



City of Bellevue

BELLEVEUE IT'S YOUR CITY

Summer 2024

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Meydenbauer Bay Park phase 2



Staff, City Council members and state legislators cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the new Mini City Hall space.

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Home Repair Program

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Eastrail overpass

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Not so mini anymore

By CLAUDE IOSSO
It's Your City Editor

Mini City Hall, which has delivered an array of services to residents conveniently at Crossroads Shopping Center for decades, is not so mini anymore.

To meet increasing demand for services, Mini City Hall has moved into a new, larger space at the mall that offers a self-service desk, conference room and a reception desk. Four times larger than the old unit, the new space also features rooms for community partners to operate.

Grand opening

More than 300 residents attended a grand opening for the new Mini City Hall on May 15,

which included a celebration of the facility's 30-year anniversary, a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new space and a resource fair, highlighting the different services available on site.

"Our council vision states that, "Bellevue welcomes the world."" Deputy Mayor Mo Malakoutian said at the opening. "Mini City Hall is a realization of that vision. Everyone knows they are welcome here and will be treated with the respect and dignity they deserve – and they will find the information and help they need – often in their home language."

Most of the City Council came to the May 15 opening. Additionally, state representatives Tana Senn, Vandana Slatter and Amy Walen,

- Подробная информация о филиале Городской Администрации [Mini City Hall] находится на 5-ой странице.
- 5페이지에 기재된 Mini City Hall에 대한 세부 사항
- 有關迷你市廳的詳細內容，請見第五頁。
- Để biết thêm chi tiết về Trung tâm Dịch vụ Mini City Hall, hãy xem trang 5.
- Encuentre información sobre el Mini City Hall (Ayuntamiento pequeño) en la página 5

MINI CITY HALL
Continued on page 5

Happy crowds hail long awaited Eastside light rail

By LAURA MILSTEAD
Transportation Public Information Officer

With the four quick electronic bells characteristic of Sound Transit light rail, a blue and white train rounded the corner over Interstate 405 and pulled into the Bellevue Downtown station the morning of Saturday, April 27. Hundreds of people on the platform clapped and cheered.

While many of them had only waited minutes for this train, the grand opening of the 2 Line (called "East Link" during planning and construction) has been years in the making.

Over 17,000 community members braved the rain for the kickoff of the first phase of light rail service on the Eastside, a starter line with eight stops in Bellevue and Redmond. Sen. Patty Murray, Gov. Jay Inslee and Mayor Lynne Robinson together cut a ribbon at the downtown station. King County Commissioner Claudia Balducci, who pushed for the starter line, emceed the celebration.

For the kickoff, local community partners and businesses hosted family-friendly activities at each of the 2 Line stations. Attendees contributed to a community mural at the BelRed station, young bikers received helmet fittings at the Wilburton

station and many raced to collect stamps at all eight stations for a chance to win raffle prizes.

The 2 Line makes stops at South Bellevue, East Main, Bellevue Downtown, Wilburton, Spring District, BelRed, Overlake Village and Redmond Technology stations. Riders can take the 2 Line any day of the week between 5:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m., with park-and-ride options at the Redmond Technology, BelRed and South Bellevue stations.



Thousands attend the grand opening for the starter line at the Bellevue Downtown station on April 27.

COUNCIL CORNER

A good year to launch the Cross-Cultural Center

By Councilmember
CONRAD LEE



According to the Chinese zodiac, this year – the year of the dragon – is considered potentially lucky, with opportunities for success, especially about big changes. They may involve big challenges and require hard work, but this is predicted to be a year when thoughtful actions will be rewarded.

Indeed, the city is completing Bellevue 2044, an update of the Comprehensive Plan that will guide growth in Bellevue over the next 20 years. The land-use policies in the plan are crucial in meeting the future demands and needs of the community and residents, while maintaining the long-time values and character of Bellevue.

The plan supports affordable housing, including middle housing, and a mix of density. A healthy economy is essential to make our policies feasible. Our quality of life will benefit from the Grand Connection Crossing over Interstate 405, Smart City technology, utility infrastructure, affordable internet access, and not the least, actions to address climate change.

Also this year, the city will hire a city manager, study City Council salaries, secure more resources for each council member and, finally, start programming for a Cross-Cultural Center program.

