City of Bellevue BELLEVUE ITSYOURCITY

Summer 2023



Bike Bellevue



Airfield Park plan



Pop-up off leash dog areas





Community Development staff pick up litter by the Lake Hills Connector.

Keep Bellevue Beautiful program launches

By MARK HEILMAN Neighborhood Outreach Manager

Whether it's picking up litter or reporting abandoned shopping carts, residents have long played an essential role in making Bellevue a lovely city. This year, the City Council has launched a new initiative – "Keep Bellevue Beautiful" – focused on working with the community to keep Bellevue litter free.

The program will include community cleanups, an Adopt-a-Street program and coordinated pickups for reported abandoned shopping carts.

Cleanups

The community is encouraged to sign up now to participate in two summer cleanups. These Saturday morning events will be a fun way for residents to join together, roll up their sleeves and put civic pride into action. Save the date and sign up to participate for:

- Downtown cleanup on Aug. 12
- Factoria cleanup on Aug. 19

Monthly cleanups of "signature streets" – will be organized for this fall. These local events will focus on arterials throughout Bellevue that often provide "first and last" impressions of our neighborhoods.

In the spring of 2024, the city will begin an Adopt-a-Street program, involving the community in cleaning streets residents and groups select. The program will rely on the participation of community partners, including neighborhood and community associations, businesses, schools, faith communities and other organizations that promote civic pride. This is a great way to learn about environmental

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'Sustainable Bellevue' targets heat pumps, tree preservation

By JENNIFER EWING Environmental Stewardship Manager

The city has made significant progress on its "Sustainable Bellevue" environmental stewardship plan so far this year, launching a program to reduce residential energy use and updating Bellevue's tree code to help preserve tree canopy.



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

ECRWSS-C POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

To make it easier for low-income households to switch to energy-efficient heat pumps, Energy Smart Eastside, a collaboration with neighboring cities, added incentives through the "Boost" program in the spring. The first phase of the program was fully subscribed in short order.

This summer, new electrification incentives will make it easier for moderate-income households to convert from fossil fuel heat to heat pumps.

To learn more about the program and the various incentives available to all residents, sign up for a virtual webinar at **EnergySmartEastside.org**. Zoom webinars are scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 12-1 p.m., and Wednesday, Sept. 13, 6-7 p.m.

Residents take advantage of the city's second annual tree giveaway in October 2022. Another giveaway is planned for this fall.

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COUNCIL CORNER

A big city, still with the heart of a small town



By Councilmember JENNIFER ROBERTSON

It has been an honor, a privilege and a joy to serve as a Bellevue public official the last 20 years and to work with fellow councilmembers and so many committed volunteers. During that time, the city has substantially grown, with more high-rises, diversity and jobs. Still, with added

and expanded parks, Bellevue continues to be a great place to live and to live up to the tag "City in a Park."

Although I have chosen to not run for a fifth term, I know Bellevue will be in good hands because of all of you. I encourage everyone reading this, my last council column, to consider how you can continue the tradition of making our community stronger, more welcoming and a safe place for the next generation to thrive.

The city has changed, but many of the things we treasure here have stayed the same. Bellevue continues to be a safe place for all and a place where businesses choose to locate and invest. Most importantly, it is a place where our residents and other stakeholders work together to make our city better and to care for those amongst us who may need a little help. The commitment of our residents to serving and improving our community continues. We may be a big city now, but we still have the heart of a small town. I feel very fortunate to have raised my three children in such a wonderful place.

I'm grateful to have played a part in supporting key projects that have made our city stronger. We've added many acres of open space, finished Downtown Park and opened Meydenbauer Bay Park, as well as neighborhood parks in Bridle Trails, Newport Hills, Surrey Downs and elsewhere.

We finalized a light rail alignment that meets Bellevue residents' needs, with East Link to start running in the next couple of years, and we've worked with the state to improve Interstate 405 and State Route 520, to make getting in and out of Bellevue more convenient. We also substantially changed the BelRed area, and set up downtown and Wilburton for future success. We have added over 2,000 affordable housing units, and we're focused on ways to keep adding more, given the urgent need.

We have made our city safer by growing our police and fire departments to keep pace with the growth. We just broke ground on Fire Station 10, a project I've been working on since my first election back in 2009. We are also set to adopt a new master plan for Airfield Park that will provide a location where people can learn to swim, play pickleball or simply walk in the woods or daydream in a meadow.

There are many opportunities to get involved, from your neighborhood association to nonprofits, places of worship and community organizations. At the City of Bellevue, residents can participate through the Bellevue Essentials civics course and dozens of volunteer positions with the Police, Parks & Community Services, Community Development and Utilities departments. You could join our Conflict Resolution team or serve on a city board or commission. You can view these opportunities at BellevueWA.gov/volunteering.

As my time as an elected official comes to an end, I remain excited for the future of Bellevue and can't wait to see how our city will continue to blossom in the years ahead.



Councilmember Robertson participated in a community cleanup with her daughters Abby, left, and Maddy in May 2020.

COUNCIL ROUNDUP

By CLAUDE IOSSO It's Your City Editor

Funding affordable housing

The City Council on May 8 voted to help fund seven projects that create or preserve more than 800 units of affordable housing on the Eastside through the 2022 Housing Trust Fund and to fund three other projects through Bellevue's Housing Stability Program.

A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) recommended a \$7.6 million investment for the projects from its Housing Trust Fund, which is funded by ARCH member cities, made available through ARPA funds, Community Development Block Grant funds, CARES Act funding and a special allocation of council contingency funds.

In the most recent funding process, 35 agencies applied for over \$7 million, more than double the amount available. The 28 agencies recommended for funding specialize in a variety of human services from childcare and legal assistance to behavioral health treatment and homelessness support, from food access to providing basic necessities, from supporting domestic violence survivors to a new critical Strategy initiative. In light of the additional affordable housing coming on line, as well as the continuing need, council members discussed adjusting the city's affordable housing target later this year.

