BELLEVUE PARKS & OPEN SPACE SYSTEM PLAN 2010

CITY OF BELLEVUE WASHINGTON

BELLEVUE PARKS & OPEN SPACE SYSTEM PLAN

2010

City of Bellevue
Parks & Community Services
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www.bellevuewa.gov/parks-community-services.htm

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For print version users, Appendix III includes full addresses for all hyperlinks found throughout the plan.

A Park is a Poem on the Land.

– Will La Page

I believe we have the best park system of any city I have been to.
The newer parks are great and the older ones are a treasure.

– 2009 Web Survey Respondent

Most cities have places of which the visitor can say when he reaches them, "Now I'm really here."

– Witold Rybczynski

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parks & Open Space System Plan is the primary tool used to guide the long-term growth and development of Bellevue's parks and open space system. The core of the plan is a set of 20-year capital project recommendations. These long-term recommendations are reviewed and updated approximately every six years. Funding to implement the long-term recommendations within the plan is determined through the Capital Investment Program budgeting process.

The Parks & Open Space System Plan identifies seven major focus areas where Parks & Community Services proposes to focus attention in order to meet the park, open space and recreation needs of the community. These focus areas have generally remained consistent since the 1987 edition of the plan, although over time they have been re-structured and modified to meet contemporary needs.

Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors & Trails: Acquiring and protecting open space to establish a network of greenways throughout the community. These greenways function to meet passive and active recreation needs of the community, protect wildlife and critical habitat areas, and provide linkages between parks and commercial or residential neighborhoods.

Park Facilities: Providing walkable access to neighborhood and community parks through acquisition, development, or redevelopment.

Active Recreation Facilities: Siting community centers and active recreation facilities throughout the community to provide needed indoor and outdoor recreation spaces and activities of interest to a wide spectrum of diverse users.

Urban Park Systems: Addressing the unique challenges of designing and providing parks, open space, trails and active recreation facilities serving the urban densities of Downtown Bellevue, and in the future, a redeveloped Bel-Red neighborhood.

Waterfront Access: Acquiring and developing additional publicly-owned waterfront property to meet community demand.

Partnership Opportunities: Working with community partners in the public, private and non-profit sectors to provide recreation and community service needs for Bellevue residents. Additionally, connecting Bellevue residents to the abundant regional park and recreation facilities surrounding the city.

Historic, Cultural, and Art Resources: Protecting and interpreting Bellevue's cultural history as well as providing space and an outlet for artistic expression. This section does not include a set of specific capital project recommendations. It lays a policy foundation for how cultural history and artistic expression should be incorporated in existing and future parks and facilities.

Updating the plan's capital project recommendations involves analysis of five key elements. They include:

- Public input and feedback on current use of the park system and future priorities;
- A review of the current community profile and future demographic trends;
- The level of service provided by the current network of neighborhood parks and trails;
- Progress made completing capital projects since the last system plan update;
- A review of recent citywide long-range plans and policy documents that impact park and open space priorities.

From August to December 2009, many avenues were used to collect feedback and opinions from Bellevue residents and park users on how the park and trail systems are currently used and what priorities should be given in the future for development. These outreach methods included:

- A statistically-valid representative sample survey of Bellevue residents with responses received from almost 700 households;
- An open web-survey completed by approximately 1,250 park users;
- Twenty-six presentations to City boards and commissions, parks user groups and local neighborhood organizations, reaching an estimated 300 individuals;

- A public hearing hosted by the Parks & Community Services Board in January 2010 collecting 34 verbal and written comments;
- A regularly-updated project blog, accessed by an estimated 970 unique visitors; and
- Project updates and comment opportunities provided by the Parks & Community Services e-newsletter (16,100 subscribers), the Neighborhood Outreach Office's Neighborhood News (800 subscribers), the City's presence on social media web sites, local newspapers (print and online) and Eastside-focused blogs.

In very general terms, park users report a high level of satisfaction with the park and trail systems as a whole. However, they do not feel the system is complete. There is an even balance between people's preferences for continuing to acquire park and open space land and developing existing park properties. Trails, playgrounds, open unstructured areas, waterfront parks and sportsfields are the most frequently used types of facilities. These same five categories were in the top tier of project types given a high priority for future development.

The Parks & Community Services Board focused attention on the update process during four meetings between June 2009 and February 2010. At its meeting on February 9, 2010, the Board voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council approval of the 2010 Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan. The City Council considered the Plan in March 2010 and voted unanimously to approve the update on May 3, 2010, under *Resolution 8083*.

When you start a long journey, trees are trees, water is water, and mountains are mountains. After you have gone some distance, trees are no longer trees, water no longer water, mountains no longer mountains. After you have traveled a great distance, trees are once again trees, water is once again water, and mountains are once again mountains.

– Zen proverb

Find this proverb inlaid within the terrazzo floor of the Bellevue City Hall lobby.

INTRODUCTION

In 1888, John Muir saw Bellevue in a way that few others had ever seen and in a way that is impossible today. Muir was a celebrated naturalist, whose detailed and emotion-filled written descriptions of the American West were widely published in national magazines. His writings painted a picture of natural wonder so compelling that he is credited as one of the driving forces behind the creation of this country's national parks system.

In a published collection of essays and travelogues entitled *Steep Trails,* Muir describes how from his home in Yosemite, California, he ventured north by ship up the Pacific Coast, through the Strait of San Juan de Fuca and into Puget Sound. Landing in Seattle, he visited several points in East King County, including Snoqualmie Falls, on his way to attempt a climb to the summit of Mount Rainier.

A coal tram from mines in the Newport area to Lake Washington. Courtesy Eastside Heritage Center. L90.24.9

With a party of eight, Muir reached the summit on a beautifully clear day with views of Washington Territory in all directions. Muir later wrote, "We remained on the summit nearly two hours, looking about us at the vast maplike views, comprehending hundreds of miles of the Cascade Range, with their black interminable forests and white volcanic cones in glorious array reaching far into Oregon; the Sound region also, and the great plains of eastern Washington, hazy and vague in the distance." Included in his view, an expanse of heavily forested rolling hills directly east of Seattle, bounded by two large sparkling lakes.

This was Bellevue as John Muir saw it, just over 120 years ago. The tiny settlement around Meydenbauer Bay and scattered farms were perhaps not even visible, and if so, were certainly dwarfed by the huge expanse of untouched forests, lakes and streams. Yet, sensing this area's future, Muir noted that "[Washington Territory] is already rich in busy workers, who work hard, though not always wisely, hacking, burning, blasting their way deeper into the wilderness, beneath the sky and beneath the ground. The wedges of development are being driven hard, and none of the obstacles or defenses of nature can long withstand the onset of this immeasurable industry."

Since that time and in keeping with Muir's assessment, exponential growth and development has led to a vastly different environment on these rolling hills between the lakes. According to a study commissioned by the City in 2008, Bellevue's once dominant tree canopy has diminished to 36% of the city's land area. Impervious surfaces (any type of surface that does not allow water to travel to the ground below, primarily streets and rooftops) have spread to cover 46% of the city. Within the foreseeable future, there is a strong possibility that this balance will tip, and the majority of Bellevue's land area will be either paved or otherwise built upon.

This pattern and pace of development has produced a change in the community's perception of the natural environment. In the early 20th Century, the natural environment was valued as a resource to be reclaimed and repurposed for uses perceived to be more beneficial, such as farming, mining and lumber. Today, in the early 21st Century, the natural environment is valued as a resource to be recaptured or preserved for other types of uses now perceived to be more beneficial. These benefits include acting as a "green infrastructure" system, providing a range of economic benefits and supporting development of a healthy community. Evidence of this shift in priorities is shown through a survey of Bellevue residents in September 2009 where 76% of respondents agreed that Bellevue Parks & Community Services should place a priority on improving the health and ecological function of forests, wetlands, lakes and streams.

A pile of trees cleared in order to expand I-405

Working as a green infrastructure system, the forests, wetlands and open areas that Bellevue has preserved through its interconnected park and open space system clean water, clean air and absorb carbon emissions. They are a piece of infrastructure as important as the city's roads and sewers. A 2008 Urban Ecosystem Study calculated that Bellevue's tree canopy provides 62 million cubic feet in stormwater detention services and removes 687,000 pounds of pollutants from the air annually. Further, it absorbs 2,582 tons of carbon each year, helping to reduce the city's overall carbon emissions.

Bellevue's parks provide economic value to city residents. Many studies have shown that parks are a good investment for a community. John Crompton, a professor at Texas A&M University, has published several studies showing how providing parks within neighborhoods attracts homebuyers and increases property values. Parks also attract economic development. Early Bellevue residents recognized this fact by using parks and recreation to draw tourists to the small town. In her history of Bellevue, titled *The Bellevue Story,* Connie Squires writes, "As a result of these steamers [ferries crossing Lake Washington], Wildwood Park was set up near the present Meydenbauer Yacht Club. This became a large attraction for Sunday Seattle picnickers… later a large dance hall was built there and eventually it was used as a skating rink…" While Wildwood attracted out-of-towners on the weekend, it was available for the local

A church picnic at Wildwood Park, circa 1900. Courtesy Eastside Heritage Center. 2007.048.002

community to use the rest of the week. Today, in addition to local tourism, high quality parks, schools and other quality of life indicators are used increasingly by businesses to decide where to locate their offices, seeking places to retain and attract a productive and well-educated workforce. When asked in a September 2009 survey, 97% of Bellevue residents believe that the parks and recreational opportunities in Bellevue enhance their overall quality of life.

Parks play a significant role in the community's overall health. Access to and contact with nature provide medical benefits including lowering blood pressure and stress indicators, decreasing recovery time from surgery, and improving symptoms of mental health and behavioral disorders. For example, one study from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) found that access to places for physical activity led to a 26% increase in the percentage of people exercising three or more days per week.

The community's vision for how parks and open space should serve the city is captured in the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan. This long-range planning document guides the City's continued investments in parks and open spaces. The Plan begins with a general description of Bellevue's demographic profile and its physical and natural resource characteristics. From there, the mission of the Parks & Community Services Department is provided along with an overview of the scope and functions of the organization. With this context in place, a detailed discussion of future recommended capital projects is presented for the years 2010 to 2029. The plan ends with sections regarding the importance of maintenance, renovation and security as well as a description of methods available to the City for financing recommended projects.

Is the exploration of the natural world just a pleasant way to pass the golden hours of childhood or is there something deeper? Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of birds, the ebb and flow of the tides, the folded bud ready for the spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night and spring after the winter.

– Rachel Carson

BELLEVUE, A CITY IN A PARK

Photo Hugh Jennings

Vibrant, infused with green and wonder
Wetlands, vital and nurturing, humbling
Sitting, watching the crows fly, becoming seas of black
Hearing bobcats, hawks, coyotes, alive and calling back
The mist, the soft winter rain, hiding the quiet giants
The cedars, firs and pines, standing tall and pliant
Pocketed secrets quiet in a sea of urban thunder
Among the chaos that we breathe, a paradise of wonder

Oz Thomas

BELLEVUE, A CITY IN A PARK

A CITY... : DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The *City of Bellevue* is the fifth largest city in Washington. Bellevue's 2010 resident population is 122,900. Bellevue's estimated daytime population is 201,400, which includes the daily influx of workers, students and other visitors (such as retail shoppers).

A detailed profile of the Bellevue community is available in the *Bellevue Human Services Needs Update*. This document is published every two years by Parks & Community Services and includes the most recent demographic information available at the time on the make-up of Bellevue residents. Demographic characteristics include age, gender, race/ethnicity, housing status, language and household income. Comparisons are provided to other regional and national places as well as comparisons between Bellevue neighborhoods. A summary of select population components is included below for easy reference. The following data are based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2006-2008 *American Community Survey* data set.

Mercer Slough Nature Park

HOUSEHOLDS

- There were an estimated 51,023 households in Bellevue in 2009, with an average of 2.35 persons per household, down from 2.37 in 2000 and 2.43 in 1990. The most common household types in 2006-2008 were single person households (30%) and married couples without children (28%).

- The percentage of households with children was lower in Bellevue (29%) than on the Eastside in general (32%) and in King County as a whole (30%), but is still higher than in Seattle (20%).

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

- Since 1980, the proportion of minorities in Bellevue has more than quadrupled from about seven percent of the population in 1980 to 14% in 1990, 26% in 2000 and finally 31% in 2006-2008. If one includes the Hispanic or Latino population, then the percentage of minorities is even higher at approximately 35% of Bellevue's population. The minority population includes recent immigrants as well as long-time residents.

- Bellevue is more racially diverse than King County as a whole, as well as more diverse than other large cities in the county, including Seattle, Redmond and Kirkland.

- The racial/ethnic make-up of Bellevue is 65.1% White, 23.2% Asian, 5.2% Hispanic, 1.9% Black, 3.6% two or more races, 0.6% some other race, 0.2% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 0.2% American Indian and Alaskan Native.
- According to the Bellevue School District, in 2008, 50% of elementary students were White.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- Bellevue's median household income during 2006-2008 ($81,184) was the 13th highest of Washington's large places. Bellevue also had the 11th highest family income ($99,852) and the 5th highest percentage of families with incomes of $200K or more (15.8%).
- Of Washington's large places, Bellevue had the 6th highest percentage of residents (59%) with a bachelor's degree or higher and nearly 58% of Bellevue residents were employed in management, professional, or related occupations.

OLDER ADULTS

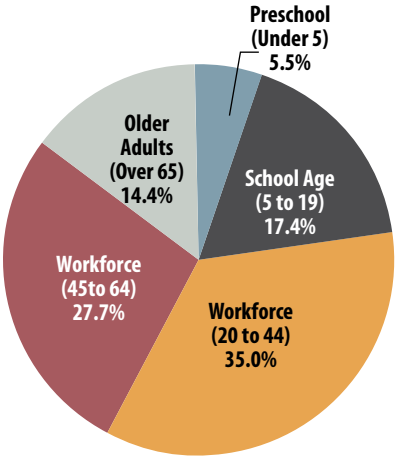
Bellevue's median age was 40.0 during 2006-2008, up from 38.2 in 2000 and 35.4 in 1990. Older adults (65 years and older) comprised 14.4% of Bellevue's population in 2006-2008 compared to 13.4% in 2000 and 11% in 1990. Nationally, older adults between the ages of 65 and 85 are projected to grow at a compound average annual rate of over 3% a year for the next 15 years. In comparison, the percentage of those between the ages of 25 and 44 is expected to grow at an annual rate of less than 1%.

Currently older adults ages 65 to 74 comprise the majority of Bellevue's older adult population, followed by older adults ages 75 to 84.

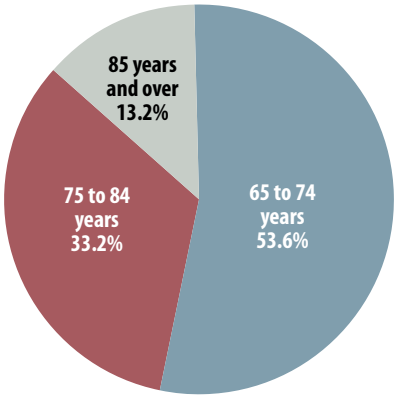
Generations interact at North Bellevue Community Center.

YOUTH

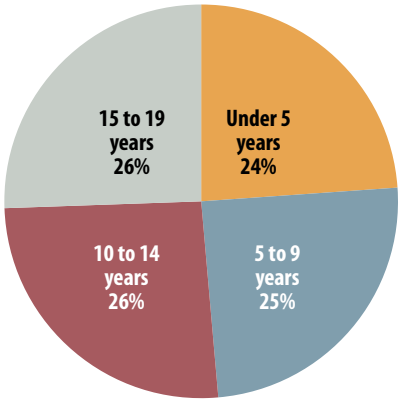
The proportion of children in Bellevue has remained relatively stable since 1990. Preschool children (under 5) made up 5.9% of Bellevue's population in 1990, 5.6% in 2000 and 5.5% in 2006-2008. School-age children (5 to19) made up 17.5% of Bellevue's population in 1990, 17.5% in 2000 and 17.4% in 2006-2008. According to the Bellevue School District, between 1999 and 2009, school enrollment increased by 2,241 students or 14.8%, from 15,070 students in 1999 to 17,311 in 2009. Currently in Bellevue there are similar proportions of children ages 0 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14 and 15 to 19.



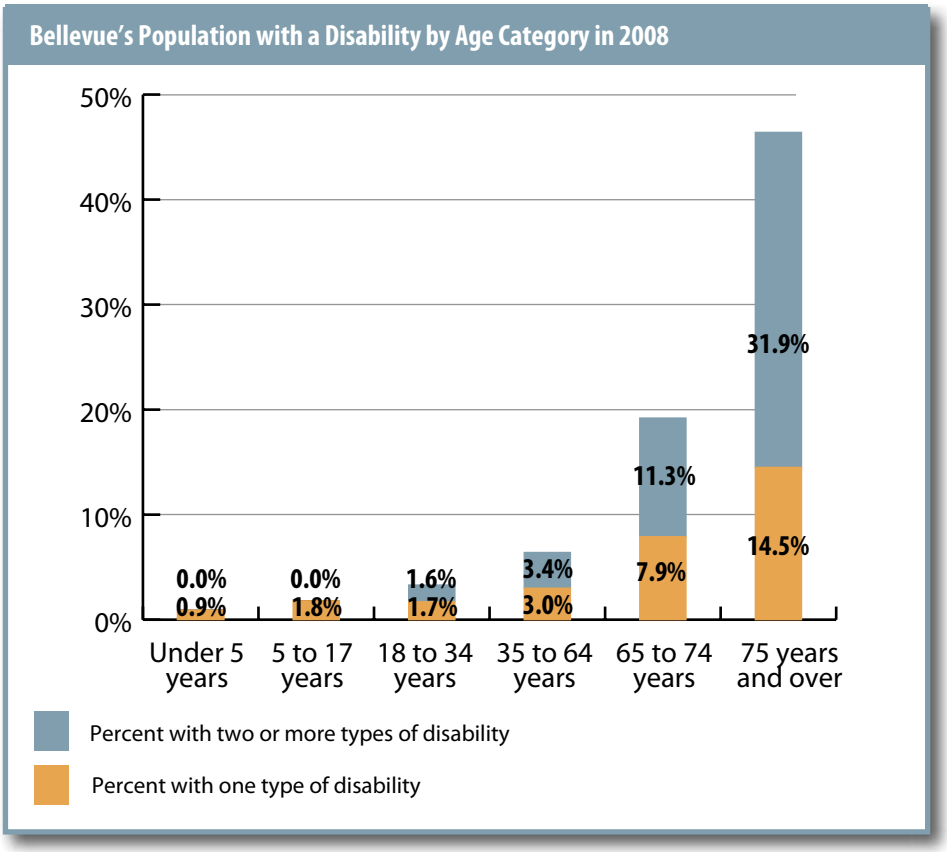
Age distribution of Bellevue's population



Age distribution of Bellevue's Older Adult (65+) population



Age distribution of Bellevue's children



INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

According to the 2008 American Community Survey, an estimated 8.8% (+/-1.6%) of Bellevue's population had a disability in 2008. Almost 46% of adults age 75 and over had one or more disabilities, compared to less than 4% of the population under age 35. Ambulatory and independent living difficulties were the most common forms of disabilities.

A CITY…IN A PARK : NATURAL RESOURCE CHARACTERISTICS

Bellevue's natural environment systems of forests, wetlands, and riparian corridors define the city and make it unique. Four major stream systems - Kelsey Creek (which includes Mercer Slough, Lake Bellevue, Kelsey Creek, Larsen Lake, Phantom Lake, West Tributary, Valley Creek, and Richards Creek), Coal Creek, Vasa Creek, and Lewis Creek - carry surface water to either Lake Washington or Lake Sammamish. These stream systems contribute to the wide plant and animal diversity existing in many of our larger wetland systems, such as the Mercer Slough and the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

Bellevue's urban forest climbs from the shores of Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish up 1,500 feet in elevation to the top of Cougar Mountain. The city includes 14 miles of waterfront between the two major lakes, which establishes it as a waterfront community and creates interest in water-related recreation activities.

The city's topographic variations result in spectacular views of mountains, water, and urban areas. It is not surprising that Bellevue residents have placed a high priority on retaining open space and natural areas. It is one of the many reasons they choose to live here.

Public stewardship of these natural systems is a key element in the park system plan, and many of these important systems are owned by Parks & Community Services. While there are a wealth of natural resources in the city, many of these areas are privately owned. As the population of Bellevue continues to grow, remaining environmentally sensitive areas will experience increased development pressure.

The City's role in protecting and enhancing these natural systems has become increasingly important as the City complies with federal and state environmental regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit, the state Shoreline Master Program and the Growth Management Act (GMA) Best Available Science requirement to protect critical areas.

FOREST AND WETLAND RESOURCES

All subareas of Bellevue are dotted with vegetation characteristics of both forest and wetland environments. These natural systems provide important wildlife habitat, as well as opportunities for aesthetic, recreational, and educational activities.

A number of year-round and intermittent streams and groundwater drainage systems contribute to the City's native wetland habitat. Wetland functions include flood water attenuation, stream base flow maintenance and groundwater support, water quality improvement, erosion and shoreline protection, wildlife habitat, and opportunities for passive recreation, education, and open space.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

As stewards of Bellevue's public open spaces, it is Parks & Community Services' responsibility to identify and preserve areas that provide food and habitat and travel/ migration corridors needed to maintain the wildlife within our region. Wildlife habitat types in Bellevue include the following general categories: riparian/wetland habitats, lowland forest and steep slopes, herbaceous wetland and open water, and agriculture, pasture, mixed and urban environments. Habitat studies by the State, King County and City provide a baseline for effective wildlife habitat policy for Bellevue. Inherent in this policy is the recognition of our responsibility to protect and enhance publicly-owned habitat areas and important existing wildlife corridors.

The City of Bellevue's Critical Areas Ordinance has established policies which will help protect habitat functions and values. Although continued private development to accommodate growth will have a cumulative adverse impact on wildlife, the City will play an increasingly important role in protecting wildlife habitats and corridors by enhancing and preserving land currently in public ownership and looking for opportunities to acquire private parcels containing key habitat or corridor areas.

SHORELINE RESOURCES

Bellevue's shorelines are valuable recreational and aesthetic resources. Bellevue's city limits include 14 miles (73,995 linear feet) of shoreline along Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish. However, total shoreline in public ownership is approximately 12%. The majority of the publicly-owned shoreline is on Lake Washington. There is one small undeveloped site on Lake Sammamish within city limits. As a waterfront community, there is a high level of interest in water-related recreational activities. Bellevue shorelines are the focus for swimming, fishing, boating, sunbathing, and picnicking. The shoreline area also provides intangible benefits such as aesthetic enjoyment, ecological interest, historic and cultural enrichment, and spiritual renewal. The City is strongly committed to providing additional waterfront access opportunities to the citizens in Bellevue.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN VISION STATEMENT

Like most municipalities in Washington, Bellevue has an adopted *Comprehensive Plan*. As quoted from the plan's Introduction, the Comprehensive Plan "is a broad statement of community goals and policies that direct the orderly and coordinated physical development of a city into the future. A comprehensive plan anticipates change and provides specific guidance for future legislative and administrative actions. It reflects the results of citizen involvement, technical analysis, and the judgment of decision makers." From this document, the following vision for Bellevue has been adopted.

BELLEVUE 2025

This vision for our community preserves the best qualities of Bellevue today and directs us toward our city's future. To achieve balance in the city's development, the Plan is guided by the following **Vision** which must be viewed as a whole without pursuing one part to the exclusion of the others.

Bellevue is one of the outstanding cities in the United States. It is:

A "City in a Park"

A dedicated steward of environmental quality, where key natural features are preserved and restored

A model of superior urban design and "people places"

A community of diverse and vibrant neighborhoods

A city that meets the housing needs of all citizens

A regional economic center with a strong and diverse economy

A city with a great Downtown—viable, livable, and memorable

The Eastside's transportation hub,offering an array of mobility choice

The center of arts and culture for the Eastside

A community that cares for people and families in need

A safe and secure community

A city served by outstanding facilities and services

A leader in meeting regional challenges

An active and engaged community

In reading through the list above, two points become clear. First, parks, environmental quality, quality of life and community health are highly valued by Bellevue residents. Second, the pervasive role of the Parks & Community Services Department in meeting these vision statements is inescapable. The Parks & Open Space System Plan acts as a functional plan to the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan. It takes the broad vision and goals presented in the Comprehensive Plan and outlines the role of Parks & Community Services in meeting those goals that relate to the parks and open space system.

Exercise and application produce order in our affairs, health of body, cheerfulness of mind and these make us precious to our friends.

– Thomas Jefferson

BELLEVUE PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Photo Bob Cerelli

Parks are never still
When they're shared like a good book
Someone turns a page.

Patricia O'Connor

BELLEVUE PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

The City of Bellevue has established the *Parks & Community Services Department* to provide Bellevue's resident and workforce population with access to parks, open space, recreation and community services as well as to protect and enhance Bellevue's natural environment.

This mandate is summarized by the mission statement for Parks & Community Services:

> ***Parks & Community Services Mission***
>
> *To build a healthy community through an integrated system of exceptional parks, open space, recreation, cultural and human services*

The responsibility of building a healthy community is a broad and complex mission that is shared by many institutions and individuals. Within the context of the broader community, the specific role of Parks & Community Services is provision of publicly-owned parks, recreation, cultural arts, adult misdemeanant probation and human services.

PARKS & OPEN SPACE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element* of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, as amended February 17, 2009, includes the following goals:

- To obtain land for park use that provides open space and facilities to meet the short and long term needs of the community.
- To protect and preserve open spaces that are ecologically significant sensitive areas; serve as buffers between uses and link open space; and provide trails, wildlife corridors, and greenways.
- To cooperate with other jurisdictions, public agencies, and the private sector to provide open space and recreation facilities.
- To develop, operate, and maintain parkland and cultural and recreation facilities in a manner that is responsive to the site and the needs of the community.
- To modify existing parks and recreation facilities as needed to ensure safety, accessibility, and optimum use of resources.

- To provide a variety of community services and programs that are creative, preventative, proactive, and respond to the needs of Bellevue residents.
- To provide and promote partnerships to offer a variety of community services and programs that enhance the quality of life for Bellevue residents.

The Parks & Open Space System Plan supports Comprehensive Plan goals from several other elements. A sampling include:

LAND USE

- To develop and maintain a land use pattern that protects natural systems and helps realize the vision of a "City in a Park."

TRANSPORTATION

- To plan, design, build, and maintain an integrated, comprehensive network of pedestrian and bicycle facilities in collaboration with community stakeholders.
- To minimize the impacts of the transportation system on the city's environment and neighborhood quality of life.

URBAN DESIGN

- To create an attractive, lively and gracious city for people.
- To promote an image of quality and distinction in the harmonious blending of the natural and built environments.
- To create and develop public and semi-public spaces that attract people.
- To develop a functional and aesthetically pleasing downtown.
- To encourage and support the arts as a vital part of community life.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- To protect, preserve and enhance the natural resources and amenities of the city's shorelines for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.
- To encourage and increase water-related recreational activities for the public on the city's shorelines when appropriate and consistent with the public interest.

HUMAN SERVICES

- To create a community in which all members have the ability to meet their basic physical, economic and social needs and the opportunity to enhance their quality of life.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- To integrate the natural and developed environments to create a sustainable urban habitat with clean air and water, habitat for fish and wildlife and comfortable and secure places for people to live and work.

DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

In support of the goals above, four key concepts below describe the philosophy for Parks & Community Services to meet its mission:

Balanced Stewardship

Bellevue's parks and open space system provides important functions for both people and wildlife. The park system should balance development of parks and active recreation facilities with preservation of cultural heritage, scarce agricultural lands and environmentally critical areas for wildlife habitat and corridors. Wildlife corridors must be maintained to provide necessary connections for animal movement among remaining habitat areas. Forest management and other environmental programs help preserve and enhance our natural resources for the benefit of wildlife and future generations of park users.

Clyde Beach Park

Visual Environment

In the Pacific Northwest, our cultural heritage is defined by natural resources – the mountains, streams, lakes, and forests. Views of mountains, water, and undisturbed forests and wetlands are highly valued by Bellevue residents. Retention and restoration of this natural beauty are major components of the community's mandate for the park system.

Bellevue's park system should be safe and well managed in order to preserve and enhance the city's beauty and provide visual relief from the impacts of urban living. Street trees, flowers, lawns, forests and water provide a pleasant visual setting that contributes to our community's health, well-being and quality of life. The term "City in a Park" exemplifies the Bellevue experience of urban living surrounded by large natural open space areas. This environment gives Bellevue a competitive advantage in attracting corporations to locate in the city. A high quality of life and access to outdoor recreation opportunities are key factors in contemporary business siting decisions.

Future

Bellevue's park system should serve the present users while also focusing on future needs. A well-developed vision for long-term needs will ensure recreational opportunities and open space protection for future generations. Acquiring land for preservation or future development to meet increased recreational needs is a high priority. A well-planned parks and open space system will be achieved by projecting population growth and determining expected use patterns.

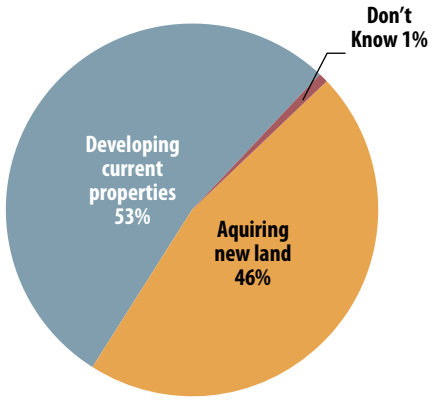
Opportunity

Bellevue's park system serves all sectors of the population, providing a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities. Special consideration is given to youth, older adults, individuals with disabilities, households with low incomes and others with special needs. Bellevue's population is culturally and ethnically diverse. This creates opportunities to provide culturally specific recreation, arts and events that benefit and enrich the lives of all residents. Also, trends and preferences in recreation change. Therefore, Parks & Community Services should proactively assess new recreational trends and provide appropriate facilities when warranted by demand.

ACHIEVING THE GOALS: DECISION AND DESIGN FACTORS

Additional detail is helpful to see how the mission, goals and philosophies of Parks & Community Services shape how decisions are made on a day-to-day basis on issues related to expanding, developing, maintaining and promoting use of the parks and open space system.

Acquisition vs. Development



Question: Bellevue Parks & Community Services acquires and develops new parks and improves and redevelops existing park sites. Given what you know about the park system, over the next ten years should City investments be focused more on acquiring new parkland and natural areas or focused more on development and improving currently owned parks?

Acquisition and Development

Land acquisition is highly dependent on availability and affordability. Because of increasing development pressures on remaining vacant land, suitable and affordable land will be evaluated for acquisition when available. Surveys of Bellevue residents, including the latest survey completed in September 2009, consistently indicate that Bellevue citizens place equal priority on both acquiring and preserving open space and on developing new parks and recreation facilities.

Land is acquired and held in public ownership to ensure it is available for future park use when development and maintenance funding exist. When development is feasible and appropriate, a master plan for the park is prepared with community input. At the time of

Construction of picnic shelters at Crossroads park.

application for the development of the park, the project is reviewed for compliance with relevant City, State, and Federal regulations. For example, parking and traffic impacts are factors that will be evaluated as part of this development review process. Where full development of newly acquired property is not appropriate or possible in the near term, minimum access, such as trails, will be provided when possible.

Priority will be placed on acquiring land adjacent to existing parkland, along shorelines, environmentally sensitive land, or linkages that provide connections between parks and open space areas. Priority will also be given to increasing park access for neighborhoods that are less served than others.

Environmental Stewardship and Education

Promoting healthy natural systems requires acquiring and preserving key parcels of different habitat types so that wildlife have adequate and appropriate areas to feed, live, breed, and migrate. Habitat areas must be large enough to accommodate a variety of species. In addition, to avoid isolating habitat areas, wildlife corridor connections must be acquired and preserved to allow safe and easy movement between these key parcels. Protecting these natural systems in an urbanized area requires both a robust publicly-owned open space system as well as enforcement of environmental regulations to protect environmentally critical areas that are privately owned.

Protecting and managing natural areas is complemented by provision of environmental education programming for all ages. Ultimately, protection and stewardship of the environment rests in the hands of thousands of individual residents and property owners. Educating the public about the importance of the city's natural systems helps them understand the benefits these systems provide and leads to a shared vision for resource protection.

Partnership Opportunities

Partnerships with schools, businesses, developers, non-profit organizations, and neighborhood groups have played an important role in developing the current parks and open space system. These relationships must be continued and expanded to maximize the public investments and provide new and relevant programs and recreational opportunities to Bellevue residents.

Regional Coordination

Many recreational opportunities are most efficiently provided on a regional or sub-regional basis. King County, Redmond, Kirkland, Renton, Newcastle, and Issaquah are key to a successful Eastside coordination effort. Working together with neighboring jurisdictions will help to identify each jurisdiction's role and responsibility in contributing to regional needs, provide a greater variety of park and recreation services, avoid duplication, and promote distribution of facilities.

Park Master Planning

Before a new park is developed, a master plan for that specific site is prepared. The master plan process includes a significant public input process with review and approval by the Parks & Community Services Board and the City Council. The purpose of the plan is to provide a consistent and long-term vision for phased development of a park over time. Many parks take decades to reach their design vision. As implementation occurs over time, each park must be designed for uses that are consistent with the principles of the master plan.

MEADOW WOOD PARK: FROM IDEA TO REALITY

Designing for Multiple Uses

To the greatest extent possible, decisions to develop new parks or redevelop aging parks must consider providing for multiple uses by multiple user groups. This approach maximizes the benefits available to users of a particular park. Mercer Slough Nature Park is an excellent example of parkland serving multiple functions. It offers trails for pedestrians and bicyclists and waterways for canoes and kayaks. The wetlands and waterways of Mercer Slough provide habitat for more than 160 different species of wildlife, including heron, beaver, and salmon. A sense of Bellevue's historical and cultural heritage is preserved at the historic Winters House and through the continuing agricultural practices of farming blueberries in the park. In addition, the Pacific Science Center offers environmental education programs at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center. Added to this, the Slough provides immense benefits in the amount of stormwater detention, water quality filtering and carbon emission capture and storage.

