you know that leatherback sea turtles forage for jellyfish just off the coast of Washington State? Join us to learn about their biology. We'll play a fun sea turtle migration game outside. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Sept 27** **Garden Class: Gardening in Tough Spots**, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
This class will be taught by Christina Pfeiffer. Every garden seems to have a spot where it is more difficult to keep plants thriving. This class offers practical tips on how to turn those spots around and determining best plant choices. Common garden challenges will be covered, including soil conditions, light levels, too much or too little moisture, root competition, slopes, and tight spaces. **Cost:** \$25 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>
- Sept 27** **Pasta Dinner Class**, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Farm House Upper Room, 410 130th Place SE
Enjoy the farm in the evening as you learn how to make pasta with tools you probably have in your kitchen. We will use fresh herbs from the garden for the sauce to complement the pasta. Class includes recipes and hearty samples. No previous cooking experience is necessary. **Ages:** Adults only, 18 years and older. **Cost:** \$40/resident and \$48/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803563.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Sept 28** **Nature Movie: “Life in the Undergrowth,”** 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Join David Attenborough on his groundbreaking exploration into a spectacular miniature universe not normally seen but teeming all around us. Open your eyes to the bizarre, ferocious and surprisingly beautiful world of invertebrates. These creatures may be miniscule, but they live life on a truly grand scale. We’ll provide the popcorn! **Ages:** All ages welcome - best for ages 5 years and older.
Cost: Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:**
MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Sept 28** **Evening Nature Walk,** 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Bellevue Park Ranger for a (grown-ups only) hike where we’ll explore some of the park’s nocturnal species, as well as strategies for seeing these shy animals at night. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp, dress for the weather, and wear sturdy shoes. This is an outdoor program. **Distance:** 1 mile. **Difficulty:** Easy (50 feet elevation change). This is an outdoor program. **Ages:** Adults only.
Cost: Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:**
<https://register.bellevuewa.gov>, course #1803884. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Sept 29** **Mountainfilm on Tour,** 7 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
Mountainfilm on Tour is coming to Bellevue, bringing a selection of culturally rich, adventure-packed and inspiring documentary films curated from the Mountainfilm Festival held every Memorial Day weekend in Telluride, CO. These shows will explore themes connected to Mountainfilm’s mission: to use the power of film, art and ideas to inspire audiences to create a better world. Mountainfilm on Tour in Bellevue is hosted by the City of Bellevue’s TRACKS program in partnership with The Mountaineers. **Ages:** Best for teens and adults.
Cost: \$18/Bellevue residents and Mountaineers members; \$23/non-residents and non-members. **Pre-registration:** Tickets available through [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
Info: Carrie Sabochik at csabochik@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6883.

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

OCTOBER 2018

- Oct 5** **“Wild Kratts: Masked Bandits” (Nature Movie)**, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
The Wild Kratts team starts to notice strange things happening in the Tortuga HQ. Jimmy is sure there is a ghost living with them, but they soon discover it’s a raccoon family causing all the trouble. Watch this family educational show with a Bellevue Park Ranger, and stick around afterward for a raccoon program! **Ages:** 3 to 8 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6993.
- Oct 5** **Lewis Creek Story Time: “Creative Web Weavers”**
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! Spiders might seem scary and weird, but once you learn more about them, you’ll see they’re an important part of our lives. After we read our stories, we’ll tap into some of the spider’s creative abilities for our craft. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Oct 6** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lewis Creek Park**, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
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 (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Oct 6** **Kelsey Creek Farm Fair**, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
Bring your family to the farm and enjoy our Fall Festival. The Farm Fair features live entertainment, heritage demonstrations, pick-a-pumpkin (gathered from the vine but in a farm pasture), and farm animals. No pets please. Free shuttle services from Wilburton Park & Ride and Bannerwood Sports Park. **Ages:** All ages – family event. **Cost:** No entrance fee; cost varies by activity. **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Oct 6** **Volunteer for Special Event - Kelsey Creek Farm Fair**, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
Earn community service hours! Assist with children's activities and other event tasks. Volunteers need to be able to follow directions, be comfortable in crowds, and be on your feet in all types of weather. Participants must register by Oct. 5, 2018, and be enrolled in high school at date of event. All volunteers will be required to complete a Criminal Background check and provide their Social Security number. **Ages:** 14-18. **Cost:** Free. **Pre-registration:** Required by October 5. No day-of-event registrations will be accepted. **Info:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803642.
- Oct 6** **Fraser Cabin Heritage Program**, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
The Fraser Cabin, built in 1888, comes to life with activities and interpretation presented by volunteers and staff from the Eastside Heritage Center. Visitors are invited to participate in hands-on activities that relate to 1880s settler life: agriculture, dairy, household tasks, log cabins, games and Eastside history. This event is part of Kelsey Creek Farm's annual Farm Festival. Fraser Cabin Heritage Programs are presented by the Eastside Heritage Center in partnership with Bellevue Parks & Community Services. **Ages:** All ages are welcome; children 3 must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** Eastside Heritage Center – www.eastsideheritagecenter.org or 425-450-1049.
- Oct 7** **Family-Friendly Ranger Hike**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., rain or shine
Meet at: Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Park Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This kid-oriented program aims to educate kids and their parents about the Nature Park while discovering the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. The hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge in the middle of the park. From there you will be able to continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Distance:** 1.5 miles. **Level of Difficulty:** Easy (30 feet elevation change). **Ages:** Family event; all ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Oct 7** **Nature's Recyclers**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Where do the autumn leaves go after they fall? Do park rangers rake the forest at night, or does the wind sweep the leaves all away? If not for nature's cleanup crew, we would all be buried under leaves and fallen trees. But if you want to see this team in action, you'll have to watch the ground closely. Come along with a Park Ranger as we look around fallen logs and under old leaves to see if we can spot some pro recyclers and learn a few recycling skills too! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 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.)