In an effort to increase housing production and diversify the city's housing stock, the council on June 5 approved a land use code amendment that removed barriers to the development of micro-apartments. The code changes apply in mixed-use areas of the city near transit, and include setting a maximum unit size, reducing vehicle parking and adding bicycle parking, among other requirements.

including \$2.4 million from Bellevue. The projects include supportive housing for seniors, veterans and people with disabilities; homeownership housing that will help families build equity; affordable senior independent living; and transit-oriented development. More than 250 units are in Bellevue.

\$3 million in ARPA funding for critical human services

The City Council accepted recommendations from the Human Services Commission for allocating just over \$3 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to organizations in the community addressing Bellevue's most critical human services needs. The council has allocated more than \$21 million in onetime funding for a variety of human services needs since the beginning of the pandemic, category this year: fostering wellbeing in the face of racial and ethnic discrimination.

Affordable housing via tax exemptions, micro-apartments

The city's multifamily tax exemption program, which was expanded and modified in 2021, is a key part of Bellevue's Affordable Housing Strategy. Developers are using the incentives from the program to enable adding 275 units of affordable housing to projects now in the pipeline, with interest in adding 300 more affordable units in potential future projects.

Bellevue is on track to add at least 2,972 units of affordable housing by 2027, officially exceeding the 2,500-unit target for 2017-2027, staff reported during an April 24 update on the council's Affordable Housing

\$100,000 allocated for 32 arts organizations

The council on April 17 approved the Arts Commission's recommendation for allocating \$100,000 for 32 local arts organizations as part of 2023 One-Time Arts Project Grants.

The funded organizations offer programs designed to increase access for people from traditionally marginalized communities and will serve an estimated 540,000 residents and visitors this year through in-person and virtual projects. In addition, more than 106,800 people will have access to these opportunities through free or reduced admissions.

The council has been allocating annual operational grant funding to support artists and arts organizations since 2001.



A bike lane along Northeast 12th Street, shown in this visualization, would connect existing bike facilities downtown.

'Bike Bellevue' to add more bike lanes in urban core

Input wanted on proposed network improvements

By GILLIAN HAGSTROM

Transportation Public Information Officer

Building on previous efforts over the years to make bicycling safer in Bellevue, the city has launched "Bike Bellevue," a project to add bike lanes that would connect existing ones in downtown, Wilburton and BelRed.

In March, the City Council approved principles for Bike Bellevue, which will add bike lanes and other bike infrastructure to existing streets. The intent is to create a grid of safe and comfortable cycling connections to key destinations for people of all ages and abilities.

There will be several opportunities over the summer and fall to get involved

and give feedback, including providing comments on proposed designs and answering a questionnaire about which portions of the network should be completed first.

Bike Bellevue builds on previous plans and programs, including the 2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan, the 2016 Bicycle Rapid Implementation Program, the 2020 Vision Zero Strategic Plan and the 2022 Mobility Implementation Plan, as well as the bike facilities added to city streets as part of those efforts.

Updates on Bike Bellevue can be found at BellevueWA.gov/bike-bellevue. You can also sign up to receive email or text alerts, which will include information on opportunities to get involved.

SUSTAINABLE

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Tree Canopy Preservation

To support the preservation and growth of Bellevue's tree canopy, the Development Services Department is drafting updates to the city tree code. Initial outreach for the tree code update has begun, and the city will use this input to identify priorities on the topic.

In addition, the city is organizing its 2023 Tree Giveaway, which will take place in October. The free trees will support growth in Bellevue's tree canopy, with an emphasis on trees being planted in areas where there currently are fewer.

The list of available trees is available online and the city will start accepting applications on Monday, June 26. For more information, go to BellevueWA.gov/trees.

Sustainable Commercial Buildings

To support commercial buildings and sustainability in the private sector, the city has partnered with the 2030 Districts Network, which supports nationwide urban sustainability. Building on the success of 2030 Districts in major downtowns across the country, the city worked with leaders of Bellevue's commercial real estate and development community to form a new nonprofit program called the Bellevue 2030 District.

The city is partnering with the Bellevue 2030 District to help promote our Clean Buildings incentive and other programs.

Lunch and Learn Series

Finally, to help accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue plan, the Environmental Stewardship team is growing. Stay tuned for opportunities to meet the new team members as part of our Summer Sustainability Lunch and Learn series and the next Sustainable Bellevue town hall.

To stay up to date on these projects and more, go to BellevueWA.gov/environment and sign up for our newsletter.

Bellevue to buy first electric fire engine

By HEATHER WONG Fire Public Information Officer

With a grant from the state Department of Ecology, the Fire Department is set to purchase the city's first electric fire engine. The new Pierce Volterra will be one of the first municipal electric fire engines in the country, housed at Fire Station 1, at 766 Bellevue Way SE.

"The Bellevue Fire Department looks forward to being a leader, not only in the state, but in the nation, by demonstrating the efficiency of a more environmentally friendly fire engine without sacrificing safety or performance," Fire Chief Jay Hagen said in February, after the City Council voted to accept a \$649,000 grant from Ecology.

Madison, Wisconsin, home to Pierce Manufacturing, put the nation's first municipal electric fire engine into service in 2021. The only notable difference in performance from diesel models is that it's quieter for both firefighters and the community.

The cities of Redmond and Seattle are also participating in the grant program, which helps cover the cost of charging apparatus along with the fire engines.





The grant, available through the Washington State Clean Diesel and Volkswagen Settlement Grant programs, will cover up to 25% of the new rig's cost. Acquisition planning for the electric engine is being done this year, with procurement and delivery anticipated in 2025-2026.

For years Bellevue has been adding electric vehicles to its fleet and charging stations for them. Bellevue has a strong commitment to remaining a regional leader in environmental sustainability.

"Adding an electric fire engine to the fleet directly aligns with the implementation of our Sustainable Bellevue plan, which we're accelerating this year," said Ana Hagerup, the city's sustainability program manager. "Trading an older diesel model for a zeroemission fire engine puts us on the path to achieve the city's fleet electrification targets, along with its goal to reduce local carbon emissions by 80% by 2050."



The proposed plan for Bellevue Airfield Park features an aquatic center (large, beige shape near center) and pickleball courts on the eastern edge of the park.

Proposed Airfield Park plan update includes pool and pickleball courts

By CLAUDE IOSSO It's Your City Editor

The updated preferred master plan for Bellevue Airfield Park includes an aquatic facility, pickleball courts, trails and picnic shelters. As directed by the City Council in April, the plan will undergo environmental review before being adopted by the City Council, possibly later this year.

