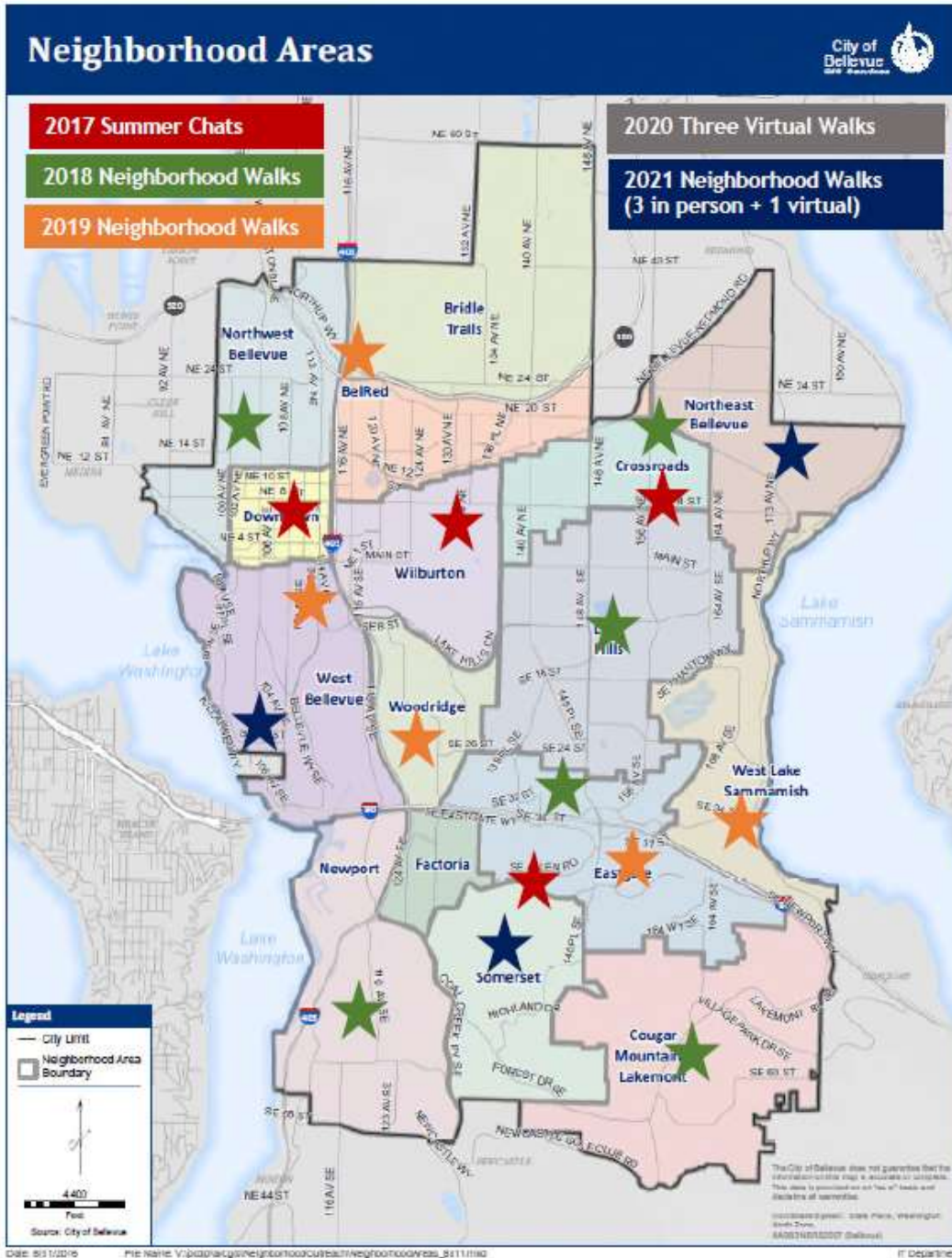


2021 NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS



EVENT SUMMARY

2021 is the fifth year of city leaders meeting the community in their neighborhoods through Summer Chats and Neighborhood Walks. Almost all Neighborhood Areas have now hosted an event, and after each series, Neighborhood Services staff receive requests from additional neighborhoods looking forward to future walks in their area.



