



# BELLEVUE IT'S YOUR CITY

June 2021

Page 4



New gateway at Downtown Park

Page 7



Preserving streams

Page 8



East Link milestone



Raffy Akers receives a shot at Downtown Park on May 17. “Just doing my part,” he noted.

## Bellevue pop-up vaccine clinics helping halt pandemic

By Lt. Camari Olson, Fire Public Information Officer

The spread of COVID-19 in the state was steadily slowing in May and June, as more and more people got vaccinated against the deadly disease. Bellevue firefighter-paramedic mobile teams are helping, delivering hundreds of doses from pop-up clinics at parks and apartment complexes.

“Saving lives is core to our mission, so we are happy and proud to make a difference in this fight against the coronavirus,” Fire Chief Jay Hagen said.

While protecting yourself and your loved ones from the coronavirus is a monumental reward in itself, vaccinated Washingtonians are also eligible for a \$1 million “Shot of a Lifetime” prize courtesy of the State Lottery, with the drawing on July 13.

You can find out where pop-up clinics will be in Bellevue in

coming weeks by consulting [BellevueWA.gov/vaccines](https://BellevueWA.gov/vaccines).

Bellevue’s mobile vaccine teams first deployed in January, using vaccine supplied by Public Health – Seattle & King County to administer doses to residents and staff at adult family homes. In February, they expanded the program to senior living facilities, transitional housing facilities and homebound people.

In April, when everyone aged 16 and older was eligible for vaccines in Washington, the Bellevue mobile teams began staffing pop-up clinics at parks and other locations around the city, as well as neighboring cities for which the Bellevue department provides services.

Overall, the mobile vaccine teams had administered over 3,000 vaccine shots (Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson) as of early June, 350 from pop-ups.

As of June 14, 69.9% of eligible King County residents were fully vaccinated.

The target was at least 70% of Washingtonians vaccinated by June 30, the date by which the governor hoped to be able to lift many pandemic-related restrictions in the state.

In King County, as vaccination rates climbed in May, a fourth wave of infections steadily declined, from a 14-day incidence rate of 263 per 100,000 people on April 30 to 48 per 100,000 on June 14. With many of the most vulnerable populations vaccinated by March, deaths and hospitalizations never spiked dramatically during the fourth wave.

As Bellevue emerges from the pandemic, a total of 4,511 people in Bellevue had tested positive for COVID-19 sometime between March 2020 and June 14, according to Public Health – Seattle & King County. Of those people, 285 were hospitalized and 67 died.

## Optimism dominates State of City discussion

By Michelle DeGrand, Deputy Communications Officer

When Mayor Lynne Robinson and Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis joined Bellevue Downtown Association president Patrick Bannon for the annual State of the City address on May 25 (delivered through virtual livestream for the second time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic), they spoke optimistically about Bellevue’s future prospects, including the city’s ability to adapt and recover through the pandemic.

“I just want to commend this community,” said Mayor Robinson during the discussion, which was themed Bellevue Strong: Embracing our Future. “COVID’s been tough, but this city has never slept. We have not just sat down and watched what was going to happen. We’ve been proactive from day one ... We’ve carried each other through this, and I’m really proud.”

The mayor and deputy mayor also discussed growth and transportation, equity, affordable housing, human services, and the recent update to the council vision and priorities. Much of the discussion centered around topics of interest ranked by Bellevue Downtown Association members.

Nieuwenhuis noted Bellevue’s sustained, strong growth trajectory despite COVID-19, with construction booming downtown and the expectation that the city would experience a “v-shaped” recovery, meaning it will be faster than from typical recessions.

Robinson added that the city is carefully managing its growth through planned development areas in BelRed and Wilburton and a “Grand Connection” corridor through downtown that will provide critical connections between business areas, neighborhoods and transportation options.

By adding bike lanes, enhancing crosswalks, investing in regional trail systems and advocating for key transportation projects ahead of the expected growth, the city is improving the overall transportation network in Bellevue for all users, Robinson said.

Regarding equity, the mayor cited a review of police use-of-force policies and other key initiatives intended to ensure good services and opportunities for Bellevue’s diverse population. When the council met this spring to discuss their updated vision and three-year council priorities, equity and inclusion “permeated” the discussions, Robinson added.

continued on page 3

PRSTD STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Bellevue, WA  
Permit NO. 61

ECRWSS-C  
POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

City of Bellevue  
P.O. Box 90012  
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012



# COUNCIL CORNER



By Councilmember Janice Zahn

What do you love to do in Bellevue? What's your favorite place? Do you, like me, take photographs of the abundant flowers and birds at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, waiting patiently for that moment the bee is gathering nectar? Or do you enjoy getting fresh air on one of our many trails (amongst the trees or along the beach) or on a paddle at the Mercer Slough? Perhaps you like to play ball or do yoga in the park, enjoying a colorful sunrise or sunset?

June is a traditional time for celebrations – graduations, weddings, newborn babies. This year it's a time of transitions and new beginnings too here. As the city and our region fully reopen from the long pandemic, it seems appropriate to reflect on how we will emerge even stronger than before, grounded in equitable communities, innovative thinking and environmental sustainability. Naming these three values in the Council Vision sets the guiding North Star so fundamental to our successes.

## Emerging stronger with environmental stewardship actions

As Bellevue continues to grow, we are planning for a brighter future, with more parks and open space, recognizing that we are like trees, relying on strong roots, nutrient-rich soils and adequate water to thrive. Bellevue has stayed focused on leading with innovation, centered on equitable communities. We're working to drive environmental sustainability in our everyday choices, our short- and long-term policies, and our actions.

mobility and land use, natural systems and waste).

These actions will help us achieve our goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions communitywide 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. Knowing the urgency of early action, my colleagues and I added \$200,000 to the biennial budget to focus on quick wins and enhanced engagement.

Partnerships will continue to be key to our success.

enhancements. Puget Sound Energy is providing free EV charging stations for city employees and fleet.

Our 2021 work plan includes:

- An energy efficiency technical support program (with state funding) for commercial and multifamily buildings
- home energy retrofit program
- tree giveaway program
- watershed management plan
- Energy efficiency projects in city facilities and a plan for electrifying our vehicle fleet

The COVID-19 recovery is our time to recommit to a Bellevue that is inclusive, innovative and sustainable. Join us in taking meaningful, urgent and collective actions to ensure Bellevue's environment is healthy and strong for future generations.

You can try converting to rooftop solar and electric vehicles, working toward zero waste and lower energy use at home and at work or plant trees in your yard. It will take all of us, joining hands, minds and hearts together. Let's include and involve the littlest kiddos too. We can and will do it!

Have a sustainability idea or partnership the city should consider? Share it with me, at [jzahn@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jzahn@bellevuewa.gov). Follow what we are up to at [BellevueWA.gov/environment](https://BellevueWA.gov/environment).



The Bellevue Botanical Garden, one of Councilmember Zahn's favorite Bellevue locations, is rich with fall colors in this picture she took.