After a year of public outreach, the Parks & Community Services Board recommended an updated plan responsive to community preferences. Residents supported trails, picnic areas and pickleball courts, as well as a new aquatic facility for the park. The off-leash areas at neighboring Robinswood Park are also set to be expanded as part of the project.

In 2003 and 2004, the city purchased two properties adjacent to a city-owned utility site in Eastgate, together totaling 27.5

acres, for development as a park. The site has a unique history, serving as a landfill and then as part of an airfield from 1945 to 1983. Bellevue Airfield Park is just north of Interstate 90.

The proposed updated master plan would replace the one the council adopted in 2012, which calls for two lighted, synthetic-turf sports fields, picnic areas, trail connections and an expansion of the off-leash dog area at Robinswood Park.

In 2021, the council directed Parks staff to update the plan for the park to address current community preferences and study locating an aquatic center there. Bellevue Airfield Park is the only undeveloped, city-owned site with enough space (10 to 11 acres) for a modern aquatic facility.

Adoption of the updated Bellevue Airfield master plan is anticipated before the end of the year.

New ordinance requires removal of graffiti

City to help property owners with education, resources

By HEIDI SKINNER Code Compliance Officer

Bellevue is committed to the prevention of graffiti and its swift removal. In response to an increase in reported graffiti incidents over the last couple of years, the City Council amended the City Code in May, adding graffiti as a public nuisance.

The ordinance, part of the new "Keep Bellevue Beautiful" initiative, requires the removal of graffiti by the property owner. The city will provide educational materials about how to remove graffiti when it is reported, and the Code Compliance team will work with property owners for swift removal.

What is graffiti?

Graffiti is any marking (writing, paint, drawings, inscriptions, etc.) made on property without the owner's permission.

What can you do about it?

- **Report** Take a picture, note the location and fill out the complaint form in the MyBellevue app.
- Remove Paint over it, use an approved remover, power-wash it off or hire a professional.
- **Prevent** Use a clear coat finish to protect painted and unpainted surfaces. Cover surfaces with graffiti-resistant paint and place protective films on windows. Keep your property well-lit and install motion-detecting lights and/or cameras.

Reporting and swift removal of graffiti are the best ways to prevent it from recurring. Assistance for graffiti removal may be available for residents. Removing and preventing graffiti helps secure Bellevue's future as a livable, inspiring, equitable and vibrant community.



Same great Parks programs, facilities; new way to register

By COLIN WALKER Parks & Community Services Marketing Administrator

Bellevue Parks & Community Services will replace its online registration and facility scheduling system in July. Staff are working to minimize the impact of the system transition on customers, but some disruption is expected, and residents' patience is appreciated.

When the new system is implemented, customers will enjoy a new and improved online registration experience, including

new ways to search for programs. Those who have participated in a program or rented an indoor or outdoor facility in the past six years will receive an invitation by email to claim their account in July. Online registration will still be found at Register.BellevueWA.gov.

Residents planning to register for a recreational program or a summer day camp being held in July or August are encouraged to register by June 30. To register, visit Register.BellevueWA.gov, call 425-452-6885 or seek assistance at any Bellevue community center.



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stewardship, meet your neighbors and participate in helping to keep Bellevue's neighborhoods beautiful for all to enjoy.

To support the removal and prevention of abandoned shopping carts, the city has contracted with a service provider to conduct weekly sweeps of identified hot spots of abandoned carts. Residents are asked to assist in this effort by reporting abandoned shopping carts on the MyBellevue app or at BellevueWA.gov/mybellevue.

Residents interested in participating in the Keep Bellevue Beautiful program can learn more and register to participate in events at BellevueWA. gov/keepbellevuebeautiful.

Keep Bellevue Beautiful coordinator Sarina Miller (samiller@bellevuewa.gov) will provide information about upcoming volunteer opportunities, educational programming and how to get involved in keeping Bellevue clean, safe and beautiful.



As part of the Keep Bellevue Beautiful program, a man collects stray shopping carts from identified hot spots, in this case by the Bellevue Transit Center.

Bellevue Essentials accepting applications

By JULIE ELLENHORN Community Relations Coordinator

Bellevue Essentials opens residents' eyes to the who, what and why of city government and the avenues to get involved. Community members have until July 20 to apply to participate in the civic engagement program's 11-week fall session.

Participants will experience the daily operations of Bellevue's government through immersive and interactive learning. They get to see the work, challenges and collaboration between staff and community that make Bellevue a great place to live, work and play. Class members finish the course knowing how to impact decision-making in the city, with an expanded personal network and new volunteer opportunities.

A cohort of 35 participants will be selected who are demographically representative of Bellevue's diverse community and committed to the future of Bellevue and ready to serve the community. Classes are on Wednesdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Sept 20 to Nov. 15, and include Saturday morning sessions on Sept. 23 and Oct. 7, where the class will explore neighborhoods and parks.

Participants should live or work in Bellevue and must attend nine of 11 sessions to graduate.

Over 340 participants have graduated from Bellevue Essentials since 2013, and many have made an impact in Bellevue since through their service on city boards and commissions, committees, neighborhood association boards and as volunteers throughout the city and the community. Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis was in the class of 2014.



Bellevue Essentials participants get to see planning in three dimensions.

Whether you are new to the community or a seasoned leader here, Bellevue Essentials offers the opportunity to meet the City Council and department directors and to get to know city staff who do the day-today work of running Bellevue. Through presentations, interactive experiences and site tours, class members gain in-depth knowledge of how the city operates.

Tuition is \$150 and fee waivers are available to those with financial need. Applications are due by 5 p.m., July 20. Applicants are encouraged to share in their applications their personal experience, why they want to participate and how they hope to be involved in the community. A screening team of Bellevue Essentials graduates and city staff help select the class each year.

A brochure and easy application are available at BellevueWA.gov/bellevueessentials. A video introduction to the Bellevue Essentials experience is also available on that webpage. For more information, contact Julie Ellenhorn (jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5372).

