

This chapter provides information about the City of Bellevue, its form of government, management structure, location, population, business climate, and community service partnerships. This information will aid the reader in understanding Bellevue's service programs. Budgetary values have more complete meaning when placed in this context.

A. Form of Government and Organization

The City of Bellevue is a non-charter optional code city. It was incorporated on April 1, 1953. From its incorporation, Bellevue has maintained a Council-City Manager form of government. The City Manager is appointed by the Council as the chief executive officer of the City and is responsible to the Council for the proper administration of all City affairs. Councilmembers are elected at large by Bellevue voters, and each serves a four-year term. Councilmembers are part-time officials who exercise the legislative power of the city and determine city policy. Bellevue has a seven-member Council, one of whom is elected by his or her fellow members to serve as Mayor for two years. The Mayor serves as chairperson of the Council, makes appointments to Council committees, and presides over weekly Council meetings. The Mayor has an equal vote with other Councilmembers.

The offices of City Clerk, City Treasurer, and Chief of Police are subordinate positions required by state statute. They are established by the Council and appointed by the City Manager. The City Clerk is responsible for keeping public records, and the City Treasurer is responsible for the receipt, disbursement, and custody of public monies. Though the City Clerk position, by statute, can include the duties of Treasurer, the City of Bellevue has established both positions, with the City Treasurer being defined as the Finance and Asset Management Director. All officers and/or department directors of the City are appointed by the City Manager.

The following pages contain several different organization and responsibility charts. These charts illustrate the City's management organization from different perspectives.

Figure 1-1 presents an organizational chart that shows the reporting relationships that currently exist.

Figure 1-2 presents a functional organization chart showing the principal activities for which each organization is responsible. These functional responsibilities are shown in detail in the department organization charts presented in the departmental chapters of the budget.

Figure 1-3 lists the current Councilmembers and department directors.



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Figure 1-4 presents and describes the array of advisory boards and commissions.

Figure 1-5 presents and describes the community organizations that the City works with.

Figure 1-6 shows the age distribution of Bellevue's population from 1990 through 2018.

Figure 1-7 shows the race/ethnic distribution of Bellevue's population in 2018.

Figure 1-8 shows key demographic characteristics showing the 2000 and 2010 Census data with the American Community Survey (ACS) data from 2015 and the current ACS period.

Figure 1-9 summarizes other trends for 2016 through 2020.