- Oct 9** **Garden Lecture: What Everyone Should Know about Lichens,**
7 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Join us for this lecture by Dr. Katherine Glew. Common lichens will be presented and discussed to facilitate our understanding of what they can tell us about the health of our environment and how they are used as indicators of clean air. Presented by the Washington Native Plant Society and open to the public. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** <https://wnps2.org/>
- Oct 10** **Garden Class: Fall Care for Your Peonies,** 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
This class will be taught by Kit Haesloop. During this class, you'll spend time outdoors in the perennial border for some hands-on time with peony plants, learning winterizing techniques and how to divide them. Kit is the president of the Northwest Perennial Alliance. This class is presented jointly between the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society and the Northwest Perennial Society. **Cost:** \$15 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$25/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>
- Oct 12** **Spiders!** 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
Spiders! They're building webs and catching bugs. You can find a variety of different spiders in the Pacific Northwest. Whether you think they are creepy or cool, join us for this family spider class and even make a spider craft! **Ages:** 3 to 8 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6993.
- Oct 12** **Night Hike at Lewis Creek Park,** 6 p.m. – 7:30 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 the park home, and join a park ranger on a hike through the woods after dark! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as sturdy shoes for the journey. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 and older with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for youth and adult participants at <https://register.bellevuewa.gov> for course 1803882. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Oct 13** **Introduction to Backyard Chickens**, 10 a.m. – noon
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn Farm Room, 410 130th Place SE
Are you interested in keeping pet chickens in Bellevue? Kelsey Creek Farm staff can help you get started! We'll cover setting up a chicken coop, where to get chickens, what breeds to pick from, and how to care for them at all stages of life. You'll also tour our chicken coops, see the kind of equipment you'll need, and practice picking up and holding a chicken. **Ages:** Ages 14 years and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$20/resident and \$25/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803535.
- Oct 13** **Nature's Recyclers**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Where do the autumn leaves go after they fall? Do park rangers rake the forest at night, or does the wind sweep the leaves all away? If not for nature's cleanup crew, we would all be buried under leaves and fallen trees. But if you want to see this team in action, you'll have to watch the ground closely. Come along with a Park Ranger as we look around fallen logs and under old leaves to see if we can spot some pro recyclers and learn a few recycling skills too! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Oct 14** **Garden Class: Top Ten Evergreens**, 10 a.m. – noon
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
In this seasonal class, taught by George Lasch, we will talk about the plants that shine as backdrop plants during the winter months. We will discuss why plants are evergreen and how to best use them in your garden. Conifers and their pruning will be touched upon, but we won't limit "evergreen" to "conifers." Come and enjoy a winter garden stroll with George. He was the BBG's Perennial Border Supervisor for eight years and shares his extensive knowledge of plants and gardening with humor and wisdom. **Cost:** \$25 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35 for non BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Recommended. **Info and to register:** <https://bellevuebotanical.org/>
- Oct 14** **Living with Wildlife: Crouching Bobcats**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
How can you tell the difference between a bobcat, cougar, and a housecat? Bobcats are reclusive and sneaky, but sometimes we're lucky enough to see them! Find out how to recognize these short-tailed cats, and how we can coexist with our shy neighbors. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** This program is best for adults. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Oct 17** **BBG Society Lecture: The New Perennial Movement - Bringing the Highline Home**, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Tony Spencer is the creative force behind *The New Perennialist*, an award-winning blog exploring the frontiers of naturalistic garden design. Join us for his fascinating lecture. **Cost:** \$5 for Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$15 for non BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Recommended. **Info and to register:** <https://bellevuebotanical.org/>
- Oct 18** **Garden Lecture: Fall Dahlia Care**,