Regular Public Involvement

Citizen participation is imperative in providing a responsive, effective, and high-quality park system. Bellevue's parks and open space system is being developed on behalf of the community. Therefore, citizen involvement throughout the planning and programming decision process ensures the community's needs and values are reflected in the city's park system.

Volunteers are another important component in public involvement. Not only do they help provide needed services efficiently and cost effectively, but they also represent a strong commitment toward community ownership of park resources. Volunteers contribute thousands of hours annually helping enhance parks, facilities, and programs.

Security and Safety

Bellevue's park system should provide a sense of security, safety, and well-being for its users. Anticipating these issues and designing and programming parks accordingly can help avoid or limit unwanted activity. Signage and regulations publicize guidelines for acceptable behavior and let users know appropriate times and ways to use parklands and facilities. Park Rangers patrolling parks during high-use periods are effective in regulating unwanted activities and making park spaces safer. Regular

maintenance and appropriate planting enhance visibility into parkland from public rights-of-way, which increases the overall sense of security and safety.

Proper maintenance, renovation, and replacement of parks and park equipment prevents and corrects hazardous conditions, thereby protecting the public as well as reducing liability to the City.

Community Services and Programs

Parks & Community Services offers a variety of recreation and community service programs with an emphasis on serving special populations and low- and moderate-income individuals and families. Targeted population groups include individuals with disabilities, older adults and children, youth and teens. Programs provide educational, social, and recreational opportunities that help to build healthy productive lives for all of Bellevue's citizens. These community services and programs are discussed in the Recreation Program Plan, which is a companion document to the Parks & Open Space System Plan.

In summary, the Goals and Objectives, Department Philosophy and Decision and Design Factors provide a foundation to support the City's efforts to:

- Steward a coordinated system of public open spaces that preserves the city's natural character, sustains its urban forest resources, and protects its natural systems, wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors as a legacy for future generations;
- Obtain the land necessary to provide a broad range of recreation opportunities throughout the community;
- Connect parks, neighborhoods, schools, and activity areas together through a coordinated system of trails and open spaces;
- Provide access for all of Bellevue's residents to a variety of park facilities including waterfront, play areas, sportfields, and recreation centers;
- Offer a variety of recreation, athletic, art, social, learning, and environmental education programs;
- Define and enhance neighborhood character by using open space as visual relief to separate and buffer between uses;
- Offer services and programs to all ages and segments of society that provide positive alternatives for building healthy and productive lives; and
- Collaborate with other agencies, both public and private, to efficiently meet the community's needs for parks, recreation, cultural opportunities, and open space.

NATURAL RESOURCE AND HABITAT CONSERVATION GOALS

Bellevue is fortunate to have a wide variety of lakes, streams, wetlands, and forests located within its boundaries. Preserving these environmentally sensitive areas is a high priority as development pressure remains strong. Bellevue's habitat conservation plan is captured in two Elements of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan. First, the *Environmental Element* provides the policy framework for protecting and improving Bellevue's natural environment. The concepts discussed in this element include: Environmental Stewardship, Water Resources, Earth Resources and Geologic Hazards, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, Air Quality, and Noise. Second, the *Shoreline Management Program Element* includes policies that direct development to be compatible with the natural attributes of Bellevue's shorelines with a goal of maintaining and improving the ecological function and habitat value of shoreline and associated wetland areas.

Kelsey Creek restoration project.

To implement these goals and objectives, a series of supporting functional plans, regulatory codes and procedural manuals described below work together to improve environmental stewardship and habitat conservation.

To implement these goals and objectives, a series of supporting functional plans, regulatory codes and procedural manuals described below work together to improve environmental stewardship and habitat conservation. These include this Parks & Open Space System Plan, the City's Critical Areas Ordinance, the Shoreline Master Program and the City's Environmental Best Management Practices & Design Standards Manual.

Within this plan, the Capital Project Recommendations chapter captures the City of Bellevue's immediate and long-range plans for stewardship and expansion of the 1,800 acres of forest and natural areas currently in public ownership. The benefits of publicly owned and managed open space include:

- Native plant and wildlife habitat protection, including fish spawning habitat.
- Stream corridor, wetland, and forested slope preservation.
- Stormwater biofiltration for improved water quality.
- Natural flood control and improved air quality.
- Land use buffer and contrast to urban environment.
- Outdoor classrooms for environmental education.
- Providing park and open space linkages for people and wildlife.

- Hiking, canoeing, bird watching, and other forms of recreation.
- Places of tranquility for personal reflection, inspiration, and other forms of passive recreation.

The *Critical Areas Ordinance* and *Shoreline Management Program* encourage and require natural resource protection and habitat conservation on both public and private property, the City has adopted code requirements that direct development of lands containing environmentally sensitive areas. To guide property owners through the code requirements, the City published a Critical Areas Handbook in 2009. The Handbook is a step-by-step guide to aid in the development, installation, monitoring, and maintenance of small-scale environmental enhancement and restoration projects. Similarly, a Shoreline Restoration Plan is currently being developed to assist in implementation of Shoreline Management goals and requirements.

The *Environmental Best Management Practices & Design Standards Manual* was written cooperatively by multiple City departments. The manual provides clear direction on standard operational procedures; effectively communicates Parks & Community Services operational practices to the public; and responds to regional, state and federal environmental requirements.

PARKS & OPEN SPACE INVENTORY AND PROGRAM STATISTICS

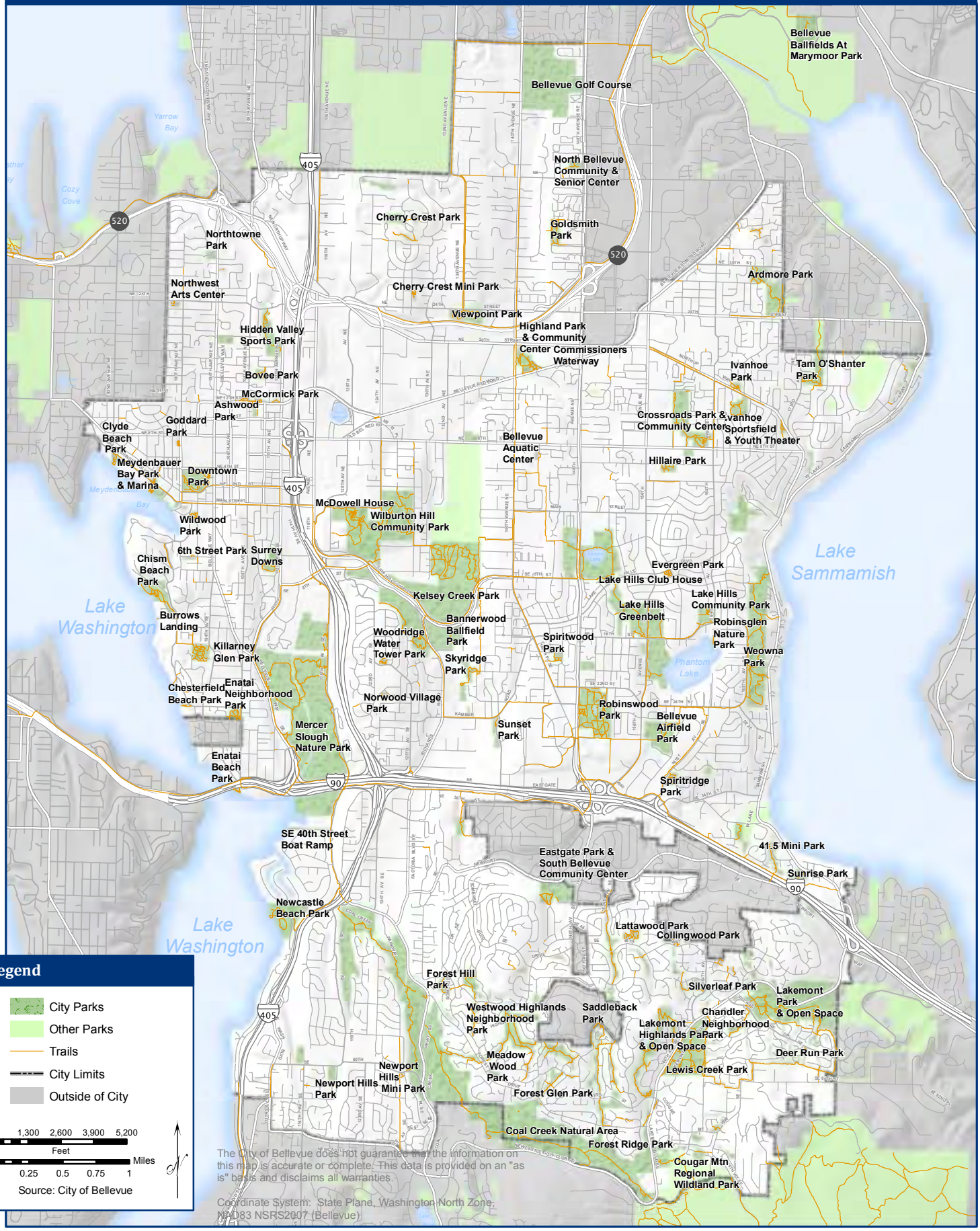
As of January 1, 2010, Bellevue's parks system includes 74 developed park sites. Within these parks are 92 buildings totaling 337,000 square feet, 20 ballfields and 11 soccer (or multi-use) fields. Four large community centers and several smaller centers serve different geographic areas of the city and specialize in providing services to specific population groups. More detail on existing park features is provided in Appendix II, Project Maps and Inventory by Subarea.

Bellevue's open space system includes 1,800 acres of forests and natural areas and 60 acres of privately-owned, but publicly-managed and accessible Native Growth Protection Areas. The open space system includes over 120 miles of multi-use trails, 10,000 street trees maintained along 140 acres of streetscapes. Included within the open space system are three community farms and 100 community garden plots (P-patches). Four visitor centers provide community outreach and environmental education programming.

Through the Recreation Division, the parks system provides opportunities for sports, visual and performing arts, special community events, after-school and summer day camps and life-long learning skills. These programs lead to over 700,000 interactions with program participants annually. Finally, through the Department's Human Services Division, funding partnerships are maintained with 39 non-profit agencies to support 72 different programs serving the needs of low- and moderate-income Bellevue residents.

Parks & Open Space System

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



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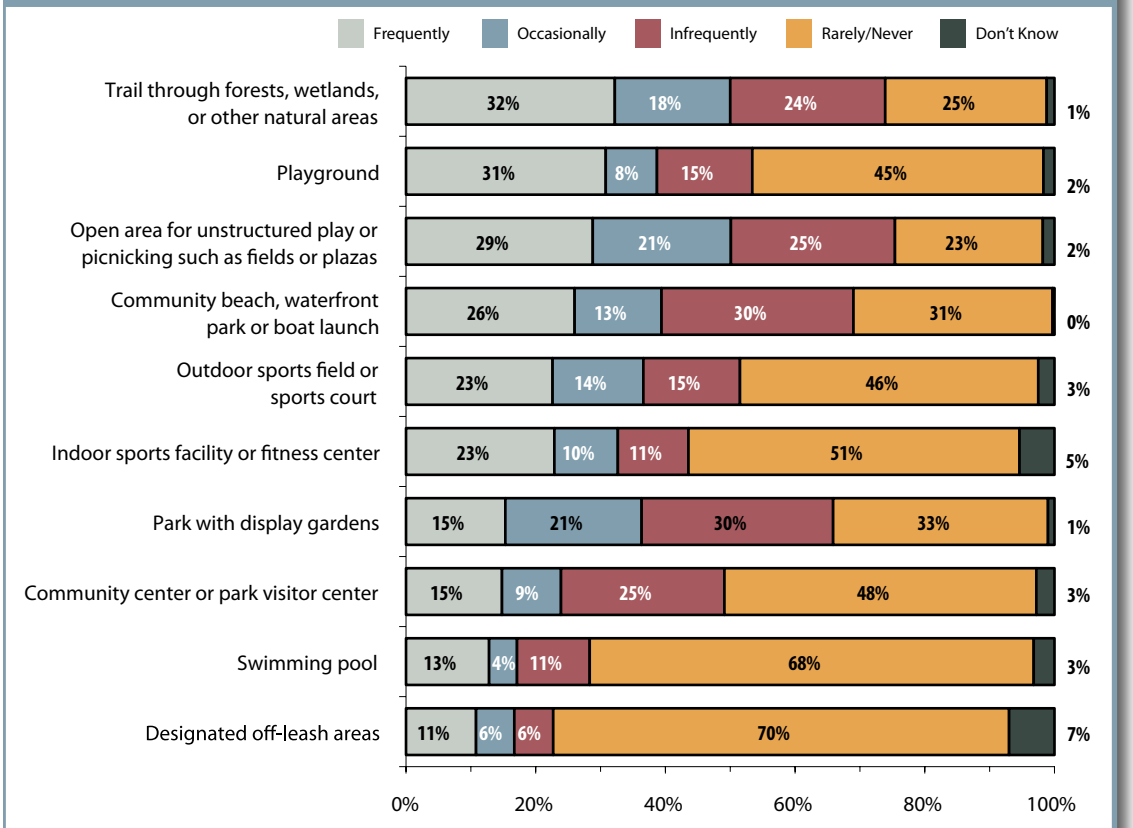
USE OF THE PARKS & OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

In September 2009 a *Parks & Community Services Survey* was conducted. A representative sample of Bellevue residents were asked a series of questions about their use of the parks system, their priorities for future park system development and questions about their fitness habits and recreation preferences. When asked if they had visited a Bellevue park or trail facility in the past year, 94% of respondents reported using one or more facilities at least twice in the past year. The median number of facilities used is five.

According to the survey, the facilities used most frequently by adult respondents are: open areas for unstructured play or picnicking (75%); trails through forests, wetlands or other natural areas (74%); community beaches (69%); and parks with display gardens (66%). A separate question asked about the facilities used most frequently by children under eighteen. They are: community beaches, waterfront parks or boat launches (88%); playgrounds (86%); open areas for unstructured play or picnicking (85%); and trails through forests, wetlands or other natural areas (81%).

Frequency of Park Use by Facility Type

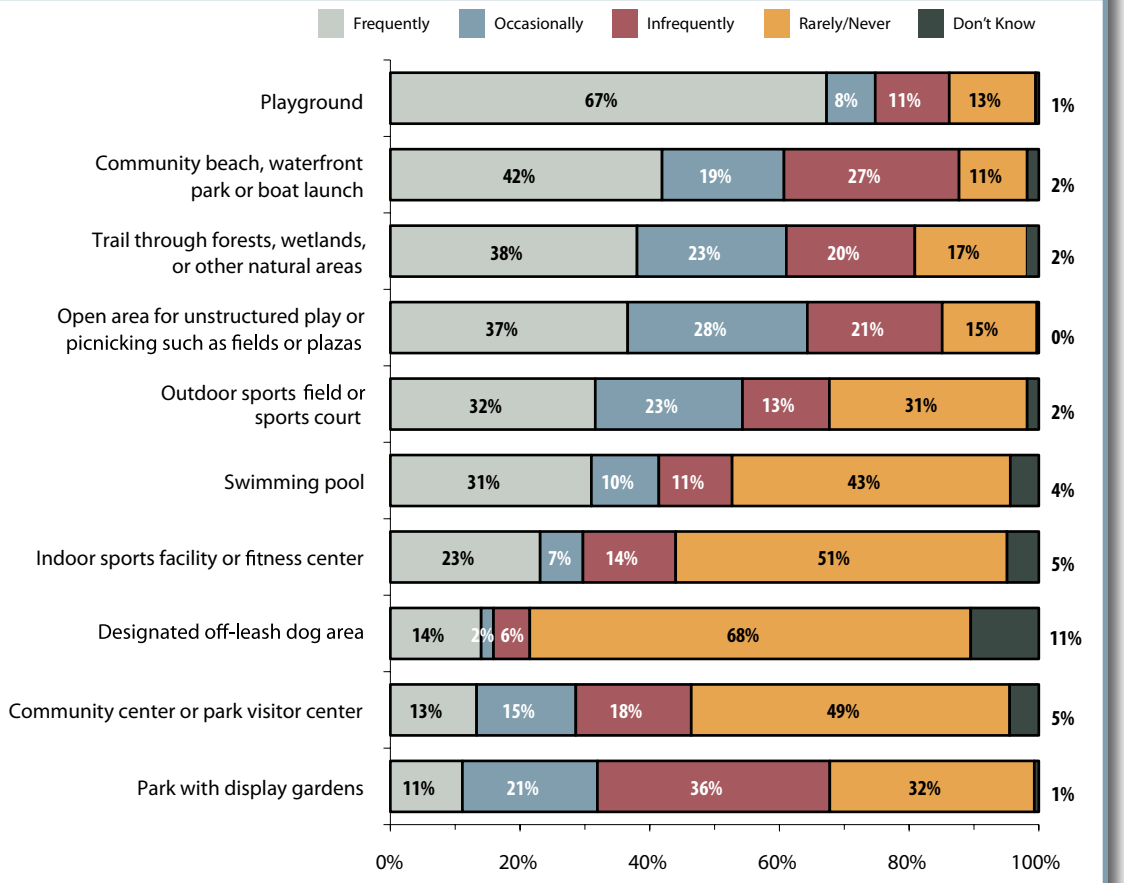


Question 3A-3J: In the past 12 month, how often have you personally visited any of the following types of public or private parks or recreation facilities in Bellevue?

Note: Frequently = 10 or more times per year, occasionally = 6 to 9 times per year, infrequently = 2 to 5 times per year, rarely or never = 1 time per year or less often.

May not sum to 100% due to rounding and weighting.

Frequency of Park Use by Facility Type in Households with Children
Respondents living with children under age 18



Question 3BA-3BL: In the past 12 month, how often has any member of your household under 18 visited any of the following types of public or private parks or recreation facilities in Bellevue?

Note: Frequently = 10 or more times per year, occasionally = 6 to 9 times per year, infrequently = 2 to 5 times per year, rarely or never = 1 time per year or less often.

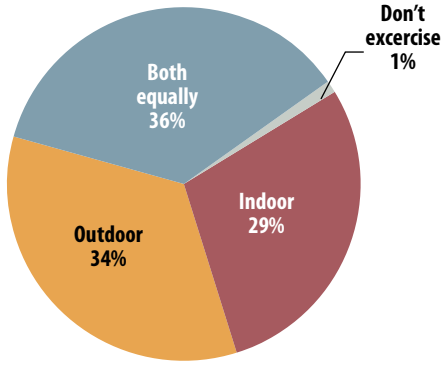
May not sum to 100% due to rounding and weighting.

Interpreting these statistics, one can see a correlation between the number of facilities available to the public and the use of those facilities. For example, Bellevue's extensive local trail system is readily available and easily accessible to many residents. Similarly, Bellevue has a geographically distributed network of parks and playgrounds offering open areas for unstructured recreation for neighborhood use. Since these facilities are readily accessible for many residents, it is not surprising that these types of park facilities are used most frequently by a high percentage of residents. On the other hand, Bellevue's park system includes singular facilities dedicated to a specific use. Examples include the one designated off-leash dog area and one publicly-owned pool. Since these types of facilities are small in number and not geographically dispersed, it is logical that they are used less frequently. However, one cannot conclude that demand for these singular facilities is low. It is probable that if more such facilities were provided throughout the city, the frequency of use would increase as a result.

When asked how they use the facilities, respondents most commonly said they use them to enjoy or experience nature and open spaces (72%), to spend time with family and friends (70%), to relax (69%), and to exercise (66%). Most respondents (78%) said they use the parks and facilities mostly as an individual or for family activities, 7% use them mostly as part of an organized sports league or recreation group and 14% use them for both purposes.

Most respondents (69%) say they exercise for an hour or more each week including 11% that usually exercise at least three hours a week. Respondents split into three groups with respect to preferred exercise setting. Three in ten respondents (29%) usually exercise indoors, 34% exercise more often in an outdoor environment and 36% divide their time between indoor and outdoor exercise.

Preferred Exercise Location



Question 7A: When you do exercise, is it more often in an indoor environment, outdoor environment or about equal between both?

May not sum to 100% due to rounding and weighting.

CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN SINCE 2003

The Parks & Open Space System Plan includes a 20-year vision for future acquisition and capital project priorities. The pace of change is rapid in Bellevue, so the 20-year list is revisited every six years to determine if new information warrants a course correction. The first step in that process is to review the progress made toward achieving the goals set forth in the prior edition of the Parks & Open Space System Plan (2003). The following lists identify the significant projects completed since adoption of that plan.

McTavish Trailhead

Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors & Trails

- Obtained the 446.8-acre Coal Creek Natural Area from King County and completed a series of trail and trailhead improvements, and replaced several pedestrian bridges.
- Added 24.8 acres (three properties) to the Richards Valley Greenway, including additions to Wilburton Hill Park and the Bellevue Botanical Garden, allowing completion of trail connections and forest enhancement plantings.

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

- Completed stream improvements along the West Tributary of Kelsey Creek through Kelsey Creek Park to reduce flooding and improve fish habitat.
- Completed forest and habitat restoration and trail improvements at Lewis Creek and Weowna Parks.
- Completed work along the Lake Hills Greenbelt, including habitat restoration along the Larsen Lake shoreline, boardwalk construction along 156th Ave SE, and reconstruction of the Lake Hills Produce Stand and trailhead.
- Acquired a 10.7-acre addition to Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park and constructed a loop trail and trail connections to the park.
- Completed the Forest Drive Corridor Enhancement project, including landscape plantings, trail head and gateway construction.

Park Facilities

- Acquired a 10.5-acre surplus school property adjacent to the airfield/landfill site to create the 27-acre "Bellevue Airfield Community Park."
- Acquired the 11.4-acre Surrey Downs site from King County and conducted a park master planning process.
- Completed Phase One development of the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, the City's first LEED-certified building at the Gold certification level.

Crossroads Spay Park

- Completed the first phase of development at Lewis Creek Community Park, including athletic fields, visitor center, parking, play area, and extensive trail system.
- Developed Meadow Wood Neighborhood Park in the Factoria Subarea.
- Adopted a Master Plan Update for the Bellevue Botanical Garden to guide the growth and development of this park into the future.
- Constructed the City's first water play area at Crossroads Community Park, leveraging funds from grants and significant donations from the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club.

Active Recreation Facilities

South Bellevue Community Center

- Constructed the 34,000 square foot South Bellevue Community Center, a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue.
- Completed a 5,000 square foot addition to the Crossroads Community Center.
- Completed preliminary plans for development of a new theatre at Crossroads Community Park.
- Completed a comprehensive Aquatic Facility Study that evaluated market conditions, capital and operating costs, location, and financing options for several facility models ranging from a local outdoor recreational facility to a major indoor regional center.
- Constructed a small skate park at Lakemont Park, a skate bowl at Crossroads Community Park and a lighted outdoor skate plaza at Highland Community Park.
- Completed several athletic field improvements, including construction of a combination baseball/soccer field at Highland Middle School, and synthetic turf conversions for two soccer fields at Robinswood Park and one at Wilburton Hill Park. Two little league fields and a soccer field overlay were included as part of the Lewis Creek Park development.

Urban Park Systems

- Adopted long-range plans for the redevelopment of the Bel-Red Corridor, including significant park, open space and trail corridors throughout the area.
- Acquired the 8.5-acre "Safeway" property along the West Tributary of Kelsey Creek as a future transportation, trail and open space opportunity.
- Completed development of Ashwood Plaza in cooperation with the adjacent property owner and developer.

Ashwood Plaza

Waterfront Access

- Acquired two residential properties making it possible to begin master planning for Meydenbauer Bay Park, long envisioned to be a regionally-significant waterfront park. The City also acquired the adjacent 1.5-acre Bayview parcel that will connect the Meydenbauer Bay properties to downtown Bellevue.
- Acquired a 0.4-acre addition to the existing lakefront parcel along Lake Sammamish.

Operational Facilities

- Constructed the new Bellefields maintenance facility, a 3,200 square foot facility and storage yard that houses the main field operations for the Natural Resource Division.
- Constructed a satellite maintenance facility in the lower level of the visitor center at Lewis Creek Park.
- Relocated the Structural Maintenance section of Resource Management to the Bellevue Service Center.

I have all my life been considering distant effects and always sacrificing immediate success and applause to that of the future.

– Frederick Law Olmsted

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Photo Kellie Rogers

Sunshine streaming out,
clouds parting about,
trees struggling to be seen,
others, tall and lean.

Wind blowing,
light glowing,
chilly skin,
and a big grin.

Splash! A pool of water,
a mother cuddling a daughter,
fall leaves a mark,
at the park.

Sophie Sceats

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The prior chapters have set a foundation by describing the City's adopted goals and objectives for the parks system and describing the scope, range and function of the parks and open space system as it exists at this time. Building from this foundation, attention now turns to the focal point of the Parks & Open Space System Plan, the discussion of future needs and priorities. To begin, a description is provided of the public process used to collect input on future priorities. Following that, the City's estimate of future population growth is described. Then, this chapter analyzes the current level of service provided to residents by the parks and open space system with goals for improving that level over time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The City of Bellevue has an ongoing program of surveying, tracking performance measures and hosting forums for discussion with Bellevue residents about city performance and priorities. Many of these ongoing sources of information were used in the creation of this plan. In addition, from June to December 2009, an additional layer of public participation tools were used to collect specific feedback and opinions from Bellevue parks users on how the park and trail systems are currently used and what priorities should be given in the future for development. These include:

- A statistically valid representative sample survey of Bellevue residents with responses received from almost 700 households;
- An open web-survey completed by approximately 1,250 park users;
- Twenty-six presentations to City boards and commissions, parks user groups and local neighborhood organizations, reaching an estimated 300 individuals;
- A public hearing hosted by the Parks & Community Services Board in January 2010 collecting 34 verbal and written comments;
- A regularly updated project blog, accessed by an estimated 970 unique visitors; and
- Project updates and comment opportunities provided by the Parks & Community Services e-newsletter (16,100 subscribers), the Neighborhood Outreach Office's Neighborhood News (800 subscribers), the City's presence on social media web sites, local newspapers (print and online) and Eastside-focused blogs.

What do you want to see more of in Bellevue parks? The community web survey produced 38 pages of answers to this question. The size of the words in this image are displayed proportionally to the number of times they appeared in survey responses. Image created using *www.tagxedo.com*

FUTURE POPULATION TRENDS

Bellevue's 2010 resident population of 122,900 is expected to grow to 138,500 by 2020 and to 148,400 by 2030. This only describes one element of Bellevue's park user base. The city's daytime population, including workers, residents, shoppers, visitors and students is estimated to increase from 201,400 in 2010 to 225,000 in 2020 and 260,000 in 2030. All of these population groups will use Bellevue's parks and open space system. Their use of parks must be planned for and accommodated so that the park benefits to Bellevue residents are not diminished. Population growth in the city will not be uniformly distributed and future decisions on park system development must take this into account.

GROWTH TRENDS

- Bellevue grew at a compound average annual rate of 1.19% from 2000 to 2010 compared to 2.37% in the 1990s. The growth rate is expected to slow slightly to 0.95% from 2010 to 2030.
- While half of Bellevue's population growth in the 1990s was due to annexations, only 25% was added from annexations from 2000 to 2010.
- Population forecasts for 2030 anticipate almost half of the city's growth to occur within Downtown Bellevue, another third to occur within the Bel-Red corridor, and the rest distributed fairly evenly throughout the remaining subareas.

- The Downtown subarea is projected to experience nearly a 140% increase, growing from 5,500 to 14,000 by 2020. The second biggest population increase is expected in the Bel-Red subarea, which could increase from 280 to 5,600 by 2020.
- Over 2,200 housing units located south of Interstate 90 are expected to be annexed into the city.

POPULATION DENSITY

Bellevue's population density citywide is currently 3,831 people per square mile. Downtown Bellevue is projected to reach 21,800 people per square mile by 2020 and 29,500 people per square mile by 2030.

LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

Other services provided by the City of Bellevue, such as transportation and utilities, are able to quantify performance through counts, calculation and future-oriented modeling of discrete variables like vehicle trips and water flow rates. The extensive scope and variety of services provided by Parks & Community Services makes quantification and performance measurement extraordinarily difficult. The City of Bellevue is not alone in this matter. Nationally accepted standards for calculating the level of service of a parks system do not exist. The guidelines that have been published over the years often fail from being too simplistic to provide useful information at the local level or on the other end of the spectrum, overly complicated and difficult to manage.

In 1983, level of service guidelines were published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) based upon providing a set number of park acres and park facilities per thousand in population. Permutations of these guidelines were developed since that time, the most recent in 1996. Yet, these guidelines go to great lengths to distance themselves from becoming "standards." Rather, the guidelines are a suggested model and local adjustment or customization is encouraged.

The area where NRPA has placed significant importance on setting national standards for park and recreation agencies is accreditation. NRPA's accreditation process is administered by the *Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies*(CAPRA). Recognizing the holistic value in accreditation, the City of Bellevue has focused efforts in meeting those standards. Bellevue Parks & Community Services applied for and was granted accredited status by CAPRA in 2005 and is preparing for re-accreditation in 2010. Bellevue is one of two CAPRA-accredited agencies in Washington.

As to level of service measures, communities have the flexibility to use any system that is perceived to be of value to that community. Bellevue used an acres and facilities per thousand in population system in the 1987, 1993 and 2003 editions of the Parks & Open Space System Plan.

A significant document influencing local level of service measures is the *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP). This plan is maintained by the State of Washington's *Recreation and Conservation Office* (RCO). The SCORP is a requirement for the State to receive federal funds designated for parks and recreation activities. Since municipalities across the state apply to RCO for both state-originated and federal-originated funding, local governments must also have in place long-range plans that align with the statewide goals contained in the SCORP.

Washington State adopted a new SCORP in June 2008. Within that document, RCO proposed that all State agencies and local governments shift away from levels of service calculated by acres per thousand residents to a system based upon statistically valid local public opinion and park and trail service area (or accessibility) standards. For the 2010 edition of the Parks & Open Space System Plan, the City of Bellevue has selected three level of service measures proposed in the SCORP. Making slight modifications to the wording to better address the Bellevue community, they are:

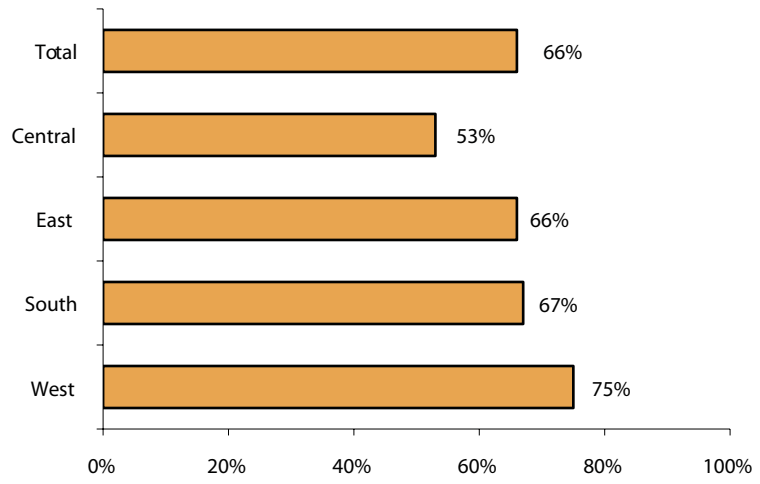
- **Individual Active Participation** – measured by the percent of population that participates in one or more active outdoor activities.
- **Public Satisfaction** – measured by the percent of population satisfied with the condition of existing park and recreation facilities.
- **Service Area** – measured by the percent of households within 1/3 mile of a park or trail access point.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

The September 2009 representative sample survey of Bellevue residents found that overall, 65.5% of Bellevue residents used a park facility in the past twelve months to exercise outdoors or engage in outdoor sports. Since this was the first year this question was asked, it is not possible to provide trend data to show if this level of participation has changed over time. Thus, the 65.5% response will be set as a benchmark for comparison in future surveys. It is also not known how this percentage compares to other jurisdictions. If other cities in the state also begin to track this performance measure in order to align with the State's SCORP plan, more comparison data may be available in the future. However, in general, 65.5% can be interpreted as a positive response rate for the population as a whole, with room for improvement in the future.

Areas for improvement become apparent when analyzing how different population groups answered the individual active participation

Use of a Park or Recreation Facility for Outdoor Exercise



Question 4A: In the past 12 months, have you or any other members of your household used a park or recreation facility in Bellevue to exercise outdoors or engage in outdoor sports?

question. For example, there is a statistically significant difference in the results this question among different geographic areas of Bellevue. The highest percentage was West Bellevue, where 75% of residents reported using a park facility within the last twelve months to exercise outdoors or engage in outdoor sports. South Bellevue and East Bellevue reported percentages similar to the city overall. Residents of Central Bellevue, however, show a marked decrease with 53% of residents reporting using a park in the past twelve months to exercise and engage in sports. This is an indication that Parks & Community Services should look specifically at the provision of parks, trails and recreation programming offered in Central Bellevue to determine if there is a way to promote increased use of the parks system for active outdoor activities.

Parks & Community Services Survey Areas

PUBLIC SATISFACTION

Every year, the *City of Bellevue Finance Department* fields a statistically valid survey of Bellevue residents to measure a key set of performance metrics related to all City services. These data points have been tracked by the City for many years. Public satisfaction with the park system is one of those metrics. Results from the survey conducted in 2009, find that:

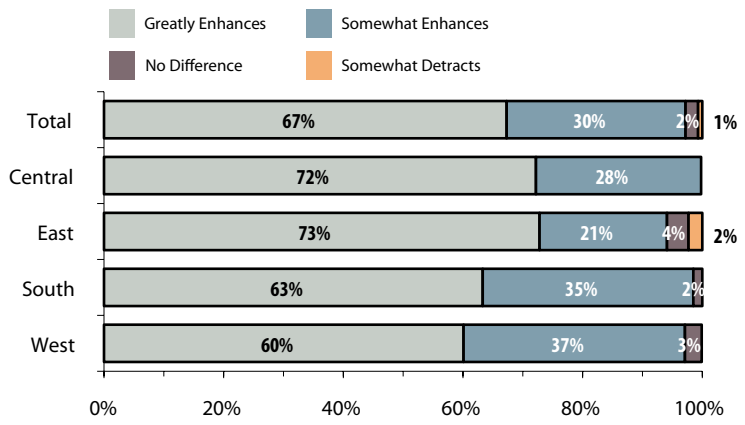
- 92% of residents are satisfied, either very (57%) or somewhat (35%), with parks and park facilities in Bellevue. Ratings were relatively consistent across most demographic segments with two notable exceptions, those living in multi-family dwelling types and younger residents (35 years of age and younger), notably those who are men. Only 39 percent of this target is "very satisfied."