Figure 1-1 City of Bellevue Hierarchical Organizational Chart

City of Bellevue Administrative Structure 2021-2022

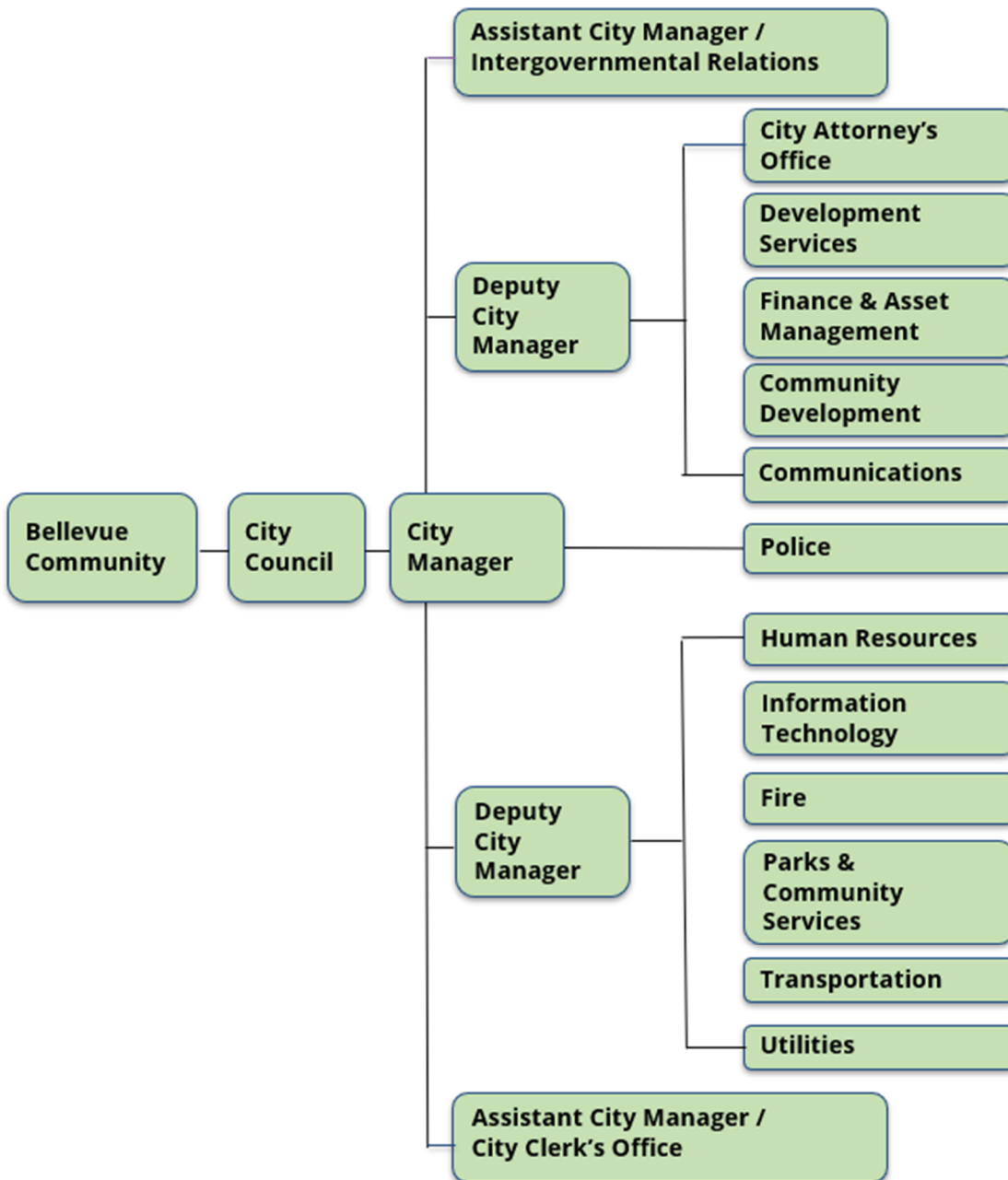


Figure 1-2 Principal Activities

City Attorney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal support for City Council, all departments, and boards and commissions • Prosecution • Litigation • Risk Management 	Finance and Asset Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General supervision over the City's financial affairs • Service First Public Service Desk • Facilities services • Mechanical and electronic equipment repair
City Clerk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council support • City records and documents • Hearing Examiner staffing • Community Council staffing 	City Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City administration • Intergovernmental relations • Media relations and publications • Diversity
Human Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel services, recruitment, selection • Matters of personnel policy • Compensation and classification • Workforce diversity • Staff training 	Fire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire suppression and rescue services • Fire prevention and education • Emergency medical services • Disaster preparedness • Hazardous materials emergency management
Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street maintenance • Transportation planning, design, construction management, and operation • Transportation Commission staffing 	Development Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development review and permitting • Clearing and grading permitting and inspection • Code enforcement
Parks & Community Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of city parks and recreation programs • Youth Link • Human services • Human Services Commission staffing • Probation • Park planning and development • Park Board staffing 	Community Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rezones • Affordable housing • Comprehensive planning • Community outreach • Planning Commission staffing • Economic and demographic statistical analysis • Community development functions of CIP • Arts program and Arts Commission staffing • Business development and retention • Redevelopment of small neighborhood centers • Promote tourism and international trade
Information Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of City's computer and telecommunications systems • Telephone systems management • Computer applications programming • Geographic information systems (GIS) 	Utilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, sewer, storm and surface water, and solid waste utilities • Private utility franchising • Utility billing • Environmental Services Commission staffing
Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing functions • Police-related community programs • Park patrol • Public safety communications center 	



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Figure 1-3 Current Councilmembers and Directors