Moving toward new growth strategies for the next 20 years

By BROOKE BROD **Community Development Department**

The update to Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan now underway will result in big changes in the coming years. Notably, there's a good chance Bellevue 2044, which will guide the city's development over the next 20 years, will include a new growth strategy.

concentrates housing and jobs in downtown, East Main and BelRed. The other alternatives incorporate growth in other areas too, such as mixed-use centers, areas with good access to transit and areas close to neighborhood centers.

Preparation of the EIS for the Comprehensive Plan began last fall



A draft environmental impact statement, which considers the potential impacts of the Comprehensive Plan, offered four options for how much growth in terms of jobs and housing Bellevue should plan for. The City Council is expected to choose a growth strategy this summer, with a meeting on July 24.

The city anticipates a need for at least 35,000 more housing units and 70,000 more jobs in Bellevue by 2044. Changes in policy and Bellevue land use code can increase the capacity for housing and jobs here, with the four alternatives in the draft EIS covering a range of additional housing and jobs capacity that will meet future needs to different degrees.

The "no-action" alternative, which continues the current growth strategy, with scoping, during which the city determined the issues to study and proposed growth alternatives based on community input. On April 27 the city released the draft EIS. Community members and stakeholders submitted comments until June 12.

In June, the Planning Commission was scheduled to review the draft EIS and recommend a preferred growth strategy to the City Council. In July, the council is expected to consider that recommendation and pick a growth strategy. Based on community feedback, the council could pick one of the alternatives studied or a hybrid of them.

Later in the summer, the city will release the final EIS, which will analyze the chosen

As part of Bellevue's current growth strategy, multifamily housing has been added to BelRed.

growth strategy and respond to all comments received concerning the draft EIS.

In the fall, the city will share draft policies for the new Comprehensive Plan with the community. The updated plan will be released in early 2024.

Public input is an important part of each step in the process and community members are encouraged to get involved. Subscribe for email or text Alerts about updates in the process or consult BellevueWA.gov/ **comprehensive-plan** or the interactive EngagingBellevue.com/bellevue-2044.

Planning starts for cross-cultural center without walls

By SARA BOYLE Equity Coordinator

In an effort to help unite Bellevue's diverse residents, the city is starting to plan "In Community: A Cross-Cultural Center Without Walls," which will support local nonprofit organizations hosting crosscultural events at community and cultural centers around Bellevue.

These cross-cultural experiences will be designed around active intercultural engagement, learning and exchange. The intent is to create interactions between people and groups from different racial, ethnic, cultural and other backgrounds.

Studies between 2018 and 2022 indicated community support for cross-cultural

programming in Bellevue, and that such programming should be "communityled, city-supported" – directed by local organizations with support from city staff and resources.

A new, stand-alone facility for cross-cultural programming could take years to plan and finance. In the meantime, the city is moving forward to create programming in partnership with cultural stakeholders.

Refining concept for center

There will be several opportunities in the summer for residents to participate in the planning and creation of a cross-cultural center without walls. The city will hold a short round of interactive community meetings to refine the hundreds of ideas shared over the past six years for the center.

Events and Activities

In the fall and winter, local nonprofits will be invited to apply for funding to create cross-cultural events, programs and other activities. Hosted in various spaces, this programming will help us see what kinds of activities could be housed in a dedicated building.

Organizations already holding cross-cultural events can share those with the city too. They can be added as Cross-Cultural Center activities. The more diverse opportunities for cross-cultural exchange, the better. More details are available at **BellevueWA**. gov/crosscultural.

Let us help you get started with your summer task list

By ROBIN ZAMBROWSKY Code Compliance Officer

In the sunny months here, we're reminded of the all of the improvements great and small that need doing outside around the house. When making your list, we can suggest some projects that will make you and your neighbors happy.

Any time is a good time to clean up stuff that may have accumulated in your yard, driveway or other places, including:

- Litter: Strewn across the yards, maybe because trash/recycle bin lids aren't securely closed
- Nuisance: An accumulation of items, perhaps piled, creating a home for rodents
- Inoperable Vehicles: Flat tires, extensively damaged, missing major parts
- RVs, Boats and Trailers: Not typically allowed to be stored in front yards or driveways

If you're thinking about a significant home or yard improvement, you'll want to determine if a permit is required and that your plans meet code. We're talking about:

- Remodeling: Upgrades or changes inside and outside, perhaps a new deck or covered patio
- **Landscaping:** Disturbing over 1,000 square feet of earth, replacing the grass for turf grass, or removing or trimming trees
- Steep Slope or Waterways: Projects in "critical areas" or near a shoreline
- **Fences:** Height and location on the property are important.

Whatever projects are on your list, you can easily avoid unforeseen obstacles by checking with the city's Development Services



Your home improvement project can be a lot less ambitious than this addition and still need a permit.

Department before you begin. The city offers many free resources at **BellevueWA.gov/development-services**, at our Permit Center at City Hall or even from the comfort of your home or office through our Virtual Permit Center (**BellevueWA.gov/virtual-permit-center**).

Find recycling resources at **BellevueWA.gov/RecycleMore**. To report a code violation, download the My Bellevue app or visit **BellevueWA.gov/MyBellevue**.

What do you think about speed limit pavement markings?



By JOHN MURPHY Senior Transportation Planner

The Bellevue Transportation Department wants to know what you think about speed limit pavement markings – where the speed limit is marked on the street itself as a reminder of what's on the signs. Are they helpful? Do you notice them?

The city uses 25 mph speed limit pavement markings, like the one shown in the picture, at about 260 locations throughout the city. The markings are created using thermoplastic, which lasts longer than paint, but they still need to be maintained and eventually replaced.

While Bellevue has been using speed limit pavement markings for many years, transportation staff have limited information on their effectiveness and popularity among residents. Please take an anonymous, five-minute survey at **SurveyMonkey**. **com/r/Bellevue25mph** by July 31 to let us know what you think. This information will be used to help make decisions on speed limit pavement markings in the future.



Kristoff waits impatiently for his friend Donut to join him in the pop-up off-leash area at Wildwood Park. All of the new off-leash areas feature double gates and fences.

Bellevue tests pop-up off-leash dog areas

By CLAUDE IOSSO It's Your City Editor

Recognizing the growing demand for accessible and safe spaces for pets and their owners to get exercise and enjoy the outdoors, Bellevue Parks & Community Services is launching a new pop-up, off-leash dog area pilot program this summer at three parks across the city.