In December, we updated the Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan, which outlines 77 actions over the next five years in five focus areas (climate, energy,

Residents and other stakeholders will weigh in through the new Sustainable Bellevue Partnership. Amazon is contributing funding for tree planting and park

# COUNCIL ROUNDUP

By Claude Iosso, It's Your City Editor

## With signs of economy reviving, Bellevue voted Best City

Staff on May 24 reported significant bright spots in the economic picture for Bellevue over the first quarter, including unemployment trending down to 4.4% in March from a high above 11% last spring, hotel occupancy at a 12-month high and 9 million square feet of office space under development, 90% of it pre-leased.

In something of an endorsement for city services, Eastsiders voted Bellevue "Best City" in 425 Magazine's annual best of edition, staff noted.

Advancing an updated economic development plan council approved in November, the city took on broad-based business recovery efforts, including small business relief grants, and worked to build capacity and partnerships.

## Less parking to be required near transit

On April 26, the City Council adopted a land use code change reducing minimum parking requirements for certain residential developments near frequent transit service. The code amendment advances Bellevue's Affordable Housing Strategy by reducing

the cost of residential developments and encouraging more affordable housing around key transit areas.

The code amendment, which conforms the city's parking standards with state laws, uses a two-tiered system to set reduced parking requirements based on transit proximity and frequency. Future light rail or bus rapid transit stops opening within two years are considered as eligible transit service.

Prior to the council action, the city conducted outreach on this code amendment through notices and public hearings before the Bellevue Planning Commission and the East Bellevue Community Council. The proposed code amendments were the result of collaboration between the city, the development community, interested members of the public and affordable housing providers.

The council unanimously adopted the code change. The East Bellevue Community Council rejected the code change for its area in early May.

## Update on human services needs

Human services needs in Bellevue hit record levels during the pandemic, with local service agencies requesting \$7 million

in funding from the city in 2020. The City Council received an update on April 19 on the process to collect data this year to guide the council when it next allocates human services funding in the spring of 2022.

In 2020, the council allocated just over \$4 million to the city's Human Services Fund. After the surge of funding requests from more than 100 organizations, the council allocated an additional \$3.9 million to support urgent needs related to the pandemic, including emergency financial help, food, child care, shelters and mental health and domestic violence support.

The Human Services Fund supports organizations providing direct services and assistance to residents. Data collected this summer via surveys and community conversations will be included in the Human Services Needs Update. Local agencies will be able to apply for funding in March 2022.

The Human Services Commission will then review the data and applications, and issue recommendations to the council. The council is expected to take action on the recommendations as part of the biennial budget deliberations next year.



A group participates in the North Bellevue Community Center's Silver Sneakers exercise class.

## Parks facilities opening; City Hall still closed for now

By Christina Faine, Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

With more parks facilities opening and programs returning this spring and summer, Bellevue is regaining even more of that “city in a park” vibe. Want to swim, skate or play ping pong or basketball? Thinking about participating in theater or in-person art classes again? All of the community centers are offering programming for participants who preregister.

City Hall, the Bellevue Service Center, fire stations and police substations remain closed to the public as of It’s Your City publication.

Police, fire and permit inspection services continue to be provided in person, while others are provided remotely. City meetings were still virtual in June.

### Parks programs returning

After a year’s hiatus, Bellevue’s popular summer day camps, both indoor and out, are back at limited capacity, with protocols to ensure kids are sufficiently distanced and children stay home when they are sick.

The Lake Hills Ranger Station, Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center and Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center are set to reopen July 1. They have been offering outdoor programs since April.

The REI boathouses at Enatai and Meydenbauer Bay are open for canoe, kayak and stand-up paddle board rentals and classes. The Bellevue Zip Tour is open at Eastgate Park. Parks is scheduling picnic sites and ballfields for rental.

Starting June 26, lifeguards will be at Enatai, Meydenbauer Bay and Newcastle beaches every day through Labor Day. Chism, Clyde and Chesterfield beaches will be guarded July 3 through mid-August.

## State of the City continued from page 1



Mayor Lynne Robinson, Bellevue Downtown Association president Patrick Bannon (center) and Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis rehearse for the State of the City address.

The mayor and deputy mayor highlighted the city’s allocation of millions of dollars over the past year to support residents and businesses struggling during the extended economic shutdown.

“Fortunately we live in a city that has poured every extra penny into human services and business support, and our large employers have joined us in doing that,” said Robinson.

Circling back to pandemic recovery at the end of the discussion, Nieuwenhuis declared, “I’m very bullish on Bellevue. we will emerge from this stronger than ever.”

A recording of the entire 55-minute conversation is available at [BellevueDowntown.com/discover/bellevue-state-of-the-city](https://BellevueDowntown.com/discover/bellevue-state-of-the-city).

## Conflict Resolution Center helps tenants and landlords prevent evictions

By Marcia McReynolds, Conflict Resolution Center Manager

With the state eviction moratorium set to end June 30, the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center is ramping up to help landlords and tenants negotiate rent repayment plans.

If you are a tenant who fell behind in rent because of COVID-19 or a landlord with tenants who have, please go to [BellevueWA.gov/conflict-resolution-center](https://BellevueWA.gov/conflict-resolution-center) for help.

Bellevue’s Conflict Resolution Center is offering the Eviction Resolution Program in partnership with Resolution Washington, a statewide consortium of dispute resolution centers. Assistance is provided to help ensure the interests of both the landlord and the tenant are addressed in negotiated payment plans for rent arrearages. Agreements are certified.

Through the Eviction Resolution Program, trained conciliators will provide free help with:

- Conflict coaching to help landlords and tenants resolve eviction-related issues
- Mediating financial disputes that put tenants at risk of losing their rental housing
- Facilitating negotiations between tenant and landlord, to develop reasonable arrangements for unpaid rent
- Coordinating rental assistance (when available)
- Sharing referral and resource information
- Providing a certificate of participation once negotiation has ended

The Conflict Resolution Center does not:

- Assist tenants or landlords outside Bellevue or Kirkland
- Offer legal advice or representation
- Offer rental assistance directly

The Conflict Resolution Center has been helping landlords and tenants negotiate rent arrears since October 2020, before the Eviction Resolution program was in place.

# Downtown Park’s Northeast Gateway unveiled

By Christina Faine, Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

Downtown Park now features a new Northeast Gateway, a pedestrian entrance with a plaza, water feature and seating areas that create a connection between the park and downtown’s commercial district. Public art will be installed in the plaza by the end of the year.

The construction fencing was removed on June 4, opening the gateway for use. There will be a formal opening after the art has been added.

The park’s northeast corner, at the busy intersection of Northeast Fourth Street and Bellevue Way, is the primary connection between the park and downtown. The entrance is highly visible, with an estimated weekday average of 26,000 people traveling daily down Bellevue Way.

“This project creates a distinct connection between the park and downtown’s commercial district,” said Mayor Lynne Robinson.

“Since ground was first broken for the park in the ‘80s, it has been every bit the well-loved landmark city leaders envisioned,” said Michael Shiosaki, Parks & Community Services director. “Each major improvement since then has made it more accessible and beautiful.”