Elected City Council

Mayor Lynne Robinson
Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis

CouncilJeremy Barksdale
..... Conrad Lee
.....Jennifer Robertson
.....John Stokes
.....Janice Zahn

Appointed Administrative Staff

City Manager Brad Miyake
Deputy City Manager..... Mary Kate Berens
Deputy City Manager..... Nathan McCommon
Director of Intergovernmental Relations..... Joyce Nichols
City Attorney Kathy Gerla
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Kyle Stannert
Development Services Director.....Mike Brennan
Finance and Asset Management Director Toni Call
Fire Chief Jay Hagen
Human Resources Director Joy St. Germain
Chief Information Officer.....Sabra Schneider
Parks & Community Services Director Michael Shiosaki
Community Development Director..... Mac Cummins
Police Chief.....Steve Mylett
Transportation DirectorAndrew Singelakis
Utilities Director Nav Otal

Figure 1-4 Advisory Boards and Commissions

Board or Commission	Description	Members	Role in Budget Process
<i>Advisory</i>			
Transportation Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports as required by the traffic standards code or requested by the City Council (BCC 3.63.070).	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews City Manager's Transportation Department proposed CIP budget and provides feedback on the Preliminary Budget.
Parks & Community Services Board	The Board shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. With respect to city parks and community services facilities and programs, the Board may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the City Council. The Board shall review, advise, and make recommendations to the Council on policies regarding parks and open space and community services issues (BCC 3.62.070).	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advises the Council on the Parks' CIP. Reviews existing and potential new CIP projects. Communicates CIP priorities to Council via a Board-approved memo and oral communication to Council.
Environmental Services Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the City Council. The Commission shall review, advise, and make recommendations to the Council on city water, sewer, storm and surface water, and solid waste utility programs (BCC 3.55.070).	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advises Council on Utilities Department budget through approval of Water, Sewer, and Storm Drainage rates.

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Board or Commission	Description	Members	Role in Budget Process
Human Services Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the City Council. The Commission shall review, advise, and make recommendations to the Council on human services issues and policy (BCC 3.61.070).	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews and recommends to Council funding for various Human Services agencies (including Parks, Community Development, Development Services, Police, and Fire). The Commission's role includes reviewing City and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.
Planning Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the City Council, and shall review, advise and make recommendations to the Council regarding the comprehensive plan, land use issues, and the city's vision (BCC 3.64.070).	7	N/A
Library Advisory Board	The Board shall make periodic reports and recommendations to the City Council and City Manager relative to the scope and quality of library services being provided by the King County Library District to the residents of the city and, to the extent, it is requested to do so by the City Manager, shall represent the city's interests before the King County Library Board with respect to such services. (BCC 3.67.040).	7	N/A
Arts Commission	The Commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council. The Commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the Council concerning matters of art (BCC 3.56.070).	7	N/A

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Board or Commission	Description	Members	Role in Budget Process
Non-Advisory			
Bellevue Convention Center	To govern the affairs of the Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA), which was established by City Council action on December 4, 1989. All corporate powers of the BCCA are exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Directors.	7	N/A
Civil Service	To provide for, formulate, and hold competitive tests to determine the relative qualifications of persons who seek employment for the position of Police Officer or Firefighter with the City of Bellevue; to provide promotion based on merit, to give uniformed personnel tenure; and to provide for a commission to investigate, by a public hearing, suspensions, demotions, and dischargers.	5	N/A
Diversity Advisory Network	To provide counsel to the city on how to better reach, serve, communicate, and collaborate with Bellevue's diverse community; to collect community feedback to help assess city services from a cultural competency lens; to engage in cross-cultural dialogue focused on diversity issues; and to provide feedback and insight on issues relevant to communities in Bellevue.	21	N/A
LEOFF 1 Disability Board	To act upon, approve, or deny firefighters' and law enforcement officers' claims for disability leave/retirement or medical benefits.	5	N/A
Youth Link Board	To advise the City Council on issues facing Bellevue's youth, to involve youth in current community issues, to utilize youth ideas to address community concerns, and to create new outlets for youth opportunities.	12	N/A

B. Location, Population, and Business Climate

A Growing City

Spanning an area of 4.7 square miles near Meydenbauer Bay, the City of Bellevue was incorporated in 1953, with a population of 5,950. Development continued in areas east of the city, including the building of the Lake Hills planned community, which brought hundreds of new families to the area. Construction of the Evergreen Point Floating bridge also facilitated further growth. The young city proceeded to annex neighboring areas, growing to span over 28 square miles and reaching over 61,000 in population by 1970.