Summarizing the Summer Chats in 2017, City Manager Brad Miyake commented:

“As we grow, we need to pay attention to how our growth contributes to our overall quality of life. We can only figure that out together. Let’s keep the conversation going.”

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK: Somerset, July 27



Attendance: 77 Total
55 Residents and 22 Staff

Summary: The Neighborhood Walk began at Somerset Elementary School, and looped through the Somerset neighborhood, and included representative homes and beautiful views to the west. The evening continued the pattern of first hearing from residents about the uniqueness of their neighborhood, and lingering and emerging concerns. Following a 40-minute walk through a portion of the neighborhood, all returned to Somerset Elementary, and residents and staff shared a summary of comments and responses.

Representative topics and comments from residents:

SOMERSET ASSETS

Anti-hate campaign was excellent. Thanks to city for doing this.

City outreach is great. Can neighborhood walks be a regular thing? Love parks and walking trails

Love park like feel of Somerset, twisting roads

Love the diversity of the community, so many cultures



Community engagement from Bellevue is great

Permitting at Bellevue is quick and easy

Gratitude for fire response

Thanks for the 4th of July! (p.s. heard Francis Britto dressed up as Uncle Sam!)

Appreciate connecting residents to services

Love the Utility response to surface water issue

SOMERSET CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS

High school and older youth creating noise, loitering, litter, crime., especially in the “view” areas of Somerset

Yard maintenance has declined at some properties

Empty homes being purchased, left vacant, absentee landlords

Tree canopy shrinking

CCR’s not enforced to preserve views and esthetics

“Don’t Seattle my Bellevue”

Do not defund police

Parking enforcement for RV’s: Why aren’t police enforcing?

Lack of walkability: need crosswalks, speed bumps to slow traffic on hills - especially near

Losing the neighborly feel, say hello to your neighbors out walking

Too many bright lights on houses, encourage people to do less bright lights and motion activated.

Concern about power lines and pipeline

Need new road capacity to accommodate shelter at Eastgate, add lanes to SE Eastgate Way

Bikes should be licensed, pay their share for infrastructure, lights should be required

How is city responding to homelessness, balancing human service needs with keeping community safe?

Concern about Bellevue School District non-response to Puesta Del Sol incident and hearing “Build the wall chants.”

The low fence area overlooking I90, which is near the site of the approved site for the men’s low barrier shelter is a safety concern for both the residents and drivers

Can we get alternative to Comcast for wi-fi?

Protect views, keep away power lines.



NEIGHBORHOOD WALK: West Bellevue, July 29

Attendance: 29 Total
16 Residents and 13 Staff



Summary: The Neighborhood Walk began at Enatai Park, and looped through a portion of the Enatai neighborhood, and included the large trees and unique homes of the area, as well as new homes under construction and tree loss. Residents shared the uniqueness of Enatai, and their concerns. A top concern is house replacement, environmental sustainability and loss of individual trees. Following a 35-minute walk through a portion of the neighborhood, residents and staff discussed the uniqueness and needs of the neighborhood.

Representative topics and comments from residents:

WEST BELLEVUE/ENATAI ASSETS

Loves the trees in the neighborhood.

Has lived here since 1974. Loves the City's Parks and enjoys seeing the young families moving in.

WEST BELLEVUE/ENATAI CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS

Concerned about the "loss of the rustic nature" of Enatai with the removal of so many trees for development.

What is Bellevue doing about preserving trees?

King County patrols near Beaux Arts daily but resident does not see BPD presence in the 10 years he's loved here.

Concerned about mailbox theft

Concerned with de-funding of police. Does the City have enough officers?

Comment regarding difference on assessed value of homes in Enatai and Beaux Arts. Home in Enatai is 1.5M at tax rate, but Beaux Arts home is only 1.0M. Why is there a

difference in taxing? He cannot use Beaux Arts Beach, but Beaux Arts residents can use any Bellevue City Parks.

Concerned with the reduction in the tree canopy and use of gas blower noise in the neighborhood.

Would love to see more review of housing plans (size allowed) by the city.

Concerned about the height of houses allowed to be built. Are there any covenants in the area to cover this?

Misses the sense of community in the neighborhood. With all the new neighbors - there is a lack of a community feel.