A section of the archway from Union S High School, which operated on the site of Downtown Park from 1930 to 1983, has been installed in the formal garden.

Bellevue bought most of what is now Downtown Park from the school district in 1983. An international design competition the following year yielded the park master plan. Three phases of



From left, Mayor Lynne Robinson, Councilmember John Stokes, Councilmember Janice Zahn, Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis and Councilmember Conrad Lee check out the Northeast Gateway on June 4, the day the construction fencing came down.

construction on the park were completed by 2017 but the northeast entrance concept was unfinished.

The park entry design, from MacLeod Reckord Landscape Architects, creates a welcoming transition between downtown and the park. THEVERYMANY will create the public art, a sculpture. The new entrance, including the public art, will be part of the Grand Connection – a pedestrian-focused, interactive, connected 1.5-mile corridor through the heart of Bellevue.

Ohno Touchdown JV is the construction contractor for the gateway entrance.

## Use-of-force policy review complete

**Council considers recommended changes after considerable resident input**

By Brad Harwood, Chief Communications Officer

In May, at the conclusion of the use-of-force review, the City Council received a report from the Office of Independent Review Group, the consultant managing the review, with recommendations for changes to Bellevue police’s policies.

The report included 47 recommendations based on months of research and robust community outreach.

The council undertook a pledge in June 2020 to engage the community, review the current use-of-force policies and reform the city’s practices as needed.

The OIR Group held nine targeted, small-group listening sessions,

conducted a survey, hosted three communitywide listening sessions and collected hundreds of emails and comments from community members, making about 1,400 total contacts during the course of the review.

In addition, OIR reviewed Bellevue police manuals, reports and data, and met with command staff and subject matter experts from within the department to better understand how policies were implemented day-to-day.

Highlights of OIR’s report include recommendations that Bellevue police wear body cameras, the city have more community input and engagement in policing and that officers have a duty to intervene when they see fellow officers using excessive force.

The full report and latest information about the use-of-force review is available at [BellevueWA.gov/council-pledge](https://BellevueWA.gov/council-pledge).

## Bellevue launches new season of expanded outdoor dining

**Patio dining available on Main Street, other locations**

By Anthony Gill, Economic Development Analyst

With summer here, the city is supporting Bellevue restaurants offering outdoor dining on streets, sidewalks, private patios and even parking lots. In addition to Main Street eateries that started offering on-street dining last year, over 40 other restaurants across the city are giving diners an al fresco option.



The Bis on Main restaurant has established “patio” dining in parking stalls along Main Street.

Mayor Lynne Robinson. “I’m really looking forward to taking part again this year, and want to thank our community partners who are back to support this program as an important component of our return to full capacity.”

Outdoor dining has been a key component to many restaurants continuing their operations under COVID-19 capacity restrictions. During 2020, the city worked to streamline permitting and identify outdoor spaces where businesses could welcome more customers while staying within health and safety rules.

This year, in partnership with the Bellevue Downtown Association and Microsoft, the city has expanded its Al Fresco program, offering more options for eateries in downtown and beyond.

“As we transition to more normalcy in this pandemic recovery, the Al Fresco program will provide continued options for our businesses to serve as many customers as possible each step of the way,” added Mac Cummins, director for the Community Development Department.

The original, 10-week program that launched in August 2020 resulted in overwhelmingly positive feedback from restaurants and residents, giving organizers confidence it could again be effective and even expanded.

“After we saw the success of last year’s Al Fresco program, we’re excited to bring it back and promote even more participating businesses,” said Patrick Bannon, president of the Bellevue Downtown Association.

Businesses interested in participating in the Al Fresco program can find options and resources at [BellevueWA.gov/outdoor-dining](https://BellevueWA.gov/outdoor-dining). Program details for customers and a map of participating restaurants are available at [BellevueDowntown.com](https://BellevueDowntown.com).

# Bellevue Essentials offers civic engagement course

By Julie Ellenhorn, Neighborhood Outreach

If learning about the structure and daily operations of Bellevue city government intrigues you, then please apply to join the 2021 Bellevue Essentials class. If you have a passion for learning more about your local city and its government and want to connect with others interested in civic engagement, then Bellevue Essentials is perfect for you!

After a successful, fully virtual 2020 program, Bellevue Essentials is expected to transition to a hybrid format this year, with a combination of in-person and online learning. Participants will



A previous Bellevue Essentials class learns about the development of the Meydenbauer Bay Park.

engage with City Council members, staff and leadership while learning about Bellevue’s past, present and future through presentations, interactive experiences and tours.

Now in its ninth year, Bellevue Essentials begins Sept. 22, with nine weekly Wednesday evening sessions and a Saturday parks tour day on Oct. 9. Each year a diverse group of 35 is selected to participate. Tuition is \$125 and fee waivers are available if needed. There has been a waiting list every year.

Over 270 graduates represent a broad range of cultures, backgrounds, occupations and perspectives. Many alumni now serve on city boards, commissions, advisory committees and boards of local nonprofits and neighborhood associations. Many newcomers have expanded their understanding of government and found their voice on city and neighborhood issues.

Eva Orlowska-Emadi, a 2019 graduate, noted, “What makes this program amazing is the opportunity to explore diverse perspectives and learn from expert city planners. I’ve developed a new appreciation for the complexities of the decision-making that makes our city thrive for all. With hands-on games like budget allocations or public hearings in the council chamber, we got a real-life experience of how democracy works at the local level.”

Bellevue Essentials is for emerging leaders who represent Bellevue’s diverse demographics and neighborhood areas. Classes are in English, but this year, for the first time, people whose first language is not English can receive one-on-one help completing the application.

Applications are available at [BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials](https://BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials). The simple, one-page application and short answers to three questions are due July 23. If you have questions or prefer a hard-copy application, please contact Julie Ellenhorn, [jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov).

## Mini City Hall Navigators help residents apply for aid

By Ying Carlson, Community Service Supervisor

As the pandemic continues to impact Bellevue, the government and nonprofits are offering help, but it can be overwhelming to navigate all of the complex resources and applications. Mini City Hall’s COVID-19 Resource Navigators can help.

Free appointments are available in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Somali and many other foreign languages. Call 425-452-2800 or email [minich@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:minich@bellevuewa.gov) to get started.

Launched the summer of 2020 as a virtual

service, the Resource Navigator program has helped residents with 23,000 requests so far.

The Resource Navigators are familiar with a variety of government and nonprofit assistance programs. They will provide personalized assistance and customized recommendations to help you make sense of all of the available resources, including for:

- vaccination
- food assistance
- small business loans
- unemployment claims

- housing or rent assistance
- health care, including COVID testing and vaccination sites
- immigration issues and legal referrals

What you can expect when you call the COVID-19 Resource Navigator program:

- A person who will listen to you
- Someone who is patient and empathetic to your situation and concerns
- A navigator to research your questions, and find the best solution for your situation
- A connection to the best resources that can help solve your problems

## Great Neighborhoods draft plans in place for NE and NW Bellevue

By Brooke Brod, Community Development Outreach Lead

With input from over 600 residents in Northeast and Northwest Bellevue, the city has developed draft neighborhood plans for both neighborhood areas intended to lay a foundation for vibrant, livable and welcoming communities.