- 95% indicate the appearance of Bellevue's public parks and facilities is excellent (52%) or good (43%). Households living in Bellevue less than three years returned the lower percentage of excellent responses (46%). Targeted marketing to new residents to inform them about the park resources available to them city-wide may lead to higher opinion ratings in future surveys.

- 92% rate the safety of parks and park facilities as excellent (40%) or good (52%). Residents of South Bellevue and East Central Bellevue) had marginally lower opinions of safety than residents of other areas. Survey respondents who had not used a park within the last year also had lower opinions of park safety.

The September 2009 survey of Bellevue residents specifically regarding the parks and open space system found that 97% of survey respondents say the parks and recreational opportunities enhance Bellevue's quality of life. The majority (67%) say the parks "greatly enhance" quality of life and 30% say parks "somewhat enhance" quality of life.

How Parks/Recreation Opportunities Contribute to Bellevue's Quality of Life

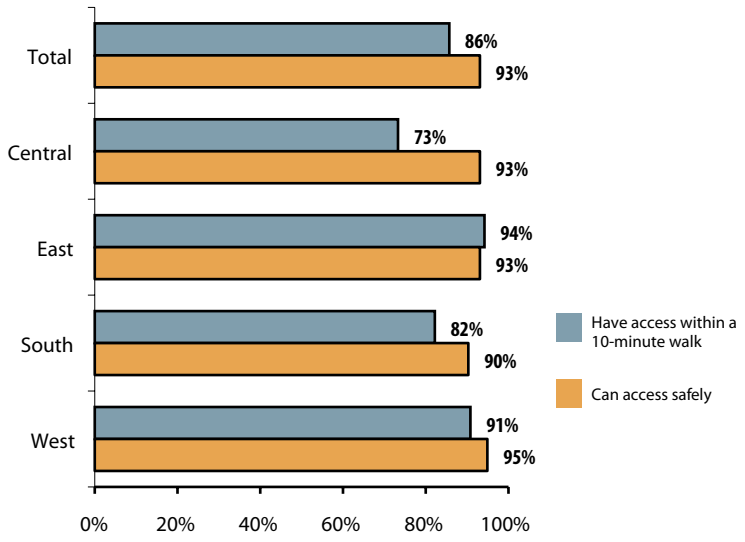


Question 2B: To what extent do the parks and recreation opportunities available in Bellevue impact the quality of life here? Would you say it greatly enhances, somewhat enhances, makes no difference one way or the other, somewhat detracts or greatly detracts?

May not sum to 100% due to rounding and weighting.

As shown above, while the overall survey results are largely positive, there are variations among neighborhoods and certain demographic groups. Where response rates are lower, attention will be given to determining how parks and programs can be structured to address those needs.

Access to Park, Trail Entrance or Facility Within a 10-minute Walk



Question 8A: Is there a Bellevue Parks & Community Services park, trail entrance or facility within a 10-minute walk from your home?

Question 8B: Are you able to reach this facility safely by walking or biking?

SERVICE AREA

Parks & Community Services took a two-fold approach to this level of service measurement. To start, a question was asked in the September 2009 parks survey of Bellevue residents. The question asked if residents felt that they had access to a park, trail entrance or facility within a 10-minute walk of their home. Overall, 86% of residents responded in the affirmative.

Again for this question, there were differences based on geography. For this question, residents of Central Bellevue and South Bellevue reported lower levels of access, with 73% and 82% respectively.

To seek an answer to this question in another way, residents' walkable access to park and trails was mapped using the City of Bellevue's Geographic Information System (GIS). For this analysis, a point was placed on a map at every point of entry for a park, trail and school. The GIS program then used the Bellevue street network to "walk" one-third of a mile down the streets in every direction for each access point. This created a walkable access buffer, that when combined, shows at a general level, the degree to which Bellevue households are within walking distance to a park, trail or school. For this analysis, school sites are considered a public recreation amenity. This is because the City of Bellevue maintains a partnership with the Bellevue School District to provide outdoor (and some indoor) facilities to Bellevue residents when school is not in session. While school yards add significant opportunities for neighborhood park access, they are not as fully accessible as a City of Bellevue park, since the school district does limit access during the school year.

Using this analysis, it was determined that 73% of Bellevue households have a park or trail access point within a 1/3 mile walk from their home. Of the 27% of city residents that are more than a 1/3 mile walk away from a park or trail, 16% have a public school facility within a 1/3 mile walk and 11% do not have walkable access to a park, trail or public school site.

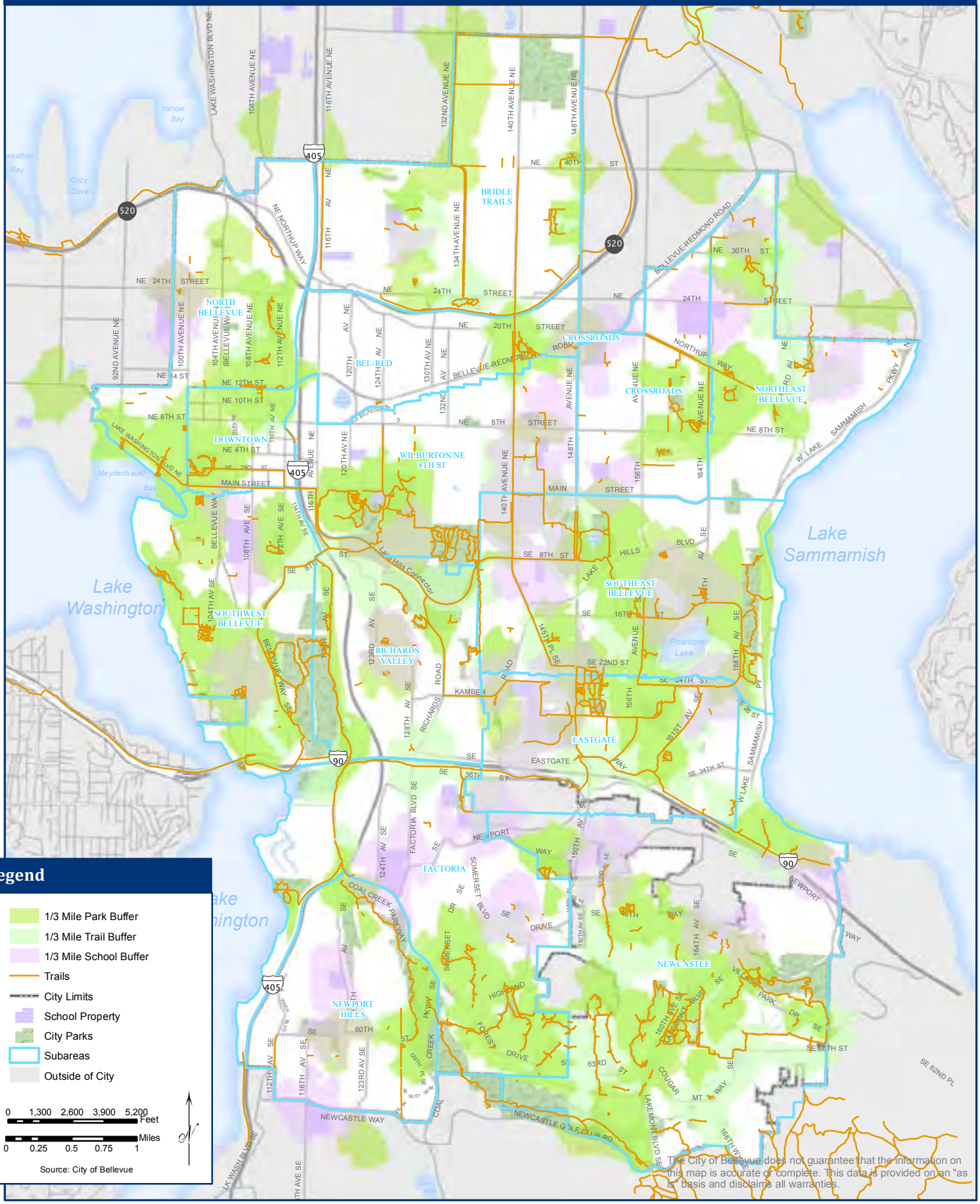
I live in the very southwest corner of Bellevue, and in this regard many of the Bellevue parks are not that close, so I don't use them that much. In fact, the traffic pattern is really pretty prohibitive for me to cross north of I-90, and to head into the center of Bellevue. I do use Newcastle Beach Park and the Newport Hills playfield, but not much of anything else.

– 2009 Web Survey respondent

Walkable Access

1/3 Mile Buffers

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



Plot Date: 12/28/2010 File Name: V:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\AccessBuffers\AccessPtBuffers_1_3MileBuffNetwork.mxd IT Dept.

Based on this the level of service analysis, the following subareas are identified as having significant gaps in walkable access to parks and trails:

- **Bel-Red** – an emerging area of need as residential population will increase over time as high density redevelopment occurs.
- **Bridle Trails** – although in close proximity to Bridle Trails State Park and Bellevue Golf Course, general park facilities offering unstructured open space and playground areas are lacking. Also, trails systems in this subarea are often informal with no easement protecting public access. So, while these serve the neighborhood to some degree, they do not fully integrate with the city's overall trail network.
- **Crossroads** – this subarea has neighborhoods without walkable access to parks along with a higher population density than many other subareas.
- **Downtown** –areas lacking walkable access are geographically small; however, the high population density creates significant park supply gaps in the northwest and southeast quadrants of downtown.
- **Eastgate** – this subarea includes a significant number of residential households south of I-90 that are currently unincorporated. The incorporated portions of the subarea are fairly well served by parks and trails, while the unincorporated portions are not. These areas, once incorporated, will create a need for additional neighborhood park facilities in this subarea.
- **Factoria** – an unconnected street network and lack of neighborhood park facilities in the north half of the subarea leaves many households without walkable access to parks. The high population density of workforce and multi-family residential populations exacerbate this need.
- **Newcastle** – this subarea includes a significant number of residential households that are currently unincorporated. Similar to Eastgate, the incorporated portions of the subarea are fairly well served by parks and trails, while the unincorporated portions are not. These areas, once incorporated, will create a need for additional neighborhood park facilities in this subarea.
- **Newport Hills** – park facilities and access to existing trail systems is extremely limited, displaying a need for new neighborhood-scale park facilities and improved access to the South Bellevue / Coal Creek Greenway and associated trail system.
- **North Bellevue** – The southwest and northeast portions of this subarea may be served by new park facilities developed in neighboring subareas. The western edge and center of the subarea will be better served when the publicly-owned Chapin property is developed into a neighborhood park.

- **Northeast Bellevue** The area could benefit from additional park facilities added to the Crossroads subarea and enhanced trail connections. The southern tip of this subarea is on a steep grade and may only be adequately served by a small future neighborhood-scale park directly within the neighborhood.

- **Wilburton / NE 8th Street** – while this subarea includes three major community parks, the northern end of the subarea lacks neighborhood-scale facilities that are within walking distance. This need would be addressed through development of the publicly owned Glendale property and may benefit from future park and trail system development in the Bel-Red Subarea.

Specific projects designed to increase walkable access to parks and trails within these subareas and throughout the city are described in more detail in the following section.

RECREATION FACILITY GUIDELINES

Parks & Community Services will continue to use park facility per thousand in population guidelines as an analytical tool to assist in decision making when appropriate. Examples of the guidelines that have been used historically include:

Trail Systems

Separate systems developed to accommodate walking, hiking, jogging, and bicycling. Trails may be developed as multi-purpose trails in some areas. See the *Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan* for information on specific recommended projects.

Guideline:	Walking/hiking/jogging: 1.1 miles/ 1,000 population
	Bicycling: .7 miles/1,000 population

Community Recreation Center

An indoor recreation facility that provides gymnasium, locker, multi-purpose, class/social, arts and crafts and game rooms, kitchen, staff offices, lobby and lounge, storage, and restroom areas. Geographic distribution of community centers throughout the city is desirable.

Size:	15,000-35,000 square feet
Guideline:	One center/25,000 population
Service Area:	Citywide – geographically distributed

Athletic Facilities

Athletic facilities include sportfields for baseball, softball, soccer, football, as well as facilities for tennis courts, skate parks and gymnasiums for basketball and other indoor sports. Sports with growing popularity, such as lacrosse and cricket also need to be accommodated within the park system.

Guideline:	Tennis Courts	1 court/2,000 population
	Gymnasiums	1 gym/25,000 population

It was a drowsy summer afternoon, and the Forest was full of gentle sounds which all seemed to be saying to Pooh, "Don't listen to Rabbit, listen to me." So he got into a comfortable position for not listening to Rabbit…
-House at Pooh Corner, A. A. Milne

CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Photo Margaret Faubion

Blue in the sky so clearly seen
And the fresh grass so perfectly green
Kids playing all the time
Laughing and singing their jump-rope rhymes

The Bellevue skyline overhead
You lay in the grass, a perfect bed
Water from fountains swirl around
From the rush comes a beautiful sound

As ducks swim 'round the open park
Families smile and dogs happily bark
Food is eaten from picnics galore
With so much beauty, how could you want more?

Chandlis Hupf

CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Parks & Open Space System Plan identifies seven major focus areas where Parks & Community Services proposes to focus attention in order to meet the park, open space and recreation needs of the community. These Focus Areas have generally remained consistent since the 1987 edition of the plan, although over time they have been re-structured and modified to meet contemporary needs.

Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors & Trails: Acquiring and protecting open space to establish a network of greenways throughout the community. These greenways function to meet passive and active recreation needs of the community, protect wildlife and critical habitat areas, and provide linkages between parks and commercial or residential neighborhoods.

Park Facilities: Providing walkable access to neighborhood and community parks through acquisition, development, or redevelopment.

Active Recreation Facilities: Siting community centers and active recreation facilities throughout the community to provide needed indoor and outdoor recreation spaces and activities of interest to a wide spectrum of diverse users.

Urban Park Systems: Addressing the unique challenges of designing and providing parks, open space, trails and active recreation facilities serving the urban densities of Downtown Bellevue, and in the future, a redeveloped Bel-Red neighborhood.

Waterfront Access: Acquiring and developing additional publicly-owned waterfront property to meet community demand.

Partnership Opportunities: Working with community partners in the public, private and non-profit sectors to provide recreation and community service needs for Bellevue residents. Additionally, connecting Bellevue residents to the abundant regional park and recreation facilities surrounding the city.

Historic, Cultural, and Art Resources: Protecting and interpreting Bellevue's cultural history as well as providing space and an outlet for artistic expression. This section does not include a set of specific capital project recommendations. It lays a policy foundation for how cultural history and artistic expression should be incorporated in existing and future parks and facilities.

Specific capital recommendations are included under each focus area where appropriate. All recommendations are grouped together and mapped for a comprehensive view in the following chapter.

OPEN SPACE, GREENWAYS, WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND TRAILS

"The environment" has captured the public's attention more so now, or at least in a different way, than in the past. The word "green" has taken on new meanings that have exploded beyond a simple color description. Social acceptance is measured by how green a person can become. Children in preschool are taught songs about how to properly reduce, reuse and recycle. Yet, in an odd paradox, while society has become increasingly aware of environmental protection, and has placed a high priority on it, individuals are less likely to venture out to experience the natural environment than in any previous generation. This is well documented in the book *Last Child in the Woods*, by Richard Louv, in which he argues that children in particular, are well educated about nature, but fundamentally disconnected from experiencing it. Louv argues that this disconnection is a probable cause for decreased mental and physical health in American society.

Bellevue's natural areas, wildlife corridors, trails and greenways are part of the solution to both environmental degradation and public health. Tree masses absorb carbon dioxide, emit oxygen, reduce erosion, moderate temperatures, protect wildlife, and provide aesthetic relief. Wetlands filter pollutants, absorb surface water runoff, help maintain stream base flows and groundwater replenishment, and provide a rich biological habitat. Riparian corridors, which include the stream channel and the streamside vegetation, provide flood water attenuation, groundwater replenishment, water quality filtering, and fish and wildlife habitat. The abundance of trails, which are easily accessed from residential neighborhoods and places of work, provide a low-barrier way for individuals to get outside and benefit from all that our natural environment has to offer in terms of physical activity and mental well-being.

As a growing urban center, Bellevue must find a balance between continued urban development and preserving or enhancing environmental quality. The following program areas acknowledge the importance of preserving critical open space and wildlife habitat areas, providing connections, and encouraging public education and awareness of Bellevue's natural systems.

PRESERVING OPEN SPACE

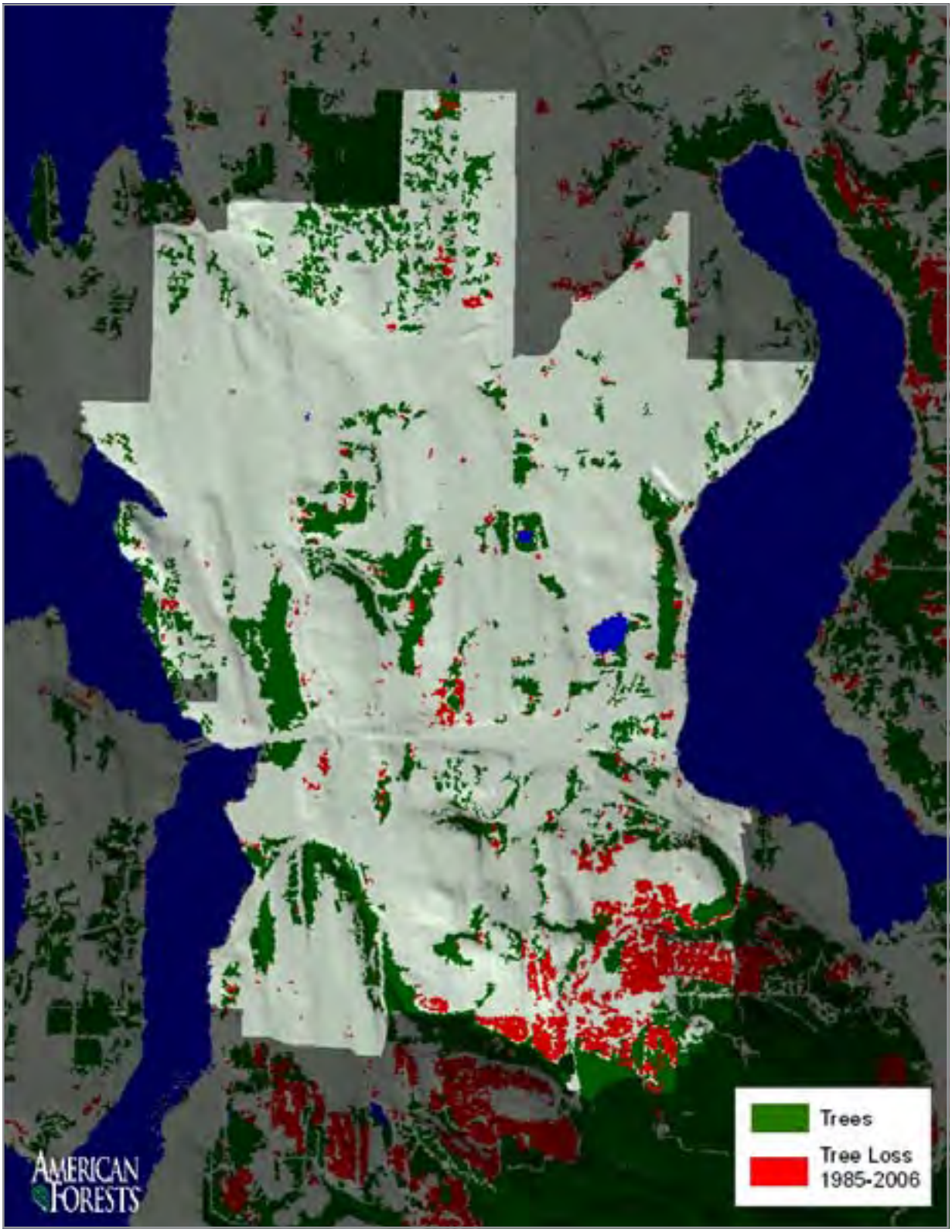
Bellevue's open spaces are an integral part of the city. Open space areas include ecologically sensitive and/or unique natural areas, greenways, wildlife corridors, historical agricultural lands, and publicly managed native growth protection areas (NGPAs). Dispersed throughout the city are a variety of these open space areas that add to Bellevue's "City in a Park" image. Well-distributed and connected greenways and open spaces provide important linkages for habitat and people, bring nature's beauty closer to everyone, and maximize opportunities for enjoying the environment.

When combined with King County and Bellevue School District-owned properties, there are approximately 3,000 acres of public park, school, and open space land in Bellevue. Much of this land is open space located in a few large areas, such as Mercer Slough, Wilburton Hill, Lakemont Park, Coal Creek Natural Area, Kelsey Creek Park, and the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

Privately owned lands play an important role in the open space system. They work in tandem with public lands to enhance the city's overall open space system. Golf courses, for example, contribute to the feeling of open space by providing visitors with an aesthetically pleasing visual experience. Privately owned greenbelts and native growth protection areas (NGPAs) play an equally important role in providing open space. They protect critical areas and habitat while enhancing the visual setting of the built environment.

Where possible, it is the City's responsibility to classify and regulate native growth protection areas as permanent open spaces. Some trails through these spaces should be built to provide limited public access while still preserving the area for other purposes, such as wildlife habitat. In 2000, the City Council approved and funded the concept of acquiring and managing privately owned NGPAs. From 2000 to 2009, over 60 acres of NGPAs have been protected, thus ensuring that their environmental functions and values are maintained or restored, while also providing public access opportunities.

FOREST LANDCOVER CHANGE TRENDS 1985–1996



GREENWAYS

Greenways have historically provided a natural contrast to urban density. They combine the natural functions and separations provided by a greenbelt with the linear and connected orientation of a parkway. By connecting different sites via boulevards, trails, and natural areas, parklands become more usable, accessible by walking or biking, and visible on a day-to-day basis. The various parks and open spaces throughout the city become a system, achieving a sense of integration and completeness.

The Lake to Lake Trail System and Greenway is an excellent example of this concept. Originating at public parks on the east and west sides of Bellevue, a system of signed trails and sidewalks extends across the city linking a series of parks, schools, commercial areas and natural areas with a unifying string.

A key function of greenways in Bellevue is to link major regional parks and open spaces. Bellevue is surrounded by large regional State and King County parks as well as parks operated by neighboring cities. To make full use of these resources, a series of greenways are planned that increase Bellevue residents' ability to reach and enjoy regional facilities that include the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway, Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Lake Sammamish State Park, Marymoor Park and Bridle Trails State Park. These parks, in turn, either are or will be connected via trails and corridors to significantly larger state, county, and federal lands between the Cascade Mountains and Puget Sound. Bellevue parks, such as Mercer Slough Nature Park, Kelsey Creek Farm, and the Downtown Park, also serve as regional facilities which are, or will be, connected into the overall greenways network for the Eastside region.

TRAIL SYSTEM

Trails play an important role in open space, especially in large parks, greenways, and wildlife corridors. Trails, which can also function as greenways, are often the sole means of connecting parklands and open space. They provide pedestrians and non-motorized transportation users shorter and safer connections between various neighborhoods and open space.

Major east-west and north-south greenway trail routes traversing the city have been designated and are considered top priorities

in completing trail systems. The Lake to Lake Trail provides Bellevue's primary east-west trail connection linking Lake Sammamish with Lake Washington. Other future east-west trail connections include a trail across the northern boundary of the city, from Kirkland's Houghton neighborhood to Marymoor Park. Aligned between this and the Lake to Lake Trail is a planned new trail alignment bisecting a redeveloped Bel-Red Subarea. In south Bellevue, a trail system extends from Coal Creek Natural Area to Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. A proposed trail along West Lake Sammamish Parkway will provide a major north-south link for pedestrians and non-motorized transportation from Cougar Mountain to Marymoor Park. Additionally, the recent public purchase of the BNSF railroad right-of-way will provide a significant opportunity for a north-south greenway trail through Bellevue. North-south opportunities also exist along power line and pipeline corridors through Bellevue. Partnerships to provide public access along those corridors should be considered.

BNSF rail corridor

In addition to the major cross-city trail connections, construction of well-signed trails within neighborhood areas creates a trail network connecting the neighborhood to the parks and open space systems within close proximity to people living in the area. These localized trail systems provide connection opportunities allowing people to explore their immediate neighborhood area. They encourage interaction and a sense of community within these areas.

Trees Benefit our Community in More Ways than You May Think

Recent research shows that trees can provide a great number of benefits beyond shade and natural beauty. The presence of trees has been shown to positively impact:

- *energy efficiency in homes and buildings,*
- *stormwater retention and soil erosion,*
- *reductions in air pollution and carbon absorption,*
- *traffic calming and accident reduction,*
- *worker productivity and academic achievement,*
- *increased retail business,*
- *reduction in property crimes and violent crimes,*
- *reduced mental stress, and*
- *accelerated post-surgery patient recovery.*

Research citations available upon request

The importance of open space and trails to the Bellevue community is notable. Surveys of Bellevue residents and park users in 2009 confirm that acquiring and preserving open space and continuing to develop the city's trail system remains a top priority. Similar results were found in a prior survey completed in 2001.

STREET TREES AND ARTERIAL LANDSCAPING

Street trees and arterial landscaping are valuable assets and an essential part of the city's urban forest. The trees and plants filter air pollutants, produce oxygen, buffer noise, provide separation between pedestrians and vehicles, furnish beauty and provide shade. Street trees add scale to the built environment and help soften effects of urbanization. Arterial "greening" identifies streets and highways as part of the overall open space system.

Parks & Community Services' Street Trees and Arterial Landscaping Program establishes a variety of landscapes along the city's street system. This program provides pleasant canopied boulevards and lush green arterial roads. In cooperation with the Transportation Department, the program has resulted in over 140 acres of streetscape landscaping adjacent to arterials and boulevards. These landscaped boulevards and arterial roads, such as 148th Avenue, enrich the visual experience to motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists using these roadways.

Freeway landscaping should also be included as part of the open space concept. "Greening" the freeways can be easily achieved through re-vegetation. Interstate 90, Interstate 405, and State Route 520 are major gateways that form the first impression of Bellevue. Landscaping along freeways can be a reminder of the beauty of our natural environment and can offer the motorist a glimpse of the "City in a Park." A partnership with the State Department of Transportation will be necessary to achieve this goal.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

As described in the Introduction, the pristine natural conditions that existed in our region 120 years ago have been radically altered by development. Bellevue's remaining natural areas are carefully managed to provide long-term environmental, recreational, and social benefits. Just as important as working to connect the large open spaces in Bellevue, the stewardship programs must view activities on an ecosystem-wide basis, acknowledging the interconnectedness and interrelationships in nature.

The Forest Management Program provides a systematic process to manage the forest ecosystem. Starting with a site inventory and analysis, staff develops a natural resource management and enhancement plan to improve degraded forest conditions resulting from past logging and land use practices and current development activities. Where necessary, trees and vegetation are removed and replaced to create a viable natural ecosystem. With over 100 species of wildlife utilizing tree snags for nesting, breeding, food sources, and refuge, snag creation is also part of the Forest Management Program. The goal of the Forest Management Program is to re-establish natural ecosystems which will sustain wildlife, as well as provide a visual amenity for the community.

Enhancement projects have also increased wildlife habitat and diversity through the creation of wetland ponds, such as those at Mercer Slough and Lake Hills Greenbelt, and improved water quality and reduced erosion through stream restoration projects, such as Phantom Creek through Weowna Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Environmental education is an important component to a successful parks and open space system. Educating the public about the importance of our natural systems helps create an understanding of the benefits provided by these systems. The public endorses environmental preservation when connections between the environment and quality of life are fully understood.

Parks & Community Services provides numerous opportunities for environmental education which give park visitors the understanding and insight into the natural world. Proper interpretation of the state of natural resources creates a sense of wonder and instills a sense of responsibility and ownership to protect and manage the resources wisely. Examples of environmental education and interpretation programs include the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, the Ranger Station Backyard Wildlife Habitat Gardens, Washington State University Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden, Earth

Day/Arbor Day celebrations and tree planting, Stewardship Saturdays, and Natural Resource Week. Volunteers contribute thousands of hours helping to enhance parks and open spaces. In addition to formal environmental education programs, use of the city's trail and open space system provides the public with informal environmental education opportunities as people experience these natural systems.

CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2009 Pedestrian & Bicycle Transportation Plan is the primary resource for trail policies, standards, projects, implementation, and financing strategies. This plan provides the framework for building a safe non-motorized transportation system to schools, parks, shopping areas, and places of employment. The following list of projects align with the Ped-Bike Plan and meets parks and open space goals:

Opportunity:	Acquire*	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Greenway Connections/Extensions • Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails • Lake to Lake Greenway Trails • South Bellevue / Coal Creek Greenway Trails • Marymoor to Cougar Mountain Greenway Trails • Bel-Red Greenway Trails • Richards Valley Greenway Trails • Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) Greenway Trails	●	●	●
Trail Connections/Extensions: Between Large Regional Systems and Open Spaces	●	●	
Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPA)	●		
Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Implementation	●	●	

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

PARK FACILITIES

The heart and soul of Bellevue's parks system are the neighborhood-scale and community-scale parks that dot the city from one end to the other. Each has its own distinct character and set of features that add both economic and social value to the neighborhoods in which they are located. These parks are responsible for Bellevue's image as a "City in a Park" and are responsible for the enviable quality of life that Bellevue residents enjoy.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

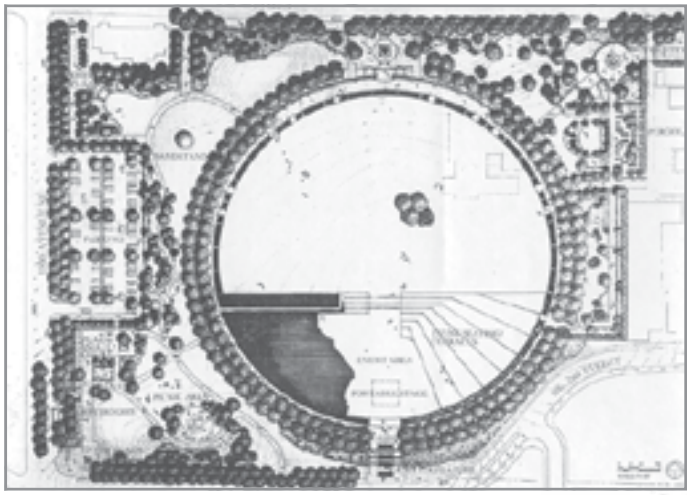
Neighborhood sites are designed to meet the active and passive recreation needs of their immediate neighborhood. Neighborhood parks are intended mainly as walk-to or bike-to facilities; therefore, they have no or limited off-street parking. In general, these parks should not create parking or traffic impacts to the neighborhoods in which they are located.

Lattawood Park

Neighborhood parks should be sited and developed based on their accessibility and visibility. In some instances, neighborhood sites may be acquired, developed, or maintained in partnership with a school district, a community association, or business. In other instances, it is appropriate to require neighborhood parks in conjunction with private development, such as a subdivision or planned unit development.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are of a scale suitable to contain a variety of larger recreational spaces. Such parks incorporate features such as environmentally sensitive and open space areas, a combination of structured and unstructured recreational activities, trail systems, and indoor facilities for gym space, classrooms, or swimming pools. They may also include features typical to neighborhood parks, such as a playground or open green space for picnicking or unstructured recreation.



Downtown Park

Each community park site, due to size, configuration, location, and natural features, will dictate appropriate recreational activities. For instance, the Mercer Slough Nature Park and the Lake Hills Greenbelt are comprised mainly of wetlands. Therefore, these parks focus on habitat protection, education

Lewis Creek Park

opportunities, and passive recreation use. Newcastle Beach Park contains a large expanse of Lake Washington waterfront. This park was developed around recreation opportunities unique to a waterfront location. Downtown Park provides respite from the activities of busy urban life, and uses there are passive and unstructured. Robinswood Park contains a mix of natural characteristics and facilities that make it suitable for a wide range of both active and passive uses.

In the 2009 Parks survey of Bellevue residents, 45% of residents somewhat or strongly agreed that Parks & Community Services should place a priority on developing major community or city-wide parks with larger scale facilities for sports or sizeable events. In the web-based survey open to all park users, a similar question was asked. In that survey, the percentage of respondents somewhat or strongly agreeing with the same statement was 65% among Bellevue residents. This was due to a marked interest among many of those submitting web surveys in the development of a regional aquatic facility in Bellevue.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND SUBAREA NEED

A primary goal of the Parks & Open Space System Plan is to create a geographically dispersed system of park and recreation facilities that are within walking distance of all Bellevue residents. Neighborhood parks and trails are the main tool used to reach this goal. Geographic distribution is less of a priority for community parks since they are designed to serve the city as a whole. Siting of community parks is more dependent upon the availability of large contiguous parcels of land and the protection of sensitive areas.

Increasing the number of neighborhood parks was identified in the 1993 Parks & Open Space System Plan as the community's highest priority. Parks & Community Services responded by increasing the inventory of neighborhood parks across the city. Success at addressing this need is evidenced by the fact that in later surveys, the priority for neighborhood parks dropped to lower levels (and priority for other park amenities increased). In 2001, neighborhood parks were the second highest priority and in 2009, typical neighborhood park elements of playgrounds, open unstructured green spaces and plazas and sportfields remained in the top tier of priorities, but placed behind open space preservation, trails and increased waterfront access.

The need to acquire and develop neighborhood facilities remains. However, because of the past emphasis on neighborhood facilities, the City can now target its efforts on selected subareas that continue to

reflect level of service deficits as measured by community surveys and service area analysis.

As described more fully in the Level of Service section, each park, trail and school yard access point was mapped including a 1/3 mile walking distance buffer from each point. This analysis displays areas of the city where residents do not have walkable access to a park, trail or school. Based on this analysis, eight of the 14 subareas display visible accessibility deficits in neighborhood level of service. Of these, Bridle Trails, Factoria, Crossroads and Newport Hills Subareas displayed deficiencies significant enough to warrant acquisition and development of new neighborhood park sites. The remaining subareas may be able to be served by developing parks on existing publicly owned land, acquiring new land for parks, or by improving pedestrian accessibility to existing parks through additional trail development.