6:30 p.m. demonstration; lecture from 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
This lecture is presented by the Puget Sound Dahlia Association. Come for a digging demonstration at 6:30 p.m., with the lecture following at 7:30 p.m. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.pugetsounddahlias.org/>
- Oct 20** **Painting with Chickens**, 10 a.m. – noon
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn Farm Room, 410 130th Place SE
Create a painting with a chicken! Children will work with a chicken to create a fun, colorful piece of artwork, combining your child's creativity with the footprints of one of our resident chickens. Children will also get to pet the chicken artists and feed them some yummy treats. All activities will be inside, but dress warmly because the barn is not heated. The nontoxic children's finger paint is washable, but have your child wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. **Ages:** 5-9 years old. **Cost:** \$25/resident and \$30/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1835362.
- Oct 20** **Family Discovery Series: All About the Bats**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bats play a vital ecological role all over the world. Several species of bats call the Mercer Slough Nature Park home. Come learn some fun facts about these mammals. Enjoy a spooky bat story, and put your artistic skills to use to take home your own batty creation. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Oct 21** **Nature's Recyclers**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Where do the autumn leaves go after they fall? Do park rangers rake the forest at night, or does the wind sweep the leaves all away? If not for nature's cleanup crew, we would all be buried under leaves and fallen trees. But if you want to see this team in action, you'll have to watch the ground closely. Come along with a Park Ranger as we look around fallen logs and under old leaves to see if we can spot some pro recyclers and learn a few recycling skills too! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Oct 25** **Soup, Salad and Artisan Bread**, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park Farm House Upper Room, 410 130th Place SE
Learn to make two delicious soups, scrumptious salads, and artisan bread that will nourish your family through the winter. No cooking experience is necessary. We'll provide recipes and hearty samples. **Ages:** Adults only. **Cost:** \$40/resident and \$48/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803564.
- Oct 26** **Nature Movie: "The Secret World of Bats,"** 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bats are often feared and misunderstood. However, without these amazing mammals, our ecological systems would be significantly altered; life as we know it would drastically change. This film captures all aspects of bat behavior across five continents with remarkable slow-motion photography. You don't want to miss it! Bat costumes encouraged. We'll provide the popcorn! **Ages:** All ages are welcome, but movie is best for ages 5 and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Oct 27** **Fall Farm Fun: Pigs and Pumpkins**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Pigs love pumpkins, and we think you will too! Children get to make pumpkin treats, go on a scavenger hunt, do a craft, and learn all about pigs. Each child will pick out a pumpkin to take home. Come dressed for the weather. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$25/resident and \$30/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803645.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Oct 27** **Pumpkin Pals**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Spend a fun-filled morning pondering the perfect pumpkin! Art, music, a yummy snack and a pumpkin relay race are some of the happy activities planned for the morning. **Ages:** Ages 2 to 5 years. **Cost:** \$21/resident and \$26/non-resident. Each additional family member is \$5/resident and \$6/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106, course 1803616.
- Oct 27** **A Batty Evening**, 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Meet at - Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
Spend the later part of your day going on a walk with a Bellevue Park Ranger. We will listen for nocturnal animals, smell the cool evening air, and see the park in a different light. Also, learn about local bats that live in Bellevue and make our parks their home in the evening hours. **Ages:** Families with children ages 3 to 8 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6993.
- Oct 28** **Ranger-Led Hike at Coal Creek Natural Area**, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Meet at: Cinder Mine Trailhead (Newcastle Golf Club Road, west of Redtown Trailhead)
Join a Park Ranger at the Cinder Mine Trailhead to discover Bellevue's largest park and get lost in the wilderness while still in the city! This area is rich in history and wildlife. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Distance:** 2 miles. **Level of difficulty:** Moderately difficult (2 miles with 240 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.)