The draft plans, available for review and comment at [EngagingBellevue.com](https://EngagingBellevue.com), will go before the Planning Commission in a virtual public hearing on July 14 at 6:30 p.m. After the commission provides recommendations, the plans are likely to go to the City Council for approval in the fall.

These plans provide guidance to city staff, the council and those working on projects in the community about how each neighborhood wants to evolve over time. The plans highlight what is unique about each neighborhood and the residents’ aspirations for the future, and identify priorities. Each plan includes:

- A vision statement that guides the rest of the plan
- A profile that covers what is unique about the neighborhood area
- Neighborhood context with key strengths and challenges, which defines the “why” behind policies
- Policies that provide guidance for future decision-making that will help realize the neighborhood’s vision.

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, the Great Neighborhoods team was able to run a robust engagement process. Residents participated in 17 virtual events, two online surveys, six presentations to community groups and a questionnaire mailed to every household in Northeast and Northwest Bellevue.

The neighborhood plans are built around core values identified in the early visioning stage, which consist of five key elements:



The Meydenbauer Bay Park is a gem in the Northwest Bellevue neighborhood area.

- 1) **Sense of Place:** Celebrating what is unique about each neighborhood by strengthening that sense of place
- 2) **Community Connections:** Creating opportunities for neighbors to get to know one another and connect across cultures by supporting strong community connections
- 3) **Mobility and Access:** Providing a variety of mobility opportunities, so residents can walk and bike safely and have convenient access to stores, cafes and other amenities close to home
- 4) **Housing Affordability:** Expanding affordability so people from a variety of backgrounds can live close to jobs, and people can stay in the neighborhood as they age
- 5) **Environment:** Preserving the environment for future generations by encouraging sustainability and stewardship

# Larger, safer reservoir going in at Bridle Trails State Park

By Jay Hummel, Utilities Project Manager

Construction begins this summer on a new, 1.25-million-gallon concrete reservoir to replace the current, 1-million-gallon steel one located in a utility easement at Bridle Trails State Park.

This project is part of Bellevue Utilities’ Reservoir Rehabilitation or Replacement program.



The new reservoir, shown in this visualization, will be made of concrete instead of steel.

Prior studies showed that the current Pikes Peak reservoir, built in 1969 and serving the Bridle Trails, Pikes Peak and Cherry Crest neighborhoods, was no longer big enough to meet today’s fire flow requirements. It was also determined to be seismically deficient, with a rupture possible during a major earthquake. The new reservoir will be seismically sound in addition to being larger.

In 2016, Utilities staff took input about the project from a community advisory group consisting of representatives from neighborhood community groups and residents. Considering that feedback, staff determined that the pump station next to the current reservoir could be removed, and the pumping operation handled by the recently completed Cherry Crest pump station at nearby Cherry Crest Mini Park.

In addition to limiting the footprint for utilities at the park, this solution will reduce the number of maintenance visits to the site once the new reservoir is completed.

Construction of the new reservoir is projected to be complete by the fall of 2022. The project will also include constructing necessary water mains and valve vaults in Northeast 39th Street next to the site. Trail access in the park will be maintained around the project site during construction.

For more information about the Pikes Peak reservoir, please visit [BellevueWA.gov/Pikes-Peak-Reservoir](http://BellevueWA.gov/Pikes-Peak-Reservoir).

## Making home improvements more sustainable

By Jessica Guthrie, Utilities Public Information Officer

What home projects are on your summer to-do list? Many maintenance activities can impact Bellevue’s waterways and natural habitats. By following these best practices, you can spruce up your spaces without harming our environment.

### Pressure-wash homes, not fish!

The key to eco-safe outdoor cleaning of any type is to keep the used water from entering storm drains, which lead directly to the streams, lakes and wetlands in your neighborhood. When mixed with soap, chemicals, debris and other pollutants, such as car oil and garden chemicals, the polluted water will harm fish and other wildlife.

To avoid stormwater pollution when pressure-washing, sweep or blow the site first to remove and properly dispose of loose debris. Set up your site to force water to flow into a natural area on your property, such as a lawn or garden. Avoid using soap or chemicals.

### Keep it natural outdoors

Consider natural yard care principles to avoid using fertilizers or chemicals in your landscapes and gardens. Besides helping to conserve water and protecting your health, these practices will also reduce the amount of pollutants collected in stormwater runoff.

Build healthy soil with compost to support plant health. Add mulch to help keep moisture in and weeds out. Plant the right plant in the

right place, considering sun or shade and soil conditions, and add in some native plants that need less water and maintenance. Water smart – deeply but infrequently, and at the plant roots. Mow higher to protect your lawn during summer heat, and leave the clippings out – they are valuable fertilizer! For more details on these tips, check out [BellevueWA.gov/natural-yard-care](http://BellevueWA.gov/natural-yard-care).

### Refresh responsibly

Apply the three “Rs” to home reorganizing and refurbishing: reduce, reuse, recycle. Can you refinish or repair an item to give it a second life, or buy used instead of new? Buying used and buying for a long term need rather than a quick fix can reduce tons of waste.

If you have to purge items no longer used or needed, can you sell or donate rather than toss? Remember that many common home items – such as old light bulbs, textiles and small appliances can be recycled. Check [BellevueWA.gov/recycle-more](http://BellevueWA.gov/recycle-more), or your printed recycling guide for details. Final note: some things do belong in the trash, not the donation truck, and that’s OK.

### Put paint in the right place

Preparing for summer painting projects? Before you toss or keep storing your old paint, take cans to a local paint store participating in the Washington PaintCare program to recycle it for you. You can find local paint and hardware stores that accept paint, stains and other finishes at [PaintCare.org/states/washington](http://PaintCare.org/states/washington).



Adding mulch to garden beds will help keep moisture in and weeds out.

# City developing plan to improve health of Bellevue streams

By Jerry Shuster, Senior Stormwater Engineer

The City of Bellevue is developing a 20-year plan to improve the health of our streams for people and wildlife. Starting this summer, the city will be seeking public input for the “Our Streams, Our Future” plan, also known as the Bellevue Watershed Management Plan.

Bellevue’s landscape has changed dramatically in the past 150 years – from forests and farmland to bustling city. That growth, while positive in many ways, affects the health of our waterways – Bellevue has more than 80 miles of streams – and the fish and wildlife who call them home.

When the rain falls over hard surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, streets, highways and parking lots, it picks up pollutants like fertilizers, soap, oil and dirt. This polluted stormwater flows into Bellevue’s storm drains, and can harm streams, lakes and wetlands.

As we increase the amount of paved areas, this sends more stormwater into streams. Too much stormwater running into streams can erode their banks and harm fish and wildlife habitat.