Development regulations allow for site dedication and development in locations where growth is creating additional demands for park-related facilities. In addition, the development review process can support the needs for new neighborhood parks in residential and urban areas. In some cases, the inclusion of private recreational facilities within a development may help offset the need for nearby neighborhood facilities.

ACQUISITION

For neighborhood parks, acquisition priorities will focus primarily on the subareas determined to be underserved by level of service measures. For community parks, Parks & Community Services will focus on continuing to seek out well-sited and large tracts of land for new community parks as well as acquiring available land adjacent to existing community parks where appropriate. For example, the acquisition of large open space parcels contiguous to Kelsey Creek Park and the Mercer Slough Nature Park expanded these parks' capacity for passive recreation, wetland stewardship, preservation of wildlife habitat, and education. A strong commitment was also made to acquire land adjacent to the Downtown Park, as envisioned in the original master plan.

DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

In addition to land acquisitions aimed at meeting park facility needs, attention will continue to be given to developing existing sites. Priority should be given to completing development of existing parks listed in the following table. These parks are needed to satisfy current demands for both structured and unstructured recreation uses.

CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Continued acquisition and development of neighborhood and community park facilities should occur based on opportunity and level of service standards. Major park facility initiatives include:

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Add neighborhood parks in underserved subareas: • Bridle Trails • Crossroads • Factoria • Newport Hills	●	●	
Develop existing undeveloped properties including, but not limited to: • Eastgate/Newcastle (Norelius/Sunrise Property) • North Bellevue (Chapin Property) • Wilburton (Glendale Property)		●	
Enatai Neighborhood Park redevelopment			●
Add to or continue phased development of existing community parks, including but not limited to: • Bellevue Airfield Park • Bellevue Botanical Garden • Crossroads Park • Eastgate Park • Kelsey Creek Park • Lewis Creek Park picnic area and trails • Mercer Slough Nature Park • Robinswood Park • Surrey Downs Park • Wilburton Hill Park	●	●	

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES

The elements of the parks system that provide natural areas, waterfront access, gardens and trails are a valued resource available to anyone of any age, race or culture. To complement and further expand Parks & Community Services' mission to build a healthy community, the City provides a network of indoor and outdoor active recreation facilities that can be programmed for specific sports or recreational interests of Bellevue residents. Active recreation facilities include indoor recreation buildings (such as community centers or the tennis center) and outdoor active or structured recreation facilities (such as sportfields or off-leash dog areas). These facilities cater to existing users' preferences for sports and physical activity and provide an opportunity to learn or experience a new form of recreation in a safe learning environment.

A unique challenge in providing relevant active recreation opportunities for Bellevue residents and park users is the ever-changing face of the Bellevue community. Parks & Community Services has goals for providing culturally competent services to all Bellevue residents. These goals are outlined in a separate document entitled the Recreation Program Plan. Specifically, the City has focused on providing a base level of recreation services to all residents layered with a specific focus on youth, older adults, and individuals with disabilities. These three population groups were identified as areas of focus because each has a unique culture and set of needs that are often not fully addressed by private sector recreation providers.

An additional area of focus lies with meeting the recreation needs of an ethnically diverse population. Bellevue is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in Washington State. Adequately serving Bellevue residents is challenging considering the wide range of cultural recreation preferences. Yet, there is a great opportunity for Parks & Community Services to provide community gathering spaces, facilities and programs wherein individuals from a variety of ethnic backgrounds can be exposed to sports or recreation activities they may not have otherwise discovered.

This section specifically focuses on three types of facilities: community centers, sportfields and facilities serving diverse age and recreation preferences.

Community Web Survey Sample of Responses

Thinking of the parks and recreational facilities available in Bellevue, is there any type of park or recreational facility you would like to see more of?

- *Area where young children can bicycle so they don't have to use parking lots or streets to bike on.*
- *A large competitive pool (or two) with recreation pool as part of the facility is necessary. Has been for years.*
- *Would like to be able to walk along the lakeshores.*
- *50 meter pools!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Did I mention 50 meter pools!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!?*
- *A park where it could offer concerts during the summer and even winter. A much smaller version of the Millenium Park in Chicago.*
- *A parkour training area: sturdy blocks and rails for vaulting, etc.*
- *A quiet, green, restful, natural park with good landscaping - a place to go to quietly read a book & recharge my batteries.*
- *An off-leash dog swimming area. I'd also like to see more fields available for ultimate frisbee. Oh yeah, and some real mountain biking trails. But I'd settle for the off-leash swimming area for dogs.*
- *Bocce courts.*
- *Children activity/exploring nature park.*
- *Community pea patches are very good for building community spirit, engaging youth and healthy eating/living.*
- *Climbing wall, obstacle course.*
- *Flycasting pond.*
- *Connectivity between neighborhoods through walking trails, so that you don't have to walk out of your neighborhood to an arterial, then back into the neighborhood adjacent.*
- *We need a nice local disc golf park for the players in the area!*
- *Outdoor performance spaces for theatre.*
- *We would like to see a dedicated ground for playing cricket.*

COMMUNITY CENTERS & COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

South Bellevue Community Center

Quantifying the need for active recreation facilities, and community centers in general, is a difficult task. Much in the same way as the location and design of future parks are decided, a series of factors are weighed in determining the need for additional community centers to serve Bellevue residents. These include geographic distribution of existing facilities, the population distribution and density of Bellevue residents, available land or facilities, cost, citizen input and the level of use of existing facilities. However, a very simple measure that can be used as a rule of thumb is a standardized ratio that calls for one multi-use community recreation center for every 25,000 residents, equitably distributed throughout the city.

Using this simplified measure, based on a 2010 population of 122,900, the city's current demand is nearing five community centers. At present, Bellevue operates four community centers, including Crossroads, North Bellevue, Highland and South Bellevue Community Centers. A strong senior program is provided at the North Bellevue Community Center, and programs for the disabled are included at the Highland Center. Crossroads Community Center does not specialize in a specific population, but serves the most ethnically diverse spectrum of users. South Bellevue includes a strong partnership with the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club and provides a range of fitness-related facilities and activities.

Considering the geographic distribution of existing community centers and future population growth areas, a fifth community center is recommended to serve the Downtown Subarea (refer to the Urban Parks System section for more detailed discussion). By 2030, the city's population is forecast to grow in size to 148,400, in which case planning for a sixth community may be needed within the long-term range of this plan. For geographic distribution, the need for a new center within North Bellevue or Southwest Bellevue Subareas may be studied.

Bellevue's existing community centers range in size from 15,000 to 34,000 square feet, but in some cases lack certain spaces that would make these full-service community centers. In particular, the North Bellevue facility lacks a gymnasium, the addition of which is recommended for that facility to reach its full potential for serving the community.

In addition to building and operating multi-use community centers, there are other methods used by Parks & Community Services to bring indoor recreation opportunities to park users. These approaches include:

Lewis Creek Visitor Center

- Providing limited and more specialized programs in smaller City-owned community buildings with a broader geographic distribution. For example, the Northwest Art Center offers important opportunities to the arts community. Environmental education programs are available at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, the Lewis Creek Visitor Center and Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station. Community meeting rooms are provided at several facilities across the city. Historical interpretation programs are present at Winters House. The City should continue to explore opportunities to satisfy specialized or short-term needs with this smaller scale approach.
- Continuing and expanding the partnership with the Bellevue School District. Schools are very important centers of community activities. Past partnerships have yielded important community facilities, such as the second gym at Tyee Middle School, the performing arts facility at Ivanhoe, and the use of many school gyms for sports activities. The City must continue to expand partnerships with the School District, including adult education, cultural activities, and human service needs.

Bellevue Boys and Girls Club Ground Zero Teen Center

- Establishing partnerships with other service providers. The City has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club (Ground Zero Teen Center, South Bellevue Community Center and Lake Hills Clubhouse), Pacific Science Center (Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center), Jubilee REACH Center, Bellevue Botanical Garden Society and many other organizations to provide community programs and facilities that otherwise might not exist without the support of these agencies. It will be critical to expand these partnerships and explore new partners, including private enterprise, to provide additional services to the community.

SPORTFIELDS

Several issues influence the level of user demand on the city's inventory of sportfields. While youth programs have priority for field time, adult participation in organized sports is strong, with softball and soccer being the most popular. The popularity of women's sports has increased, not only at the high school level, but at all age levels. Also, the increased popularity of highly competitive "select" teams has placed greater demand for more and higher quality fields. Finally, increased participation and interest have emerged in non-traditional sports such as lacrosse, rugby, and cricket. The Bellevue Boys Lacrosse Club reports adding one new lacrosse team (approximately 25 players) for children and youth every year. Demands are not only placed on game-quality fields, but also on places to practice.

Before Synthetic Turf

In working with the user groups and reviewing participation trends, Parks & Community Services expects that the demand for soccer fields (designed to also accommodate rugby, football, cricket and lacrosse) will continue to grow. The growth in baseball and softball is expected to moderate or be flat.

After Synthetic Turf

As the availability of large land tracts continues to diminish, it is increasingly important to make optimum use of the existing field inventory. The ability of the City to add new fields is extremely limited. Therefore, adding synthetic turf in place of existing natural turf is a high priority. Synthetic turf increases the capacity of a field to serve users twelve months per year.

FACILITIES SERVING DIVERSE AGE AND RECREATION PREFERENCES

Within the past ten years, Parks & Community Services has made a programmatic shift in terms of how and where age-specific services are provided. Prior editions of this plan have recommended specific facilities designed to serve older adults and specific facilities to serve youth and teens. The shift is to continue to expand services for specific age groups, but not necessarily in a discrete location intended to serve the entire city. Focus groups and discussions with Bellevue residents representing

these age groups support this shift, in large part because of transportation barriers that are experienced by both age groups.

In order to accomplish this goal, space must be made available within existing community centers and other community buildings for programs such as age-specific fitness classes that can be effectively offered at multiple locations throughout the city as opposed to being offered only at one specific site.

There is also a need for unique facilities that may have a smaller base of users, but with numbers sufficient to justify one or more facilities to serve users city-wide. These facilities can be provided in one of two ways. Some facilities can justify charging a fee for services as a way to either limit and schedule use or support the operating expenses of that facility. Examples of these include golf courses, indoor pools or tennis centers. Other facilities do not require scheduled access to operate efficiently or may be one element of a multi-use facility. Examples of such facilities include skate parks, designated off-leash dog areas, open unstructured areas used for new or non-traditional sports or games, cultural programs, and others. Parks & Community Services will continue to survey park users and track community demographics in order to provide a wide-range of alternative sport and recreation programs and facilities to competently meet the diverse needs of all Bellevue residents.

CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
North Bellevue Community Center Addition		●	●
Facilities Serving Diverse Age and Recreation Preferences		●	●
Community Center serving North or Southwest Bellevue Subareas		●	
Sportfields • Synthetic field surfaces • Two lighted ballfields at Marymoor Park • Lighted sportfields at "Bellevue Airfield Park" • Lighted fields at selected community and school sites • Improve school sportfields • Ballfield at Wilburton Hill Park		●	●
Off-leash dog areas, improvements and additions		●	●
Enterprise Fund improvements • Golf courses • Robinswood Tennis Center • Bellevue Aquatic Center			●

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

URBAN PARKS SYSTEMS

In a high-density urban environment, green spaces provide a soft and human-scaled contrast to the hard edges and large-scale of the greater urban landscape. Interspersed among office buildings and retail areas, parks and open spaces intensify the feeling of a "City in a Park" and are an important amenity necessary to attract those considering moving to or siting their business in the area. Parks, plazas, green spaces, broad sidewalks, seating areas, mid-block corridors, artwork, and seasonal colors enhance the richness and variety of the built environment and define downtown as a "people place."

In the 2003 edition of this plan, this section was entitled the Downtown District Focus Area. Since that time, the City of Bellevue completed a planning process that allows for significant redevelopment in the Bel-Red Subarea. Future redevelopment will alter the urban character in that portion of the city from primarily low-density light industrial and retail land uses to a high density residential and job center. To attract new residents and employers to the areas, a significant parks and open space system is conceived. It therefore became necessary to broaden the scope of this section to consider the unique park and open space needs of both Downtown Bellevue and the Bel-Red Subarea. Parks designed for urban areas differ substantially from those designed to serve lower density single family neighborhoods. As such, the unique challenges of developing an urban park system are described in this section, focusing first on Downtown, then on Bel-Red, and finally on issues that equally affect both areas.

DOWNTOWN BELLEVUE

The Downtown Subarea is the city's financial and business hub and the area where the majority of new residential and employment growth is occurring and will continue to occur well into the future. Downtown represents less than two percent of Bellevue's land area, but will accommodate exponentially higher percentages of Bellevue workforce and resident populations. Maintaining a livable urban environment while accommodating significant new growth depends on creating a parks and open space system that responds to the unique needs of this community.

Meeting the Downtown Subarea's parks, open space, and recreation needs requires a different approach than used elsewhere in the city. Limited land availability with its resulting high costs precludes opportunities that exist in other subareas and requires a distinct treatment for open space needs and solutions.

A system of coordinated and connected open spaces downtown requires commitment from both public and private sectors. Public-private partnerships will be critical to meet the recreation needs of the people who live and work in the Downtown Subarea. Since most land in downtown is privately owned, the City is dependent to a degree upon developers to incorporate exciting and inviting public spaces into their development projects. To accomplish this goal, the City provides incentives through the zoning code allowing downtown developers to achieve greater development potential in exchange for amenities that benefit the pedestrian experience and add to publicly accessible open space. These amenities can include arcades, plazas, active recreation areas, public art, and landscaped green spaces.

While this method of providing public spaces has resulted in a wide variety of indoor and outdoor public amenities, there are drawbacks. The private developers designing these spaces may not place the highest priority on serving the public. This can result in public spaces that are awkwardly placed, difficult to find, disconnected from the street and otherwise unwelcoming. Also, control and management of these spaces remains private and rules governing access can be more restrictive in policy or practice than in a publicly owned park.

In order to study Downtown's urban context and increasing population, Parks & Community Services conducted a Downtown Needs Assessment in 2002 as part of the City's overall *Downtown Implementation Plan* initiative. The report identified emerging themes and developed recommendations addressing urban trail system connections, parks and open space areas, active recreation opportunities, a community center, and human services needs. The findings of this report remain relevant today.

Southwest Quadrant

The Downtown Park, at seventeen acres, is the cornerstone of the downtown open space system. It provides interesting, attractive, and safe places for active and passive recreation uses. The park's large open space areas provide a prime location for special events throughout the year. Completion of the Downtown Park, per the updated 1997 Master Plan, is an important goal identified in the Downtown Needs Assessment. In addition, creating a more prominent visual park presence on Bellevue Way will enhance Bellevue's "City in a Park" image on this key downtown arterial.

Visual and physical connections from the Downtown Park to Meydenbauer Bay will provide links between the Downtown and Meydenbauer Bay Parks. Because of the downtown's close proximity to the Bay, connecting these two amenities enhances the uniqueness of this environment and provides additional recreational, retail, and tourism opportunities.

Northeast Quadrant

The three acre Ashwood Park is currently maintained with a large grass area, small children's ball field, and a parking lot used jointly by the King County Regional Library and park users. The current master plan includes a community center with affordable housing and passive parkland. The Downtown's northeast quadrant has undergone significant development since the Ashwood Park master plan was completed. Now that the character of the neighborhood is better understood, the current master plan should be updated to reflect a contemporary vision for the park. Future planning for the park should include the plaza south of the library and the Ashwood Plaza at the northeast corner of NE 10th Street and 110th Avenue NE

Northwest and Southeast Quadrants

The downtown open space system proposal includes a minimum of 2-1/2 to 3 acres of parkland in addition to linear transitions and corner parks in the Downtown Subarea's northwest and southeast quadrants. Although the context and form of these urban parks will differ from the more traditional suburban neighborhood parks, at least half of each site is proposed to be passive, green open space. These green open spaces will offer respite from a highly urban environment by providing neighborhood gathering space and areas for informal recreational opportunities. The remaining space is expected to provide more formalized hardscape areas, including plazas, water features, gardens, seating areas, and walking paths. These major open spaces, connected by urban trail systems, will support Bellevue's "City in a Park" experience.

Downtown residential development should include indoor and outdoor spaces that address recreation needs unique to that residential community (e.g., court games, unstructured play spaces, and seating areas). Since the majority of new residential development is projected to occur in the Downtown Subarea, this issue becomes increasingly important in meeting these downtown residents' recreation needs.

BEL-RED SUBAREA

In 2005, the Bellevue City Council appointed a steering committee to consider how the City might plan for a massive redevelopment of the Bel-Red Subarea. In general, this area includes 900 acres north of Bel-Red Road, south of State Route 520 and east of Interstate 405. The result of this process was a new Subarea Plan and Land Use Code that allows the area to transition from low-density light industrial land uses, to a high-density residential and employment center. According to the *Bel-Red Subarea Plan*, the goal for providing parks and open space is "to create a robust, aesthetically beautiful, and functional parks and open space system that serves the needs of Bel-Red and the broader community, and that connects with and complements the larger Bellevue parks and open space system."

Sketch envisioning a redeveloped Bel-Red Subarea.

Highland Park and Community Center are the only significant publicly owned park and recreation resources in the subarea. An extensive new system of neighborhood and community parks, restored natural areas and trail systems is envisioned. This is captured on a map developed for the Subarea Plan and included in this plan. In order to build this system, the City created incentives within the Land Use Code to encourage private developer support in the acquisition and creation of the system. In addition, the City will also need to invest funds in the near future aimed at assembling and acquiring parcels of land that will be redeveloped into park, open space and trails, at a time when new residential and office space development occurs.

ACTIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Active recreation opportunities interspersed throughout Downtown and Bel-Red urban areas are important elements in creating a sense of excitement and vitality. The Parks & Open Space System Plan recommends an urban trail system, connecting destination points, that will contain pockets of activity for both residents and employees. Interspersing active recreation nodes throughout urban areas connected by pedestrian linkages creates opportunities for entertainment and participation. Providing sport courts, such as tennis and basketball, play equipment, as well as facilities for alternative sports such as climbing walls and skate parks, will not only serve the participants, but will provide entertainment for the casual passerby.

URBAN TRAIL SYSTEM CONNECTIONS

Respondents to the 2002 Downtown Needs Assessment survey identified space for walking and running trails as the highest rated priority. Both Downtown and Bel-Red Subareas have potential for providing aesthetically pleasing and functional pedestrian linkages, which will encourage people to explore both the public and private spaces located within walking distance from where they live and work.

The City has set standards for transportation infrastructure projects and provides incentives to private developers to invest in non-motorized transportation amenities. These provide the public with inviting, attractive and functional pedestrian and bicycle-friendly environments. Examples include dedicated off-street pedestrian and bicycle facilities, small street-side plazas, fountains, seating areas, landscaping and public art.

In Downtown, the major Pedestrian Corridor is located between Bellevue Way and 110th Avenue NE, along the NE 6th Street right of way. The corridor acts as a significant component of the downtown's open space system and provide an east/west pedestrian spine through the center of downtown. In addition, there are a number of mid-block pedestrian connections designated to "break up" the downtown's superblocks. These mid-block connections will provide a safer and more human scale to the downtown and provide more pedestrian-friendly features such as landscaping, benches, artwork, and fountains in an environment that encourages lingering. A similar plan has been designed for the larger Bel-Red Subarea that envisions a network of urban trail connections allowing pedestrians and bicycle users to navigate easily within the area and connect to other trail systems within the city.

Pedestrian-friendly corridor opportunities include:

- Major north-south trails where possible along 106th Avenue NE, 108th Avenue NE (the geographic ridge in downtown), 110th Avenue NE and along the 15th/16th Street corridor in Bel-Red.
- Connecting the Lake to Lake Trail to Lake Washington along Main Street or 2nd Avenue NE to complete a major component of the urban trail system.
- Connecting the trail system to key destinations, such as Bellevue Square, Bellevue Arts Museum, Meydenbauer Convention Center, Meydenbauer Bay, restaurants, the King County Regional Library, and major parks.
- Connecting existing City trail systems to a new regional trail developed within the BNSF railroad corridor.

The urban trail system should integrate recreation nodes and urban plazas. Opportunities abound to create a vibrant and changing environment of both indoor and outdoor routes that enhance the pedestrian experience regardless of the weather.

ARTERIAL AND FREEWAY GATEWAYS

The design of urban gateways, when viewed from the freeway and neighboring arterials, spotlights the quality of the streetscape that will be found within Downtown and a redeveloped Bel-Red area. These gateways deserve special design consideration to ensure a visually pleasing entrance that entices people to enter and explore these urban areas. The gateways can incorporate architectural elements, a variety of vegetation, water features, decorative paving, and interpretative or directional signage. Landscaped medians, similar to those used on Bellevue Way and NE 4th Street, also identify key locations such as the west terminus of the Pedestrian Corridor and the Downtown Park, and benefit pedestrians at major mid-block crossings.

CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following projects are recommended to create an attractive urban environment that will boost the City's ability to attract new residents and businesses to Downtown Bellevue and the Bel-Red Subarea.

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Downtown Subarea • NW & SE quadrant neighborhood parks • Downtown Park • Ashwood Park • Main Street linear buffer greenway • Community center serving Downtown	●	●	●
Bel-Red Subarea • Open space and off-street trail development • Multi-purpose trail development • Park acquisition and development	●	●	

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

BEL-RED PROJECT MAP

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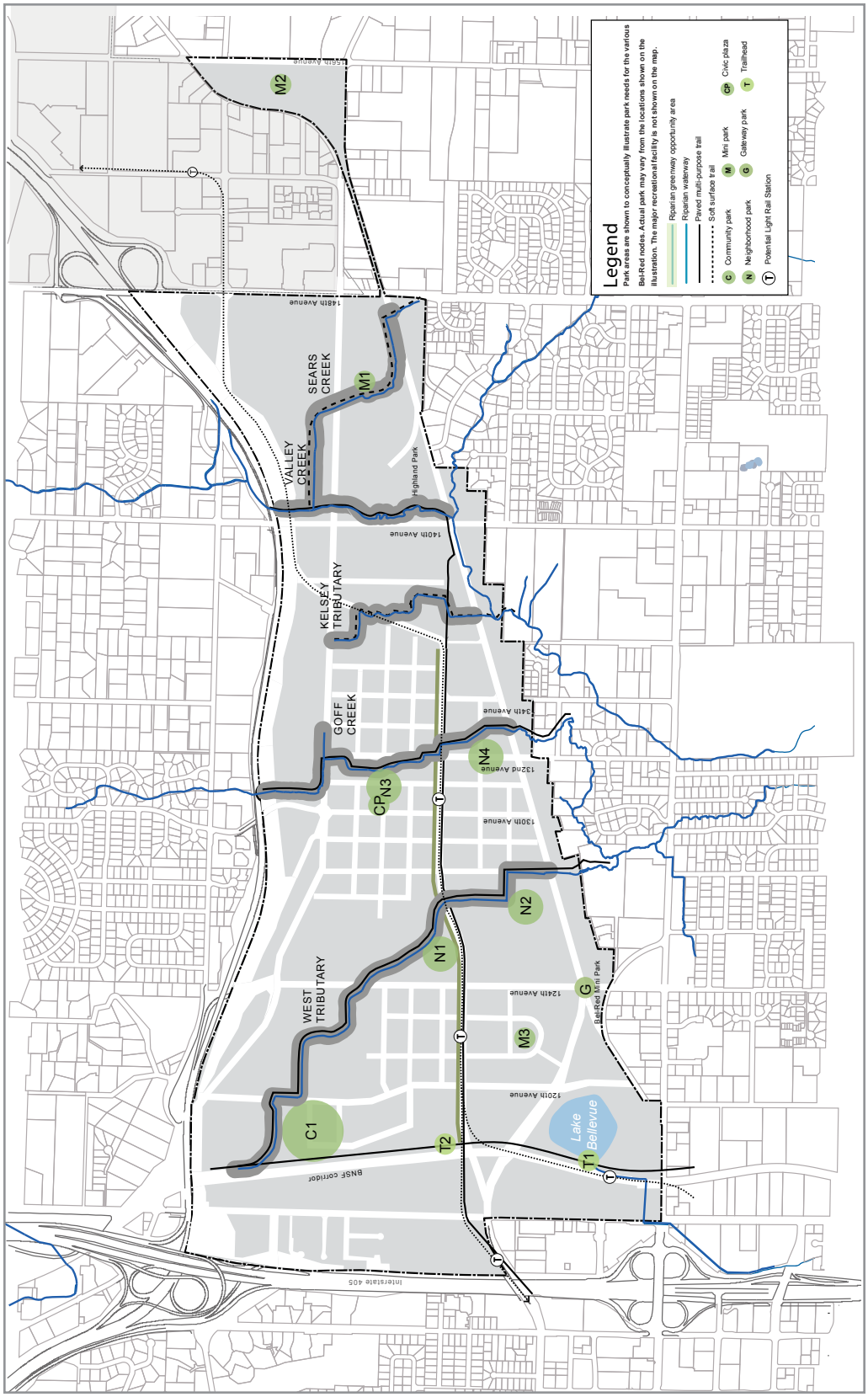


WATERFRONT ACCESS

Chism Beach Park

Bellevue is bounded on the west by Lake Washington and on the east by Lake Sammamish. In addition, Phantom and Larsen Lakes are located within the city limits. However, for many in Bellevue, the lakes and shorelines are an unseen resource. Because of urban development, topography, and the almost continuous private ownership of the shoreline, the general public has limited visual and physical access to these lakes.

Of the 14 miles of shoreline along Lakes Washington and Sammamish, approximately 12 percent or slightly over 1.7 miles is in public ownership, with most located on Lake Washington. This ratio of public to privately owned waterfront is not sufficient to meet the demand of Bellevue residents. When surveyed in 2001, waterfront park acquisition and development was listed as the third highest priority of survey respondents. When the question was repeated in 2009, it moved to the second highest priority. In order to address this demand, Parks & Community Services will continue to place a high priority on acquisition and development of additional waterfront while at the same time optimizing the use of existing shoreline parks.

The City has made a substantial commitment over the past two decades to increase its public presence along the waterfront. Of late, the focus has largely centered around acquisition of property in support of the Meydenbauer Bay Park concept. During the life of this plan, the focus will shift at that site from acquisition to development of the site. Other focus areas for waterfront acquisition are the Enatai to Mercer Slough connection and increasing public access along Lake Sammamish. In addition to creating new access opportunities, renovation and redevelopment are necessary at Chism and Clyde Beach Parks in order to make the best use of those existing public resources.

Images from the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan

MEYDENBAUER BAY

Meydenbauer Bay is a major focus for increasing Bellevue's access to the waterfront. The ultimate goal is to connect this waterfront parcel to the Downtown's commercial and residential areas and the Downtown Park. Achieving this goal will create a regionally significant park and waterfront destination.

Developing Meydenbauer Bay Park and connecting it to the Downtown is Bellevue's singular opportunity to identity itself as a waterfront city. The bay provides both a destination point and an opportunity to recognize the bay's historical significance in the city's development. Parks & Community Services' 2002 Downtown Needs Assessment and the City's Downtown Implementation Plan acknowledged the significance of visually and physically connecting the Downtown to Meydenbauer Bay. Connecting Downtown to Meydenbauer Bay as part of the Lake to Lake Trail system would provide convenient access to unequaled waterfront amenities. Clearly signed pedestrian paths could link Downtown and nearby neighborhoods with the bay.

LAKE SAMMAMISH

Waterfront acquisition opportunities on Lake Sammamish are limited. Much of the shoreline is steep and not suitable for public access. Where possible, acquisition priorities should focus on less steep areas to the north and south. A new park site on Lake Sammamish should accommodate swimming, picnicking, and support facilities. One undeveloped site on Lake Sammamish has been acquired for future development. A developed park on Lake Sammamish could also serve as a destination point for the eastern end of Bellevue's Lake to Lake Trail system.

Vasa Park, a privately owned waterfront park within Bellevue, has 540 lineal feet of Lake Sammamish waterfront access and is open to the public for an entrance fee. Partnerships with the property owners should be explored to ensure the park remains available for public use. The City should pursue future public ownership of Vasa Park if the opportunity arises.

ENATAI TO MERCER SLOUGH

Enatai Beach offers a rare opportunity to combine boating and water-oriented activities with Mercer Slough's wetland and passive recreation activities. Both areas are highly visible and have excellent freeway access. Providing a physical and functional connection between these two popular water-oriented sites would be a significant benefit to Bellevue's residents.

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SE 40th Boat Launch

Enatai Beach Park and the S. E. 40th Street boat launch are key access points on Lake Washington, especially for boating enthusiasts. Additional boat launching facilities are very limited on Lake Washington, with one lane available in Kirkland, one on Mercer Island, and eight at Renton's Gene Coulon Park. Currently, kayaks and canoes can be rented from the boathouse at Enatai Beach Park. Developing the next phase of Enatai Beach Park will provide non-motorized boat launching opportunities and should be considered a high priority. The S. E. 40th Street Boat Launch is Bellevue's primary motorized boat launch facility. Parking capacity should be further expanded to accommodate overflow occurring during peak boating use, which will require additional acquisition. The Sweyolocken boat launch in Mercer Slough Nature Park currently allows for the launch of both motorized boats for use in Lake Washington and non-motorized boats for use in Mercer Slough.

Although Chism Beach is developed and open to the public, only about half of the existing waterfront is readily accessible. Redevelopment of this park is needed to better utilize this valuable asset. Additionally, renovation and redevelopment of Clyde Beach Park will offer opportunities to restore shoreline conditions to a more natural state while creating enhanced public access and recreation opportunities.

ACQUISITION CONSIDERATIONS

Continued acquisition of waterfront property is challenging due to cost and limited opportunities. Acquisition will take time and depend on opportunity. Resources must be available to acquire key waterfront properties when they become available. Creative acquisition strategies, such as lease-backs, renting, and life estates, have been used to acquire some of the waterfront land assembled to date. The continued use of these less-than-fee techniques will be critical as the City continues to acquire these properties. More aggressive pursuit of grants and other outside revenue sources will also be needed.

A combination of acquisition strategies, streetscape improvements, and development incentives should be explored to achieve the connection between Meydenbauer Bay and the Downtown Park.

CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Major waterfront initiatives include:

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Meydenbauer Bay Park		●	
Meydenbauer Bay Park to Downtown Park connection	●	●	
Connect Enatai Beach Park to Mercer Slough Nature Park	●		
Complete phased development of Enatai Beach Park		●	
SE 40th Boat Launch addition	●	●	
Lake Sammamish waterfront	●	●	
Chism Beach redevelopment			●
Clyde Beach redevelopment			●
Additions to existing waterfront parks	●		

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Increasing service demand and decreasing funding capabilities lead the City of Bellevue to seek innovative ways to maintain existing parks and facilities and to increase recreation opportunities. Developing partnerships with other public agencies, the school districts, and private for-profit and non-profit organizations will help meet increased demands for service. In addition, partnerships enable Parks & Community Services to serve a broader clientele, offer new services, and provide existing services more effectively than could be provided individually.

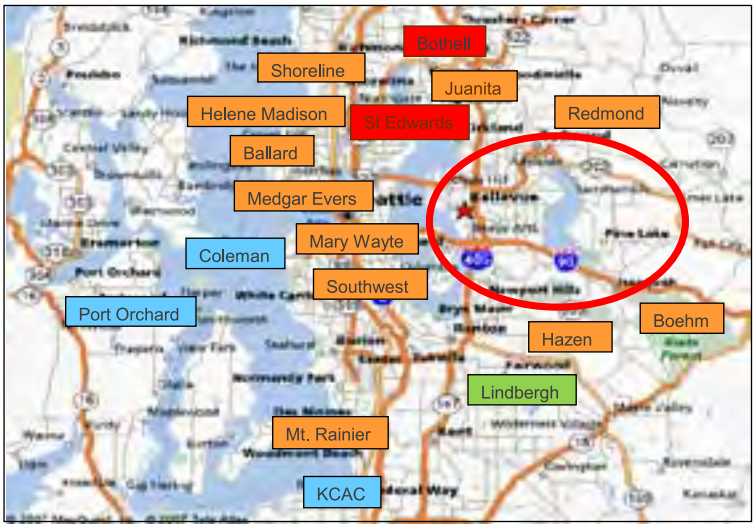
By definition, partnerships must be a collaborative relationship between two or more organizations with similar missions that pool their resources and work together to deliver mutually beneficial services. Some existing City partners include: the Bellevue School District,

Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, Pacific Science Center, Boys and Girls Club, Jubilee REACH Center, Eastside Heritage Center, Youth Eastside Services, Master Gardeners of King County, and A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH). Many more partnership possibilities exist which could help enrich and expand park, recreation and community services for Bellevue residents.

REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL PARKS AND FACILITIES

One challenge in providing park and recreation facilities in East King County is the fact that there are fifteen different municipalities, most of which operate independent park and open space systems. Yet, residents of the Eastside will use any park in any city that meets their specific need. A problem arises in the case of a large scale or highly specialized recreation facility that is designed to serve a population that is greater than any one city. These facilities include competitive aquatic centers, ice

Competition Sized Pools in King County



50 meter competition

25 yd competition

25 yd competition
Funding in jeopardy

CLOSED - 25 YD

Image Courtesy SPLASH

skating rinks, sports stadiums, outdoor sports complexes, and regional trail systems. In order to provide these facilities to their residents, Eastside jurisdictions must work together in partnership with each other and in some cases with for-profit or non-profit organizations to assemble the necessary resources to develop and operate such facilities. The City of Bellevue is committed to working through partnerships to develop additional regional or subregional facilities where demand exists.

One example of such a facility is a regional aquatic center. In April 2009, Parks & Community Services completed a feasibility study exploring a range of facility options and operating models. The study was commissioned in response to a general lack of indoor community pool facilities on the Eastside that are configured to adequately serve the competitive needs of the region. The study found that there is a market for a large-scale aquatic facility that would serve competitive teams, clubs and the general public. Five types of facilities were studied ranging in size and cost from a $19 million outdoor facility to an $84 million national-level indoor competitive facility. A community organization, Swimming Pools for Leisure Active Sports and Health (SPLASH), has organized to support development of a multi-use, 50-meter complex for recreational and competitive use on the Eastside.

