

**Neighborhood Leadership Gathering
Parks and Open Spaces System Plan
October 7, 2021**

Meeting Summary

The Neighborhood Leadership Gathering on October 7, 2021 was held as a virtual Zoom meeting focused on Parks and Open Spaces. Michael Shiosaki, the Director of Parks and Community Services, provided an overview of Bellevue's Parks and Community Services and Park Planner Ryan Walker introduced the role and importance of the Parks and Open Spaces System Plan. The evening had 44 residents attend, share their priorities, and participate in breakout rooms to provide input for on Bellevue's parks and open spaces.

The mission of Bellevue's Parks and Community Services is "to build a healthy community through an integrated system of exceptional parks, natural areas, recreation, arts and culture, and a broad base of community services."

The Parks and Open Space System Plan was described as the plan with the "big ideas" - it is divided into focus areas, including Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors, & Trails, Park Facilities, Active Recreation Facilities, Urban Park Systems, Waterfront Access, Partnership Opportunities, and Historic, Cultural, & Art Resources. The Parks and Open Space System plan has a 20-year planning horizon (updated every 6 years) and provides guidance for acquisition, development, and enhancement of parks and open spaces based on community needs.

Community input from the evening covered a wide range of topics. A sample list of community ideas include:

- Preservation of natural areas
- Importance of trees along street corridors
- Investment and maintenance of parks and trail systems
- Community gardens and pea patches
- Addition of senior exercise equipment at local parks
- Interpretive signs at trailheads
- Improving safety and access at parks and trails
- Addition of pickleball courts across Bellevue
- Increase the number of off-leash dog parks citywide
- Add covered picnic shelters at community parks
- Maintaining a strong partnership and programming with Eastside Heritage
- New neighborhood park acquisition for Eastgate
- Giant embankment slides (minimum 2 per site) built into hills for children, tweens, teenagers and adults to play and connect as a gathering place (see San Francisco as a model).
- Preserve and enhance the Coal Creek Greenbelt Area (noticing a decline in wildlife traffic due to increased development).
- Complete update to Ashwood Master Plan
- ADA dock lift for accessible kayaking at Meydenbauer Bay or Enatai Beach
- Acquire more parks and open spaces for future growth, especially near multifamily housing

The conversation about ideas for Parks and Open Spaces was robust. A community survey and the ability for residents to continue to provide input on the Parks and Open Spaces System Plan is open until Monday, Nov 8th at [EngagingBellevue.com](https://www.bellevue.gov/EngagingBellevue).