These tasks are my top priorities because they affect how the city is run and how council policies are carried out. We tend to judge our success by what we deliver, but I believe the process is even more important. How we get something done determines how good the results will likely be.

The Cross-Cultural Center project is my top priority. Bellevue is the chosen home of people from many cultures around the world. Forty percent of our population are immigrants or born outside of this country. Many speak other languages and have culture differences.

As someone in a strange land, they tend to keep to themselves and the familiar. As a result, they lack opportunities to interact with others. It is hard to build relationships and know others from a different culture.

With our country and community struggling to find common ground on polarizing issues, there are tensions and misinterpretation of



More than 100 people showed up for the inaugural Cross-Cultural Center Without Walls event, Cultural Childhood Games hosted by the Friends of Bellevue Cross-Cultural Center organization at the Legacy Homeschool on May 20.

facts. A divided community is a dysfunctional community. We must learn to communicate with one other.

The goal of the Cross-Cultural Center is to bring people of all cultures and backgrounds together through events and activities including food, art, music, dance and education. People can learn how to collaborate, while having fun, in a welcoming environment. Through these activities, we hope to build a true sense of belonging for all who live, work and play in Bellevue. Instead of division and polarization, we can work together, united for common goals.

As noted in the article on page 7, the city has selected a number of community-based organizations to:

1. Test cross-cultural programming in the community.
2. Explore possible long-term partnerships for a future facility.
3. Leverage existing spaces in Bellevue to support programming.

Please participate in as many events and activities as possible, particularly if you can volunteer and help organize them. Contact Dr. Linda Whitehead (lwhitehead@bellevuewa.gov) or Sara Boyle (sboyle@bellevuewa.gov).

COUNCIL ROUNDUP

By CLAUDE IOSSO
It's Your City Editor

Making city's procurement more inclusive

This City Council on May 14 learned about changes to Bellevue's procurement processes designed to ensure small and diverse businesses have a fair shot at city contracts.

After gathering input from businesses at multiple workshops, the city's Procurement Diversity Inclusion Plan was updated this spring to include:

- Enhanced technical support for potential vendors so they can better navigate and apply for opportunities
- Additional transparency through robust data reporting
- Cultivation of strong and lasting relationships with partners and the vendor community

The procurement inclusion plan was created in 2016. The updated plan calls for clearer procurement processes and resources, better procurement communications

and regular workshops for vendors and potential vendors.

New affordable housing target considered

On May 7 the council decided to pursue a new, more ambitious affordable housing target for the coming years. The proposed 10-year target, to be revisited in the fall following community outreach and additional analysis, aims to produce or preserve 5,700 housing units.

The new target would be more than double the current 10-year target. The current target, adopted in 2017, called for production or preservation of 2,500 affordable housing units. The city is on schedule to surpass that target early, with 2,750 affordable housing units built, funded or approved for incentives this year.

Based on Bellevue's 2022 Housing Needs Assessment gap analysis, the target and the strategy for reaching it will cover 2024-2034 and help the city keep pace with expected growth projections. City plans include furthering partnerships and adding tools to induce developers and nonprofits to build and preserve affordable housing.

New annual grants for arts facilities

The council on April 23 offered preliminary approval for new grants for construction and maintenance of arts and cultural facilities. Issued every other year, the grants would help arts and cultural organizations acquire land, purchase or construct facilities, or maintain existing ones.

The city has occasionally given facility grants to established arts organizations. The new grant program will focus on an equitable approach to funding organizations, including supporting those with less traditional access to capital.

For many years the city has offered annual grants to artists and nonprofits for programming or projects.

The Arts Commission's role will be expanded to review applications and make recommendations to the council on which organizations should receive capital funding.

Dedicated police team patrols light rail trains, stations

By **DREW ANDERSON**
Police Public Information Officer

To ensure a safe and positive riding experience for individuals and families taking the 2 Line, a dedicated police team – the BLU (Bellevue Light Rail Unit) – patrols light rail cars and stations around the clock.

“As the City of Bellevue continues to link up with the greater Puget Sound region, our officers are committed to helping continue Bellevue’s reputation as being the go-to place to safely work, live and play,” Police Chief Wendell Shirley said. “The BLU accomplishes this goal.”