Tyee Community Gym |

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

School District properties are important components of Bellevue's open space system. Using school sites to supplement City-operated recreational facilities is needed to satisfy community demand for active indoor and outdoor recreation space. The Bellevue School District operates 29 schools within or adjacent to the city; the Issaquah School District operates two schools within city limits; and the Renton School District has an elementary school immediately adjacent to the city boundary. In addition, other public schools such as Bellevue College and private schools within Bellevue can offer partnership opportunities for Bellevue.

Elementary schools, usually eight to ten acres in size, are suitable for passive and/or unorganized activities and youth athletics. They incorporate many uses typical of a neighborhood park. Middle schools, usually about 20 acres in size, have indoor and outdoor sports facilities. High schools, averaging 35 to 40 acres in size, have tennis courts, sportfields, tracks, and multiple gyms for competition and recreation.

The City currently uses school sportfields, gymnasiums, and indoor recreation and classroom space to supplement its active recreation and sports facility programs. Middle and high school facilities are particularly important because they have both indoor gym and recreation space and outdoor sportfields. The Bellevue School District and the City have a partnership agreement for renovating existing school sportfields. The City is able to schedule these fields for use when school is not in session or the fields are not required for school sports events. This partnership has greatly improved the community's access to these important recreation amenities.

Tyee Community Gym

The Bellevue School District is currently undertaking a long-term school renovation, upgrade, and reconstruction program funded by improvement bonds passed in 2002 and 2007. This is an excellent opportunity to re-evaluate school sites and facilities as public resources suitable for meeting greater community and neighborhood needs.

As the community demographics change over time, the need for school facilities will also change. The Bellevue School District has a policy that gives local municipalities first right of refusal to purchase surplus school lands. In the event school properties are surplused, top priority should be given to acquiring these properties for park-related purposes. Many of Bellevue's existing parks have been developed from surplus school property. When evaluating the appropriateness of acquiring a surplused school site, the City considers the property characteristics and particular needs of the area in which the site is located. The criteria are applied in the following order:

- Distribution: Priority is given to sites in areas showing deficits in available parks or open space, or if deficits would be created if these public properties were sold.
- Adjacency: Priority is given to sites that are adjacent to existing parks, because they represent opportunities to expand or increase available recreational space.
- Existing facilities: Priority is given to sites with existing recreational facilities such as gyms, ballfields, tracks, and playgrounds.

PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT AND NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to Parks & Community Services' traditional partnerships with the Bellevue School District and other public agencies, the department has become more innovative in exploring other partnership opportunities that benefit Bellevue residents. Many examples can be given of partnerships with local non-profit organizations that provide recreation opportunities or community services to Bellevue residents. Crossroads Park is home to two facilities serving children and youth, Kindering Center and Youth Eastside Services. Recently, the City has established multiple partnerships with Jubilee REACH Center, a non-profit utilizing a old school district facility to provide a wide range of human services and programs for children, youth, teens and families in the Lake Hills neighborhood. As an emergency response initiative, an agreement with a non-profit agency has been established to offer an overnight shelter for homeless individuals during times of severe weather. All of these examples are instances where non-profits are able to make use of Parks & Community Services facilities and vice versa.

Due to real estate values and commercial lease rates, the city of Bellevue is a challenging place for non-profit agencies to find or afford the space needed to offer their programs. Similarly, Parks & Community Services experiences space constraints that limit the full range of programs and services that could be offered if space were available. Using partnerships to create the highest and best use of existing public and non-profit facilities and collaborating to secure more space within the community is an important part of making needed recreation and community services available to Bellevue residents. An example of this could be giving preference, where appropriate, to non-profit housing providers when leasing single or multi-family homes on property owned by Parks & Community Services.

Another type of partnership witnessed in many park systems across the country are non-profit organizations established to benefit a specific park or program. These are commonly referred to as "Friends of" organizations. The King County Library System has an established "Friends of" network for individuals interested in supporting their local library. To date, these types of organizations have not been established in significant number for parks in Bellevue. A few examples exist and

more are emerging. One example is the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, which raises funds for and assists in the operation of the Botanical Garden. Another example is the Eastside Heritage Center, which has long supported the historical interpretation of landmarks managed within the parks system. More recently the Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation was established to assist in fundraising for a new youth performing arts facility. In part because of the foundation's advocacy for this facility, the 2008 Parks and Natural Areas Levy included the theatre as a project to be funded.

Establishing partnerships with private for-profit corporations is another avenue to leverage and expand the impact of existing public investment in parks, open space, recreation and community services. In these cases, opportunities can be developed for grants or other forms of financial investment geared to fit with the mission or purpose of the private enterprise. Establishing these partnerships can help create connections within the local business community.

One project that could benefit from partnership with an existing non-profit agency, a new "Friends of" organization, or even a for-profit partner is the establishment of a Cultural Center in Bellevue. This project was recommended in the 1993 Cultural Diversity Task Force Report and Community Action Plan. The concept is to provide a facility that would facilitate education and dialogue among ethnically and socially diverse communities within Bellevue. Bellevue is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in Washington State. This diversity presents unparalleled opportunities for community enrichment and economic development. The Crossroads Bellevue Shopping Center is an example in which ethnic and cultural diversity has been incorporated into the business model a strategy to attract shoppers by offering a wide variety of ethnic food vendors, shops and cultural arts programming within one common location.

CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Elementary, middle and high school site improvements			●
Partner with other City departments to create parks		●	
Partner with other public agencies to create parks, including but not limited to: Bellevue School District, Cascade Water Alliance, Sound Transit, Puget Sound Energy, Seattle Public Utilities, Washington State, King County and Bellevue College	●	●	
Partner with private non-profit or for-profit organizations to create parks where advantageous to achieve capital project goals	●	●	
Aquatic facility	●	●	
Ice rink	●	●	
Historic building preservation			●
Cultural center	●	●	
Youth performing arts center		●	

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

HISTORIC, CULTURAL AND ART RESOURCES

Bellevue's historic buildings and cultural heritage are the community's legacy from the past. Preserving that history is a gift to the future. Parks & Community Services recognizes the importance of preserving and commemorating the city's past through historical sites that are located within the parks and open space system. The September 2009 representative sample survey of Bellevue residents confirmed this notion. 72% of respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that Parks & Community Services should play an active role in preserving historical structures and heritage sites.

Parks & Community Services also provides opportunities for citizens to enjoy contemporary cultural and arts resources. Many parks and facilities provide cultural events and arts programs. For example, public art is displayed in some parks and buildings through a partnership with the Planning & Community Development Department's Arts Program. Interpretation of Bellevue's history and offering opportunities to experience cultural arts are important components of building a healthy community.

HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

The 1992 Bellevue Historic and Cultural Resources Survey (updated in July 1997) provides the basis for understanding the area's architectural and cultural heritage. The survey documents Bellevue's inventory of historic buildings, structures, and objects as they existed at the time. The survey identified, described, and evaluated the significance of surviving structures representing the different phases of Bellevue's history.

F. W. Winters House – circa 1930s and today

Courtesy Eastside Heritage Center 1999.09.01

Parks & Community Services maintains a stewardship responsibility for a number of these historical and cultural properties, due to their location within the parks system. These historic properties include:

- Hans Miller Homestead at Robinswood Park
- Highland Community Center
- Winters House, Sullivan House and the Overlake Blueberry Farm within Mercer Slough Nature Park
- Twin Valley Barns in Kelsey Creek Park
- American Pacific Whaling Fleet Buildings at Meydenbauer Bay
- Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm in the Lake Hills Greenbelt
- Cal and Harriet Shorts House and the Sharp Cabin at the Bellevue Botanical Garden
- McDowell/Paxton House adjacent to the Bellevue Botanical Garden

Several historic buildings, including the Fraser Cabin in Kelsey Creek Park and the Danieli/Matsuoka Cabin in the Lake Hills Greenbelt, were relocated to park sites when the cabins were threatened with demolition.

Historic buildings cared for by Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Unfortunately, relocating historic structures often eliminates their historical context. However, much of the property adjacent to the original sites of these structures had been dramatically altered, and the City determined it was more important to preserve a piece of history by relocating the structures rather than allowing them to be demolished.

Highlighting the historic character of elements within the parks system is an effective way to encourage park visits and physical activity. For example, organized hikes through Coal Creek are arranged with a guide who can point out historical evidence of coal mining in the region. Similarly, the Heritage Loop Trail within Mercer Slough Nature Park leads visitors around a trail with markers and interpretive signage describing the history of agriculture within the Mercer Slough. The Winters House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, anchors the loop trail. Through a partnership with the Eastside Heritage Center, ongoing exhibits and special events highlight the history of the house, its farm and life in early Bellevue. The city's agricultural heritage can also be experienced at Kelsey Creek Farm and within the Lake Hills Greenbelt. Preserving the last vestiges of our agricultural heritage in these parks provides opportunities for public education and hands-on farming experience.

Parks & Community Services embraces its role in preserving and interpreting the portion of the city's historic and cultural resources that are located in parks. However, the City does not have a city-wide historic preservation program. With a limited role, the City is reliant on maintaining and preserving these sites with other public and private partners. Through partnerships, the City can provide opportunities for local historical societies to utilize existing historical structures and sites for interpretation and educational purposes. Likewise, the City can work with these groups to explore grant opportunities for the purpose of historical education and interpretation, as well as acquisition or restoration of historical properties.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ART RESOURCES

Bellevue's collection of outdoor sculptures, fountains, objects, and paintings acts as a museum without walls, without fees, and without viewing restrictions. It is accessible to everyone every day. This collection enriches the community's quality of life, provides a sense of place, and adds interest and vitality to the landscape. In addition to static displays of visual art, parks provide a backdrop for structured or unstructured performing arts.

Dance performers at Downtown Park

In recent years, the need for the parks system to accommodate performing arts has heightened. The popularity and positive outcomes of the Bellevue Youth Theatre program have prompted a local group to form a foundation for the purpose of raising funds to construct a new indoor performing arts facility, designed for youth programs, but flexible enough for multiple uses. Adding indoor performance space is supported by the City's *Cultural Compass Plan*, adopted by the City Council in 2004. In addition to indoor space, public opinion gathered for the update of this plan noted a need for existing and newly designed park features to include space designed to accommodate performing arts outdoors. Features could include amphitheaters, band shells or open outdoor stages. These features could be used for special events and professional performing arts presentations or used anytime by anyone visiting the park who feel compelled to take to the stage – with or without an audience.

Downtown Park host the biennial Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition

Parks & Community Services maintains a strong partnership with the City's Arts Program to create opportunities for Bellevue residents and workforce to experience visual and performing arts. The purpose of the Arts Program is as follows:

"The City of Bellevue accepts a responsibility for expanding the public experience with visual arts. Such works of art create a more visually pleasing, humane environment, and add to the overall beautification and cultural climate of the City of Bellevue and the quality of life of its citizens."

To implement this mission, the Bellevue Arts Program has a strategic vision with three basic goals:

- Use public art to define and enhance an urban walkway from City Hall to the waterfront.
- Facilitate private investment in public art.
- Engage neighborhoods in commissioning public art.

The parks system is often the repository for some of the public art purchased by this program. As caretaker for these resources, the Department works cooperatively with the Public Art Program staff and Bellevue Arts Commission to ensure that artwork is acquired and sited appropriately in the parks system. Parks & Community Services will continue being an active partner with other public and private organizations involved in expanding the city's arts and cultural opportunities.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

The ultimate goal for Bellevue's park system is to create an interconnected web of parks and open spaces all within easy access of residential and commercial neighborhoods so that Bellevue remains a "City in a Park" for generations to come. This will be accomplished by appropriately balancing the City's investments among priorities of acquiring park and open space land, renovating and redeveloping existing parks, and developing new parks. Equally important is attracting new investment in the system through partnerships and funding relationships with other public and private institutions.

This section pulls all of the capital project recommendations from the focus areas and maps the approximate location of each (if known). These recommendations include capital investments for acquisition, development, and redevelopment projects. Investment necessary to fund renovation of existing parks and facilities is discussed in the following chapter.

Part of the City's Capital Investment Program Plan includes project prioritization criteria which are used by Parks & Community Services to evaluate the sequencing of acquisition, development, and redevelopment initiatives. Projects recommended in this plan will be implemented according to the following criteria:

- Parks & Open Space System Plan consistency. Is the project consistent with the mission, vision, goals, objectives, standards, and recommendations of this plan?
- City Council priority. Does the project respond to a City Council priority, an adopted plan or ordinance?

- Maintenance and operations impacts. What are the maintenance and operations impacts of this project and are there opportunities for partnerships? Will the project create a revenue stream sufficient to support itself?
- Citizen input. Is the project a Parks & Community Services Board priority or is it supported by another board or commission, advocacy group, through public surveys, the Neighborhood Enhancement Program, Neighborhood Liaison feedback, or other public input?
- Multiple benefits. Does the project serve multiple user groups or respond to recommendations in numerous plans?
- Special funding available. Does this project have the potential for special funding?
- Affordability. Is alternative funding available to match with the CIP funding? What is the benefit/cost analysis?
- Neighborhood impacts. Would the project have positive benefits to the surrounding neighborhood, and does the community support this project?
- Suitability of site. Are the proposed site's natural systems, topography, and neighboring land uses suitable for the project?
- Geographic distribution. Will the project help meet the distribution standards of parks and park facilities throughout the city?
- Economic impact. Would this project have a favorable economic impact to Bellevue?
- Urgency. Is the project or acquisition a time sensitive opportunity that will be lost?

RECOMMENDED CAPITAL PROJECT LIST AND MAP

OPEN SPACE, GREENWAYS, WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND TRAILS

OST-1	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
OST-2	Lake to Lake Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
OST-3	S. Bellevue / Coal Creek Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
OST-4	Marymoor to Cougar Mtn Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
OST-5	Bel-Red Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
OST-6	Richards Valley Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
OST-7	BNSF Railroad Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
OST-8*	Connect / Extend Trails: Link Regional Systems and Open Spaces
OST-9*	Native Growth Protection Areas
OST-10*	Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Implementation

PARK FACILITIES

PRK-1	Add Neighborhood Park: Bridle Trails Subarea
PRK-2	Add Neighborhood Park: Crossroads Subarea
PRK-3	Add Neighborhood Park: Factoria Subarea
PRK-4	Add Neighborhood Park: Newport Hills Subarea
PRK-5	Improve Undeveloped Sites: Eastgate/Newcastle Subarea
PRK-6	Improve Undeveloped Sites: North Bellevue Subarea
PRK-7	Improve Undeveloped Sites: Wilburton Subarea
PRK-8	Redevelop Enatai Neighborhood Park
PRK-9	Continue Phased Development: Bellevue Airfield Park
PRK-10	Continue Phased Development: Bellevue Botanical Garden
PRK-11	Continue Phased Development: Crossroads Park
PRK-12	Continue Phased Development: Eastgate Park
PRK-13	Continue Phased Development: Kelsey Creek Park
PRK-14	Continue Phased Development: Lewis Creek Park
PRK-15	Continue Phased Development: Mercer Slough Nature Park
PRK-16	Continue Phased Development: Robinswood Park
PRK-17	Continue Phased Development: Surrey Downs Park
PRK-18	Continue Phased Development: Wilburton Hill Park

ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES

AREC-1	North Bellevue Community Center Addition
AREC-2	Community Center Serving North/Southwest Bellevue Subareas
AREC-3*	Sportfields: Synthetic Field Surfaces
AREC-4*	Sportfields: Two Lighted Ballfields at Marymoor Park
AREC-5	Sportfields: Lighted Fields at Bellevue Airfield Park
AREC-6*	Sportfields: Lighted Fields at Community and School Sites
AREC-7*	Sportfields: Improve School Sportfields
AREC-8	Sportfields: Ballfield at Wilburton Hill Park
AREC-9*	Off-leash Dog Areas Improvements and Additions
AREC-10*	Facilities Serving Diverse Age and Recreation Preferences
AREC-11	Public Golf Course Improvements
AREC-12	Robinswood Tennis Center Improvements
AREC-13	Bellevue Aquatic Center Improvements

*This project does not display on the project map as it could occur city-wide or does not yet have a physical location.

URBAN PARK SYSTEMS

URB-1	Downtown Subarea: Add Neighborhood Park in NW Quadrant
URB-2	Downtown Subarea: Downtown Park
URB-3	Downtown Subarea: Add Neighborhood Park in SE Quadrant
URB-4	Downtown Subarea: Ashwood Park
URB-5	Downtown Subarea: Main Street Linear Buffer Greenway
URB-6	Downtown Subarea: Add Community Center
URB-7*	Bel-Red Subarea: Open space and Off-Street Trail Development
URB-8*	Bel-Red Subarea: Multi-purpose Trail Development
URB-9*	Bel-Red Subarea: Park System Acquisition and Development

WATERFRONT ACCESS

H2O-1	Meydenbauer Bay Park
H2O-2	Meydenbauer Bay Park to Downtown Park Connection
H2O-3	Connect Enatai Beach Park to Mercer Slough Nature Park
H2O-4	Complete Enatai Beach Park Phased Development
H2O-5	SE 40th Boat Launch Addition
H2O-6	Lake Sammamish Waterfront
H2O-7	Chism Beach Redevelopment
H2O-8	Clyde Beach Redevelopment
H2O-9*	Additions to Existing Waterfront Parks

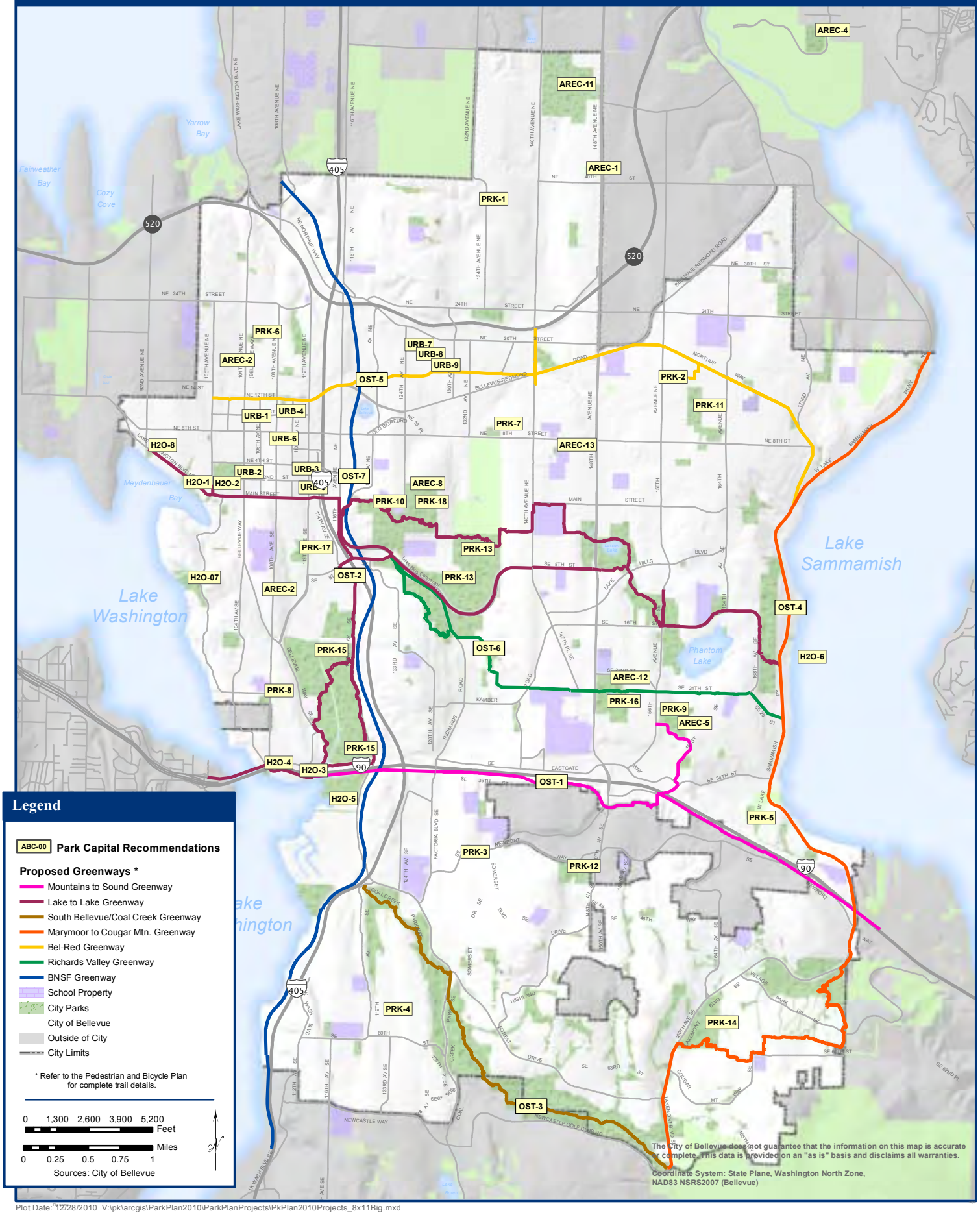
PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PTNR-1*	Elementary, Middle and High School Site Improvements
PTNR-2*	Partner with Other City Departments to Create Parks
PTNR-3*	Partner with School Districts and Other Public Agencies
PTNR-4*	Partner with Private Non-Profit or For-Profit Organizations
PTNR-5*	Aquatic Facility
PTNR-6*	Ice Rink
PTNR-7*	Historic Building Preservation
PTNR-8*	Cultural Arts Center
PTNR-9*	Youth Performing Arts Center

*This project does not display on the project map as it could occur city-wide or does not yet have a physical location.

Park Plan Projects

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



Legend

ABC-00 Park Capital Recommendations

Proposed Greenways *

- Mountains to Sound Greenway
- Lake to Lake Greenway
- South Bellevue/Coal Creek Greenway
- Marymoor to Cougar Mtn. Greenway
- Bel-Red Greenway
- Richards Valley Greenway
- BNSF Greenway
- School Property
- City Parks
- City of Bellevue
- Outside of City
- City Limits

* Refer to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan for complete trail details.

0 1,300 2,600 3,900 5,200 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

Sources: City of Bellevue

The City of Bellevue does not guarantee that the information on this map is accurate or complete. This data is provided on an "as is" basis and disclaims all warranties.

Coordinate System: State Plane, Washington North Zone, NAD83 NSRS2007 (Bellevue)

Plot Date: 12/28/2010 V:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\ParkPlanProjects\PkPlan2010Projects_8x11Big.mxd

Nature is ever at work building and pulling down, creating and destroying, keeping everything whirling and flowing, allowing no rest but in rhythmical motion, chasing everything in endless song out of one beautiful form into another.

– John Muir

MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION & SECURITY

Photo Mandar Phalak

Beauty Anew

Upon these paths
  Under verdant canopy
I am protected

Step by step
  Sight and sounds
My Spirit soars

Each day as I walk
  I behold anew…
Beauty

Leslie Spense

MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION & SECURITY

Bellevue's parks and facilities are carefully managed and maintained to ensure they are safe and enjoyable places for the public. A combination of sound management policies, ongoing maintenance, and periodic renovation of grounds and structures is needed to protect public resources and ensure long-term functioning of the park system. This commitment to a properly maintained and safe park system is expected by Bellevue citizens and is a high priority of the City.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Parks & Community Services' maintenance program includes:

- A Resource Management Information System that monitors service levels, schedules, and fiscal data;
- Necessary equipment to maintain efficient and economical service delivery;
- Active pursuit of grants and alternative funding for renovation, energy conservation, and other projects to maximize and leverage budgeted funding;
- Ongoing staff training to ensure the highest level of maintenance and efficiency;
- Using a mix of in-house part-time and full-time staff, public and private partnerships, contract workers, and volunteers when responding to specific workload demands throughout the system to ensure all maintenance and renovation needs can be met in a timely manner;
- Coordination of park and open space maintenance schedules with park programming to reduce conflicts between park programming needs and necessary maintenance; and
- Customer feedback through surveys to ensure needs and concerns are met and acceptable performance measures are achieved.

The main park maintenance facilities for personnel, vehicles, and equipment are located in the Crossroads area on NE 8th Street and at the Bellevue Service Center near the junction of I-405 and SR-520. Small satellite facilities accommodating additional equipment and storage are located at several parks throughout the city, including Hidden Valley Park, the Eastgate Yard (near Tyee Middle School), the City Nursery, Bellefields Yard and Lewis Creek Park.

A 2003 space study analysis concluded that approximately 155,000 square feet of space (roughly 3-1/2 acres) is necessary to meet the Department's operational needs. In the near term, improvements to existing facilities and use of the Bellevue Service Center provides sufficient space for the current operational facilities. Long-term needs, however, may require acquisition of additional space and facilities to ensure that the City can provide clean, safe, attractive, and functional parks and recreational facilities.

RENOVATION PLAN

Parks & Community Services maintains a Renovation and Refurbishment Plan that covers non-routine renovation and repair of our existing park system. The scope of this work is continually increasing. New parks and facilities are continually added to the system. Older parks become more labor intensive over time due to their age and condition. The range and frequency of park use, as evidenced by the increase in scheduled activities, continues to expand. In addition, limiting liability and providing physical accessibility improvements are increasingly important concerns. Therefore, renovation must remain a high priority in order to optimize the use of park facilities and to protect the community's assets. Bellevue citizens are accustomed to the park system's high quality standards, and regular renovation activities play a major role in continuing to meet this expectation.

The Renovation Plan, an annually updated seven-year plan, identifies and prioritizes renovation needs throughout the system. The renovation program goal is to systematically refurbish and renovate existing park structures and grounds to maintain the safety, integrity and function of the park system. The Renovation Plan includes non-routine major maintenance work items that are beyond the scope of the Department's normal maintenance and operating budget. Projects generally range in cost from $5,000 to

$100,000, including, but not limited to, the following activities:

- Remodel and replace building infrastruc ture elements;
- Repair and replace pavement, play grounds, signage, fencing, and lighting;
- Improve irrigation and drainage systems;
- Implement landscaping projects; and
- Update facilities to meet building codes.

In addition, the Renovation Plan establishes an implementation strategy to handle risk management issues, correct high maintenance areas, and allow for an ongoing preventative maintenance program. It is important to point out that the Renovation Plan does not include redevelopment that alters the overall character of parks or facilities. Plans for major redevelopment or repurposing of a park occur through a master planning process with appropriate citizen outreach and oversight.

Renovation projects are prioritized utilizing the following criteria:

- Safety or liability concerns,
- Structural deficiencies,
- Overall park and facility appearance as it relates to visitor enjoyment,
- Function as it pertains to user needs, and
- Aesthetics.

SECURITY

Preventing and correcting hazardous conditions are major considerations of the park maintenance and renovation programs. It is a given that parks, playgrounds, and buildings are expected to be kept in good repair. The issue of liability is very important and affects all aspects of operation. However, this is balanced by the department mission, which is to build a healthy community by encouraging physical activity and active recreation. Park users can be assured that they are using safe and well maintained equipment when they recreate in a Bellevue park.

Park security is a related topic. It is important for the City to provide parks and open spaces that protect personal safety and prevent abuse to park property. Parks & Community Services maintains a comprehensive safety and security plan based on these key elements:

- Park Rangers who staff park visitor centers, provide patrol and park lockup, serve as guides and naturalists, identify maintenance problems and assist with special events and volunteer activities.
- Lifeguards to monitor swimming areas and ensure a safe environment.
- Close cooperation with Bellevue Police to regularly patrol parks at all times of the year.
- Park maintenance crews who report unsafe conditions and point out potential security issues.
- Block Watch programs using neighbors as the “eyes and ears” for park security.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCE AND ROLE

Emergency preparedness is another area where the Parks & Community Services plays an important role. As key partners in the City’s Emergency Operations Plan, department personnel and facilities, including community centers and other public buildings, have been and will continue to be used in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. All community centers are constructed and equipped to act as emergency shelters. This service is hopefully rarely used, but when necessary, can provide life-saving benefits to the Bellevue community.

Community Centers serve as emergency shelters

FINANCING CAPITAL PROJECTS

Photo Charles Harrell

Botanical Garden

This garden
Is a sacred place
Of peace where I come
To refresh my soul.
There are few blossoms
Here in January, just
Enough to remind me
Of the Garden's lasting
Beauty and the loving
Work of those who
Care for it and me.

John C. Staffeld

FINANCING CAPITAL PROJECTS

The City's capital infrastructure needs are funded through an established budgeting tool known as the *Capital Investment Program Plan*, or CIP. The CIP is a seven-year rolling financing plan that is evaluated and updated every two years by the City Council. As part of the budget process, the CIP identifies, prioritizes and prices capital needs for the City. Planning and implementation of any capital project is dependent on its being part of the City's CIP.

The CIP Plan is the major funding program for park-related facilities including acquisition, development, redevelopment and renovation. The Parks portion of the CIP has traditionally been funded from a variety of sources, such as general CIP revenue, Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), voter-approved bond and levy issues, state and local grants, and developer mitigation fees. A full description of existing and potentially available funding sources for park capital projects is provided later in this chapter. In accordance with current City of Bellevue financial policies, all park capital project costs, including planning, construction, maintenance and operations, and borrowing costs must be funded within the total revenue limit allocated to the Parks program. Overall, the Parks capital program makes up 21 percent of the citywide 2009-2015 CIP, compared to Transportation at 28 percent and Utilities at 26 percent. The Parks CIP Plan totals $107 million for the seven-year plan, and is primarily funded by REET, General Fund CIP and the Parks and Natural Areas Levy voter initiative, passed in 2008.

While there are a variety of revenues that fund the City's CIP, they are not immune from fluctuations in the local and regional economy. The current recession in the Puget Sound economy is affecting the City's ability to support its capital investment plan. Voter-approved funding limitations and a continued economic slowdown will limit available funding for the next several years. To compensate, the City must look for alternative means of financing capital projects if it wants to further implement the Parks & Open Space System Plan. The following is a strategy to fund parks capital projects over the next ten years.

FUNDING STRATEGY

The two primary revenue sources used to implement the recommended capital projects in the Parks and Open Space System Plan are the City's Capital Investment Program (CIP) and voter initiatives. These two sources also support maintenance and operations of the parks and open space system. Funding from CIP and voter initiatives will not be sufficient to implement all recommended projects. Additional revenue will be needed

to be realize the full potential of this plan. Aggressive exploration of grants and partnership opportunities as well as judicious application of user fees play an important role in filling the gap between the funding needed for these projects and funds available.

The following funding strategy is proposed to implement the recommendations contained in this Plan.

- Funding for the baseline Parks CIP Plan will continue to come from a combination of existing city-wide taxes and fees. General CIP revenues and Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) form the foundation of funding, accompanied by gambling tax revenues for youth facilities, Parks Enterprise Fund revenues for improvements to enterprise facilities, and developer contributions for specific improvements within a certain geographic area.
- Voter initiatives spaced at regular intervals will provide funding for major acquisitions and park development. This will continue Bellevue's tradition of regularly placed bond issues or levies that have largely built the existing park system. It is assumed that any bond issue would include an associated maintenance and operations (M&O) funding package.
- Conservation Futures and other programs available through King County will be used to obtain critical open space and greenway connections.
- Grants from various federal and state sources should be used for a variety of purposes, including acquisition of waterfront properties and open space parcels, outdoor recreation projects, and trails for use by pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Cultivation of donations and partnerships should be emphasized to help finance specific projects. Opportunities will be sought to match capital project recommendations with the interests of individuals and organizations.
- Expanded use of user fees from existing or new facilities will be considered to fund capital projects, as is currently done at Parks Enterprise facilities such as the Bellevue Golf Course.

SUMMARY OF FUNDING SOURCES

General CIP Revenue

According to current fiscal policy, the City Council has dedicated to the Capital Investment Program a combination of revenue sources including local option sales tax, Business and Occupation (B&O) tax, interest earnings on unexpended balances, and other miscellaneous unrestricted revenues. The amount of available revenue fluctuates with current economic conditions. Within the total available dollars, the percentage of general CIP funds allocated to the Parks capital program has varied throughout the years, with Parks normally receiving between 15 and 20 percent of the total.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)

REET consists of money derived from one-half percent of the selling price of real property within the City of Bellevue. REET revenues fluctuate with the local real estate market. Over the past decade, REET has been a reliable source of revenue until recently, when local real estate transactions have slowed dramatically. For the foreseeable future, revenue from REET cannot be viewed as a reliable source of consistent revenue.

Voter-approved Bonds/Levies

General Obligation bonds (G.O. bonds) have been used extensively over time to develop Bellevue's park system. Local park bond issues were approved in 1956, 1965, 1970, 1977, 1981, 1984, and 1988. County-wide park bond issues have been approved in 1968 (Forward Thrust) and in 1989 and 2007 (Open Space and Trails).

A property tax levy is another voter-approved funding source for financing capital improvements. The proceeds may be received on an annual, pay-as-you-go basis, or bonds may be issued against the levy amount if the levy duration is less than nine years.

In November 2008, the Bellevue Parks and Natural Areas Levy was approved with a 67% yes vote. This levy replaced an expiring 1988 bond issue. It provides capital funding of $3.4 million per year for the next twenty years and includes ongoing funding for maintenance of completed capital projects. In addition, the capital project funding provided by the levy will be matched by $28.5 million in City CIP funds.

Downtown Park |

Non Voter-approved Bonds

Councilmanic bonds are G.O. bonds issued with approval by the City Council. Under State law, repayment of these bonds must be financed from existing City revenues since no additional taxes can be implemented to support related debt service payments. An example in Bellevue was the 1983 purchase of the Downtown Park property, where 0.2 percent of the local option sales tax was allocated toward the repayment of the Downtown Park councilmanic bond issue.

Revenue bonds are typically issued for development purposes, and often cost more and carry a higher interest rate than G.O. bonds. Revenue bond covenants generally require that the revenues received annually would have to equal twice the annual debt service payment. Revenue bonds are payable from income generated by an enterprise activity. For example, the City issued $800,000 in revenue bonds in 1967 for the development of the Bellevue Golf Course.