NOVEMBER 2018

- Nov 2** **Lewis Creek Story Time: “Warm Winter Beds”**
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! When the air gets chilly, our animal friends find homes for the winter. Some animals will find their winter beds close to home, but others will go on loooooong journeys. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Nov 3** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lewis Creek Park, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**
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 (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Nov 3** **History of Wilburton and Kelsey Creek Farm, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
For a few decades, Wilburton was a larger town than nearby Bellevue. It had several hundred residents, its own culture, and a rich history. Come to Kelsey Creek Farm to learn about local Native Americans, early logging operations and the Twin Valley Dairy, all in the context of early Eastside history. Pre-register to guarantee your spot. **Ages:** 16 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803534.
- Nov 4** **Mercer Slough Family-Friendly Ranger Hike, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., rain or shine**
Meet at: Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Park Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This kid-oriented program aims to educate kids and their parents about the Nature Park while discovering the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. The hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge in the middle of the park. From there you will be able to continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Distance:** 1.5+ miles. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (30 feet elevation change). **Ages:** Family event; all ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Nov 4** **Let's Plant a Tree!** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Learn why tree leaves change color and why some trees don't. We'll try some experiments on tree leaves, go for a short walk through the forest at Lewis Creek Park, and then each participant will plant a willow tree! Please wear waterproof shoes. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Nov 9** **Night Hike at Lewis Creek Park,** 4:30 p.m. - 6 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 the park home, and join a park ranger on a hike through the woods after dark! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as sturdy shoes for the journey. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 and older with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for youth and adult participants at <https://register.bellevuewa.gov> for course 1803883. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Nov 10** **Cocoa and Canvas,** 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Join your child for a fun afternoon on the farm! You and your child will each create a farm-themed painting to take home with you. Cocoa, cookies, and all art supplies will be provided. Painting will be inside the heated barn, but come dressed to get messy. Each participant, including parents and children, must register. **Ages:** 6-10 years old. **Cost:** \$30/resident and \$36/non-resident, per person. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803634.
- Nov 10** **Salmon Sense,** 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Each year, salmon migrate inland throughout our region... but have you ever wondered why they make this perilous journey or how they find their way? Join us at Lewis Creek Visitor Center as we dissect an adult salmon and discuss this incredible journey. Afterwards, we'll head outside to learn about stream habitat. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 9-14 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for youth and adult participants by 4 p.m. the Friday before the event. **Info and to RSVP:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Nov 11** **Living with Wildlife: Cunning Crows**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Crows are one of Bellevue's most commonly-seen wildlife residents. They have more advanced cognitive abilities than many mammals, have amazing memory and are very social. Find out why crows gather in enormous numbers and what the fuss is all about. Learn what crows know, and discover how we can get along together. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** This program is best for adults. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Nov 12** **Holiday Farm Tour: Veterans' Day**, 11 a.m. – noon or 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park Animal Barn Foyer, 410 130th Place SE
Bring the whole family to come visit our resident farm animals! Meet our ponies, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, and rabbits, all while discovering what it takes to be a farmer. You will get to pet many of our animals and even feed some of them! **Ages:** 2 years and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$8/resident and \$10/non-resident per person. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #18353911 for the 11 a.m. tour, and course #18353912 for the 1:30 p.m. tour.
- Nov 17** **Turkey Trot**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Y'all come on down to the Northwest Arts Center to dance and play! Create a colorful fall turkey centerpiece to enjoy for your holiday table. Snacks included. Caregiver is required to be in class. **Ages:** Ages 2 to 5 years. **Cost:** \$21/resident and \$26/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Nov 17** **Grateful for Goat and Happy for Horses**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
There's a lot to be thankful for at Kelsey Creek Farm! Children will ride a pony, take our goats on a walk, give treats to the animals for a job well done, and then come into the barn for a craft and a treat of their own. Come dressed for the weather. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$30/resident and \$36/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803646.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Nov 17** **Family Discovery Series: Swim to Spawn**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Salmon were once abundant here in the Pacific Northwest, but they've been on a rapid decline in most of our region. Come learn more about the salmon that make the arduous journey from the ocean to the Mercer Slough, where they will eventually spawn in the shallow waters of Kelsey Creek. Learn about the different stages of our salmon and what you can do to help aid in their survival.
Ages: Best for children ages 5-10 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Nov 17** **Let's Plant a Tree!** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Learn why tree leaves change color and why some trees don't. We'll try some experiments on tree leaves, go for a short walk through the forest at Lewis Creek Park, and then each participant will plant a willow tree! Please wear waterproof shoes. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Nov 18** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lakemont Community Park**, 10:30 a.m. – noon
Meet at: Lakemont Community Park, 5170 Village Park Drive SE
This lovely trail winds alongside a creek as we ascend and descend throughout the park. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Distance:** Approximately 2 miles. **Level of difficulty:** Moderately difficult (700 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Nov 22** **Fit for the Feast Masters Swim Workout**, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center, 601 143rd Avenue NE
Join us for this two-hour Masters swim workout on Thanksgiving Day. All abilities are welcome. **Ages:** 19 years and older. **Cost:** \$12/person; includes a designer t-shirt. **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** Scott Armstrong – 425-452-2806.
- Nov 23** **Youth Appreciation & Safety Day**, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center, 601 143rd Avenue NE
This event promotes water safety and proper lifejacket use. Come for swimming, raffles and water safety demonstrations. Free t-shirts for the first 50 children (12 years and younger)! **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** 12 years and younger – free! 13 years and older - \$7/person. **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4444.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