A sergeant and four officers comprise the unit while the Sound Transit starter line only operates on the Eastside. There are six stops in Bellevue and two in Redmond. The team operates in partnership with Sound Transit security and King County Sheriff’s officers.

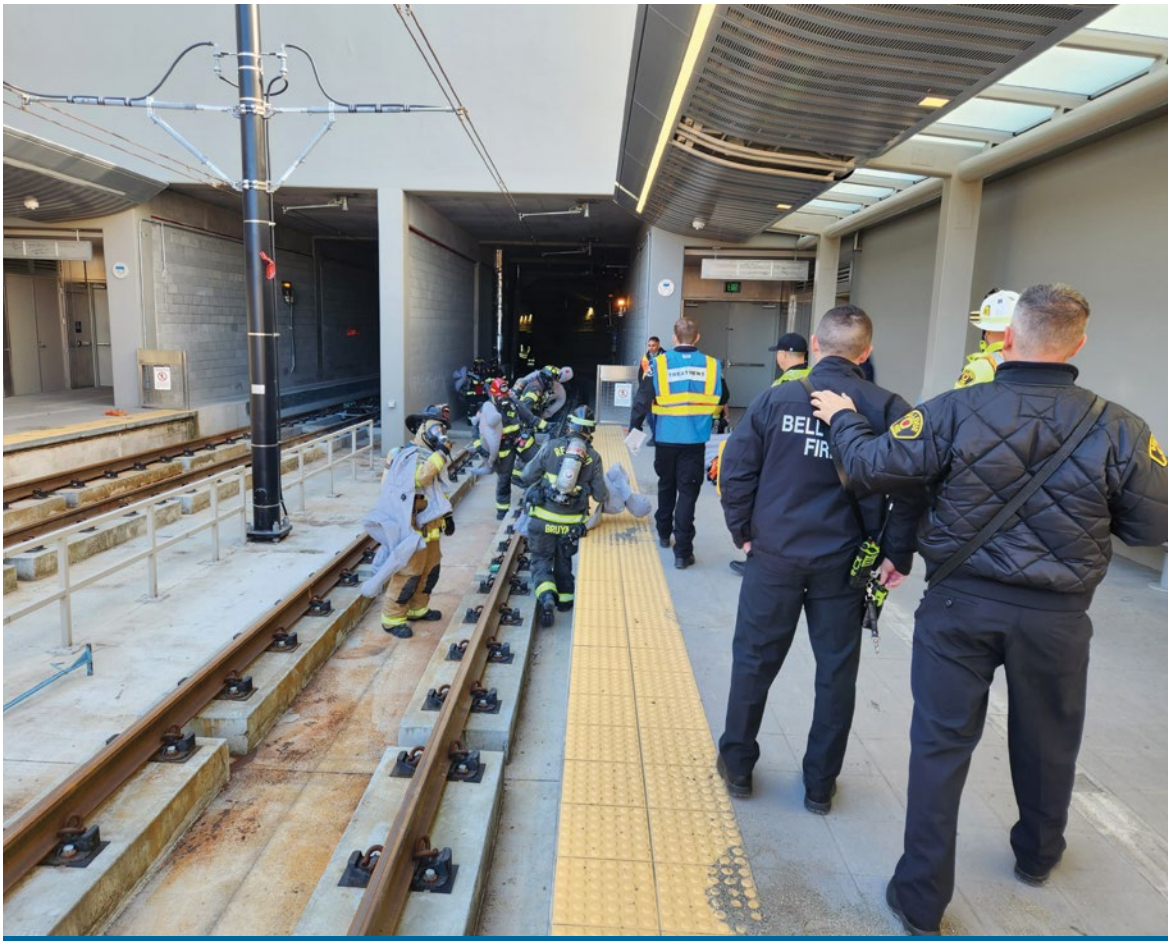
“We appreciate the City of Bellevue’s partnership in supplementing Sound Transit’s on-board and in-station security teams to help keep our Eastside light rail passengers safe,” said Russ Arnold, Sound Transit deputy CEO and chief service delivery officer.