Does not understand the tree ordinance. Even when builders comply, the new owners need to be educated and informed that trees already removed from the property. Remaining trees need to stay.

There needs to be tougher penalties for developers that remove trees. More punitive costs may be an incentive to NOT remove trees and keep house sizes down.

Comment on the SE 16th turn situation and how 108th/Bellevue Way is blocked.

Request for a sidewalk to be installed on 107th near Triangle Pool to “finish” the connection in that location.



Concerned about the loss of the 550 bus through the neighborhood due to Light Rail. Also, loss of the 249 Metro route. Can you do anything about the I-90 noise in the neighborhood?

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK: Virtual Citywide, August 3



Attendance: 14 Total
8 Residents and 6 Staff

Summary: The Virtual Neighborhood Walk was open to all Bellevue residents, and featured extended comments from three residents, who discussed the assets and concerns in their respective neighborhoods.



The three residents were from Wilburton, West Lake Sammamish and Cougar Mountain/Lakemont neighborhoods. They each described the unique aspects of their respective neighborhoods, including a recent block party in Spiritridge, the Botanical Garden, Wilburton Park, Lewis Creek Park, excellent schools and accessibility to a variety of services.



Residents on the Virtual Walk also shared their concerns about mailbox theft, car prowlers, cut-through traffic, and an extended discussion regarding environmental sustainability and the city's efforts to contribute to the tree canopy and other measures. There were also comments about changing neighborhood character, and desire for connection with neighbors.



Residents offered welcome and posed questions to the interim police chief, and commented on the desire for neighborhood patrols.

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK: Northeast Bellevue, August 5



Attendance: 57 Total
39 Residents and 18 Staff

Summary: The Northeast Bellevue Neighborhood Walk began at the Ardmore Park, and looped through a representative neighborhood. Residents arrived early, and continued to visit at the park well passed the end of the event. Several residents also joined the walk for a short portion or visited with city leadership in their driveways.

Representative topics and comments from residents:

NORTHEAST BELLEVUE ASSETS

Friendliness, sharing by neighbors

Ability to coexist

Area is very green

Feel very safe

Like the diversity, dynamism, and parks

Love neighborhood as a good place for young families to move into

Love safety for kids, friendliness of neighbors and great location to age in place.

NORTHEAST BELLEVUE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Traffic concerns

- Desire to “bring NE 24th into the 21st century”
- Transportation connections to light rail
- Improving pedestrian safety
- BelRed paving
- Include cars in multi-modal planning - as we need them too
- Need emergency access route through BelRed
- Traffic concern with Overlake development
- Maybe consider re-convening BROTS (Bellevue, Redmond, Overlake)

Silver Cloud Inn in City of Redmond, purchase by King County

- Location surrounded by Bellevue neighborhoods
- Concerned about potential increase in criminal activity/violence
- Concerned about mental health, drug and alcohol use of residents
- Location is too close to schools, daycares, businesses and neighborhoods
- Desire City of Bellevue to protect residents from unwanted project
- Want Silver Cloud residents to get vaccinated

Megahouses

- Concerned about big houses and losing trees
- Loss of single-family homes to behemoth houses; cut down trees and no way to find out about it earlier.
Protect trees on resident lots. What can we do?



Ensure green space is honored, tree planting
Issue with ivy growing up and killing trees -
need volunteer corp. to remove ivy

Would like more continuity of trail systems

Would like signage for Keeney Park

“My biggest problem is rabbits. They are eating everything.”

Affordable housing

Aging in Place

Package stealing and mailbox theft

Can we organize a neighborhood watch?



Request for gate at Ardmore Elementary (one in favor of a gate, one opposed).

Need greater inter-jurisdictional communication

We do not stop at the border, need better collaboration with City of Redmond

Can we focus more on using more solar panels on different properties? Lead by example.

Improving Outreach

- Can we improve outreach and hearing from a broader section of our community?
- Let's not go away from all of the virtual programming, or ability for communication at council meetings that is online/virtual
- Keep things like the Goose Chase Scavenger Hunt: It was really fun!
- Fix the city website to improve public noticing. Finding commission meeting agendas is too hard!

Concern about NE/NW Neighborhood Area Plans, specifically how they deal with issues of safety and housing