During the 1970s and 80s, annexation and population growth continued, but at a slower pace. Employment growth took off with the number of jobs quadrupling. For the first time, in 1990, the number of jobs in Bellevue, 89,910, surpassed the number of residents, 86,874.

Over the last couple of decades, Bellevue has grown beyond its “suburban” status to become a thriving metropolitan city that is home to many of the world’s leading high-tech firms. Today Bellevue has an estimated population of 148,100 (the fifth largest city in the state) and an equally large employment base of 152,758 jobs. By 2035, Bellevue is projected to reach over 160,400 residents and nearly 185,100 jobs.



Location

Strategically located at the intersection of Interstate 90, State Route 520, and Interstate 405, Bellevue is both the geographic center and the economic anchor of the Eastside. It is 11 miles from Seattle to the west, 28 miles from Everett to the north, and 36 miles from Tacoma to the south. Bellevue is also about three hours north of Portland, Oregon, and three hours south of Vancouver, Canada.

A “City in a Park”

With the Cascade Mountains to the east, the Olympic Mountains to the west, and Mount Rainier to the south, Bellevue is surrounded by natural beauty. When viewed from the air, Bellevue fulfills its image as a “City in a Park.” Lying between Lakes Washington and Sammamish, interlaced with miles of urban forests, open streams, wetlands, freshwater lakes, and foothills rising to almost 1,500 feet, Bellevue is blessed with a rich natural



environment. The city treasures and protects these natural places, maintaining more than 2,700 acres – nearly 13 percent of its land area – in city-owned open space, including natural areas and developed parks, greenbelts, and wetlands. Even in the heart of the downtown business district, Bellevue’s Downtown Park provides a green respite, an informal gathering place, and a popular location for special events and celebrations. Abundant vegetation softens the impacts of commercial areas and blends them into the natural environment.

Bellevue provides residents and visitors with a wealth of year-round outdoor recreation opportunities, including sailing, fishing, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, bicycling, golf, and water skiing.



Quality Neighborhoods

Visitors to Bellevue often remark that the city feels “safe and clean.” Residents and businesses value well-maintained homes and properties. The city places a high priority on maintaining public infrastructure, opting to ensure that existing facilities are in good condition before building new ones. Bellevue is also a safe place, with relatively low crime rates for a community of its size.

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In 2020, 63,788 households resided in Bellevue. Residents choose from a variety of housing types and living environments, ranging from quiet, older neighborhoods to new high-rise communities in Downtown, to modern view homes on Cougar Mountain near Bellevue's southern edge. This diverse range of housing options provides choices for people in all phases of life.

A Vibrant Downtown

Downtown Bellevue is among the Northwest's most distinctive business districts, featuring a successful mix of office towers, stores, theatres, restaurants, and hotels, along with such institutions as the Bellevue Arts Museum, the Bellevue Regional Library, and the Meydenbauer Convention Center. Over 58,175 jobs are located Downtown and an increasing number of people (13,892 in 2018) live in Downtown, where new apartments and condominiums are coalescing into true urban neighborhoods. A majority of the city's future growth is planned to occur in Downtown and BelRed as those neighborhoods continue to redevelop.



A Strong Economy

Stay-at-home measures, ordered to slow the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, have closed down sectors of the Bellevue economy. Brick-and-mortar retailers were particularly hard-hit resulting in substantial job losses. However, other sectors of the local economy, particularly construction, saw substantial growth during 2020, offsetting some of the impact of COVID-19 on other parts of the economy. In comparison to the rest of the Puget Sound region, the City of Bellevue has a relatively bright outlook, with lower unemployment, higher per capita income, and faster home price growth outpacing the rest of the communities in the region.