What happens in our watersheds impacts the water quality and habitat of Lake Sammamish and Lake Washington, and ultimately, Puget Sound.



The watershed management plan will help preserve healthy streams such as Coal Creek, which underwent recent restoration.

**The Watershed Management Plan will recommend** actions for the city in four categories:

- Projects, such as controlling and treating rainwater runoff from city streets before it gets into streams
- Programs, including removing barriers in streams, so fish can move easily through them
- Policies or regulations, such as incentives for developers or homeowners to build

- facilities to clean runoff before it gets into streams
- Enhanced maintenance, such as more street sweeping to prevent pollutants from entering streams

You can help us develop an effective plan to improve our streams now and in the future. Please visit [BellevueWA.gov/watershed-management](https://BellevueWA.gov/watershed-management) to learn more about the project, subscribe for updates and view upcoming opportunities for input.

## Growing our urban forestry program

By Rachel Wells, Urban Forestry Specialist

Based on feedback from our community, the city is expanding its urban forestry program with exciting new programs to promote education about trees, as well as tree planting and preservation. Trees provide benefits to the community such as carbon storage, cleaner air and water, improved childhood development and better

community health. Residents can help the city meet its tree canopy goals and learn more about all the important things trees do for our city by taking part in one of our urban forestry programs.

### Neighborhood Tree Ambassadors and Tree Tours

While we’ve had to pause our popular tree tours because of the pandemic, volunteer Neighborhood Tree Ambassadors have been hard at work creating downloadable, self-guided tree tour guides, with text and photos, for residents to enjoy. You can access the tree tours or learn about becoming tree ambassador at [BellevueWA.gov/trees](https://BellevueWA.gov/trees).

### Tree Giveaway

Did you know that if every household in Bellevue plants one tree, we can meet our goal of 40% tree canopy for the city by 2050? The city has launched a yard tree giveaway for residents, businesses and community organizations.

Apply for a beautiful new tree that suits your space; the city will offer fruit trees, flowering trees and both deciduous and evergreen trees of various sizes. We’re sure to have the right tree for your home or business and offer guidance to make you feel confident selecting, planting and caring for your tree.

Applications are open July 6 through Aug. 16. You can subscribe to our mailing list at [BellevueWA.gov/trees](https://BellevueWA.gov/trees) to be notified when applications open.

### Heritage Trees and Tree Planting

The city needs resident input on where Bellevue’s most notable trees are and where new ones should be planted. Our new voluntary Heritage Tree program recognizes trees that are exceptional in terms of age, size, rarity, history and/or community significance.

The city plants and replaces many trees each year, but we know more public spaces and city-owned properties need more trees. As experts in your neighborhoods, you can let us know which trees you think are exceptional and which places need more trees.

Visit [EngagingBellevue.com/We-Love-Our-Trees](https://EngagingBellevue.com/We-Love-Our-Trees) to nominate a tree or suggest planting locations.



Street trees like this maple downtown provide beauty, shade and carbon storage.

## Walkers, cyclists to be considered along with cars in new plan

### Help city prioritize types of transportation projects in survey coming soon

By David Grant, Public Information Officer

Since the late 1980s, Bellevue has assessed the health of its transportation system mostly by measuring the capacity of key intersections to accommodate cars during the afternoon commute. People who ride transit, walk, roll or bike are largely invisible under this “level-of-service” model.

Now the city is rethinking that model in favor of a more integrated one that considers all modes that make up the transportation system. This “multimodal” approach is expected to be an important part of a first-ever Mobility Implementation Plan, a new long-range planning framework.

Previously called for in the city’s 2015 Comprehensive Plan, the Mobility Implementation Plan will consolidate several transportation plans to make sure they are compatible with each other and with the city’s land use plan. It will help city officials make decisions on project investments in the transportation system based on how people get around town, now and in the future.

This new planning tool will be especially important as the city prepares for rapid job growth spurred by Amazon and other companies.

To better understand the types of transportation projects the public wants, city staff will invite the community to participate in a short questionnaire, which will be accessible later this summer at [BelluueWA.gov/mobility-plan](https://www.belluuewa.gov/mobility-plan).

The city’s Transportation Commission will use input from the survey, along with guidance from the City Council, as it works to complete the Mobility Implementation Plan in the coming months.

If you have questions or comments about the Mobility Implementation Plan, contact project manager Kevin McDonald at [kmcdonald@belluuewa.gov](mailto:kmcdonald@belluuewa.gov).



The idea behind the Mobility Implementation Plan is to consider all users of Bellevue’s transportation system, including walkers such as these crossing 106th Avenue Northeast.

## Residents and partners to help design environmental stewardship programs

By Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager

As spring turns to summer, city staff are beginning to implement the Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan, adopted by the City Council in December. New programs under development will help residents plant trees and make it easier for people to retrofit homes and businesses to save energy.

To support the design of these programs and implementation of the stewardship plan, Bellevue residents, businesses and other stakeholders will be invited to participate in the Sustainable Bellevue Partnership. The city will collaborate with organizational

partners in Bellevue, including businesses, nonprofits, the Bellevue School District and Bellevue College.

Staff will provide an overview of these new programs and give an update on the city’s 2020 greenhouse gas emissions inventory at a town hall presentation on Wednesday, July 14. Staff are also scheduled to present their quarterly update to the council on Monday, July 19.

If you would like to stay current on the Environmental Stewardship Initiative, sign up for our newsletter and register for the July 14 town hall at [BelluueWA.gov/environment](https://www.belluuewa.gov/environment).

## Light rail construction reaches critical milestone

By Marie Jensen, Transportation Public Information Officer

The end is in sight for construction of Sound Transit’s East Link light rail line, a project that has changed Bellevue’s skyline and will change its travel options even more. The aerial guideway, at-grade tracks, downtown tunnel, retaining and sound walls, and stations are 95% complete.



The City Hall plaza next to the Bellevue Downtown station has been redesigned, with public art removed during construction, including “The Root,” being reinstalled.

electrical and communications systems begins. It will become common to see trains with no passengers as operators train and test the trains’ operability and safety features.

The new trains, running on 100% carbon-free electricity, will have larger windows, wider center aisles and more room to stow luggage than the current generation of Sound Transit light rail cars. They will seat 70 and have double the number of bike hooks. In addition, each car will be equipped with dynamic passenger information displays and LED lighting improvements.

When East Link begins carrying passengers in 2023, it will be part of a wave of expansion for light rail across Puget Sound. Like the Central Link, which has been running between SeaTac Airport and downtown since 2003, East Link will have a new name. The Central Link is now called Line 1; the Eastside line, with stations in Mercer Island, Bellevue and Redmond, will be Line 2.

Sound Transit’s Eastside maintenance facility, which opened in BelRed in May, will service light rail cars and hold them when they’re not in use. In other East Link news:

- The South Bellevue Park-and-Ride will open in September, two years before the scheduled start of East Link passenger service, providing 1,500 parking stalls for people riding King County Metro and Sound Transit buses.
- Construction continues on a new park at Main Street and 112th Avenue Southeast, next to the East Main station. Once complete, Sound Transit will deed the property to the city.
- A redesigned plaza at City Hall, next to the Bellevue Downtown station, is nearing completion. Public art removed during construction has been reinstalled and will be ceremoniously rededicated.
- A new park-and-ride lot with 350 spaces will be under construction in late summer and will serve the Bel-Red/130th station.