- Nov 24 – Dec 30** **Garden d’Lights**, 4:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., every evening including holidays
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Garden d’Lights features over half a million sparkling lights formed into the whimsical shapes of plants, flowers, birds, animals and cascading waterfalls, set amid the natural beauty of the Bellevue Botanical Garden. **Cost:** \$5/person; children 10 and under are free and do not need a ticket. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time or at the event. **Free nights:** November 24-29. **Parking:** \$5 for on-site parking; free parking at Wilburton Hill Park. **To buy tickets ahead of time (beginning October 15) and for driving, parking and general information:** <http://www.gardendlights.org/>
- Nov 25** **Let’s Plant a Tree!** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Learn why tree leaves change color and why some trees don’t. We’ll try some experiments on tree leaves, go for a short walk through the forest at Lewis Creek Park, and then each participant will plant a willow tree! Please wear waterproof shoes. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Nov 28-Dec 1** **Hilltop Holiday Craft Show**, November 28-30, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; and December 1, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Lift your holiday spirit! Come and enjoy a delightful, unique, whimsical craft show featuring thousands of hand-crafted items from over 60 selected Northwest crafters. This show features one-of-a-kind products, including: holiday ornaments, decorations, pottery, jewelry, wood and knit items, and more. **Cost:** Admission and parking are free; craft items vary in price. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106. **Crafter application and information:** hilltop.crafts@frontier.com or <http://www.bellevuehilltopholidaycraftshow.com/>
- Nov 30** **Nature Movie Night: “Salmon: Running the Gauntlet,”** 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Salmon play a vital role in sustaining millions of miles of diverse ecosystems here in the Pacific Northwest. Unfortunately, human interference, over fishing and habitat loss have led to the drastic decline in their numbers. Their imminent disappearance will have lasting negative effects on the richness of our entire region. This film forces us to take a closer look at our conservation efforts. It will shed new light on how we are all connected and pay a vital role in the overall health of these iconic creatures and the health of our ecosystems. We’ **Ages:** All ages welcome, but best for 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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

Nov 30 **Christmas Ship Festival**, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.; ship arrives at 7:10 p.m.
Newcastle Beach Park, 4400 Lake Washington Blvd SE
Join us on shore to welcome the Christmas Ship Festival presented by Argosy Cruises. Come with family and friends to marvel at the parade of boats as they come by the beach. You can join the caroling or just enjoy the onboard choir's performance. Beach fire provided! **Ages:** All ages welcome; family event.
Cost: Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.

