



Neighborhood News

December 2023



Be part of Bellevue holiday favorites!

The holiday season is in full swing, with events happening all around the city! Some annual favorites include:

- Snowflake Lane on Bellevue Way (Nov. 24-Dec. 24)
- Garden d'Lights at Bellevue Botanical Garden (Nov. 25-Dec. 31)
- Downtown Ice Rink at Downtown Park (Nov. 17-Jan. 15)
- Holiday performances at the Meydenbauer Center Theatre, including The Nutcracker by International Ballet Theatre
- KidsQuest events for all ages, including the "Candy Connections" exhibit
- Build Your Own Holiday Wreath (Dec. 2) and a Children's Craft Workshop (Dec. 3) at Bellevue Botanical Garden

Please walk, roll, drive and take transit safely this holiday season. Allow extra travel time to get to your destination, and always keep the weather conditions in mind. Watch for people in crosswalks and driveways, especially in downtown and near construction zones.

Interested in trying out a new mode of transportation to get to your holiday event? Visit ChooseYourWayBellevue.org for more information on walking, bicycling, taking transit and carpooling. Bellevue's free shuttle service, BellHop, is also available for travel downtown, as well as the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

There are nightly street closures downtown Nov. 24-Dec. 24 for Snowflake Lane. The show starts at 7 p.m. The following road closures are 6-7:45 p.m.:

- Bellevue Way Northeast from Northeast Fourth Street to Northeast Eighth Street
- Northeast Sixth Street from Bellevue Way Northeast to 105th Avenue Northeast

During the closures on Bellevue Way, visitors to the Bellevue Arts Museum may park in the underground parking at both Lincoln Square North (Westin Hotel) and Lincoln Square South (W Hotel). Both garages are accessible from 105th Avenue Northeast.



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-2735 (voice) or email mheilman@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

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Conflict at the Holiday Table

For many people, gathering at the holidays means joy with a sprinkling of dread over challenging conversations or unwelcome criticism. Rather than dreading it, it's possible to use those uncomfortable conversations to bring family members closer. When done well, conflict can be an opportunity to deepen relationships, free yourself and others from negative emotions, and lead to better understanding.

If you are looking to increase the peace this holiday season, the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center has some tips to help you:

- **Seek to understand first:** Be open with phrases like, "That's an interesting viewpoint. Can you say more about that?" or "I want to understand your point of view. Can you tell me what you mean by ____." You can ask them to listen to you in return.
- **Put aside shaming:** Focus on seeing the other person as a worthwhile human being who may have made a mistake, or simply has a different viewpoint. Use language like: "I respect you as a kind and caring person. I am having a hard time understanding what you just did or said with what I know about you."
- **Take a pause:** If something was particularly shocking or hard to hear, you can signal that you need to pause. It is ok to show your hurt and take a moment to breathe through your own discomfort before responding.
- **Agreeing to disagree:** Sometimes connecting can be a good strategy for a more pleasant holiday. You can say, "There is so much else we have in common. Let's not do this right now and let's focus on the things that we do agree on today."

Some conflicts are challenging to resolve on your own. If you have a conflict that seems beyond your skills, reach out to the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center. We can coach you toward solutions that work for everyone, and help you negotiate for what you need. Call 425-452-4091 to reach the resolution center.



Holiday mixer and looking ahead: "What Can We Dream Up?"

The next Cultural Conversations event is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1-2:30 p.m. at Crossroads Community Center, 16000 Northeast 10th Street. Join us and celebrate the change of the season together and share new topics for the upcoming year.

If you have questions, please contact neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov or call 452-452-5291.



"The Art of Listening" four-week workshop

Would you like to increase your listening and communication skills? We can help! In cooperation with the King County Library System, we will be offering a four-week workshop in January about the art of listening.

Tuesdays, Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Bellevue Downtown Library,
1111 110th Avenue Northeast.

To register, please contact kkey@kcls.org

The city is prepared for winter weather

The city once again held its annual winter weather training at the Bellevue Service Center in mid-October to be fully prepared for a snow and ice response by Nov. 1. The training was attended by staff from the city's Transportation, Utilities, Parks and Community Services, and Finance and Asset Management departments. The four departments respond to storm events all winter long with

17 trucks that can be configured with plows and sanders, and more than 60 staff operating vehicles and working in the dispatch center.