For project updates, go to [SoundTransit.org/eastlink](https://www.SoundTransit.org/eastlink).

# Vision Zero work gets real with plan, funding

By David Grant, Public Information Officer

Bellevue’s Vision Zero effort to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries from city streets by 2030 has made significant progress in recent months, setting the stage for new projects to make the transportation system safer for people who walk, roll, bicycle and drive.

Work was completed on a strategic plan, and the City Council voted to fund Vision Zero projects in the city’s 2021-2027 capital budget.



Bellevue Transportation staff lead a road safety assessment on Northeast Eighth Street, near Crossroads Bellevue mall, part of the city’s Vision Zero work.

The strategic plan lays out how Bellevue will strive to achieve its Vision Zero goal, building on the city’s previous traffic safety projects. It’s important work: during the two-year period, 2019-2020, nine people were killed in traffic crashes on Bellevue streets. Over the past 10 years, 16 to 30 people have died or been seriously injured annually.

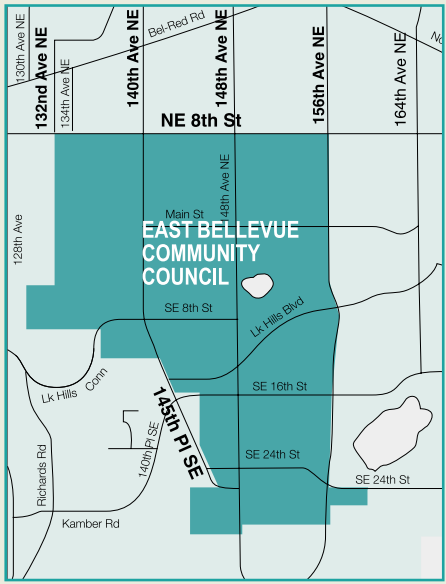
The plan focuses on a “safe systems” approach that includes four components – speeds, people, vehicles and streets – and supporting elements for each of the components: data, leadership, partnerships and culture.

Vision Zero’s first dedicated capital funding – \$2.5 million over seven years – will fund the analysis, design and implementation of safety improvements along sections of five streets that have been identified as part of the city’s high-injury network, a recently compiled list of locations where 83% of fatal and serious-injury traffic collisions in Bellevue occur:

- Northeast Eighth Street
- Factoria Boulevard
- Bellevue Way
- Bel-Red Road
- 116th Avenue Northeast

A recent example of a safe systems approach was the partnership Bellevue formed with the state Department of Transportation, King County Metro and the Federal Highway Administration to conduct a road safety assessment on Northeast Eighth Street in the Crossroads area.

Improvements on Northeast Eighth Street and other streets in Bellevue’s high-injury network could include radar feedback signs, enhanced pedestrian crossings, added left-turn pockets, restricted turn movements and new medians.



For more information about the EBCC, call Deputy City Clerk Karin Roberts, 425-452-6806.

The EBCC meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

**Members:** Hassan Dhananjaya, Ron Epstein, Ross Gooding, Betsi Hummer, Steven Kasner

We welcome comments about the East Bellevue area. You can share your views with the EBCC via email at [ebcc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ebcc@bellevuewa.gov). To find out more about the agendas and decisions of EBCC, [BellevueWA.gov/ebcc](http://BellevueWA.gov/ebcc).

## Newest EBCC member finds role ‘a real eye opener’

By Ron Epstein, EBCC Vice Chair



Greetings! Betsi Hummer, chair of the East Bellevue Community Council, asked me to write the EBCC column for this issue of It’s Your City.

I am Ron Epstein, the most recent EBCC member, appointed by the EBCC last October to complete the year remaining in the unexpired term of Stephanie Walter, who stepped down in June 2020. I have lived in Bellevue for over 20 years, and am looking forward to serving my community in this position.

I had studied the EBCC before applying for the position 4 seat, and had an understanding of its role in land use decisions in East Bellevue. The last several months have been a real eye opener for me as I learn more about what EBCC’s statute means and the inner workings of our city.

First off, I was elected by my peers to serve as vice chair in February. Hassan Dhananjaya was elected as alternate vice chair, and we elected Betsi again to serve as chair.

Attending City Council and Planning Commission meetings has given me a better understanding of city issues. I know how important it is to study the issues carefully to make an informed decision for our constituents.

I’m also learning the city process. On many issues, the City Council asks for recommendations on proposed legislation from one of Bellevue’s boards and commissions. The board or commission, which may hold a public hearing as part of its deliberations, will then usually recommend changes to a draft ordinance.

If the proposal represents an amendment to the comprehensive plan or Bellevue’s land use code applicable within the EBCC’s jurisdiction, it is forwarded to the EBCC for a courtesy hearing, where we may make comments and/or suggest changes.

The City Council then votes on the amendment. If the council adopts the amendment, the EBCC holds a public hearing and votes to approve or disapprove the amendment for its area in East Bellevue.

Recently, the EBCC voted on land use code amendments intended to advance the city’s Affordable Housing Strategy and conform with state statutes.

In March, we approved a change that allows subdivision of townhouse units so they may be owned in fee-simple. Fee-simple ownership is more desirable and less expensive compared to condominium ownership, which was previously the only way to own individual townhouses in Bellevue. We also approved an amendment that removed a three-year wait period for accessory dwelling units on one’s property. The City Council had approved both amendments for the rest of the city in February.

In May, we disapproved, by a 2-3 vote, a land use code amendment that would have reduced the minimum amount of parking (and, thus, cost) required for certain types of housing built near frequent transit service. The amendment is in force throughout the rest of the city.

I plan to follow all proposals through the review process, to make the best informed decision I can for the EBCC constituents. I hope to see your written comments and hear your oral communications at our meetings – the first Tuesday of the month on Zoom. If you want to reach out to me directly, please email [repstein@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:repstein@bellevuewa.gov).

# BellevueTV

## 24/7 live stream and video on demand



See the latest video news and information on [YouTube.com/BellevueTelevision](https://www.youtube.com/BellevueTelevision)

### Subscribe

to receive the latest video content delivered to your inbox

click on the **YouTube SUBSCRIBE** button.

For more information, email [btv@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:btv@bellevuewa.gov)

# Neighborhood projects in construction and design

In addition to dozens of major transportation, utilities and park projects included in the city's Capital Investment Program plan ([BellevueWA.gov/cip](http://BellevueWA.gov/cip)), city departments are working on smaller neighborhood improvements such as new playground equipment, sidewalks, traffic calming, bike lanes and maintenance projects. Many projects featured below are in design or slated for construction this year. Funding comes from various programs including the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy (Levy), Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services (NTSS) and the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP). Contact the project manager listed for current project status.