These temporary facilities – fenced areas with double entry gates, garbage cans and dog waste bag dispensers – opened in early June. As the pilot progresses, temporary sites may become permanent based on level of use, community feedback, capital construction costs and other factors. More pop-up sites may be added. An online survey to provide feedback is available at **BellevueWA.gov/dogs**.

Permanent sites may then have features added such as water fountains, shelters, dog wash and surface improvements. Funding from the new parks levy will support the development of these new facilities.

The pop-up locations were chosen based on the 2022 Parks & Open Space System Plan, which prioritized siting off-leash areas facilities near downtown and in other underserved neighborhoods. The sites include:

- Crossroads Park: one-acre area in this 35-acre park.
- Wilburton Hill Park: Off-leash area along the Lake to Lake trail, with excellent access for drivers and neighborhood walkers
- Wildwood Park: good pedestrian access, but limited parking.

Document shredding event on Aug. 19 at Sammamish High School

By ERIN HISLOP

Utilities Conservation and Outreach

Bring your documents containing sensitive information to a paper shredding event at Sammamish High School (100 140th Ave. SE), on Saturday, Aug. 19, 9 a.m.-noon or until the trucks are full.

With an on-site shredder, a secure company will shred and recycle documents, which staff will take at participants' vehicles. Empty boxes will be immediately returned to customers. We cannot recycle any boxes on site. The event is for Bellevue residents only, with a **limit of four banker-size boxes per car (11"x11"x17.5" max per box), no exceptions.**



The following material will contaminate the recycling process and is NOT accepted at this event: already shredded paper, computer disks, plastic of any kind, X-rays, three-ring binders, cardboard, and garbage.

When you shred paper at home

Shredded paper cannot go in your home recycling or composting carts. If you shred your sensitive paper documents at home, then the shredded paper belongs in the garbage.

Since shredded paper is harder to recycle than whole sheets, please shred only what you need to. The state Attorney General's Office recommends that documents containing sensitive information, such as bank account or social security numbers, be shredded.

For additional guidance on shredding, visit **ATG.WA.gov/what-shred**.

Bellevue residents drop off materials for shredding at the 2022 event.

For additional event or recycling questions, email recycle@bellevuewa.gov.

For more information on how to recycle right and protect our natural resources, register for free Greener Living classes at **BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes**.

Redesigned City Hall Plaza offers welcoming gateway to Bellevue

By JENNIE CAMPOS Transportation Public Information Officer

Years in the making, the reimagined City Hall Plaza opened on March 31, Bellevue's 70th anniversary of incorporation, with a ribbon-breaking ceremony attended by community stakeholders.

In June 2017, construction began on the East Link tunnel and Bellevue Downtown Station. Construction also started on the neighboring City Hall Plaza, with a goal of making it a welcoming public space along the Grand Connection.

Through its partnership with Sound Transit, Bellevue has created a direct connection between downtown and East Link, a key component of the city's multimodal transportation evolution. The plaza is expected to be a gateway for thousands of commuters once the station opens for service sometime between spring 2024 and spring 2025. The plaza also helps to establish the city's cultural legacy with major works by Pacific Northwest artist Dan Corson and statues gifted by sister city Hualien, Taiwan.

"Today we took a significant step in realizing our ambitious vision for mobility on the Eastside and the region," Mayor Lynne Robinson said in March. "The City Hall Plaza and the Bellevue Downtown Station will allow residents, workers and visitors to hop on light rail and connect to the regional transportation system and reach a variety of destinations where people live, work and play."

"As Bellevue's longtime partner when it comes to realizing the city's vision for a sustainable community, Sound Transit is honored to be part of the Bellevue family and this celebration," said Sound Transit CEO Julie Timm. "I can't think of a better symbol of our partnership than this plaza, which combines the front doorsteps to both Bellevue's City Hall and Sound Transit's Bellevue Downtown Station, which will be our busiest on the Eastside."

Artworks on display at the

plaza include The Root, by Corson, a bronze casting of 13 different western red cedar root systems. The project was cast in over 250 pieces and weighs over 10,500 pounds. The network of roots is a metaphor for the infrastructure systems provided by the city, such as water and transportation.

The city's relationship with Hualien dates back to 1984 after a delegation of Bellevue residents of Taiwanese descent, city councilmembers and the Bellevue Sister Cities Association visited and formed an affiliation. The first marble guardian lion was gifted by Hualien in 1987. In 2013, a



The redesigned plaza at City Hall features public art such as The Root sculpture by Don Corson.

delegation from Hualien gifted the matching guardian lion to complete the pair and officially installed and "awakened" them in a dedication ceremony.

"Through careful selection of artworks, the plaza also reflects the history, culture and people of Bellevue," Mayor Robinson noted. "We encourage the community to visit and enjoy this community-centered space."

Indeed, the plaza, at 450 110th Avenue NE, had tables and seating made possible through a partnership with the Bellevue Downtown Association in the spring.



A visit with motorcycle officers will be part of the package at the Police Youth Camp.

Police to host first-ever Youth Camp

By MEEGHAN BLACK Police Public Information Officer

The Bellevue Police Department will host its firstever "Youth Camp," Tuesday, Aug. 22 to Thursday, Aug. 24. Open to all youths 12 to 14 years old in Bellevue, the camp will feature three days of fun, hands-on learning, demonstrations and teambuilding exercises.

Create defensible space in face of urban fire risk

By HEATHER WONG Fire Public Information Officer

Imagine a rapidly growing brushfire racing toward your home, threatening to turn your cozy sanctuary into an unintended bonfire. How do you have a fighting chance against such a formidable force of nature?

As our region continues to grow, building up and around natural landscapes, we must buy into the importance of defensible space (and we're not referring to Star Wars or space battles). The risk of urban wildfire here is serious this year. In just the first week of June, the Bellevue Fire Department was called to 21 bark or brush fires! The first step toward creating defensible space is to assess the immediate vicinity of our homes.

Remove dead vegetation, dry leaves and fallen branches. Trim tree limbs within 10 feet of structures, creating a barrier against fire spreading from the ground to higher levels.