During a winter storm, city staff work non-stop every day in 12-hour shifts to clear roads. Streets are plowed based on a snow response map. Roads are prioritized based on multiple factors, including access for emergency services and transit, traffic volume and other factors. Major routes may require repeated plowing and sanding before crews are able to clear neighborhood streets, so please have patience if your street or road is not cleared right away. You can see the streets that have been plowed before leaving home by visiting BellevueWA.gov/winter-response-map.

When snow, ice and winter storms arrive, the city will be ready to respond. Is your household prepared? You can read more about how to get ready for winter, what to do when a storm happens and the city's snow response at BellevueWA.gov/winter.



Cougar Mountain/Lakemont neighborhood area chooses five projects

Thanks to all Cougar Mountain/Lakemont neighbors who participated in the Neighborhood Enhancement Program over the past several months. The program kicked off in April, with the city receiving 119 resident-identified project ideas for how to spend the \$377,000 budget allocated for the Cougar Mountain/Lakemont Neighborhood Area. City staff reviewed each of the submitted project ideas for accessibility, feasibility, cost, timeline and maintainability. In



September, 13 projects were presented on the ballot for consideration, with five projects being chosen by residents to receive funding.

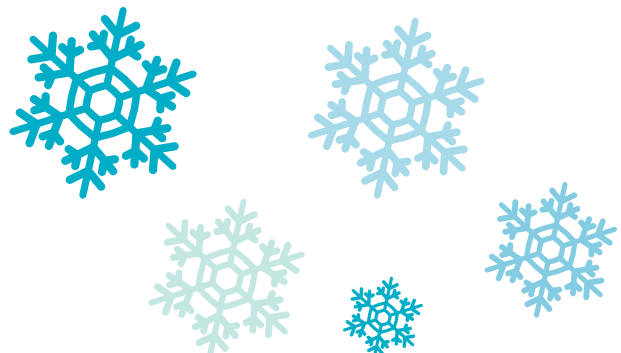
1. Invasive Vegetation Removal & Tree Planting throughout Cougar Mountain/Lakemont Area
2. Lakemont Park Pedestrian Bridge Update
3. Silverleaf Trail Enhancements
4. Lewis Creek Park Basketball Court Fence Addition
5. Winfield Open Space Trailhead Landscape Improvements

NEP is a city-funded capital improvements program that allows residents to propose and select small-scale projects that improve the quality of life and enhance the character of their neighborhood area.



The current NEP allocation of \$7 million has been distributed among the city's 14 NEP Neighborhood Areas based on the number of households in each area. NEP rotates through the 14 NEP Neighborhood Areas at a rate of two areas a year over seven years.

In 2024, NEP will have funding available for the West Lake Sammamish and Northeast Bellevue Neighborhood Areas. West Lake Sammamish will kick off in late January with a virtual public meeting. NEP will come to Northeast Bellevue in early April. To find out which NEP Neighborhood Area you call home, please visit BellevueWA.gov/nep.



There's a buzz about honeybees at Kelsey Creek Farm!

Kelsey Creek Farm is excited to welcome its newest residents – a hive of honeybees! This project, which combined a Wilburton Neighborhood Enhancement Program project with a grant from Amazon to create a specialized observation beehive, opened this spring. The honeybees arrived in April and spent the summer making enough honey to feed their hive through the winter. Children in city day camps and teens in volunteer programs got to watch the bees and learn about the importance of pollinators.

Two local beekeepers teamed up to design and operate the custom-made observation hive. Most beehives have solid walls, making the activity of bees inside hidden to viewers. However, Bruce Amundsen designed a hive with large viewing windows, and Dave Schiefelbein has cared for the bees during their first season on the farm. We want to thank them both for their ongoing support! Kelsey Creek Farm staff also thank Jammie Kingham and Dustin VanNieulande from Natural Resources for their leadership with this project.

Be sure to come by and see the new honeybees and their hive!