## Bridle Trails

### Cherry Crest Mini Park Improvements

Relocation and replacement of water fountain and addition of pet fountain; replacement of play equipment, digger and play area surface; removal of concrete letter blocks, and maintenance throughout park. Anticipated completion December. Funding from NEP (\$234,000).

*Ernie Podaca, [epodaca@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:epodaca@bellevuewa.gov)*



### NE 40th St. Sidewalk – 140 Ave. NE to 145 Ave. NE

Install new sidewalk on the northside of Northeast 40th Street where missing. Design begins this summer; construction expected in summer 2022. Funding from Levy, Neighborhood Sidewalk Program and NEP (\$1.7 million).

*Rebecca Lilliquist, [rlilliquis@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:rlilliquis@bellevuewa.gov)*

## Crossroads

### 140th Ave. NE and NE 14th St. Streetlight

Install new PSE-owned and maintained LED streetlight on the southeast corner of 140th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 14th Street over the crosswalk. Ongoing electricity costs will be paid by the city. Anticipated project completion winter 2021. Funding from NEP (\$15,000).

*Max Scheideman, [mscheidema@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mscheidema@bellevuewa.gov)*

## Downtown

### Downtown Park Stairway

New stairway at the southeast corner of the park to allow access to the promenade from the crosswalk. Anticipated project completion in June. Funding from NEP and Parks Renovation program (\$56,000).

*Ken Kroeger, [kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov)*

## Factoria

### SE 38th St. at Factoria Blvd. SE Intersection Improvements

Restripe the east leg of Southeast 38th Street and Factoria Boulevard Southeast so the westbound lanes become one dedicated right turn lane, one through-left lane, and one left turn lane. Construction expected late summer. Levy funding (\$250,000).

*Jeremy Chin, [jchin@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jchin@bellevuewa.gov)*

## Lake Hills



### Lake Hills Blvd. and 148th Ave. SE Intersection Improvements

Install second left turn lane on westbound Lake Hills Boulevard to southbound 148th Avenue Southeast. Other improvements include new sidewalk on south side, eastbound bike lane and traffic islands. Construction expected in fall. Levy funding (\$1.3 million).

*Rebecca Lilliquist, [rlilliquis@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:rlilliquis@bellevuewa.gov)*

### Sewer Pipeline Replacement

Rehabilitate 900 linear feet of sewer pipeline along an easement via several private backyards between 148th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 11th Street. Design route alternative analysis underway; design is expected to be completed by early 2022 with construction expected to start in summer 2022. Project cost estimate in progress.

*Vanaja S. Rajah, [vrajah@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:vrajah@bellevuewa.gov)*

### Bat Houses at Lake Hills Greenbelt

Install a series of three bat houses and interpretive signage along the Lake Hills Greenbelt trail system. Funding from NEP, Neighborhood Partnerships and Amazon partnership. Anticipated completion this fall (\$12,700).

*Jammie Kingham, [jkingham@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jkingham@bellevuewa.gov)*

## Newport

### 123rd Ave. SE Sidewalk – SE 60th Pl. to SE 65th Pl.

Install new sidewalk, where missing, on the west side of 123rd Avenue Southeast. Begin design this year; construction anticipated in 2022. Funded by Levy and NTSS (\$1.5 million).

*Mike Rodni, [mrodni@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mrodni@bellevuewa.gov)*

## Northeast Bellevue

### NE 28th St. – 164th Ave NE. to Ardmore Park

To calm traffic and improve safety for multiple modes of travel, install modified speed humps and multi-use shoulders for biking and/or parking on Northeast 28th Street from 164th Avenue Northeast to 168th Place Northeast. Design complete by end of this year; construction in 2022. Funded by Levy (\$150,000).

*Rebecca Rodni, [rrodni@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:rrodni@bellevuewa.gov)*

## Northwest Bellevue

### 100th Ave. NE & Vicinity Complete Streets Project (Phase 2)

Design continues on shared use path on the east side of 100th Avenue Northeast, from Northeast 14th to Northeast 24th streets; raised intersections along 100th Avenue Northeast at Northeast 14th, 18th and 21st streets; sidewalk along the north side of Northeast 18th Street between 98th and 100th avenues; sidewalk along the east side of 98th Avenue Northeast between Northeast 18th and 20th streets; and enhanced crosswalk at Northeast 15th and 23rd streets. Construction anticipated summer 2022. Levy funded (\$6 million).

*Daniel Lam, [dlam@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:dlam@bellevuewa.gov)*



Use the MYBELLEVUE app to request services, access city news, check out jobs and view social media.

Download it today.  

[BellevueWA.gov/MyBellevue](http://BellevueWA.gov/MyBellevue)

West Bellevue

105th Ave. SE Sidewalk

Build new sidewalk on the east side of 105th Avenue Southeast between Southeast Wolverine Way and Main Street, and a raised crosswalk at Southeast Cliff Place. Install parking spaces where feasible. Construction begins in July. Levy funding (\$600,000).  
[Vanessa Humphreys, vhumphreys@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:vhumphreys@bellevuewa.gov)

97th Pl. SE and SE 11 St. Slope Stabilization Project

Stabilize roadway with a new retaining wall. Design underway; construction in 2022. Funding from Major Maintenance Program and two federal grants (\$1.9 million).  
[Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:cmasek@bellevuewa.gov)

SE Eighth St. Buffered Bike Lanes

Add buffers to existing striped bike lanes on Southeast Eighth Street from 112th Avenue Southeast to west of 114th Avenue Southeast. Installation, as part of the annual paving program, expected this summer. Levy funding (\$25,000).  
[Sara Haile, shaile@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:shaile@bellevuewa.gov)

110th Ave. SE Sidewalk – SE 1st to Main St.

Build new sidewalk on the west side of 110th Avenue Southeast between Southeast First and Main streets. Design is underway. Station Area Planning Implementation (\$200,000).  
[Vanessa Humphreys, vhumphreys@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:vhumphreys@bellevuewa.gov)

Wilburton

Wilburton Corner Street Lighting

Install up to six new LED streetlights on existing PSE utility poles at select intersections of neighborhood streets in the Wilburton area. Ongoing electricity costs will be paid by the city. Anticipated project completion this fall. Funding from NEP (\$20,000).  
[Max Scheideman, mscheidema@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mscheidema@bellevuewa.gov)

Woodridge/Wilburton

Lake Hills Connector and SE Eighth St. Improvements

Install second left turn lane on northbound Lake Hills Connector to westbound Southeast Eighth Street. Design underway; construction anticipated in 2022. Levy funded (\$1.9 million).  
[Sara Haile, sahaile@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:sahaile@bellevuewa.gov)

Various locations

Radar Signs and Flashing Beacon Upgrades

Install five new radars signs and upgrade nine existing school zone flashing beacons. Construction expected in late summer. Funding from Major Maintenance and NTSS programs (\$465,000).  
[Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:cmasek@bellevuewa.gov)



Citywide Crosswalk Improvements

Add flashing beacons to mid-block crossings at the following locations. Construction expected in late summer. NEP, Levy and traffic operations funding (\$420,000).