Maintaining a minimum clearance of 30 feet around structures is equally essential. Regularly mow grass, keeping it short and well-hydrated. Replace highly flammable plants with fireresistant alternatives. By reducing fuel sources, we hinder the progression of fires and minimize the intensity of flames that reach our doorsteps.

Participants will learn firsthand from Bellevue officers about crime scene investigations, forensics, social media safety and basic first aid, among other topics. Participants will team up to solve a mystery, participate in a "distracted riding" course, meet a K9 (police dog) and check out the police motorcycles. King County's Guardian One helicopter will even drop in for a visit.

Officers hope to help build positive relationships, help young people explore career possibilities and teach life skills in a fun format.

The Bellevue Police Youth Camp will be 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Aug. 22-23, and 12-6 p.m., Aug. 24, with the graduation party at Dave & Buster's. Look for registration information at BellevueWA.gov/police. Defensible space refers to the buffer zone around our homes that is intentionally cleared of flammable materials. By creating this zone, we create a line of defense against encroaching wildfires.

Our beautiful surroundings, with lush forests and scenic landscapes, are a double-edged sword.

While they offer tranquility and natural splendor, they also increase the risk of wildfires. However, by adopting defensible space practices, we can strike a harmonious balance between preserving our environment and safeguarding our lives. Creating defensible space is not a one-time task. It requires ongoing maintenance and vigilance.

Regularly inspect and clear gutters, remove debris from roofs, and maintain adequate clearance for vehicles and emergency personnel access. Let us be proactive, not reactive.

Homeowners are encouraged to engage neighbors, form community groups and encourage everyone to take action. Together, we can build a united front against the wrath of wildfires.

City construction projects underway this summer and fall

A variety of transportation, utilities and parks projects – listed by neighborhood – are under construction or ready to start later this year. For more information about projects, please contact the project manager listed.

BelRed

124th Ave. NE – Ichigo Way to Northup Way: Upgrades include a multipurpose path on the west side of 124th Avenue Northeast between Northeast 16th Street and Ichigo Way, sidewalks on both sides of the street separated by landscape planters, the construction of a culvert that fish and wildlife can navigate, and raising and widening 124th Avenue to five lanes. Construction 2023 to fall 2024.

Marina Arakelyan, marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov



Valley Creek at 21st St. Flood Control: Replace and enlarge the culvert at 21st Street, and restore Valley Creek between 20th and 21st streets to mitigate flooding. Construction June to October 2023. Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov



Bridle Trails

Bridle Trails 140th Ave. NE Neighborhood Park: New 1.65-acre park will feature a playground, picnic shelter, restroom, walking trails and natural areas. Construction summer 2023. Scott VanderHyden, svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov

Citywide

2023 ADA Upgrades: Upgrade various ADA ramps at nine locations throughout the city. Construction fall 2023. **Casiano Atienza, catienza@bellevuewa.gov**

Citywide Pavement Preservation: Resurfaced streets – including

Citywide (continued)

Crosswalk Improvements (145th Pl. SE and intersection of 116th Ave. NE and NE 20th St.):

Improve pedestrian crossings at four locations. The work along 145th Place Southeast includes installing flashing beacons at midblock crossings north of Southeast 13th Place and 144th Avenue Southeast, and south of Southeast 22nd Street. At the 116th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 20th Street intersection a new crosswalk, refuge median island, street lighting, curb ramp, sidewalks and flashing beacons will be added. Construction fall 2023. Sara Haile, shaile@bellevuewa.gov

Cougar Mountain/Lakemont

Cougar Mountain 1 Pump Station: Replace aging pumps and associated mechanical systems, conduct seismic retrofit and upgrade electrical systems to improve operational efficiency and hydraulic performance at the aging water pump station. Construction August 2023 to December 2024. Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov

Horizon View 2 Reservoir and Pump Station: Replace reservoir and associated pump station. New reservoir will hold more water and new pump station building will include an emergency backup generator. Offsite water mains will also be included. Construction fall 2023 to fall 2025.

Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov



Lakemont Boulevard Crosswalk at Red Town Trailhead: Install new crosswalk with accessibility improvements and flashing crosswalk at the trail connection on Lakemont Boulevard near the Red Town Trailhead. Construction fall 2023.

grinding, fresh asphalt, new pavement markings, upgraded curb ramps and new sidewalks. Repaving typically occurs between April and October. A map of all planned 2023 resurfacing projects is available at: BellevueWA.gov/pavement. Isack Habte, ihabte@bellevuewa.gov



Darcy Akers, dakers@bellevuewa.gov

Lakemont Blvd. Culvert at Coal Creek: Emergency project to construct a bridge to secure the stability of Lakemont Boulevard at the culvert location. Construction summer 2023 to spring 2024. Prabhat Karna, pkarna@bellevuewa.gov

Downtown

Crosswalk Installations: Install crosswalks with median islands and flashing beacons on 110th Avenue Northeast, Northeast Second Place and Northeast 11th Street. Construction fall 2023. **Tyler Lam, tlam@bellevuewa.gov**

NE Eighth St. Pedestrian Enhancements over I-405: Improve safety for pedestrians crossing the Interstate 405 ramps along Northeast Eighth Street by adding flashing beacons and a signal to crosswalks. Construction fall 2023. **Sara Haile, shaile@bellevuewa.gov**

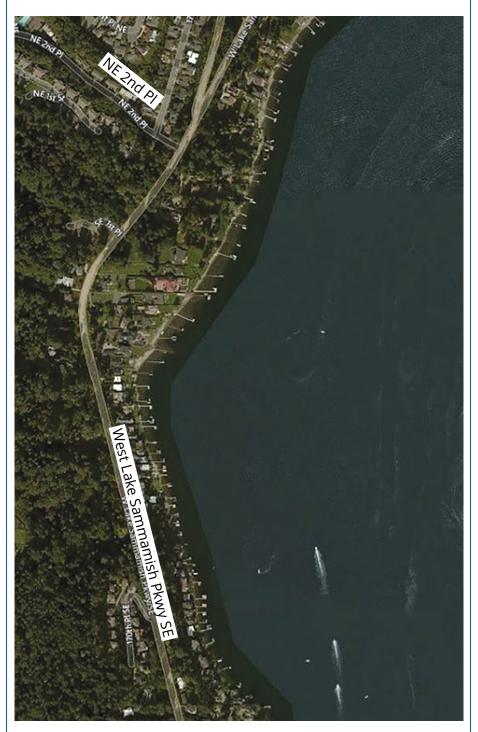
Construction projects continued page 10

City construction projects underway this summer and fall

Eastgate

170th Pl. SE Pressure Improvements: Install 1,500 linear feet of new eight-inch water main and a pressure relief valve to increase system pressure to required level. Construction September 2023 to May 2024.

Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov



Lake Hills

156th Ave. SE and Lake Hills Blvd. Traffic Signal: Replace the allway stop at Lake Hills Boulevard and 156th Avenue Southeast with a new traffic signal, including ADA ramp upgrades and pavement overlay. Construction fall 2023.

Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

Main St. and 156th Ave. SE Traffic Signal Upgrades: Replace the

Newport

123rd Ave. SE Sidewalk Improvements:

Complete missing segments of sidewalk along the west side of 123rd Avenue Southeast from Southeast 60th Street to 65th Place. Also install curb bulbs, replace water main, upgrade ADA ramps and full street overlay. Construction fall 2023. **Glen Kho**, **gkho@bellevuewa.gov**

SE 54th Pl. and SE 52nd St. Sidewalks: Construct sidewalk along the north side of Southeast 54th Place, where missing, west of 119th Avenue Southeast and the south side of Southeast 52nd Street between 117th and 119th avenues. Parking on both streets will be preserved to the greatest extent possible. Construction to begin summer 2023.

Olivia Aikala, oaikala@bellevuewa.gov

Northeast Bellevue

Crosswalk Installations: Install a new crosswalk on 164th Avenue Northeast at Northeast 12th Street. Construction fall 2023. **Tyler Lam, tlam@bellevuewa.gov**

Northwest Bellevue

Northwest Bellevue Walkways and Safety Improvements:

Construct a multi-use trail on the east side of 100th Avenue Northeast between Northeast 14th and 24th streets. Sidewalks will be constructed where missing on the north side of Northeast 18th and 21st streets between 98th and 100th avenues Northeast, and on the east side of 98th Avenue Northeast between Northeast 18th and 20th streets. Construction fall 2023.

Benjamin Wright, bmwright@bellevuewa.gov

Wilburton

Wilburton Sewer Pump Station: Rehabilitate sewer pump station with below-ground submersible pumps and associated systems. Construction May 2023 to summer 2024. Bob York, ryork@bellevuewa.gov



traffic signal at 156th Avenue Southeast and Main Street to add left turn signals with flashing yellow arrows on each approach, as well as ADA ramp upgrades and pavement overlay. Construction fall 2023. **Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov**

Main St. between 140th Ave. NE and 153rd Pl. NE Crosswalk

Upgrades: Pedestrian safety features will include crosswalks with accessibility improvements and upgraded flashing crosswalk systems at the trail crossing near Sammamish High School and 145th Place Northeast. Install new flashing crosswalk system at the crosswalk on 153rd Place Northeast. Some work was completed in 2022. Construction fall 2023. **Darcy Akers, dakers@bellevuewa.gov**

Sanitary Sewer Replacement: Replace 1,150 linear feet of sewer pipeline between Southeast 11th and 13th streets in the vicinity of 158th Avenue Southeast. Construction September 2023 to February 2024.

Vanaja Rajah, vrajah@bellevuewa.gov



Stay Connected with Bellevue Television

Live and recorded community meetings and special programming

youtube.com/BellevueWashington BellevueWA.gov/btv

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Summer 2023

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Bellevue Botanical Garden Tours

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St.

Docent Tours

Every Saturday and Sunday, April through October, noon-1 p.m.

Introducing the plants, gardens and history of the garden. Meet at the Shorts House. Free, donations encouraged.

Flower Hours Second Thursday, June to September, 5-6 p.m.

Relaxed and informative hour \$10.50 member/\$15 non-members

Curator Tours

Third Friday of every month, 10 a.m.-noon

Alex Wright, Garden curator, leads walks highlighting the plant collection.

\$10.50 member/\$15 non-members 425-452-2750 or **BellevueBotanical.org**

Bellevue Family 4th

July 4, 5-10:30 p.m.

Downtown Park, 10201 NE Fourth St.

Family activities and evening fireworks set to music performed by the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra.

425-452-4106 or BellevueDowntown.com

Bellevue Beats and Bites Music Series

June 7-Aug. 25

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (times vary)

Free live music at various locations downtown.

425-453-1223 or BellevueDowntown.com/ events/bellevue-beats

Greener Living classes

June 23-Aug. 17

Times and locations vary

Learn to help our environment with easy actions in everyday life.Free.

BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes

Beach Park Lifeguards

Arts and Crafts Fairs

July 28-30 (hours vary)

Two art fairs all weekend throughout downtown.

Bellevue Arts Museum Arts Fair: 425-519-0770 or **BellevueArts.org**

Bellevue Downtown Arts Market: 425-453-1223 or **BellevueDowntown.com**



Residents gather at Crossroads Park for a movie.

Theater on the Green Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th St.

Aug. 9, "Shakespeare in the Park"

Aug. 16, "Henny Penn"

Bring a picnic and enjoy a night out with free performances presented by Last Leaf Productions.

425-452-4106 or nwac@bellevuewa.gov

Downtown Movies in the Park July 18-Aug. 27, Tuesday nights at dusk

Downtown Park, 10201 NE Fourth St.

Free movies on 40-foot screen, free popcorn too

July 18 – "Minions: Rise of Gru"

July 25 – "Trolls World Tour"

Aug. 1 – "Hoodwinked"

Aug. 8 – "Elf"

Aug. 15 – "Karate Kid"

Aug. 22 – "Back to the Future II"

Movie will be canceled in the event of rain.

425-452-4240 or outdoormovies@bellevuewa.gov

Bellevue Youth Theatre 16051 NE 10th St

"Alice in Wonderland"

Tickets \$12 Aug. 4, 5, 11 and 12, 7 p.m. Aug. 5, 6, 12 and 13, 2 p.m.