Overall, the fundamentals of the Bellevue economy are strong. As part of a large and complex metropolitan region of 4.0 million people, Bellevue is a hub for information technology, aerospace, business services, and retail companies. Microsoft, T-Mobile, Amazon, Concur, Symetra, and Boeing are some of its largest employers.

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The city also has three of the premier health care providers in the region, Overlake Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, and Children's Hospital, located just east of Downtown, in Bellevue's medical district.

Downtown Bellevue and Bel-Red are receiving public investment in the form of the 14-mile light-rail extension from Seattle to Microsoft's headquarters that is set to open in 2023. Sound Transit continues to build the light rail and is on target to open in 2023. This investment in the downtown core will draw more investment into downtown. In fact, Colliers counts more than 1.8 million square feet of new office space planned in the Bel-Red corridor and the Overlake area. More than one-third of this space is recently completed or under construction in the Spring District, and all of it has been claimed by Facebook. Hundreds of apartments have been built in the Spring District with one complex already sold for \$150 million. (Source: *Puget Sound Business Journal*)

In typical years, Meydenbauer Convention Center attracts over a quarter of a million people to the city each year. While visitors were down in 2020 due to closures and reduced capacity necessitated by the response to COVID-19, Meydenbauer Convention Center will continue to be an attraction for Bellevue visitors in future years. The Port of Seattle, the seventh-largest container port in North America, is less than 20 minutes from Downtown Bellevue. The city is less than half an hour from the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and several commuter airfields, which provide links to other cities in the Pacific Northwest as well as international destinations.

Downtown's luxury shopping centers, the Bellevue Collection, and the Shops at the Bravern pull in tourists from all over the world. Bellevue's current daytime population is estimated at 243,100, and Bellevue ranks second in the state for retail sales and second in King County for property values (as measured by assessed valuation).

Bellevue Schools and Higher Education

Bellevue's strong economy is directly related to Bellevue being one of the most highly educated communities in the nation, with 69 percent of its adult residents having achieved a bachelor's degree or higher in 2019. The city's schools are also consistently rated among the best in the country, which attracts families to the city.

With a total enrollment of 20,295 students in 2019-2020, the Bellevue School District includes 16 regular elementary schools, one Spanish Immersion elementary school, one Mandarin dual-language elementary school, five regular middle schools, four regular high schools, and two alternative middle/high



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schools. Four of Bellevue School District's regular high schools were awarded gold medals by the U.S. News and World Report's 2020 ranking of Best High Schools.

Bellevue is also home to Bellevue College, the fourth largest institution of higher learning in Washington. While the majority of Bellevue College students come from communities throughout the greater Puget Sound region, many students come from all over the world, including over 1,400 international students from more than 61 countries. Bellevue College had an average quarterly enrollment of 13,887 students for the 2019-2020 enrollment year.