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

DECEMBER 2018

- Nov 24 – Dec 30** **Garden d’Lights**, 4:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., every evening including holidays
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Garden d’Lights features over half a million sparkling lights formed into the whimsical shapes of plants, flowers, birds, animals and cascading waterfalls, set amid the natural beauty of the Bellevue Botanical Garden. **Cost:** \$5/person; children 10 and under are free and do not need a ticket. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time or at the event. **Free nights:** November 24-29. **Parking:** \$5 for on-site parking; free parking at Wilburton Hill Park. **To buy tickets ahead of time (beginning October 15) and for driving, parking and general information:** <http://www.gardendlights.org/>
- Dec 1** **Let It Snow, Let It Snow**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Winter is coming, and we have to get ready! Come to the farm to learn how we keep the animals comfy all winter long. Children will get to ride a pony, do a farm chore, pet one of our adorable bunnies, and do a craft. We’ll finish by snuggling up in the barn with cocoa and a story. Come dressed for the weather. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$30/resident and \$36/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803647.
- Dec 1** **Garden Class: Holiday Wreathmaking – Elements from Nature**,
10 a.m. - noon
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Start the holiday season right with a beautiful holiday wreath! Attendees will decorate and take home a lovely wreath made of natural greens. Decorations, ribbon, directions and ideas will be provided. **Cost:** \$60/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members and \$70/non-members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <https://bellevuebotanical.org/>
- Dec 1** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lewis Creek Park**, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
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 (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

Events List

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

- Dec 2** **Family-Friendly Ranger Hike**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., rain or shine
Meet at: Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Park Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This kid-oriented program aims to educate kids and their parents about the Nature Park while discovering the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. The hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge in the middle of the park. From there you will be able to continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Distance:** 1.5 miles. **Level of Difficulty:** Easy (30 feet elevation change). **Ages:** Family event; all ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Dec 2** **Snoozing Bears**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Bears are snuggled up in their dens snoring away the winter, so now is a perfect time to discover more about them. Come find out about the different bear species that call North America home, and learn which kind you might see in Bellevue if you're lucky. We'll even try hibernating! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Dec 7** **Lewis Creek Story Time: "Snowflake Bentley"**
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! Wilson Bentley had a fascination with snowflakes – he spent his whole life studying snowflakes and pioneered a new way to photograph them. Find out more about how snowflakes are made, and what Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley's photographs show us about snow during this story time. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Dec 8** **Whoooo's Hooting?** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Did you know that a barn owl can find its prey in total darkness? Or that great horned owls can clasp their talons with 28 pounds of force? Join us as we learn all about our favorite silent flying friends, try out our hoots, and dig deeper into an owl's diet by dissecting owl pellets! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the Friday before the event. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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- Dec 15** **Sugarplum Fairies**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Join us for a sweet beginning to the holiday season by making a gingerbread house, singing songs, dancing and eating yummys for your tummies! Dress in your party clothes for happy holiday wholesome fun. Caregiver is required to be in class. **Ages:** Ages 2 to 5 years. **Cost:** \$21/resident and \$26/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Dec 15** **Family Discovery Series: Whooo is Hooting?** 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Several types of owls can be found living throughout many of Bellevue's Parks. These silent predators of the night are considered a keystone species within the ecosystem. Join us for a fun-filled hour learning about these owls. Dissect an owl pellet to discover who was for lunch. Put your artistic skills to use to take home your own batty creation. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Dec 15** **Snoozing Bears**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Bears are snuggled up in their dens snoring away the winter, so now is a perfect time to discover more about them. Come find out about the different bear species that call North America home, and learn which kind you might see in Bellevue if you're lucky. We'll even try hibernating! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Dec 23** **Whoooo's Hooting?** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Did you know that a barn owl can find its prey in total darkness? Or that great horned owls can clasp their talons with 28 pounds of force? Join us as we learn all about our favorite silent flying friends, try out our hoots, and dig deeper into an owl's diet by dissecting owl pellets! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the Friday before the event. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Dec 28** **Nature Movie: "The Animal House,"** 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Animals build their homes for a variety of reasons, including safety from predators, availability of a nearby food source, and protecting their young. These places are often the site of great drama and extraordinary behaviors. *The Animal House* provides a fascinating look at the "home life of wildlife." We'll provide the popcorn! **Ages:** All ages welcome - best for ages 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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Dec 30

A Winter Wander, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Meet at: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Head outside this winter to reflect on the passage of time in nature. We'll ponder seasonality, forest changes, and the bygone residents of the area. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Distance:** Approximately 1 mile. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required.

Info: LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.