- Northeast 24th Street and State Route 520 trail. (Bridle Trails)  
[Ellen Webster, ewebster@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ewebster@bellevuewa.gov)
- 156th Avenue Southeast and Southeast Fourth Street. (Lake Hills)  
[Ellen Webster, ewebster@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ewebster@bellevuewa.gov)
- 100th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 12th Street (Northwest Bellevue)  
[Darcy Akers, dakers@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:dakers@bellevuewa.gov)

East Bellevue Demonstration Greenway

Install quick-build, low-cost treatments along 166th and 165th avenues, from Southeast 14th Street to Northup Way, to make it safer and more comfortable to bicycle and roll on the corridor. Treatments include bike markings, traffic circles, stop sign relocations, wayfinding signs and lower speed limit. Installation in late summer. Online survey to seek user experiences and neighborhood observations. (Lake Hills, Northeast Bellevue and West Lake Sammamish). Levy and NTSS funding (\$200,000).  
[Chris Iverson, civerson@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:civerson@bellevuewa.gov)

Safer crosswalk style coming to signalized intersections citywide

By David Grant, Public Information Officer

Bellevue is going continental, but not in the way you might think. Gradually, over the next few years, the city's Transportation Department will transition to "continental" crosswalks at all 210 signalized intersections citywide.

Currently, crosswalks at signalized intersections (the ones with traffic lights) are a style called "traverse" – two parallel lines that run from one side of a street to the other, perpendicular to the roadway being crossed. Continental-style crosswalks, by contrast, include several white bars that are parallel to each other and parallel to the roadway being crossed.

The continental-style crosswalks already are used at mid-block crossings and other locations citywide. Research shows continental

crosswalks are safer, providing better visibility for drivers than traverse crosswalks.

Other cities in the region have already moved away from parallel-bar crosswalks; Bellevue is an outlier, still using them at signalized intersections. Changing the city's crosswalk standard will increase the consistency of pavement markings across the region.

Most of the pavement markings for the city's 750-plus crosswalks at signalized intersections citywide are made of thermoplastic, rather than painted on. It typically costs approximately \$2,500 to install one new crosswalk.

The new crosswalk pavement markings will be phased in over time as new development takes place, roadways are repaved and through other, smaller projects.



Traverse (parallel bar) crosswalk presently seen in Bellevue.



Continental crosswalk to be implemented at signalized intersections.

# CITY CONTACTS

**MANY CITY FACILITIES remain closed at this time.**

## City Hall

450 110th Ave. NE/P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

**Service First (general information):** 425-452-6800

**City of Bellevue website:** [BellevueWA.gov](http://BellevueWA.gov)

**City Council Office:** 425-452-7810

## City Offices

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 425-452-6464

City Manager: 425-452-7228

Community Development: 425-452-7892

Conflict Resolution Center: 425-452-4091

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 425-452-2800

Development Services: 425-452-6800

New permit applications: 425-452-4898

Inspection requests, application and status, pay fees: 425-452-6875

Simple permits, inspection requests: [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com)

Application and inspection status: [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com)

Code Compliance: 425-452-2047

Diversity Program: 425-452-7886

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.: 425-452-6806

Fire Emergency Only: 911

Fire Non-Emergency

Business and Information: 425-452-6892

Inspection: 425-452-4254

Fire prevention: 425-452-6872

Human Resources: 425-452-6838

Information Technology: 425-452-4626

Neighborhood Outreach: 425-452-6836

Northwest Arts Center: 425-452-4106

Parks & Community Services

Aging Services: 425-452-4200

Recreation Program Registration/Parks Info: 425-452-6885

Youth Sports: 425-452-6885

Ballfield Rental: 425-452-6914

Picnics/Facility Rentals: 425-452-6914

Park Maintenance: 425-452-6855

Human Services: 425-452-6884

Probation: 425-452-6956

Community Centers:

Crossroads Community Center: 425-452-4874

Highland Community Center: 425-452-7686

North Bellevue Community Center: 425-452-7681

South Bellevue Community Center: 425-452-4240

Marina: 425-452-4883

Police Emergency Only: 911

Police Non-Emergency

Crossroads Station: 425-452-2891

Factoria Station: 425-452-2880

Complaints and Information: 425-452-6917

Crime Prevention: Commercial 425-452-2979; Residential 425-452-6915

Traffic Enforcement: 425-452-6940

Transportation

Administration/Information: 425-452-6856

Utilities

Administration/Information: 425-452-6932

Billing/Customer Service: 425-452-6973

Water, Sewer and Street Maintenance and Emergency: 425-452-7840

## Other Numbers (Not city government)

Regional Animal Services of King County: 206-296-PETS

Republic Services: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)

Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000

# CITY COUNCIL



Lynne Robinson  
MAYOR



Jared Nieuwenhuis  
DEPUTY MAYOR



Jeremy Barksdale  
COUNCILMEMBER



Conrad Lee  
COUNCILMEMBER



Jennifer Robertson  
COUNCILMEMBER



John Stokes  
COUNCILMEMBER



Janice Zahn  
COUNCILMEMBER

## Bellevue earns All-America City Award for equity, resilience

*By Michelle DeGrand, Deputy Communications Officer*



With an array of effective programs that support equity and resilience, the City of Bellevue received the National Civic League's All-America City Award on June 9. One of just 10 cities to be so honored, Bellevue actually won this award once before, back in 1955. The National Civic League bestows the award annually to cities that leverage engagement to build equitable, thriving communities.

"Bellevue came together to become a more just and equitable community," the National Civic League said in a statement. "Bellevue's development of an accessible playground for children of all abilities, commitment to cultural competency and ability to meet residents' needs during the pandemic are just a few of the reasons it is an All-America City."



The immensely popular and accessible Inspiration Playground at Downtown Park is a shining example of Bellevue's efforts to add equity.



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4448 (voice) or email [ciosso@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ciosso@bellevuewa.gov). For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email [ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov). If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.

**It's Your City** is published for people who live or work in Bellevue. For questions or comments about this publication, contact Claude Iosso, 425-452-4448 or [ciosso@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ciosso@bellevuewa.gov).

**Editor:** Claude Iosso

**City Manager:** Brad Miyake

**Chief Communications Officer:** Brad Harwood

**Graphic Designer:** Ted Van Dyken

The 2021 award theme was "Building Equitable and Resilient Communities." Bellevue's application detailed the community's strategic initiatives to become a more equitable community and efforts to meet profound community needs during the pandemic.

Highlights included Jubilee REACH's Groceries for Families program, the city's Diversity Advantage Initiative and a collaboration with the Bellevue Rotary Club to fund and build the accessible Inspiration Playground in Downtown Park.

The city and its partners made the case for the award at the All-America City national conference, held virtually June 7-9. All 20 finalists presented their successes at the conference; 10 cities took home the award.

The National Civic League has honored 500 cities with the All-America City Award since 1949. Bellevue's 1955 award is commemorated with a photo mural at the entry to the Old Main area.