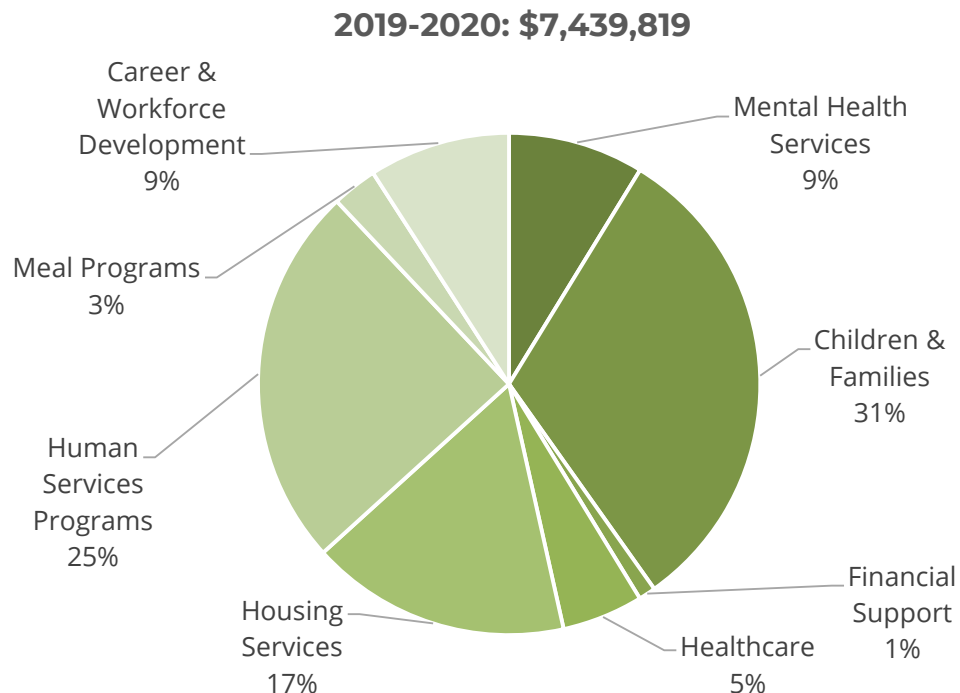
Climate

Mild winters and cool summers characterize Bellevue. High temperatures in July average about 77° F (25° C) compared to an 86° F (30° C) United States average, while low temperatures in January average 36° F (2° C) compared to a 23° F (-5° C) United States average. Average rainfall in the region is about 41 inches per year compared to 24 inches in San Francisco, 38 inches in Chicago, and 49 inches in Boston.

Community Partnerships

Bellevue partners with dozens of local and regional nonprofits to deliver essential services to individuals and families. In 2019 and 2020, the City of Bellevue provided \$7.5 million in grants to nonprofits to provide healthcare, meals, housing, and other social services to low-income and at-risk populations.

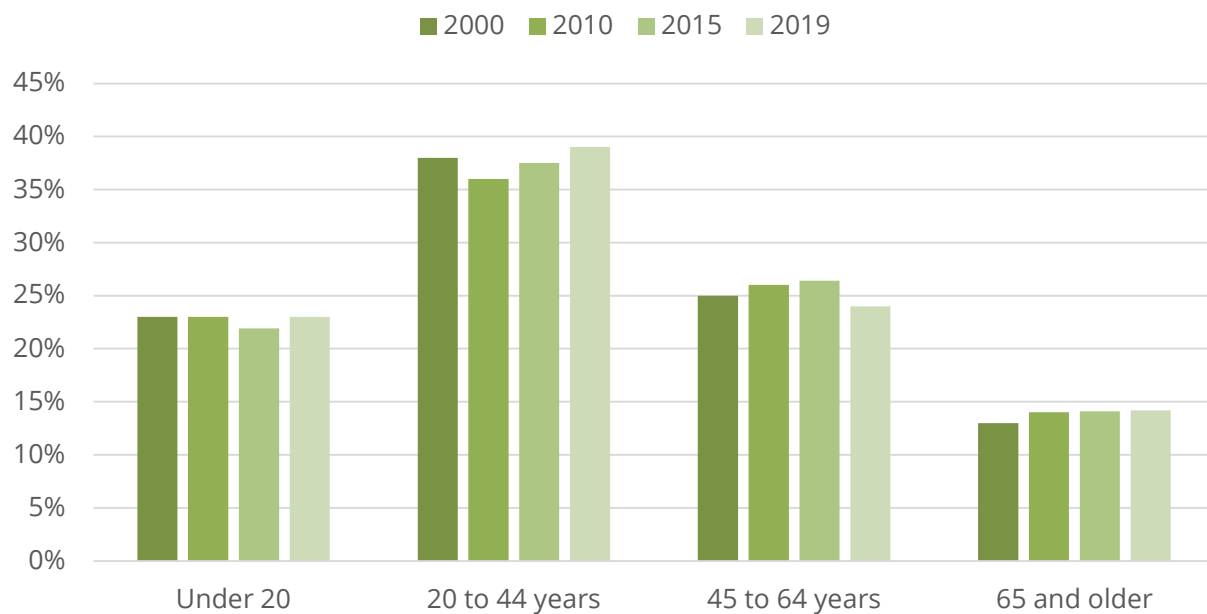
Figure 1-5 Community Partnership Spending, 2019-2020