Preventing phone scams and robocalls

You can reduce robocalls, telemarketing and unwanted phone calls by following some easy suggestions. The Office of the Washington State Attorney General defines robocalls as "telephone calls that play a recorded message when you answer or when it goes to voicemail" and defines telemarketing as "when a business uses telecommunication devices such as telephones, text messages and the internet to contact potential customers." In 2022, it was estimated that 1.1 million Washingtonians lost money due to scam calls.

Federal and state laws govern telephones, and under the National Do Not Call Registry, which was created



in 2003, individuals who do not want to receive telemarketing calls can register their home or cell phone number with the registry. You can register at [donotcall.gov](https://www.donotcall.gov) or by calling 1-382-888-1222.

Recently, Washington state enacted House Bill 1051, which is anticipated to strengthen and modernize the provisions of state law relating to robocalling and telephone scams. The office of the Washington State Attorney General has posted an article titled Robocall and Telemarketing Scams: atg.wa.gov/robocall-and-telemarketing-scams. The article includes information on Washington state requirements relating to telemarketing, how to recognize a scam, how to stop robocalls and telemarketing calls, and what to do immediately if you are a scam victim. The article requests that scam victims report to the attorney general's office and includes a "Telephone Scam Reporting Form."



Help shape Bellevue's new tree regulations

Do you want to help shape Bellevue's tree regulations? The city is updating land use and city code provisions related to trees and will share early draft recommendations for feedback at a public meeting Jan. 11.

Bellevue's tree canopy is a critical environmental asset and central to the vision of a "City in a Park." To ensure city code supports citywide tree canopy goals while balancing the need for more housing, the city council has launched a comprehensive review of all provisions related to trees in the Land Use Code and Bellevue City Code, and updates will be made as necessary.

Bellevue's code provisions regulate "significant trees," currently defined as healthy trees at least eight inches in diameter. These regulations clarify when permits are required to remove such trees, the share of trees that must be retained as part of a development project, when they must be replaced, how they must be protected from damage and more.

Earlier this year, city staff began outreach to gather community perspectives on priorities for the update, including a questionnaire, public information session and listening sessions. In June, the council reviewed a city staff-recommended scope of updates, incorporating the community feedback.

Since June, city staff have been working to develop recommended code updates based on the council's guidance. On Jan. 11, the city will hold a public information session to share preliminary draft recommendations and gather feedback from the community. For information on the project and how to attend the meeting, go to BellevueWA.gov/tree-code-update. You can also reach out to project manager Kristina Gallant (kgallant@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6196) to share comments or ask questions.

The Environmental Stewardship Community Engagement Results are Here!

By Sofia Fall, Sustainability Coordinator

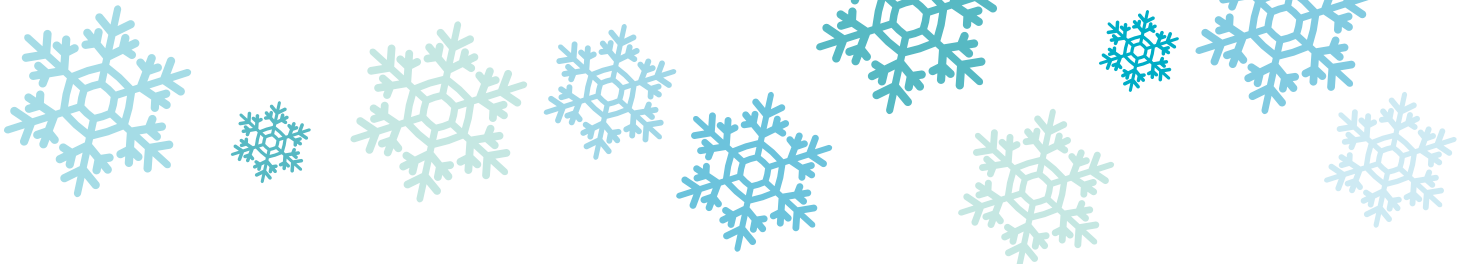
The Environmental Stewardship team would like to thank everyone who participated in the Community Engagement Survey in September and October. Your input helps us to understand the impact of our programs and make changes that serve our city better. We also appreciated the opportunity to learn more about our community and the sustainability topics you are excited about.