King County Conservation Futures Tax (CFT)

Conservation Futures funds are a dedicated portion of property taxes in King County and are available, by statute, only for acquisition of open space, agricultural and timberlands. The King County Council approves funding for projects based on submittals from cities and the county. Since inception of this revenue source in 1989, Bellevue has received approximately $10 million to fund several acquisition projects, including the two Meydenbauer marina properties, greenway system additions, portions of Lewis Creek Park, and Lattawood Park.

Enterprise Fund/User Fees

The City of Bellevue created a Parks Enterprise Fund to account for a number of activities in which user fees and charges are set to recover the cost of operations and certain capital improvements. The Bellevue Golf Course, Robinswood Tennis Center, Robinswood House, and the Bellevue Aquatic Center are all operated in the Parks Enterprise Fund. Enterprise Fund revenues were used for the construction of the air structure over two of the outdoor courts at Robinswood Tennis Center and for many capital improvement projects at the Bellevue Golf Course. In the future, the City may explore the expanded use of user fees to fund capital projects where feasible to do so.

Robinswood Tennis Center

Grants

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) administers a variety of grant programs from several federal and state sources to distribute to eligible application sponsors for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes. The amount of money available for grants statewide varies from year to year and most funding sources require that monies be used for specific purposes. Grants are awarded to state and local agencies on a competitive basis, with agencies generally required to provide matching funds for any project proposal. Bellevue has received approximately $5 million in RCO grant funds over the past twenty years for a variety of projects, including the acquisition of the two Meydenbauer Bay marinas and portions of Lewis Creek Park, development of Enatai Beach Park and Marymoor ballfields, improvements to the SE 40th boat ramp, and acquisition and wildlife habitat enhancements in Mercer Slough Nature Park.

Mercer Slough Water Trail

Mercer Slough Blueberry farm

Donations/Partnerships

As more fully discussed in the Partnerships focus area, Parks & Community Services will look to partnerships to create new revenue opportunities for facilities benefiting the Bellevue community. This will include donations, endowment funds, volunteer support and partnerships with community businesses, organizations and residents. Examples of past donations include eight acres of what is now Wilburton Hill Community Park from Cal and Harriet Shorts as well as construction of the Viewing Pavilion in that park, funded by the Tateuchi Foundation. Another example is the $500,000 gift from an anonymous donor toward the purchase of the Meydenbauer Marina. Examples of other partnerships that contribute toward funding capital projects include the Pacific Science Center ($2.2 million toward the development of the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center) and the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club ($1.5 million towards construction of the South Bellevue Community Center).

Programs such as "Your Land, Your Legacy" can motivate people into bequeathing their property (or a portion thereof) for public purposes. Many options exist for potential donors to conserve their land for public use by future generations. Creative financing of property acquisition or donation can be a benefit for both the seller/donor and the City.

Punchboard and Pulltab Tax

This tax, also known as the "gambling tax," is imposed on the purchase of punchboards and pulltabs within the city and is set at a rate not to exceed five percent of the gross receipts from such activities. Tax proceeds beyond those needed to enforce gambling laws were reserved by Council policy for the purpose of providing youth facilities. This revenue source is expected to generate approximately $150,000 per year to support youth-related facilities.

Annexations/Transfers/Donations

Additional land and/or parks may be added to Bellevue's inventory through annexation (such as Sunrise and Newport Hills Parks), transfer from King County (such as Eastgate, Coal Creek and Weowna Parks), transfer of privately owned Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPAs) from homeowner associations, or donations. The financial impact to the City varies for each annexation or transfer. Costs may range from providing ongoing maintenance to planning for future park development or redevelopment.

Impact Fees

Unlike most neighboring jurisdictions, including Redmond, Kirkland and Issaquah, Bellevue does not apply park impact fees to new development citywide as a condition of permit approval. Impact fees are designed to assess a one-time fee on new residential and in some cases new commercial development, recognizing the fact that adding additional residents and workers to the Bellevue population dilutes the level of service the parks system can provide to the community. Using an economic level of service calculation, the City's investment in the existing park system is valued and divided by the total population. As new population is added, impact fees are collected at a level that keeps the total investment of the park system at pace with the population increases. In 2008, as part of a city-wide study of financing options available to implement the Bel-Red Subarea Plan, Parks & Community Services commissioned a preliminary study to determine approximately how much the City could charge in residential and commercial impact fees. The study found that the overall parks system is valued at an estimate of $580,000,000. Dividing that value among Bellevue residents results in $4,914 in park system benefits for each resident. Without impact fees, this benefit will decrease over time as more individuals share the same park and open space resources.

Developer Mitigation Fees and Incentives

Through the State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA), the City has collected developer mitigation fees (payable either in cash or through development of recreation facilities) in the South Bellevue subarea. Sunset and Silverleaf Parks are examples of small parks developed through developer mitigation. These developer contributions cannot supplant other revenue sources within a project – they are in addition to existing funding and must be used for a specific purpose. In addition to the development of recreational facilities, the City has received approximately $800,000 from developments in the Newcastle Subarea since 1990.

Sunset Park

Incentives for creation of public parks, plazas, open space preservation and stream corridor restoration have been built into the zoning codes for downtown Bellevue and the Bel-Red Subarea. These incentives provide increased building density and redevelopment potential in exchange for the developer supporting the cost of publicly accessible park and open space features.

Real Estate Transactions

Selling or trading parcels of land that the City now owns but does not feel will be used for park purposes could be considered as a method to finance acquisition and/or development of more suitable sites. Renting or leasing park-owned property has been used to offset the cost to acquire or manage properties. For example, homes acquired as part of the overall property acquisition along Meydenbauer Bay are being rented on an interim basis until the City is able to develop the property into a park. Less than fee-simple property acquisition techniques such as life estates and conservation easements can also be used to help reduce the cost of property acquisition. And finally, leasing property for non-park purposes such as wireless communication facilities can also provide a source of revenue to offset capital costs.

Washington Park and Recreation Special Districts

Washington state law allows for three types of special taxing districts relating to the governance and financing of parks and recreation: Park and Recreation Districts, Park and Recreation Service Areas, and Metropolitan Park Districts. Each has its own purpose, function and powers, varying levels of revenue authority and the ability to issue debt. Formation of a parks and recreation special district typically requires voter approval via a ballot proposition from the residents of the proposed service areas. Examples of special districts in Washington include the Tacoma Metropolitan Park District, Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District and the South Whidbey Park and Recreation District.

New Tax Sources

The possibility always exists to raise money to fund park related projects through new tax sources. However, there are currently no identified sources for potential taxation.

Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasque-flower is a right as inalienable as free speech.

– Aldo Leopold

CONCLUSION & APPENDICES

Photo Gary Marshall

Chickadees are little garden fairies,
Almost invisible in sparkling sunshine.
They hide in the dark towering cedars,
In the waxen leaves of the pear tree,
Calling in long, flute-like phrases,
"I see you, see you."
Wary cats may pass through, robins strut,
Boisterous crows may drop by, music play.
The chickadees accept all interruptions
Without comment, without irritation,
Then return to their simple Zen practice,
The same unhurried scrap of melody,
The notes that keep me company all day.

Joan Pasch

CONCLUSION

As expressed in the Introduction, history has shown that Bellevue residents have understood and appreciated the economic, environmental and social benefits of a vibrant parks system. Wildwood Park was an economic engine for a young Bellevue in the 1900's, attracting city-weary Seattleites across the lake to recreate. In the early 1970's the community rallied behind the drive to protect Mercer Slough from additional office park development by putting into place a long-term vision that, implemented over the following 40 years, put 320 acres of environmentally sensitive land into public ownership. Perhaps most telling, Bellevue residents have approved a consistent string of voter initiatives creating a revenue stream for park system development unbroken since 1956. How will this legacy be carried on in the 21st Century? The projects recommended in this plan build upon the community's long-term vision, they will protect the community's prior investments and they will continue to pay back benefits over time.

CHALLENGE TO THE COMMUNITY

In order to implement this plan, the challenge for the future is not to raise the bar on the value this community places in its parks and open space system. Bellevue is already a City in a Park – the system as it exists today has been gifted to us by prior generations of Bellevue residents and visionary community leaders. The true challenge is can today's residents and community leaders uphold the high bar that has already been set?

APPENDIX I:

PROJECT MAPS AND INVENTORY BY SUBAREA

The following pages include capital project recommendations mapped by Comprehensive Plan Subarea.

City of Bellevue

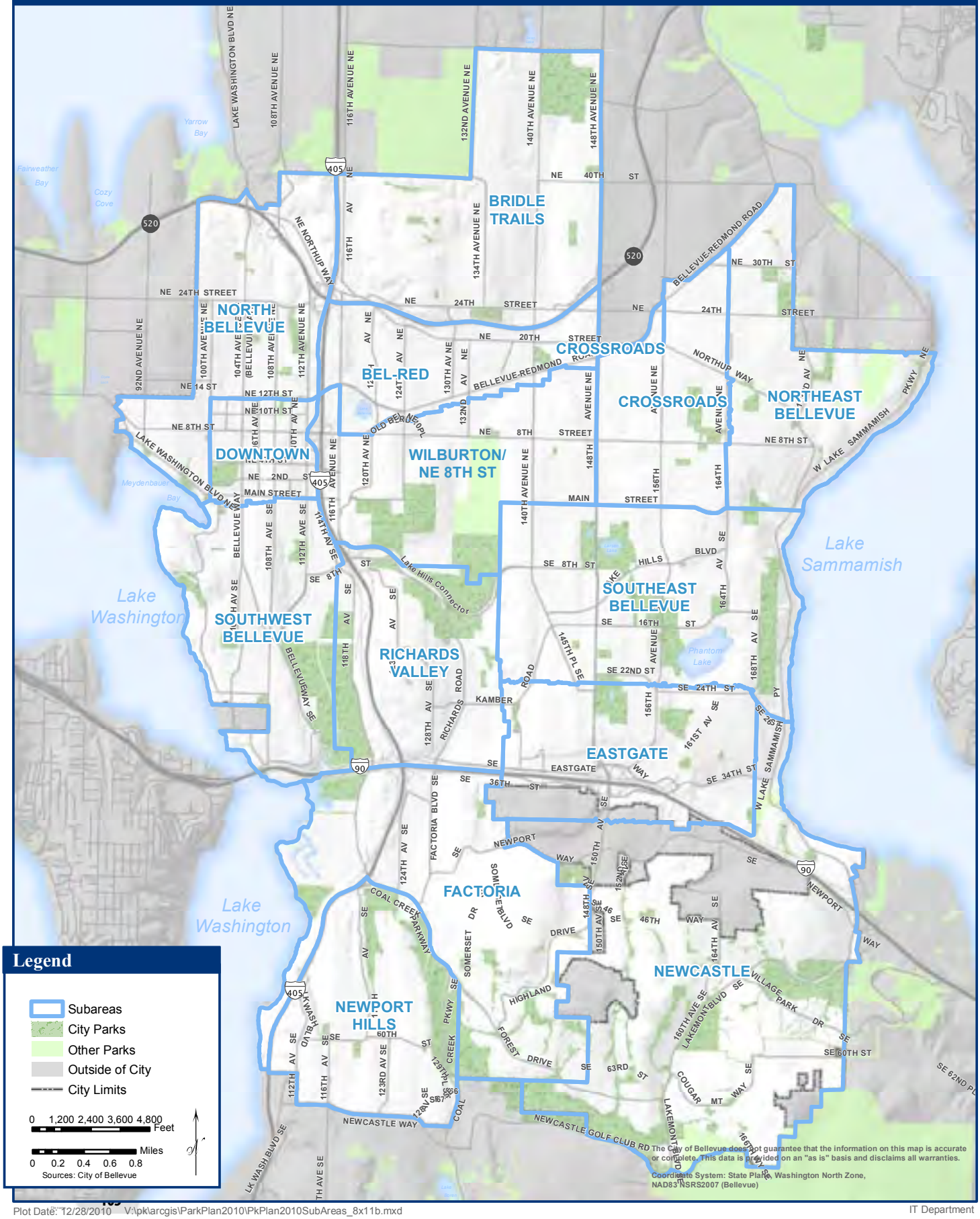
Subareas

	Community Parks (ac)	Neighborhood Parks (ac)	Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance (ac)	Trails (mi)	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Bel-Red Subarea	11.77	1.33	18.55	2.24	-	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	1	0
Bridle Trails Subarea	125.72	28.86	29.43	11.36	-	0	1	0	2	4	2	0	2	1
Crossroads Subarea	35.13	4.20	26.38	4.70	-	0	0	0	3	5	4	3	1	1
Downtown Subarea	22.25	3.69	0.65	3.03	-	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Eastgate Subarea	43.32	9.55	35.11	12.54	-	2	0	1	3	10	3	0	1	3
Factoria Subarea[Δ]	90.98	11.37	174.13	10.62	3745	0	0	0	4	1	1	1	0	4
Newcastle Subarea[Δ]	205.59	54.59	372.26	21.67	-	0	1	2	10	7	6	6	1	1
Newport Hills Subarea	0.00	4.46	200.29	3.56	-	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
North Bellevue Subarea	26.82	13.55	7.37	4.32	1405	0	0	3	4	3	1	0	0	1
Northeast Bellevue Subarea[Δ]	60.33	16.77	20.36	4.02	-	0	2	3	4	0	2	0	0	1
Richards Valley Subarea	205.93	3.37	87.85	8.88	-	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	0	6
Southeast Bellevue subarea	270.47	19.52	12.61	13.44	1792	0	0	2	2	0	3	1	0	2
Southwest Bellevue Subarea	171.76	33.91	2.74	10.65	1818	0	1	0	5	4	2	1	0	6
Wilburton / NE 8th St Subarea	198.30	0.00	11.61	11.60	-	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	4	6
Totals :	**1468.37**	**205.17**	**999.34**	**122.63**	**8760**	**4**	**6**	**17**	**44**	**38**	**26**	**14**	**10**	**33**

[Δ] *Subarea includes City owned property outside the City Limits*

Subareas

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



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IT Department

Bel-Red

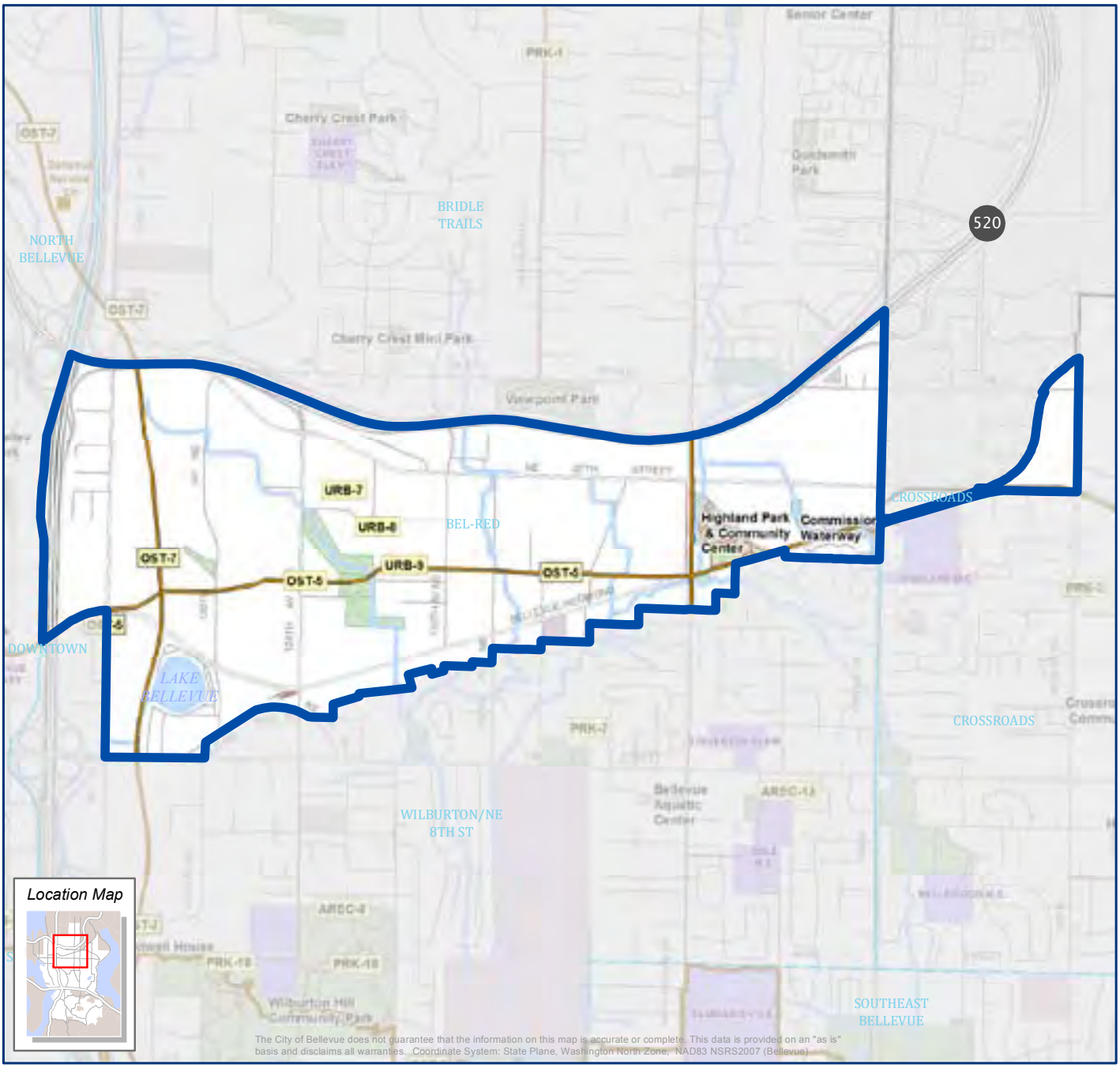
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**31.65**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Community Parks											
Highland Park & Community Center	11.77				2	1	2			1	
Neighborhood Parks											
Commissioners Waterway	1.33										
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
Bel-Red Mini Park	0.32										
City Properties	3.02										
West Tributary Properties	15.21										
Trail Systems											
140th Trail*											
Bel-Red Greenway Trails*											
BNSF Railroad Greenway Trails*											
Public School Sites / Library	**0.00**		**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Private Schools / Parks	**6.90**		**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Bellevue Children's Academy	1.39										
Dartmoor School	2.10										
Eastside YMCA	3.41					1				1	

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Bel-Red Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



Current Statistics

Subarea Size	839 Acres
Households for 2010	100
Projected Households for 2030	4,625
Public Parks and Open Space	31.65 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	0.00 Acres
Trails	2.24 Miles

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	31 %
Public School Grounds only	0 %

Recommendations

- OST-5: Bel-Red Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- OST-7: BNSF Railroad Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- URB-7: Bel-Red Subarea: Open space and Off-Street Trail
- URB-8: Bel-Red Subarea: Multi-purpose Trail Development
- URB-9: Bel-Red Subarea: Park System Acquisition and Development

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Bel-Red Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.37 miles

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQL.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

Bridle Trails

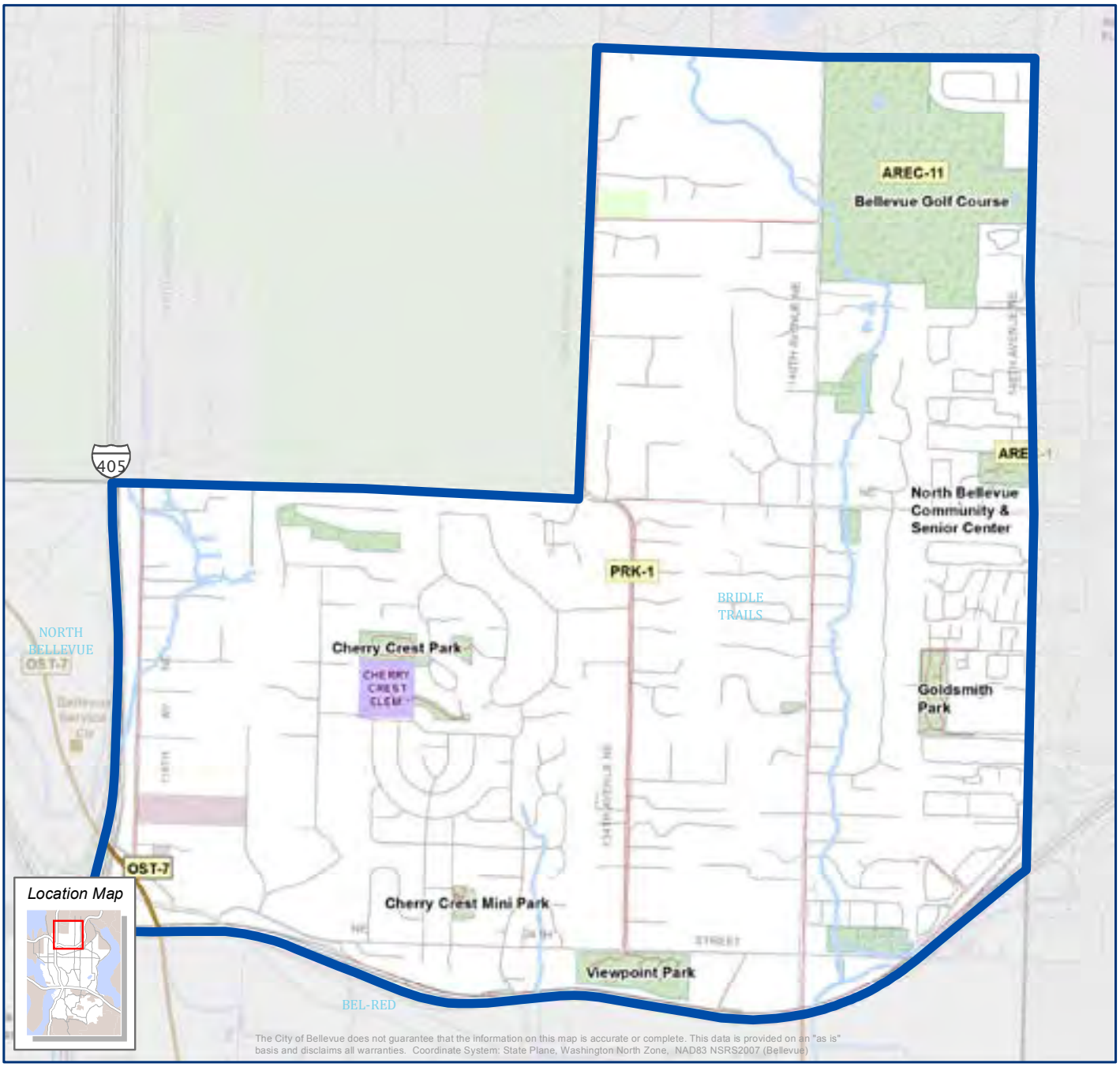
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**184.01**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**1**
Community Parks											
Bellevue Golf Course	121.04									1	1
North Bellevue Community Center	4.68									1	
Neighborhood Parks											
Cherry Crest Mini Park	2.04					1	1	1			
Cherry Crest Park	5.69			1			3				
Goldsmith Park	7.64					1		1			
Viewpoint Park	13.49										
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
Acheson (Wa State)	5.22										
Compton Trails Open Space	3.00										
Pikes Peak Open Space	6.83										
City Properties	14.38										
Trail Systems											
116th Ave NE Trail											
134th Trail											
140th Trail*											
BNSF Railroad Greenway Trails*											
Bridle Crest Trail* (KC)											
Public School Sites / Library	**10.15**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**1**
Cherry Crest Elementary‡	10.15					1		1		1	1
Private Schools / Parks	**10.68**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Chestnut Hill Academy	1.00										
The Little School	9.68					1					

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Bridle Trails Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



Current Statistics

Subarea Size	2,031 Acres
Households for 2010	4,550
Projected Households for 2030	4,750
Public Parks and Open Space	184.01 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	10.15 Acres
Trails	11.36 Miles

Recommendations

- PRK-1: Add Neighborhood Park: Bridle Trails Subarea
- AREC-1: North Bellevue Community Center Addition
- AREC-11: Public Golf Course Improvements

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	70 %
Public School Grounds only	1 %

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Bridle Trails Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.32 miles

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Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQL.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

Crossroads

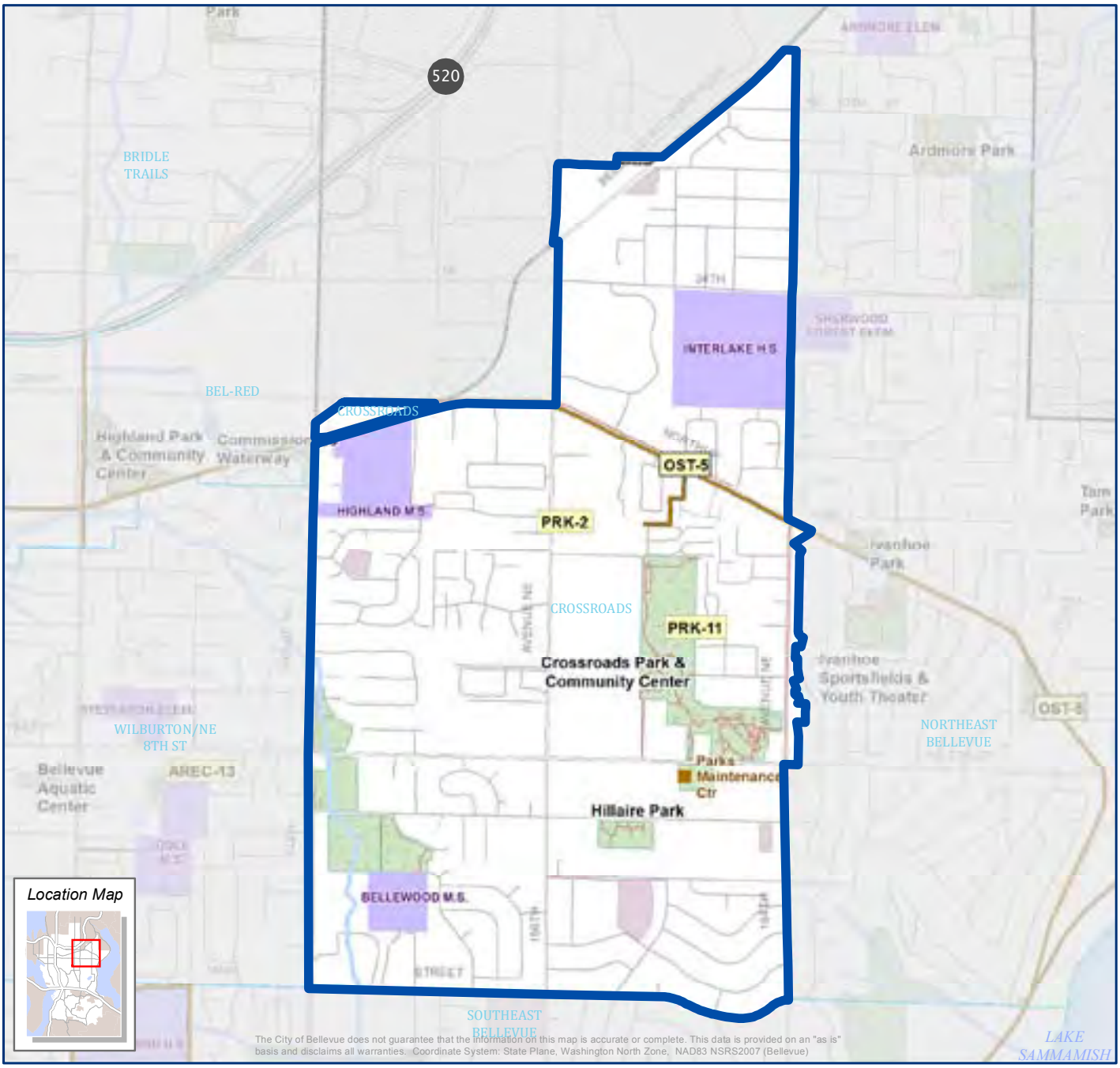
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**65.71**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**1**	**1**
Community Parks											
Crossroads Park & Community Center	35.13					2	3	2	3	1	1
Neighborhood Parks											
Hillaire Park	4.20					1	2	2			
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
City Properties	23.81										
Maintenance (Resource Management)	2.57										
Trail Systems											
Bel-Red Greenway Trails*											
Public School Sites / Library	**69.79**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**11**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Bellwood School Site‡	9.93			1	1	1				1	
Highland Middle School‡	20.72		1	1			4	3		1	
Interlake High School‡	39.14		1		2		7			1	
Private Schools / Parks	**12.00**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**2**
Eton School	1.40										
Calvary Lutheran School	2.61										
Chevy Chase Park	1.74					1			1		
Jewish Day School	6.25			1		1				1	
Kindering Center	na					1					1
Youth Eastside Services	na										1

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Crossroads Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



Current Statistics

Subarea Size	1,015 Acres
Households for 2010	4,750
Projected Households for 2030	5,325
Public Parks and Open Space	65.71 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	69.79 Acres
Trails	4.70 Miles

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	46 %
Public School Grounds only	32 %

Recommendations

- OST-5: Bel-Red Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- PRK-2: Add Neighborhood Park: Crossroads Subarea
- PRK-11: Continue Phased Development: Crossroads Park

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Crossroads Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.3 miles

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQL.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

Downtown

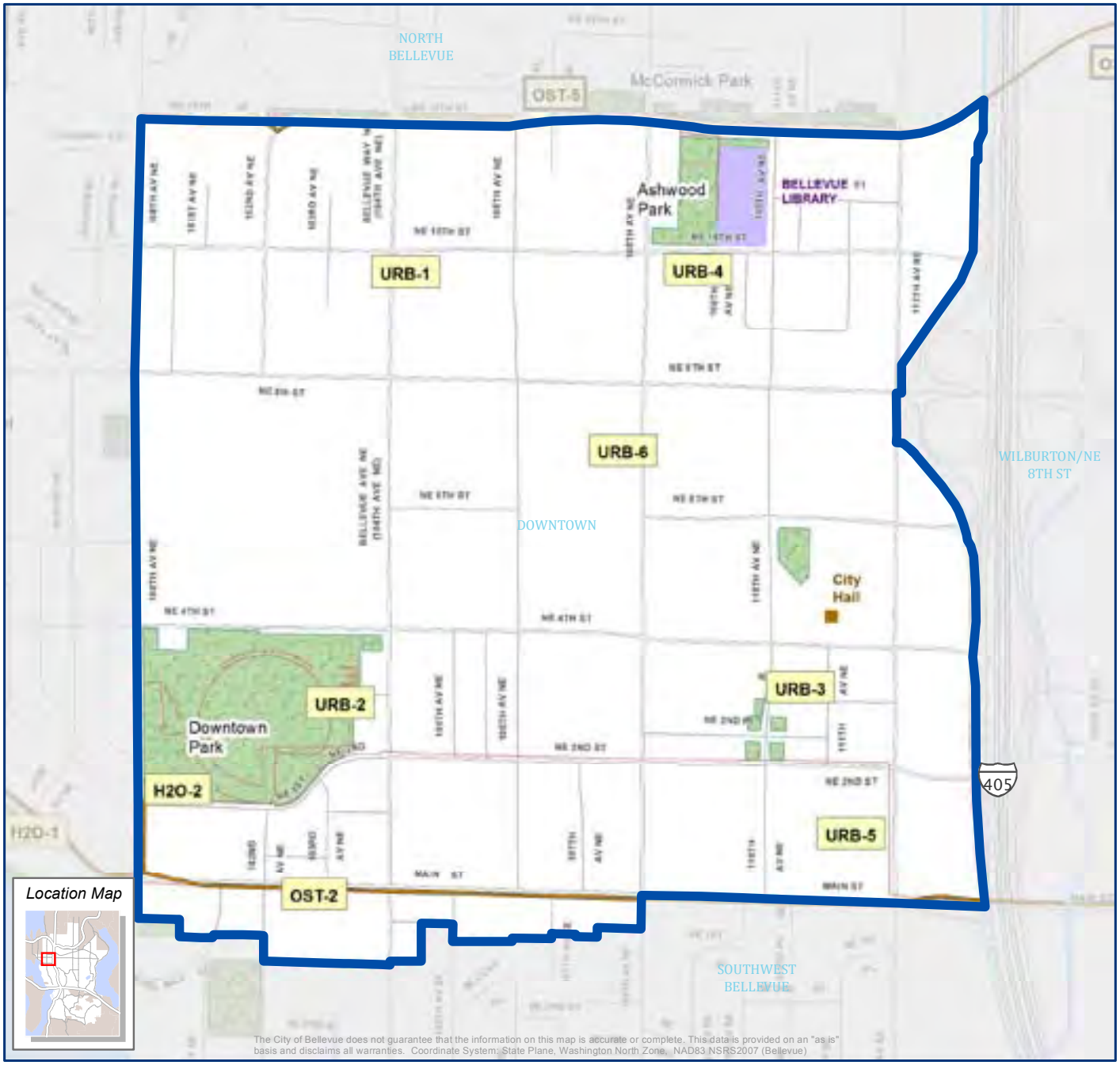
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**26.59**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Community Parks											
City Hall (Plaza)	0.89										1
Downtown Park	21.36					1					
Neighborhood Parks											
Ashwood Park *(including 2 - plaza easements)*	3.69			1							
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
Corner 5 Parcels (NE 2nd)	0.65										
City Properties	0.00										
Trail Systems											
Lake to Lake Greenway Trails*											
Bel-Red Greenway Trails*											
Public School Sites / Library	**2.54**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Bellevue Regional Library (KC)	2.54										1
Private Schools / Parks	**0.00**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Downtown Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



Current Statistics

Subarea Size	411 Acres
Population for 2010	5,050
Projected Population for 2030	13,625
Public Parks and Open Space	26.59 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	2.54 Acres
Trails	3.03 Miles

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	74 %
Public School Grounds only	0 %

Recommendations

- OST-2: Lake to Lake Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- URB-1: Downtown Subarea: Add Neighborhood Park in NW Quadrant
- URB-2: Downtown Subarea: Downtown Park
- URB-3: Downtown Subarea: Add Neighborhood Park in SE Quadrant
- URB-4: Downtown Subarea: Ashwood Park
- URB-5: Downtown Subarea: Main Street Linear Buffer Greenway
- URB-6: Downtown Subarea: Add Community Center
- H2O-2: Meydenbauer Bay Park to Downtown Park Connection

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Downtown Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.14 miles

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQLDowntown - Copy.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