Demographics

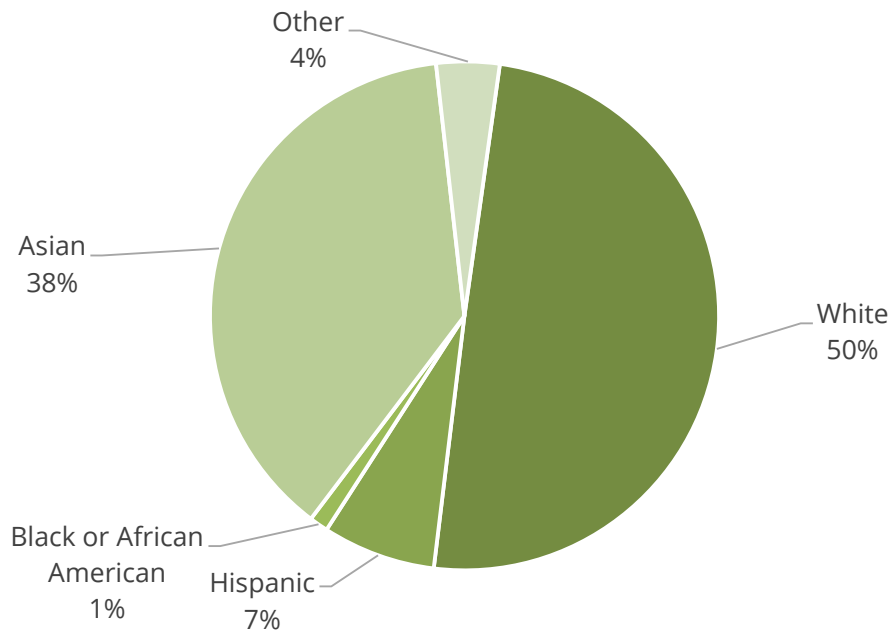
Bellevue's estimated population as of September 1, 2020 was 148,100, and it is projected to reach 163,100 by 2035. As the city has matured over the decades and its population has grown, Bellevue has become more diverse socially, culturally, and economically as demonstrated by the charts below.

Figure 1-6 Age Distribution of Bellevue's Population, 1990 – 2019



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000 and 2010 Census and 2019 American Community Survey; Historical Geographic Information System: Version 2.0. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota 2011.

Figure 1-7 Race / Ethnic Distribution



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey; Washington State Office of Financial Management for the citywide population.

Figure 1-8 Summary of Key Demographic Trends

Demographic Characteristics	2000 Census	2010 Census	2015 ACS	2019 ACS
Median age	38.2	38.5	38.2	36.5
Percent of population age 65 or older	13%	14%	14%	14%
Percent of a minority race or ethnicity	28%	41%	41%	50%
Percent Asian	17%	28%	31%	38%
Percent population foreign born*	25%	33%	36%	41%
Percent of population (age 5+) that speak a language other than English at home*	27%	38%	40%	44%
Percent of adults (age 25+) with a Bachelor's degree or higher*	54%	59%	63%	71%
Percent of employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations*	53%	60%	60%	67%

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Demographic Characteristics	2000 Census	2010 Census	2015 ACS	2019 ACS
Household median income (in 2019 inflation adjusted dollars)*	\$89,179	\$91,993	\$105,402	\$127,402
Percent of individuals with incomes below poverty*	6%	7%	7%	6%
* Note: Not all American Community Survey estimates are directly comparable to decennial census figures.				

Source: US Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, 2010 Census and 2019 American Community Survey.

Figure 1-9 Other Trends

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.2%	2.9%	2.5%	6.4%**
Assessed Value (billions)	\$44.4	\$49.4	\$56.5	\$64.9	\$68.1
Total Budget All City Funds (millions)***	\$869.3	\$970.3	\$944.1	\$1,064.4	\$1,126.7

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, King County Assessor, City of Bellevue amended budget.

*September 2020 data

**Employment statistics significantly impacted by COVID-19

*** Includes reserves