"Amplify" Presented by Beyond the Stage Youth Free

Aug. 25-26, 7 p.m.

Auditions for Fall season Sept. 6-8, 5-6:30 p.m. 425-452-7155 or byt@Bellevuewa.gov

Arts in the Garden

Aug. 25-27, hours vary

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St.

Artworks for sale presented in a natural setting, with the artists on hand. More than 30 artists and a wide variety of sculpture and garden art. Live music, food and beverages.

Free. Prices vary for artwork.

425-452-2750 or BellevueBotanical.org

Ranger Hikes, Discussions and Movies

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Times and locations vary.

Explore local wildlife and natural history with ranger-led tours, discussions and nature movie events.

- Lewis Creek Park, 425-452-4195
- Mercer Slough Nature Park, 425-452-2565
- Lake Hills Greenbelt, 425-452-7225

SEASONAL

Day Camps and Recreation Programs Register now for summer recreation programs and day camps. 425-452-6885 or **Register.BellevueWA.gov**

Kayak, canoe, paddle board rentals May 12-late September (check website for full details) Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

- REI Boathouse at Meydenbauer Bay 9899 Lake Washington Blvd. NE
- REI Boathouse at Enatai Beach

Enatai, Meydenbauer and Newcastle: June 24-Sept. 4, noon-7 p.m.

Chism, Clyde: July 1-Aug. 19, noon-7 p.m.

Chesterfied: (if fully staffed, when weather is nice) **July 8-Aug. 19, 2-5 p.m.**

425-452-4444

Ikebana Art at the Garden July 21 and 22, 11 a.m. -5 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden , 12001 Main St.

Diverse ikebana created by Sogetsu Seattle branch members and ikebana demonstrations by branch teachers. Free.

425-452-2750 or BellevueBotanical.org

Crossroads Movies in the Park Aug. 3-24, Thursday nights at dusk 16000 NE 10th St.

Family activities at 7:30 p.m.; movies on 40-foot screen start around 9 p.m.

Movies and popcorn are free

Aug. 3 – "Detective Pikachu"

Aug. 10 – "Big Hero 6"

Aug. 17 - "Dumbo"

Aug. 24 – "Hocus Pocus"

Movie will be canceled in the event of rain. 425-452-4240 or outdoormovies@bellevuewa.gov 3519 108th Ave. SE

Lake Hills Farm Fresh Produce Stand

15550 156th Ave SE **Hours vary.** 425-233-1198

Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm 700 148th Ave. SE **Hours vary.**

Visit BellevueWA.gov/Blueberries

Picnic Shelter Reservations

Hosting a special occasion or casual summer gathering at a Bellevue park? Picnic shelters are available for reservation. 425-452-6914

CITY CONTACTS

City Hall 450 110th Ave. NE / P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue	e, WA 98009-9012
Service First (general information)	425-452-6800
City of Bellevue website	BellevueWA.gov
City Council Office	425-452-7810
	423 432 7010
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
Application and inspection status	MyBuildingPermit.com
Code Compliance	425-452-2047
Diversity Program	425-452-7886
Fire Emergency	911
Fire Non-Emergency	
General 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
Parks & Community Services	425 452 4200
Aging Services	425-452-4200
Information, Recreation, Youth Sports Ballfield, Park Rentals	425-452-6885 425-452-6914
Park Maintenance	425-452-6855
Human Services	425-452-6884
Probation	425-452-6956
Community Centers	425-452-0550
Crossroads Community Center	425-452-4874
Highland Community Center	425-452-7686
North Bellevue Community Center	425-452-7681
Northwest Arts Center	425-452-4106
South Bellevue Community Center	425-452-4240
Marina	425-452-4883
Police Emergency	911
Police Non-Emergency	511
General Information and Records	425-452-6917
Crossroads Station	425-452-2891
Factoria Station	425-452-2880
Crime Prevention	425-452-6915
Transportation	
Administration/Information	425-452-6856
Utilities	.25 132 0050
Administration/Information	425-452-6932
Billing/Customer Service	425-452-6973
Water, Sewer, Street Maintenance and Emergency	425-452-7840
Other Numbers (Not city government)	
Regional Animal Services of King County	206-296-PETS
Republic Services (recycling, yard debris, garbage)	425-452-4762

CITY COUNCIL



Robinson

MAYOR



DEPUTY MAYOR





Conrad Barksdale Lee COUNCILMEMBER COUNCILMEMBER



Jennifer Robertson COUNCILMEMBER John

Stokes

COUNCILMEMBER



Janice Zahn COUNCILMEMBER



Downtown Park art is complete

As visitors to Downtown Park have likely noticed, Bellevue's newest public art - a sculpture called "Piloti" - has been completed at the Northeast entryway. The work, by New York artist/architect Marc Fornes and his THEVERYMANY studio, is 24 feet high and 60 feet in diameter.

Assembled out of 6,665 panels over several months, Piloti reflects Bellevue's innovative technology sector, its natural forms and its creative community of thinkers and makers. A celebration for Piloti and the grand opening for the complete northeast gateway, was scheduled for Saturday, June 24.

Installation of the piece began in late January and wrapped up in May. The northeast gateway which opened in June 2021, has an entry plaza, water feature and seating area. The primary connection between the park and downtown's commercial district, the gateway is a key location on the Grand Connection — a corridor being developed to improve the experience of people walking and rolling through the heart of Bellevue.

Republic Scivices (recycling, yara debris, garbage)	423 432 47 62
Metro Transit/Sound Transit	206-553-3000

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. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email 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 losso, 425-452-4448 or ciosso@bellevuewa.gov. Editor: Claude losso City Manager: Brad Miyake Acting Chief Communications Officer: Michelle DeGrand Graphic Designer: Kristine Music

One of the largest permanent pieces in the city's public art collection, Piloti features fluted columns rising to form a perforated, aluminum canopy with light filtering through.

The city commissioned the artwork, and the Bellevue Arts Commission selected THEVERYMANY for the project through a public process. More details are available at BellevueWA.gov/piloti.



Use the MYBELLEVUE app to request services, access city news, check out jobs and view social media. Download it today. BellevueWA.gov/MyBellevue