Eastgate

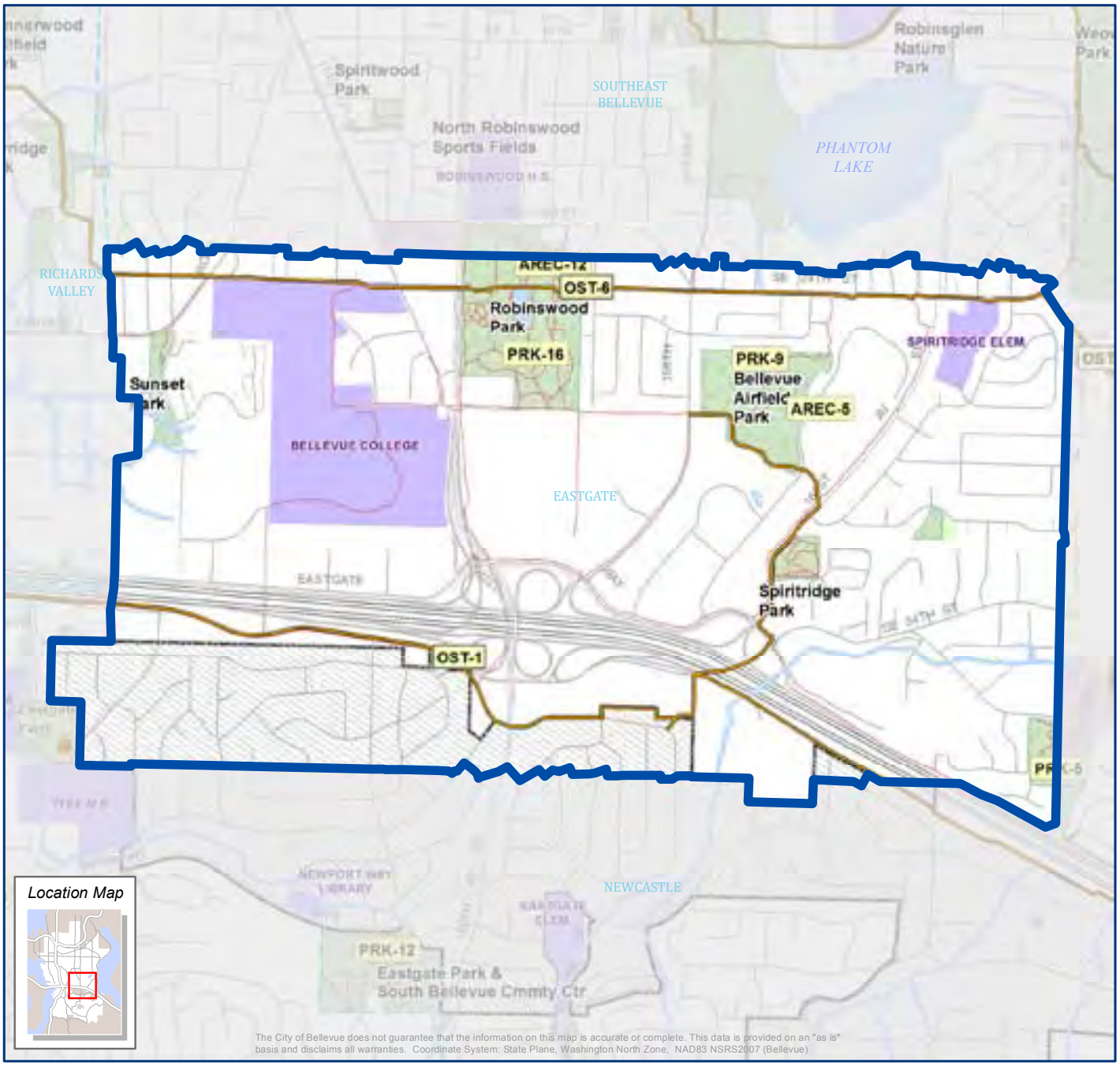
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**87.98**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**10**	**3**	**0**	**1**	**3**
Community Parks											
Robinswood Park*	43.32		2		1	1	8	1		1	3
Neighborhood Parks											
Spiritridge Park	4.50					1	1	1			
Sunset Park	5.05					1	1	1			
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
Crestwood (KC)	0.73										
Crestwood Property	1.60										
Bellevue Airfield Park	27.56										
Norelius Property & 41.5 Open Space*	5.22										
Trail Systems											
Richards Valley Greenway Trails*											
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails*											
Phantom Lake Walkway*											
Spiritridge Trail											
Public School Sites / Library	**9.11**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Bellevue College - Main Campus (95.6ac)				1	1					1	
Spiritridge Elementary‡	9.11			1		1		1		1	
Private Schools / Parks	**0.00**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Eastgate Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



The City of Bellevue does not guarantee that the information on this map is accurate or complete. This data is provided on an "as is" basis and disclaims all warranties. Coordinate System: State Plane, Washington North Zone, NAD83 NSRS2007 (Bellevue)

Current Statistics

Subarea Size	1,351 Acres
Households for 2010	2,175
Projected Households for 2030	2,300
Public Parks and Open Space	87.98 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	9.11 Acres
Trails	12.54 Miles

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	75 %
Public School Grounds only	12 %

Recommendations

- OST-1: Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- OST-6: Richards Valley Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- PRK-5: Improve Un-developed Sites: Eastgate/Newcastle Subarea
- PRK-9: Continue Phased Development: Bellevue Airfield Park
- PRK-16: Continue Phased Development: Robinswood Park
- AREC-5: Sportsfields: Lighted Fields at Bellevue Airfield Park
- AREC-12: Robinswood Tennis Center Improvements

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Eastgate Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.3 miles

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQLEastgate.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

Factoria

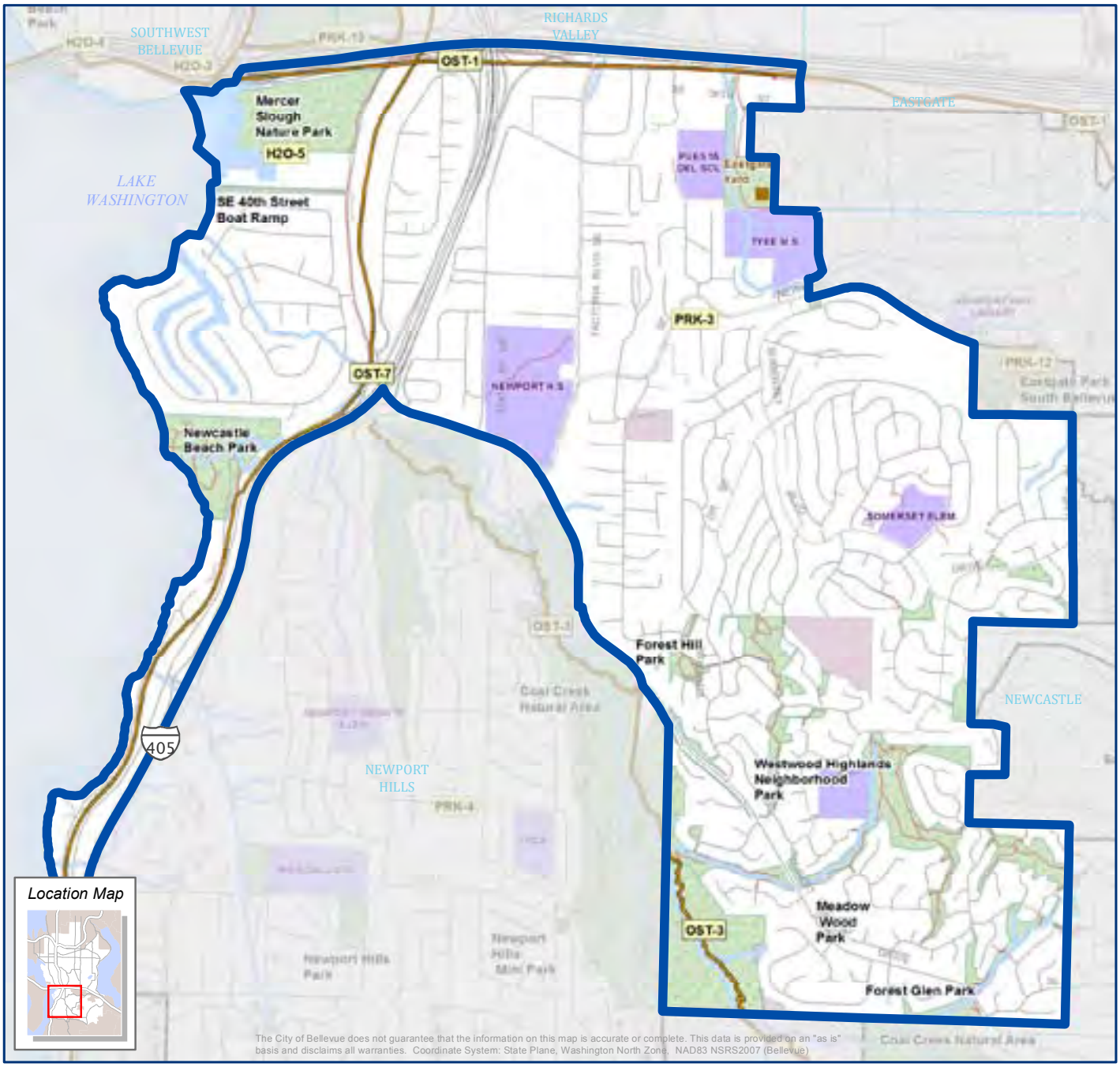
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**246.28**	**3745**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**4**
Community Parks											
Mercer Slough Nature Park*	45.01	2017									3
Newcastle Beach Park	42.48	1648				1			1		1
SE 40th Street Boat Ramp	3.49	80									
Neighborhood Parks											
Forest Glen Park	4.28					1		1			
Foresthill Park	4.42					1					
Meadow Wood Park	2.17					1					
Westwood Highlands Park	0.50						1				
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
Coal Creek Natural Area*	46.09										
Forest Drive Open Space	2.14										
Forest Glen East Open Space*	7.23										
Forest Park Meadows Open Space*	9.85										
Forest Park Open Space (Up & low Washout, Owl)	41.53										
Forest park Property	0.38										
Horizon Highlands Openspace+SomHighland3TrB	3.51										
Little Field	0.07										
Somerset East Open Space	2.95										
Somerset Highlands Open Space	2.05										
Somerset North Slope Open Space	0.40										
Somerset Park Open Space	10.60										
Sunset Ravine Open Space / Eastgate Yard (UT)	12.44										
Westwood Highlands Open Space	4.69										
Trail Systems											
BNSF Railroad Greenway Trails*											
Mountain to Sound Greenway Trails*											
South Bellevue/Coal Creek Greenway Trails*											
Outside Subarea & City Limits - Bellevue Parks	**30.20**	**0.00**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Coal Creek Natural Area*	30.20										
Public School Sites / Library	**95.93**	**0**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**2**	**15**	**7**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Newport High School‡	39.92		1	1	2		8			1	
Somerset Elementary School‡	10.07			1		1		1		1	
Somerset Site #2	10.11										
Puesta del Sol Elementary School‡	12.84			2		1		1		1	
Tyee Middle School‡	22.99		1	2			7	5		1	
Private Schools / Parks	**30.38**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Forest Ridge School	19.97		1				3			1	
St. Madeleine Sophie School	10.41										

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Factoria Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



Current Statistics

Subarea Size	2,102 Acres
Households for 2010	4,525
Projected Households for 2030	5,400
Public Parks and Open Space	246.28 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	95.93 Acres
Trails	10.62 Miles

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	39 %
Public School Grounds only	35 %

Recommendations

- OST-1: Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- OST-3: S. Bellevue/Coal Creek Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- OST-7: BNSF Railroad Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- PRK-3: Add Neighborhood Park: Factoria Subarea
- PRK-15: Continue Phased Development: Mercer Slough Nature Park
- H2O-5: SE 40th Boat Launch Addition

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Factoria Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.36 miles

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQLFactoria.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

Newcastle

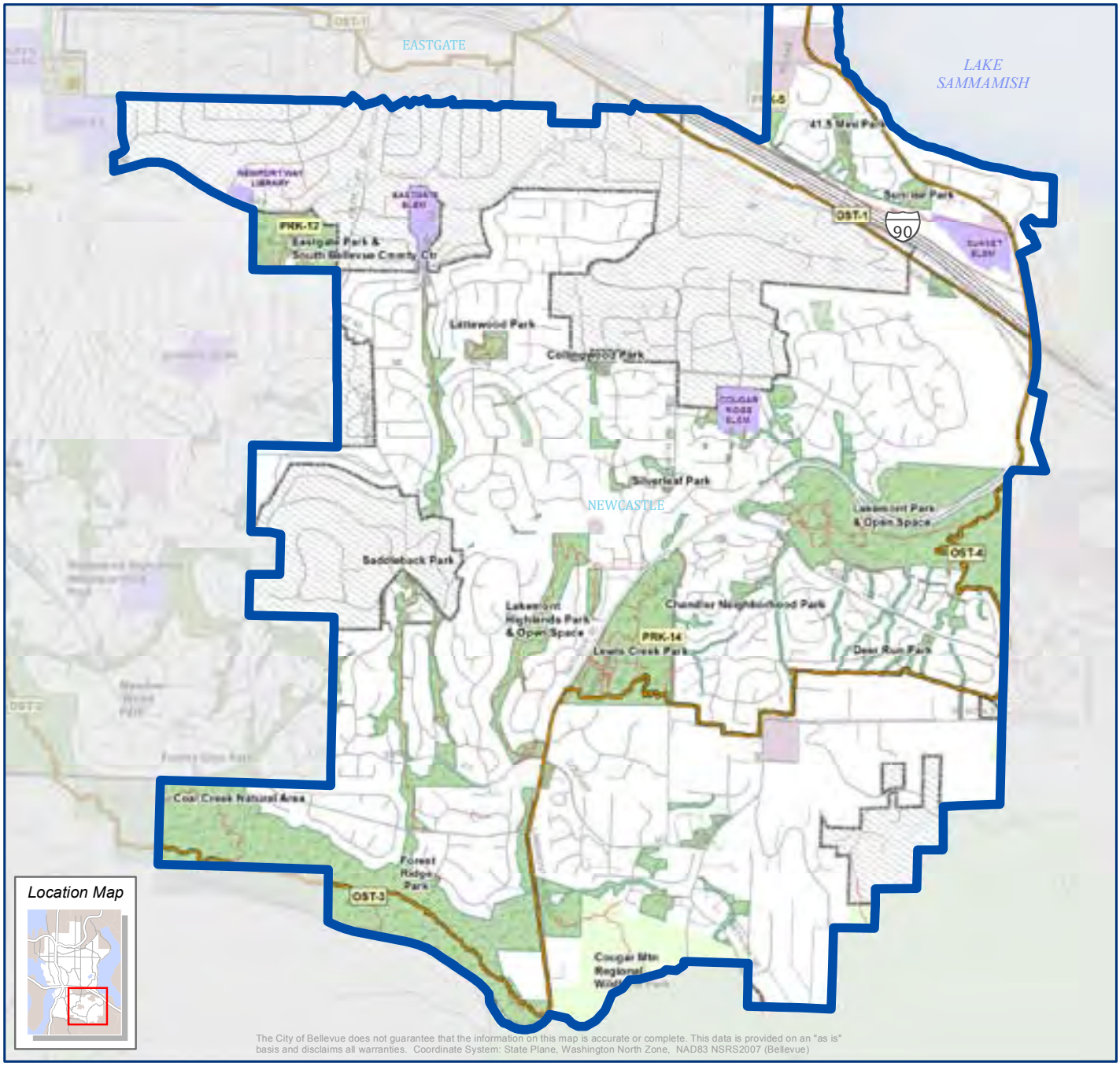
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**601.35**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**10**	**7**	**6**	**6**	**1**	**1**
Community Parks											
Eastgate Park & South Bellevue Community Center	24.61				1	1	2			1	
Lakemont Park & Open Space	125.19				1	1	2	1	2		
Lewis Creek Park	55.79			1		1		1	3		1
Neighborhood Parks											
41.5 Mini Park	1.43							1			
Chandler Neighborhood Park	8.06					1					
Collingwood Park	1.10					1					
Deer Run Park	7.19					1					
Forest Ridge Park	0.56					1					
Lakemont Highlands Park	28.96					1	1	1			
Lattawood Park	5.30					1		1	1		
Saddleback Park	1.17					1		1			
Silverleaf Park	0.82						2				
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
City Properties (4)	3.27										
Coal Creek Natural Area*	148.70										
Collingwood Open Space	3.44										
Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park (KC)	62.65										
Cougar Ridge East/West Open Space + Tax Lot	22.13										
Eaglesmere Open Space	3.28										
Forest Glen East Open Space*	0.43										
Forest Park Meadows Open Space*	1.65										
Forest Ridge Open Space + Heritage Belshaw	6.11										
Heights Open Space	3.80										
Horizon Heights Open Space	5.03										
Lakemont Blvd Open Space	1.02										
Lakemont Trail Open Space	11.71										
Newport Way Open Space	2.06										
Norelius Porperty & 41.5 Open Space*	8.15										
Saddleback Open Space	4.35										
SE 63rd Greenbelt North	7.99										
SE 63rd Greenbelt South	10.96										
Silverleaf Open Space	3.23										
Stratford Open Space	8.13										
Summit Open Space	0.38										
Sunrise Park	4.48										
Vuemont South Open Space	2.72										
West Summit Open Space	7.69										
Whispering Heights Open Space	4.14										
Winfield Open Space	3.67										
Trail Systems											
Marymoor to Cougar Mtn Greenway Trails*											
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails*											
South Bellevue/Coal Creek Greenway											
Outside Subarea & City Limits - Bellevue Parks	**31.09**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Coal Creek Natural Area*	31.09										
Public School Sites / Library	**33.77**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**3**	**1**
Cougar Ridge Elementary‡	10.14			1		1		1		1	
Eastgate Elementary‡	8.07			1		1		1		1	
Newport Way Library	1.94										1
Sunset Elementary	13.62			1		1		3		1	
Private Schools / Parks	**39.29**	**540**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Hillside School	11.50										
Open Window School	7.63										
French Immersion School	1.76										
Vasa Park	18.40	540									

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Newcastle Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



The City of Bellevue does not guarantee that the information on this map is accurate or complete. This data is provided on an "as is" basis and disclaims all warranties. Coordinate System: State Plane, Washington North Zone, NAD83 NSRS2007 (Bellevue)

Current Statistics

Subarea Size	3,454 Acres
Population for 2010	6,450
Projected Population for 2030	8,575
Public Parks and Open Space	601.35 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	33.77 Acres
Trails	21.67 Miles

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	72 %
Public School Grounds only	9 %

Recommendations

- OST-1: Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- OST-3: S. Bellevue/Coal Creek Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- OST-4: Marymoor to Cougar Mtn Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- PRK-5: Improve Un-developed Sites: Eastgate/Newcastle Subarea
- PRK-12: Continued Phased Development Eastgate Park
- PRK-14: Continue Phased Development: Lewis Creek Park

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Newcastle Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.43 miles

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: V:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQLNewcastle.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

Newport Hills

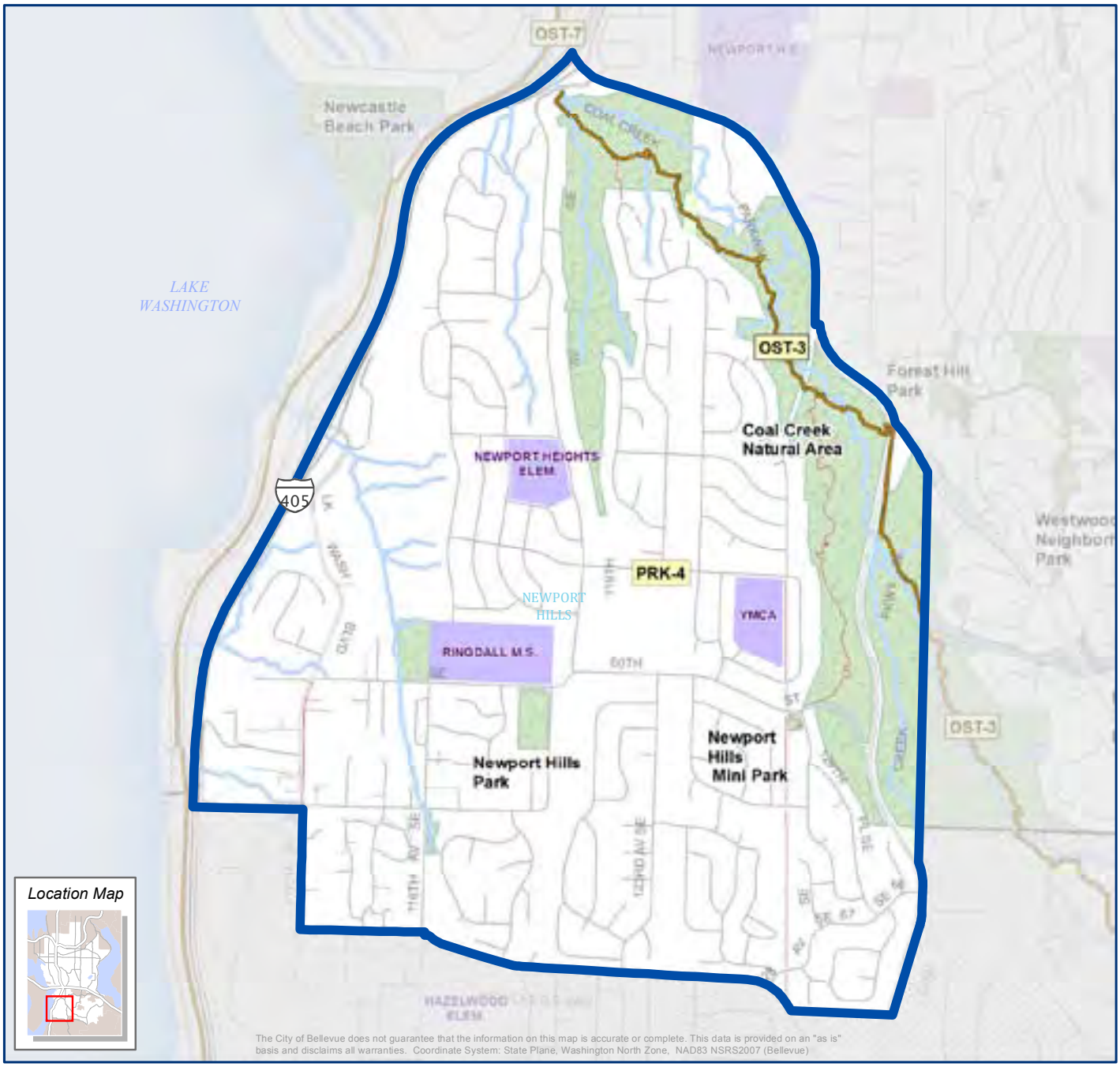
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**204.75**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Community Parks											
Neighborhood Parks											
Newport Hills Park	4.46		1		1	1			1		
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
Coal Creek Natural Area*	194.28										
Newport Glenn Open Space	0.72										
Newport Hills Mini Park	0.48										
Tyler Property	4.81										
Trail Systems											
Newport Hills Pipeline Trail											
South Bellevue/Coal Creek Greenway Trails*											
Public School Sites / Library	**28.02**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Newport Heights Elementary‡	9.17			1		1		1		1	
Ringdall Middle School‡	18.85		1		1		3			1	
Private Schools / Parks	**9.48**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**
Newport Hills Elementary (YMCA)	9.48			2		1				1	1

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Newport Hills Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



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Current Statistics

Subarea Size	1,285 Acres
Households for 2010	2,900
Projected Households for 2030	4,500
Public Parks and Open Space	204.75 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	28.02 Acres
Trails	3.56 Miles

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	34 %
Public School Grounds only	26 %

Recommendations

- OST-3: S. Bellevue/Coal Creek Greenway Trails: Multi-use
- PRK-4: Add Neighborhood Park: Newport Hills Subarea

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Newport Hills Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.29 miles

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQL.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

North Bellevue

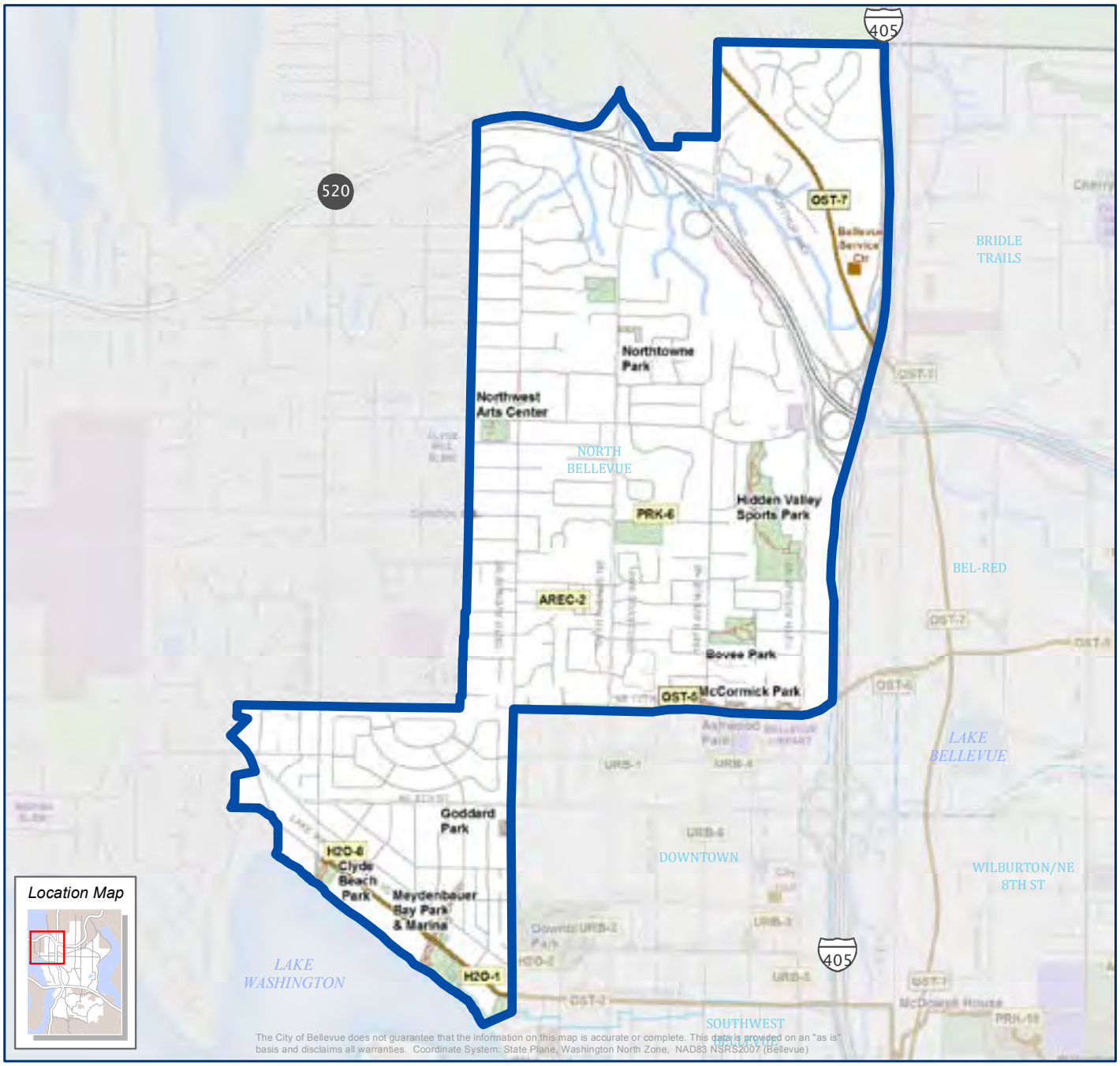
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**47.74**	**1405**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**4**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Community Parks											
Meydenbauer Bay Park (Marina, Beach, 99th)*	9.65	1225									
Hidden Valley Sports Park	17.17				3	1	1	1			
Neighborhood Parks											
Bovee Park	4.09					1	2				
Clyde Beach Park	2.06	180				1					
Goddard Park	0.69										
McCormick Park	3.52										
Northtowne Park	0.79					1					
Northwest Arts Center	2.40										1
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
Chapin Property	4.29										
Bellevue Service Center (BSC)	NA										
Spring Hill Property	3.08										
Trail Systems											
Lake to Lake Greenway Trails*											
Bel-Red Greenway Trails*											
BNSF Railroad Greenway Trails*											
Public School Sites / Library	**0.00**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Private Schools / Parks	**2.36**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**
Bellevue Boys and Girls Club/Ground Zero	0.89									1	1
Bellevue Montessori School	1.47										

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

North Bellevue Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



Current Statistics

Subarea Size	1,317 Acres
Households for 2010	4,050
Projected Households for 2030	4,675
Public Parks and Open Space	47.74 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	0.00 Acres
Trails	4.32 Miles

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	66 %
Public School Grounds only	4 %

Recommendations

- OST-5: Bel-Red Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- OST-7: BNSF Railroad Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- PRK-6: Improve Un-developed Sites: North Bellevue Subarea
- AREC-2: Community Center Serving North/Southwest Bellevue
- H2O-1: Meydenbauer Bay Park
- H2O-8: Clyde Beach Redevelopment

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
North Bellevue Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.38 miles

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQL.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

Northeast Bellevue

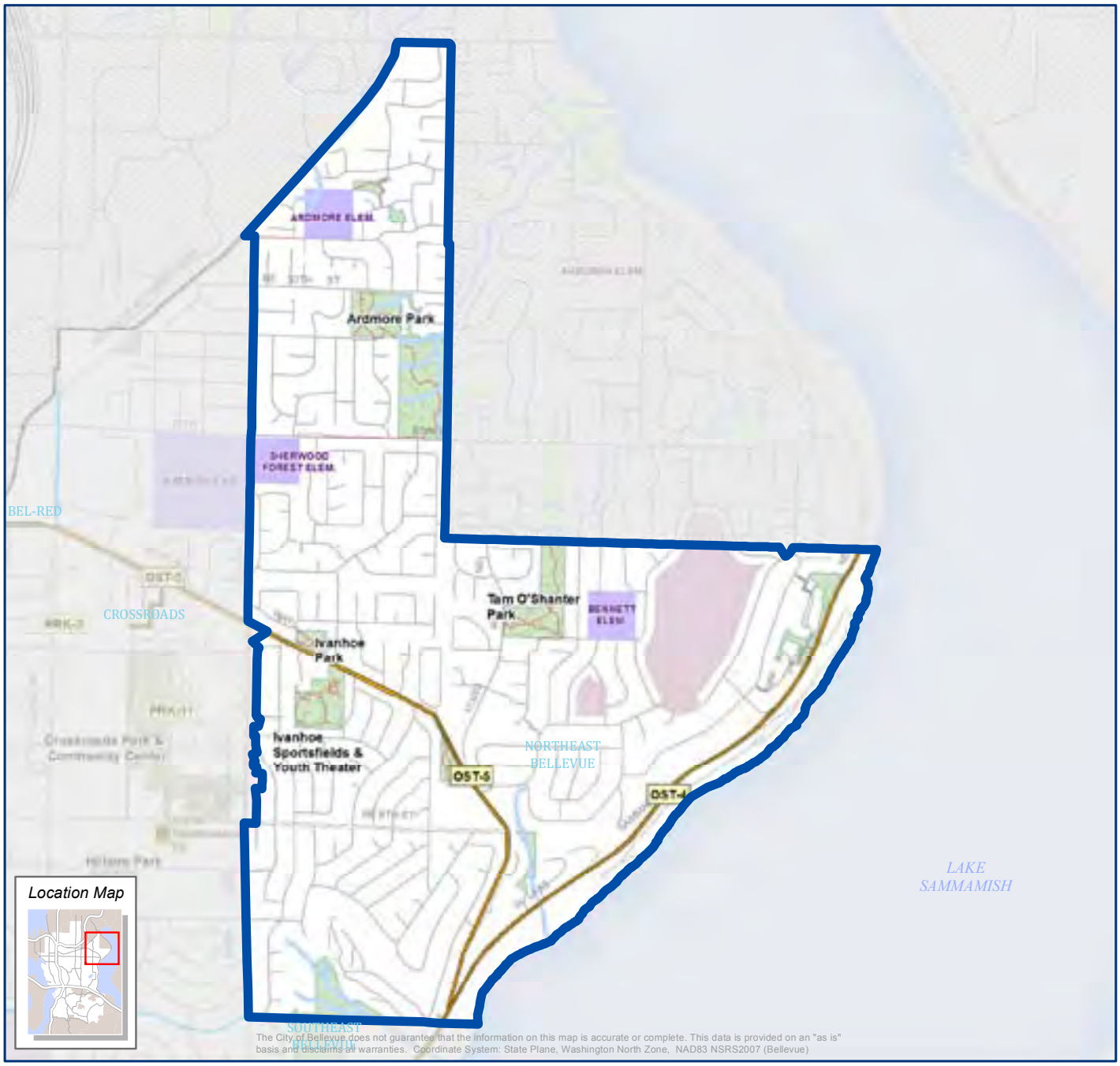
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**77.50**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Community Parks											
Ardmore Park	30.48					1					
Ivanhoe Sports Fields & Youth Theater (BSD)	9.89			2		1					1
Neighborhood Parks											
Ivanhoe Park	2.46					1		1			
Tam O'Shanter Park	14.31					1		1			
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
Kenney Property	2.16										
Lake Hills #27 Open Space	2.10										
Lake Ridge Estates Open Space	5.14										
Sunich Property*	8.76										
Woodside East & Weatherburn Open Space	2.20										
Trail Systems											
Bel-Red Greenway Trials*											
Marymoor to Cougar Mtn Greenway Trails*											
Outside Subarea & City Limits - Bellevue Parks	**19.96**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Bellevue Ballfields at Marymoor	19.96				3						
Public School Sites / Library	**29.14**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Ardmore Elementary‡	10.20			1		1		1		1	
Bennett Elementary‡	9.90			1		1		1		1	
Sherwood Forest Elementary‡	9.04			1		1		1		1	
Private Schools / Parks	**53.76**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Tam O'Shanter Country Club	50.17										
Tam O'Shanter Park	3.59					1	4	1			

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Northeast Bellevue Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