A report of our Community Engagement Survey findings is available now at EngagingBellevue.com.

In the coming months, we will be using your input to shape future engagement and outreach programs, as well as pilot new methods and communications channels for getting the word out about our sustainability work and events.

You don't have to wait to get involved in sustainability in Bellevue! Start taking action today by signing up for the Bellevue Climate Challenge (eastsideclimatechallenge.org/bellevue) a free platform for learning about and taking part in collective climate actions. Participants can create teams and work through climate actions while logging their impact and greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The Climate Challenge is appropriate for all age groups and is renter-friendly. It's an easy way to get involved in climate action and build a more sustainable future with your community.

You can stay informed about future Environmental Stewardship work and our ongoing programs by signing up for our monthly Sustainable Bellevue Newsletter (rb.gy/2gi50v).



Making the switch to a heat pump is easier than ever!



By Sarah Phillips, Energy Smart Eastside Program Manager

Switching to a heat pump is simpler and cheaper than ever, thanks to Make the Switch (energysmarteastside.org/maketheswitch), a campaign from Energy Smart Eastside, a joint program of the cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island and Redmond. The program aims to accelerate the transition to fully electrified households. Make the Switch helps Eastside residents switch to electric, energy-efficient heating and cooling through up to \$6,400 in heat pump incentives.

Energy Smart Eastside is launching Make the Switch to support Eastside residents with older homes and aging furnaces so they can transition to heat pumps as their furnaces reach end-of-life. Heat pumps are a great option for many households, not only because they are highly energy efficient, but also because they heat evenly and keep homes more comfortable than traditional heating sources. In addition to being better for households, heat pumps are also a better choice for the planet. The benefits as a climate solution are twofold: cooling during heatwaves and soaring summer temperatures, while lowering the carbon footprint of residences, a big contributor to emissions overall.

They can also be less expensive to operate than some forms of heating or cooling, such as portable air conditioning or baseboard heating.

The Make the Switch campaign connects households from any of the five Eastside cities to contractors, who are trained to help residents stack available incentives from Mitsubishi, Puget Sound Energy and the Federal Inflation Reduction Act. Households at 150% or below of Area Median Income also qualify for Energy Smart Eastside's \$1,500 Fuel Switch rebate. In total, residents can save up to \$6,400 by switching to a heat pump through Make the Switch.

Households from Bellevue, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Kirkland and Redmond can get started on making the switch to a heat pump today by visiting energysmarteastside.org/maketheswitch.

We love our Bellevue trees!



*By Kyle Thiessen,
Urban Forestry and Climate Engagement CivicSpark Fellow*

The 2023 Tree Giveaway was another community success! Participants in this year's Tree Giveaway program have been busy planting their new trees received at distribution events in October. Nearly 500 households and community organizations picked up 800 trees to plant in our community!

Thanks to everyone involved in growing and preserving Bellevue's tree canopy. Not only does tree canopy help us maintain our City in a Park, but our urban forest is one of our greatest environmental assets, keeping our air and water cleaner, providing shade during periods of intense heat and boosting community mental health.

While many Bellevue residents received trees this year, we paid close attention to getting trees where they are needed most by analyzing Tree Equity Scores in the areas where residents live. This metric represents how environmental hazards, such as air pollution and heat waves, often impact communities inequitably, especially when it comes to race, age, employment, and income. Since tree canopy can mitigate many of these environmental hazards, we use Tree Equity Scores to help all Bellevue residents access the essential benefits trees bring.

Tree Giveaway participants have also been able to take advantage of the Pacific Northwest's ideal planting months of October, November and December, when trees can develop strong roots with seasonal rainfall. If you're considering planting a tree this year, the next few weeks are your best chance for success!