Current Statistics

Subarea Size	1,174 Acres
Households for 2010	3,675
Projected Households for 2030	3,750
Public Parks and Open Space	77.50 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	29.14 Acres
Trails	4.02 Miles

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	60 %
Public School Grounds only	10 %

Recommendations

- OST-4: Marymoor to Cougar Mtn Greenway Trails: Multi-use
- OST-5: Bel-Red Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Northeast Bellevue Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.37 miles

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQL.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

Richards Valley

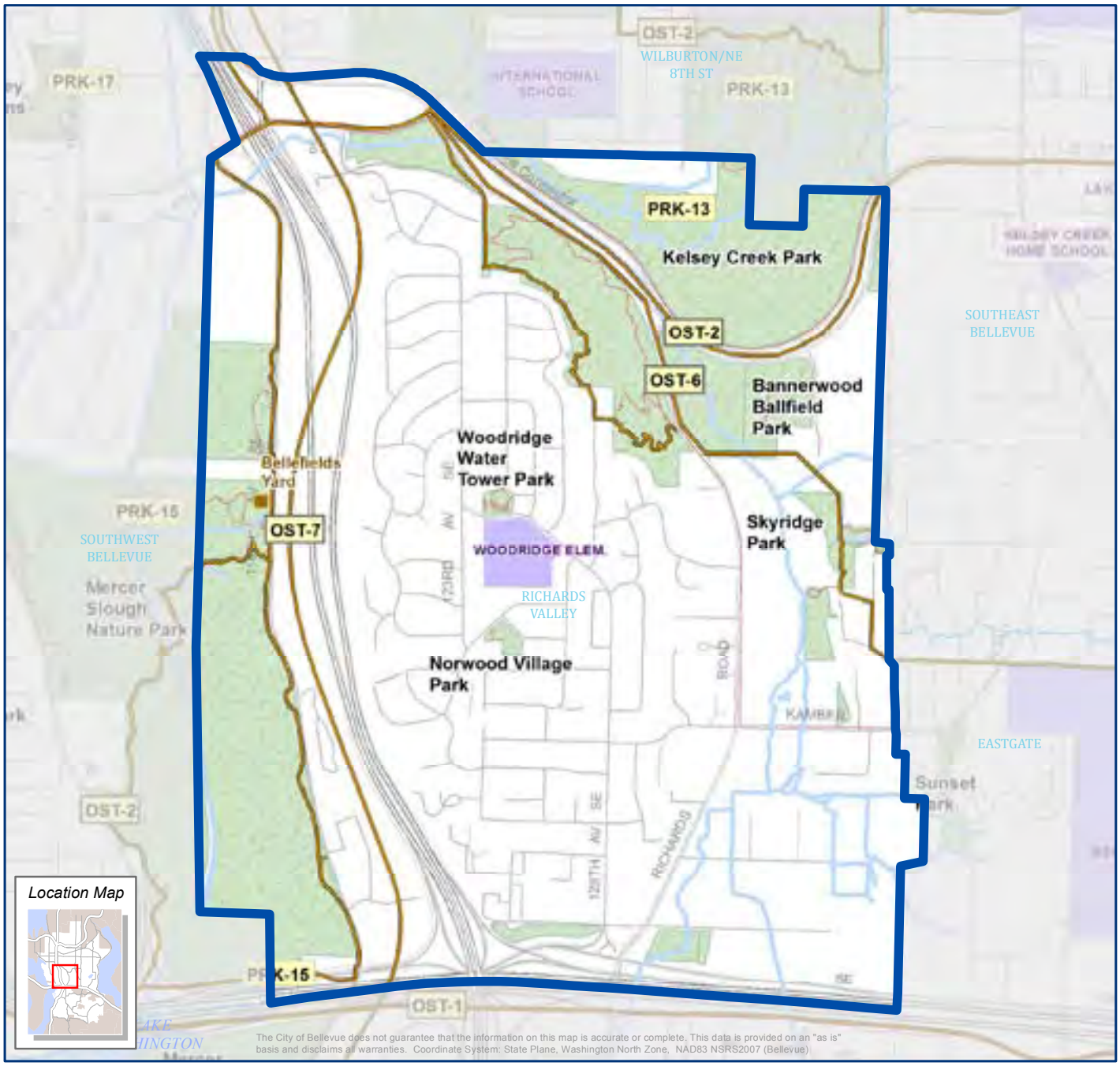
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**297.15**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**6**
Community Parks											
Bannerwood Ballfield Park	12.40				1						
Kelsey Creek Park*	75.78										
Mercer Slough Nature Park*	117.75										6
Neighborhood Parks											
Norwood Village Park	1.57					1	2	2			
Skyridge Park	0.38					1					
Woodridge Water Tower Park	1.42										
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
City Properties	4.19										
Maintenance (Bellefields)	NA										
Richards Creek Open Space	15.40										
Richards Valley Open Space	10.90										
SE 32nd St Park (WADOT)	2.65										
West Kelsey Open Space	8.71										
Woodridge Open Space + 7.81 (2007)	46.00										
Trail Systems											
BNSF Railroad Greenway Trails*											
Lake to Lake Greenway Trails*											
Pipeline Trail*											
Richards valley Greenway Trails*											
Public School Sites / Library	**9.99**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Woodridge Elementary School‡	9.99			1		1		1		1	
Private Schools / Parks	**0.00**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Richards Valley Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



Current Statistics

Subarea Size	1,293 Acres
Households for 2010	2,450
Projected Households for 2030	2,925
Public Parks and Open Space	297.15 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	9.99 Acres
Trails	8.88 Miles

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	62 %
Public School Grounds only	5 %

Recommendations

- OST-2: Lake to Lake Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- OST-6: Richards Valley Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- OST-7: BNSF Railroad Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- PRK-13: Continue Phased Development: Kelsey Creek Park
- PRK-15: Continue Phased Development: Mercer Slough Nature Park

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Richards Valley Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.27 miles

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQL.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

Southeast Bellevue

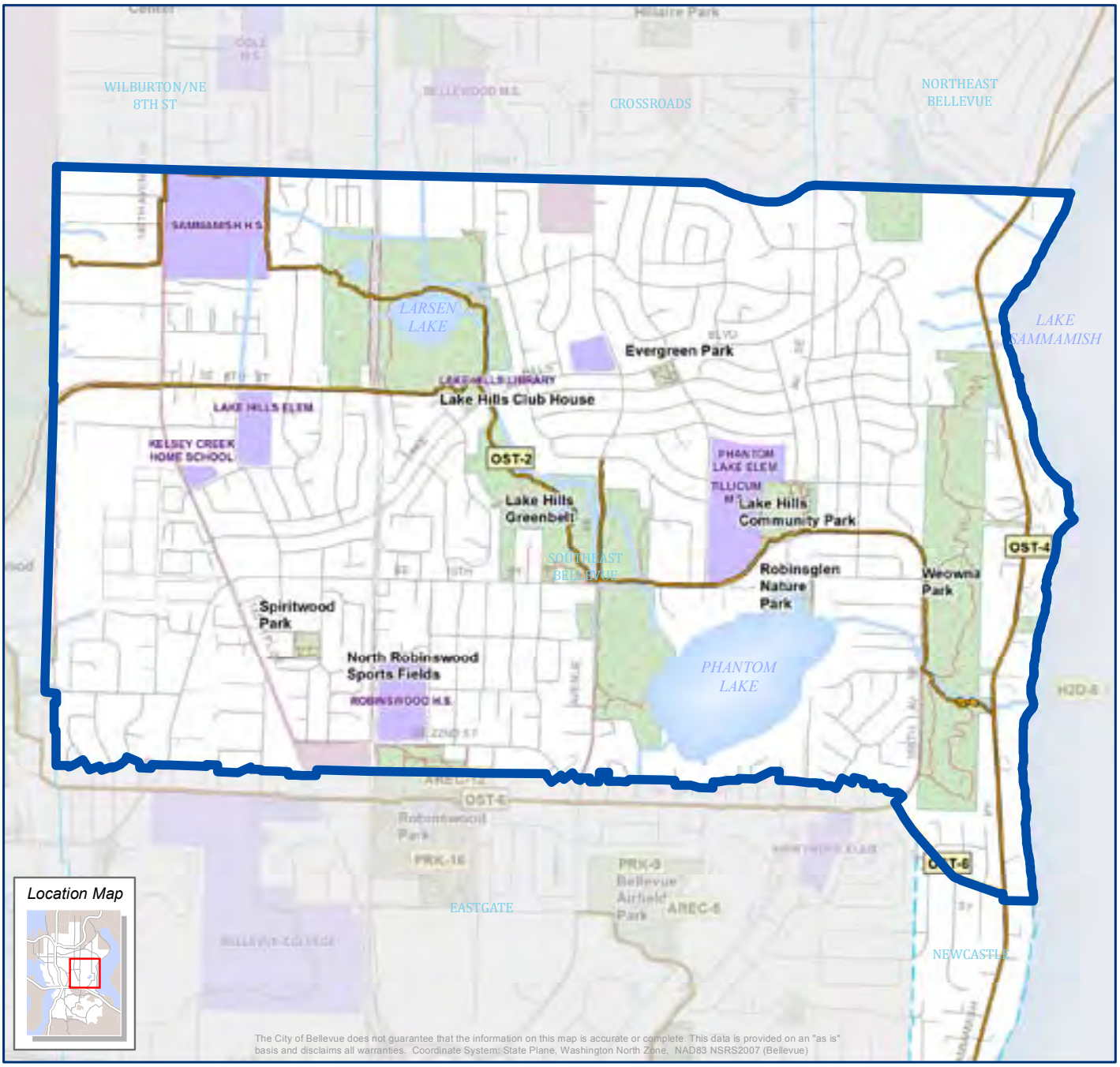
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**302.60**	**1792**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**2**
Community Parks											
Lake Hills Club House	0.40										1
Lake Hills Greenbelt	174.14	1171							1		1
Robinswood Park*	6.66										
Weowna Park	89.27										
Neighborhood Parks											
Evergreen Park	1.42					1		1			
Lake Hills Park	10.13				2	1		2			
Robinsglen Nature Park	5.24	423									
Spiritwood Park	2.73										
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
Lake Sammamish Property (3 parcels)	1.20	199									
Sunich Property*	10.00										
City Properties (1)	1.41										
Trail Systems											
140th Trail*											
Lake to Lake Greenway Trails*											
Marymoor to Cougar Mtn Greeenway Trails*											
Phantom Lake Walkway*											
Pipeline Trail*											
Public School Sites / Library	**92.39**	**0**	**2**	**5**	**3**	**2**	**12**	**2**	**0**	**5**	**2**
Jubilee REACH Center	1.74										1
Lake Hills Elementary‡	9.41			1		1				1	
Lake Hills Library	3.34										1
Phantom Lake Elementary‡	9.97			1		1				1	
Robinswood School & North Sport Fields‡	11.90			2						1	
Sammamish High School‡	38.01		1		3		7			1	
Tillicum Middle School‡	18.02		1	1			5	2		1	
Private Schools / Parks	**15.62**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Eastside Christian School	6.02			1				4			
St. Louise School	9.60					1					

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Southeast Bellevue Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



The City of Bellevue does not guarantee that the information on this map is accurate or complete. This data is provided on an "as is" basis and disclaims all warranties. Coordinate System: State Plane, Washington North Zone, NAD83 NSRS2007 (Bellevue)

Current Statistics

Subarea Size	2,038 Acres
Households for 2010	5,150
Projected Households for 2030	5,600
Public Parks and Open Space	302.60 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	92.39 Acres
Trails	13.44 Miles

Recommendations

- OST-2: Lake to Lake Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- OST-4: Marymoor to Cougar Mtn Greenway Trails: Multi-use
- PRK-16: Continue Phased Development: Robinswood Park
- H2O-6: Lake Sammamish Waterfront

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	84 %
Public School Grounds only	23 %

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Southeast Bellevue Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.33 miles

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQL.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

Southwest Bellevue

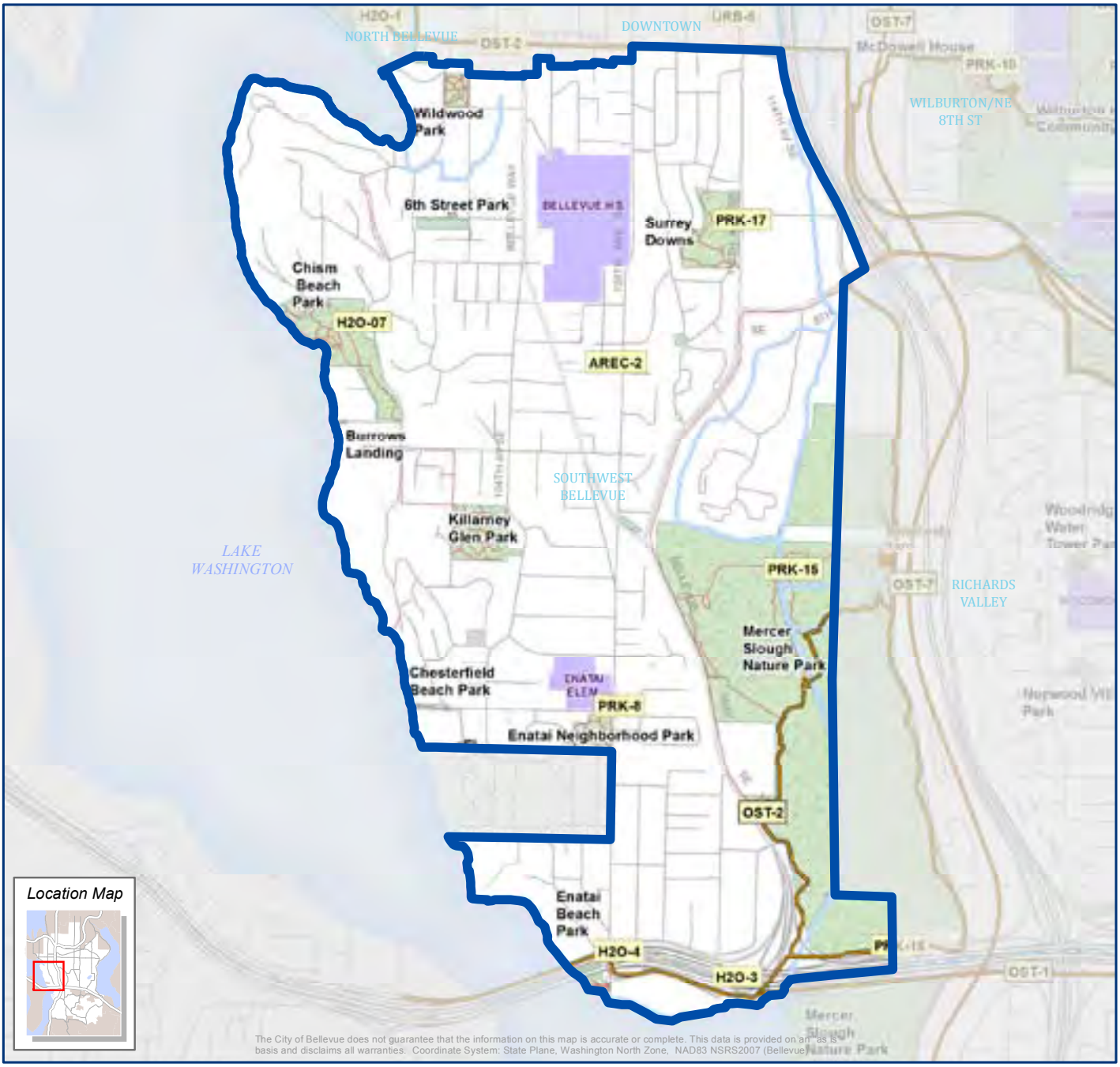
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmmty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**208.41**	**1818**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**5**	**4**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**6**
Community Parks											
Chism Beach Park	17.02	974				1					1
Mercer Slough Nature Park*	154.74	0									3
Neighborhood Parks											
Burrows Landing	0.15	42									
Chesterfield Beach Park	0.60	60							1		
Enatai Beach Park	4.72	741									1
Enatai Neighborhood Park	4.11					1	2				
Killarney Glen Park	10.39					1	2	1			
Sixth Street Park	0.14					1					
Surrey Downs Park	11.49			1		1		1			1
Wildwood Park	2.31										
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
Bellevue Way SE Greenbelt	0.40										
Meydenbauer Bay Park (Marina, Beach, 99th)*	0.42										
Old Hearthstone Property	0.25										
SE 6th Street Open Space	1.67										
Trail Systems											
Lake to Lake Greenway Trails*											
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails*											
Public School Sites / Library	**48.06**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Bellevue High School‡	39.63		2		2		6			1	
Enatai Elementary School‡	8.43			1		1		1		1	
Private Schools / Parks	**0.00**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Southwest Bellevue Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



Current Statistics

Subarea Size	1,424 Acres
Households for 2010	3,325
Projected Households for 2030	3,750
Public Parks and Open Space	208.41 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	48.06 Acres
Trails	10.65 Miles

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	85 %
Public School Grounds only	12 %

Recommendations

- OST-1: Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- OST-2: Lake to Lake Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- PRK-8: Redevelop Enatai Neighborhood Park
- PRK-15: Continue Phased Development: Mercer Slough Nature Park
- PRK-17: Continue Phased Development: Surrey Downs Park
- AREC-2: Community Center Serving North/Southwest Bellevue Subareas
- H2O-3: Connect Enatai Beach Park to Mercer Slough Nature Park
- H2O-4: Complete Enatai Beach Park Phased Development
- H2O-7: Chism Beach Redevelopment

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Southwest Bellevue Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.33 miles

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQL.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

Wilburton / NE 8th St

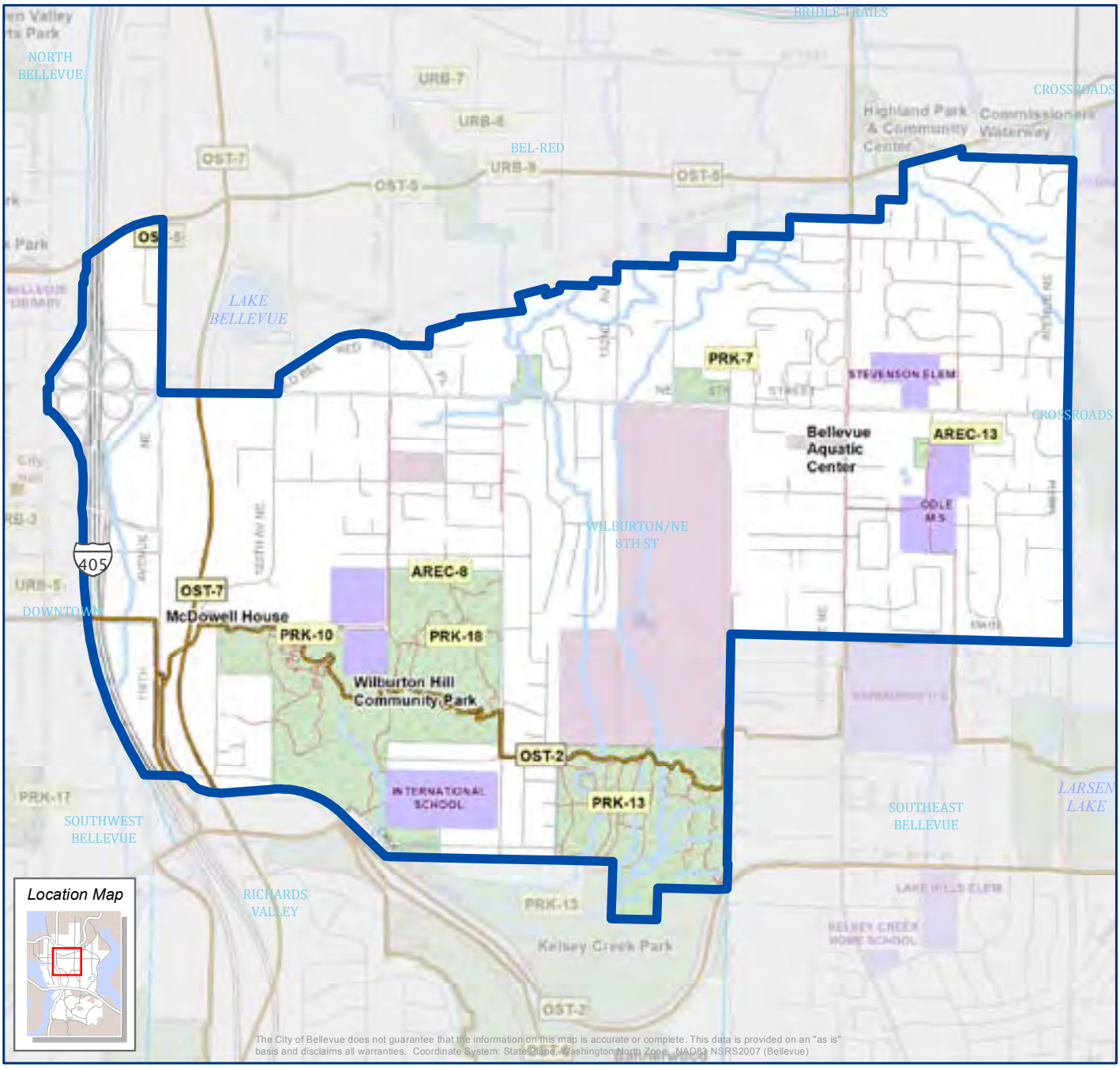
	Total Acres	Waterfront (lf)	Soccer / Football type Sportfields	Multi-use (overlay) Sportfields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Cmnty. Recreation Center / School	Community Building(s)
Public Park and Open Space System	**209.91**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**4**	**6**
Community Parks											
Bellevue Aquatic Center	1.29									1	
Kelsey Creek Park*	73.31					1			1		5
McDowell House	0.59										1
Wilburton Hill Park & Botanical Garden	123.11		1		2	1				3	
Neighborhood Parks											
Open Space / Undeveloped / Maintenance											
City Properties	7.09										
Highland Glendale Property	4.24										
Odle Trail	0.28										
Trail Systems											
140th Trail*											
BNSF Railroad Greenway Trails*											
Lake to lake Greenway Trails*											
Public School Sites / Library	**60.91**	**0**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**0**	**3**	**0**
BSD Property	9.33										
International School‡	19.73		1	1		1	3			1	
Odle Middle School‡	17.43		1		1		3			1	
Stevenson Elementary‡	8.42			2		1		1		1	
W.I.S.C.	6.00										
Private Schools / Parks	**155.49**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Glendale Golf Course	137.54										
Neighborhood Christian School	13.19										
Three Cedars School	4.76										

* In multiple Subareas

‡ Half of total property contributes to Neighborhood and Community Park level of service considerations

Wilburton/NE 8th St Subarea

City of Bellevue
GIS Services



Current Statistics

Subarea Size	1,560 Acres
Households for 2010	4,125
Projected Households for 2030	5,575
Public Parks and Open Space	209.91 Acres
Public Schools/Libraries	60.90 Acres
Trails	11.60 Miles

Households within 1/3 mile walking distance to the entrance of:

A Park or Trail	59 %
Public School Grounds only	32 %

Recommendations

- OST-2: Lake to Lake Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- OST-7: BNSF Railroad Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections
- PRK-7: Improve Un-developed Sites: Wilburton Subarea
- PRK-10: Continue Phased Development: Bellevue Botanical Garden
- PRK-13: Continue Phased Development: Kelsey Creek Park
- PRK-18: Continue Phased Development: Wilburton Hill Park
- AREC-8: Sportsfields: Ballfield at Wilburton Hill Park
- AREC-13: Bellevue Aquatic Center Improvements

ABC-01 **Park Capital Recommendations**
Greenway Trails System
Parks & Open Space (City Owned)
Trails
Wilburton/NE 8th St Subarea
Public School Properties/Libraries
Private Parks/Private Schools
City Limits
Unincorporated

1 in = 0.32 miles

N

Plot Date: 12/29/2010 File Name: v:\pk\arcgis\ParkPlan2010\SubareaMaps\PkPlan10SubareasPLTSAtlasDec2010PagesSQL.mxd

Source: City of Bellevue and King County

APPENDIX II:

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM PLAN 2009-2015

The following pages include the City Council-approved Capital Investment Program Plan (CIP), which includes the projects within this plan that have been funded. The CIP is updated by the Council every two years. Future editions of the CIP can be access at the *Bellevue Finance Department* web site.

City of Bellevue, Washington

2009-2015 Capital Investment Program Plan

For the Biennium
January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010

Bellevue City Council
Grant Degginger, Mayor
Claudia Balducci, Deputy Mayor
Patsy Bonincontri
John Chelminiak
Don Davidson
Conrad Lee
Phil Noble

City of Bellevue, Washington
2009 – 2015
Capital Investment Program Plan

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 – Reader's Guide

Chapter 2 – Executive Summary

Chapter 3 – CIP Project Prioritization Criteria

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM PLAN (CIP) sections each contain the following:

Introductory Comments
Funded Projects List
Funded Projects Map
Cost and Resource Summary
CIP Project Description Pages
Projects Completed, Combined, or Deleted list
New Operating Costs Funded by the CIP

Chapter 4 – Roadways

Chapter 5 – Intersections

Chapter 6 – Walkways/Bikeways

Chapter 7 – Maintenance/Minor Capital

Chapter 8 – Park Acquisition & Development

Chapter 9 – Park Redevelopment

Chapter 10 – General Government

Chapter 11 – Public Safety

Chapter 12 – Community Development

Chapter 13 – Economic Development

Chapter 14 – Neighborhood Enhancement Program

Chapter 15 – Neighborhood Investment Strategy

Chapter 16 – Water

Chapter 17 – Sewer

Chapter 18 – Storm Drainage

Introductory Comments

The objective of projects in this category is the development of a comprehensive park system in Bellevue. The *Parks and Open Space System Plan* provides guidelines for use in this and future CIP plans in accomplishing this goal. All of the projects included herein are identified in the *Parks and Open Space System Plan*.

Three phases - acquisition, master planning, and development - are generally required before park facilities become a part of Bellevue's park system. Each of the Park Acquisition and Development projects incorporates one or more of these phases. Acquisition projects will provide additional parcels to complete the park system, whereas master planning and development projects will redesign or develop facilities to help meet recreational demand and community growth. Acquisition and development projects are distributed throughout the community, each representing a unique or special need.

The projects included in this CIP Plan were identified from community subarea plans, the *Parks and Open Space System Plan*, the Park Board, City staff recommendations, and from citizen or group requests.

2009-2015 Adopted CIP: Park Acquisition & Development

Funded CIP Projects

CIP Plan Number	Project Name	Project Status	$ in 000s 2009-2015 Project Cost	Total Estimated Cost
P-AD-15	Property Acquisition	O	$10,088	$66,682
P-AD-27	Planning/Design for Existing and Future Park Facilities	O	1,718	5,112
P-AD-30	Open Space Acquisitions	AB	87	6,376
P-AD-34	Trail Development	O	1,424	2,245
P-AD-49	LID Assessments for Park Properties	AB	231	1,691
P-AD-52	Mini Park Opportunities	O	4,623	6,447
P-AD-59	Resource Management Division Facility	AB	1,037	1,998
P-AD-69	Bellevue Challenge Grant	AB	5,035	6,556
P-AD-78	Citywide Streetscapes Enhancement Program	O	2,270	2,796
P-AD-79	King County Special Property Tax Levy	AB	1,560	1,872
P-AD-80	Green Infrastructure Master Plan	N	150	150
P-AD-81	Parks Levy Implementation Project	N	52,223	52,223
	TOTAL PARK ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT		$80,447	$154,148

Project Status Key:
AB = Approved and Begun — O = Ongoing
ANB = Approved and Not Begun — N = New

2007-2013 Adopted CIP: Park Acquisition & Development

Cost and Resource Summary
$000

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2009-2015 Total
TOTAL BASE CIP COSTS	$38,945	$9,191	$6,351	$6,454	$6,549	$6,389	$6,568	$80,447
TOTAL SUPPLEMENTAL CIP COSTS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL COSTS	$38,945	$9,191	$6,351	$6,454	$6,549	$6,389	$6,568	$80,447
RESOURCES								
GENERAL CIP REVENUE	$29,215	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$29,215
REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX	4,935	5,341	2,501	2,604	2,699	2,851	3,030	23,961
PARKS PROPERTY TAX LEVY	3,389	3,389	3,389	3,389	3,389	3,389	3,389	23,723
GRANTS/INTERGOVERNMENTAL/ DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS:								
King County Contributions	1,257	312	312	312	312	-	-	2,505
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER CITY FUNDS:								
Human Services Fund	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	1,043
TOTAL RESOURCES	$38,945	$9,191	$6,351	$6,454	$6,549	$6,389	$6,568	$80,447

2009-2015 Adopted CIP: Park Acquisition & Development

Projects Completed or Anticipated to be Completed by End of 2008

CIP Plan Number	Project Name	Total Estimated Cost ($000s)
P-AD-36	Sportsfield Development	$6,442
P-AD-57	Youth Link Priority Projects	928
P-AD-58	Crossroads Park and Community Center	5,895
P-AD-60	Lewis Creek Park Site - Master Planning & Park Development	6,169
P-AD-61	South Bellevue Community Center	12,410
P-AD-65	Kelsey Creek Park Stream Restoration	1,493
P-AD-70	Marina Development Master Plan	231
P-AD-75	Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center	10,536
P-AD-76	Ashwood Plaza Development	1,220
P-AD-77	Boeing Access Road Improvement	2,525

New Operating Costs Funded by the Capital Investment Program (CIP)
$000

CIP Plan No.	Project Name	2009 Budget	2010 Budget
P-AD-65	Kelsey Creek Park Stream Restoration	$51.8	$53.1
P-AD-75	Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center	179.3	157.0
	TOTAL ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT	$231.1	$210.1

Introductory Comments

The objectives for projects in this category are to renovate facilities in a timely manner, to maintain the initial investment in City facilities, to limit hazardous or liability situations, and to redevelop facilities in order to increase or maintain their usage. Park Redevelopment projects appear separately from Park Acquisition and Development projects to highlight their equal priority and significance in maintaining the park system.

Though maintenance and renovation are needed on an annual basis, the associated costs are usually minor compared to the initial investment in a facility. It is the policy of the City to provide maintenance of park facilities through the Operating Budget rather than the Capital Investment Program. However, many of the park facilities are over 30 years old and in need of major renovation or total redesign to suit new demands or changes in recreation activities. Additionally, emphasis has been placed on providing a renovation/accessibility program throughout the City.

Projects competing for available funds were identified from community subarea plans, the *Parks and Open Space System Plan*, the Park Board, City staff recommendations, and from citizen or group requests.

2009-2015 Adopted CIP: Park Redevelopment

Funded CIP Projects

CIP Plan Number	Project Name	Project Status	$ in 000s 2009-2015 Project Cost	Total Estimated Cost
P-R-02	Enterprise Facility Improvements	O	$2,367	$10,923
P-R-11	Renovation & Refurbishment of Park Facilities	O	24,478	46,584
	TOTAL PARK REDEVELOPMENT		$26,845	$57,507

Project Status Key:
AB = Approved and Begun
ANB = Approved and Not Begun
O = Ongoing
N = New

2009-2015 Adopted CIP: Park Redevelopment

Cost and Resource Summary
$000

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2009-2015 Total
TOTAL BASE CIP COSTS	$3,820	$3,484	$3,618	$3,758	$3,903	$4,053	$4,209	$26,845
TOTAL SUPPLEMENTAL CIP COSTS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL COSTS	$3,820	$3,484	$3,618	$3,758	$3,903	$4,053	$4,209	$26,845
GENERAL CIP REVENUE	$3,295	$3,155	$50	$50	$50	$50	$50	$6,700
REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX	-	11	3,240	3,370	3,505	3,645	3,791	17,562
GRANTS/INTERGOVERNMENTAL/ DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS:								
State Grants	216	-	-	-	-	-	-	216
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER CITY FUNDS:								
Parks Enterprise Fund	309	318	328	338	348	358	368	2,367
TOTAL RESOURCES	$3,820	$3,484	$3,618	$3,758	$3,903	$4,053	$4,209	$26,845

APPENDIX III:
RESOURCE & REFERENCE LINKS

Bellevue, A City in a Park

Adopting Resolution 8083	http://www.bellevuewa.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_4779004/file/UserFiles/Ser
City of Bellevue Main Page	www.bellevuewa.gov
Human Services Needs Update Community Profile	www.bellevuewa.gov/humanservices_needs_update.htm
American Community Survey	factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en
Bellevue Comprehensive Plan	www.bellevuewa.gov/comprehensive_plan.htm

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Bellevue Parks & Community Services	http://www.bellevuewa.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_4779004/file/pdf/Parks/09
Bellevue Comprehensive Plan: Parks, Recreation & Open Space Element	www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/CompPlan_Vol_1_11.ParksRecOSElemnt.pdf
Bellevue Comprehensive Plan: Environmental Element	www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/CompPlan_Vol_1_09.Environment.pdf
Bellevue Comprehensive Plan: Shoreline Management Element	www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/CompPlan_Vol_1_12.ShorelineMngmnt.pdf
Bellevue Critical Areas Ordinance	www.bellevuewa.gov/critical_areas_update.htm
Bellevue Shoreline Management Program	www.bellevuewa.gov/shoreline-master-plan.htm
Environmental Best Management Practices & Design Standards Manual	www.bellevuewa.gov/Parks_Env_Best_Mgmt_Practices.htm
Parks & Community Services Survey	www.bellevuewa.gov/park_plan_update.htm

Planning for the Future

Commission for Accreditation of Parks & Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)	www.nrpa.org/capra
Washington State: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan	www.rco.wa.gov/recreation/scorp.shtml
Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office	www.rco.wa.gov
Bellevue Finance Department Performance Surveys	www.bellevuewa.gov/citizen_outreach_performance.htm
Bellevue Pedestrian & Bicycle Transportation Plan	www.bellevuewa.gov/pedbikeplan.htm

Capital Project Recommendations

Bellevue Downtown Implementation Plan	www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/Downtown_Plan.pdf
Bellevue Bel-Red Subarea Plan	www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/SP01.BelRed2009_07.pdf
Bellevue Cultural Compass Plan	www.bellevuewa.gov/cultural_compass.htm

Financing Capital Projects

Bellevue Capital Investment Program Plan	www.bellevuewa.gov/budgets.htm

City of Bellevue
Parks & Community Services
www.bellevuewa.gov