Special thanks go out to our partners at 300 Trees, to our wonderful team of volunteers and to Amazon for their continued support. We also want to thank our Neighborhood Tree Ambassadors, who support our city's urban forestry efforts. We will be opening enrollment for our 2024 cohort starting in December, and more information will be available in the January issue of Neighborhood News, and on the City of Bellevue Neighborhood Tree Ambassadors website, where you can sign up to receive updates on the Tree Ambassadors program and our 2024 Tree Giveaway: bit.ly/bellevuetreegiveaway

Provide your feedback on Meydenbauer Bay Park expansion

Meydenbauer Bay Park, a one-of-a-kind waterfront park, is expanding and we need your help!

In 2010, the City of Bellevue adopted the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan to guide the growth of the park. The park will continue to grow south along the shoreline towards the intersection of 100th Avenue and Lake Washington Boulevard. The city is seeking community feedback to help guide the design of the expansion.

Scan the QR code or visit engagingbellevue.com/meydenbauer-bay-park-expansion to learn more about the project and share your thoughts via a survey that will be available through Dec. 31.

Sign up for project alerts to stay up to date on progress and to stay involved in future engagement opportunities!



Bellevue Supports Clean Buildings

By Patrick Babbitt, Climate and Energy Program Manager

The City of Bellevue partnered with MacDonald-Miller to help large buildings in Bellevue reduce their energy use, access incentives for energy efficiency, and comply early with the WA State Clean Buildings Law.

The law requires large buildings to report energy efficiency and, in some cases, meet energy use targets between 2026-2028. Buildings that do not comply may face fines. Washington State provides information about the law and process (commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/buildings) as well as early adopter incentives.

Bellevue developed a Clean Buildings Incentive Program (BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/environmental-stewardship/buildings-energy/clean-buildings-incentive-program) to provide additional support to buildings. Building owners, managers, and operators interested in easier, earlier compliance should register (macmiller.com/city-of-bellevue-clean-buildings) for the program today, visit our website, or watch a recent webinar for more information: youtube.com/watch?v=MjOotF7dmY0.



Boards and Commissions Meetings

Stay updated on meetings and cancellations:
BellevueWA.gov

All meetings are conducted at City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. If a holiday occurs on a Monday, please check the updated calendar. Agendas can be downloaded from the city's web pages listed below. Meeting alerts are available through subscribing to the City's Special Meeting Notices page.
BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/special-meeting-notice

Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network

(6 p.m., Bellevue City Hall) Last Tuesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-managers-office/diversity/bellevue-diversity-advisory-network

Arts Commission (4:30 p.m., 1E-113)

First Wednesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/arts-and-culture/arts-commission

Environmental Services Commission

(6:30 p.m., 1E-113) First Thursday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/utilities/conservation-and-the-environment/environmental-services-commission

Planning Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Second and fourth Wednesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/planning-commission

Transportation Commission

(6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Second Thursday of each month with fourth Thursday as needed.
BellevueWA.gov/planning/transportation-commission

Human Services Commission (6 p.m., 1E-113)

First and third Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/human-services-commission

LEOFF 1 Disability Board (6 p.m., Room 1E-118) First Wednesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/human-resources/retirees-former-employees/leoff-1-disability-board

Library Board (5p.m., Lake Hills, Bellevue or Newport Way Library) Third Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/library-board

Parks & Community Services Board

(6 p.m., 1E-113) Second Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/parks-and-community-services-board

The Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA) 8:30 a.m., North Bellevue Community Center 4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue) First Thursday of each month BellevueWA.gov/bnoa

Special Events Committee (8:30 a.m., 1E-112) Second Thursday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/special-events-committee

Youth Link Board (6 p.m., 1E-120)

Second and fourth Wednesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/youth-link-board

Bellevue's Neighborhood Services Division offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, please visit our website at: BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/neighborhoods or call 425-452-6836 or email: neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

To subscribe to this newsletter, visit: BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

City Council Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

Day	Scheduled Meeting(s)	Location	Public Comment Opportunity
First four Mondays of each Month, except August and December	6 p.m. Regular Meeting	Council Chamber Bellevue TV channel 21 and BTV YouTube channel youtube.com/user/BellevueWashington	Emails to Council are accepted at council@bellevuewa.gov at any time. Further opportunities for public comment are published on each Council agenda and can be found at bellevue.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx
August – first Monday only			
December – first and second Mondays only			