The BPD also asks residents to please remember these safety tips:

- Look both ways when crossing the tracks
- Stay alert and put away the smart devices when by a station, and
- Use the crosswalks and don’t take short cuts



When you’re riding the 2 Line, you may well see members of the police’s Bellevue Light Rail Unit (BLU), which include officers Larry Pereira, left, and Victor Pirak.



To prepare for emergencies on the 2 Line, Bellevue firefighters participated in a training exercise in the downtown tunnel.

Firefighters ready for emergencies on 2 Line

By **HEATHER WONG**
Fire Public Information Officer

While rides on the 2 Line will usually be smooth, Bellevue’s firefighters are ready for the unique challenges of responding to an emergency on light rail cars or stations.

Emergency response can involve navigating confined spaces, handling high volumes of frightened passengers or deploying specialized tools for lifting a rail car. Bellevue and Redmond firefighters have trained rigorously for rescuing people in the downtown tunnel or at street level in BelRed.

After visiting the Bay Area in 2022, picking up leading practices from their counterparts who respond to issues on Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), then participating in a full-scale emergency exercise conducted by Sound Transit last year, the Bellevue Fire Department has become a regional leader in light rail vehicle emergency response.

The Sound Transit drill was a massive, coordinated event that involved multiple jurisdictions and organizations, simulating a real-life emergency in the tunnel. Every aspect of the fire department’s training and emergency response was put to the test and refined if necessary.



Track city programs via Alerts

Want to stay in the know about city news, jobs, events, projects and programs? Bellevue offers free Alerts – emails or texts when there’s a new development with a program or project, a new job posted or just news.

We have over 100 topics, including news, jobs and emergencies. Other popular topics include the Bellevue Aquatic Center, Traffic Advisories and Bellevue Youth Theatre auditions. You can also sign up for Alerts concerning City Council, board and commission meetings, and major projects.

Altogether, over 111,000 people have subscriptions to Bellevue Alerts topics. People can customize their account to receive bulletins when they are sent or in a weekly digest. Users can also choose whether bulletins arrive as emails or texts.

How to sign up

People can sign up for Alerts by using the link on BellevueWA.gov/communications. You can find a subscription link on selected project and program pages.

Adopt-A-Street kicks off this summer



Volunteers participated in an Earth Day cleanup on April 20 in the Wilburton neighborhood.

By **SARINA MILLER**
Community Relations Coordinator

After a year of successful cleanups, the Keep Bellevue Beautiful program will give residents and businesses an opportunity to make a lasting impact on their neighborhoods through Adopt-A-Street.

To launch this summer, the Adopt-A-Street program will support individuals, businesses, neighborhoods and organizations who adopt segments of public streets, committing to a minimum of four cleanups throughout the year.

An online webpage makes it easy to identify streets for the program and report cleanup progress. The city will hand out grabbers, bags, safety vests and gloves.

So far, Keep Bellevue Beautiful has brought the community together to foster a cleaner, more environmentally conscious Bellevue. More than 400 volunteers, including over 90 youth, have participated in cleanups around the city, collecting over 250 bags of litter from city rights of way.

“Being relatively new to the area, I love that Keep Bellevue Beautiful gave me and my family the opportunity to get involved in the community and meet people,” said Ashley Maxam. “We love living in Bellevue and we’re happy to be able to help keep the city clean and beautiful.”

Youths participating in cleanups get a quick lesson on environmental stewardship. They also connect to the community and earn community service hours. Local businesses and groups such as Boy Scouts and school clubs have also stepped up, developing a deeper connection to the neighborhoods where they operate.

Also as part of Keep Bellevue Beautiful, the city works with businesses to retrieve abandoned shopping carts from the public right of way. A contractor conducts weekly sweeps at hot spots identified through public reporting. If you see abandoned shopping carts, please report them via the MyBellevue app or at BellevueWA.gov/mybellevue.

To stay updated on upcoming events and initiatives, visit BellevueWA.gov/keepbellevuebeautiful. You can subscribe for Alert emails or texts.

We look forward to building on the momentum from the past year as we add the opportunity to Adopt-A-Street. Keep Bellevue Beautiful is a fun way to connect with others and see how small actions make a world of difference.

Feedback wanted for phase 2 of Meydenbauer park’s expansion

By **CHRISTINA FAINE**
Parks & Community Services
Public Information Officer

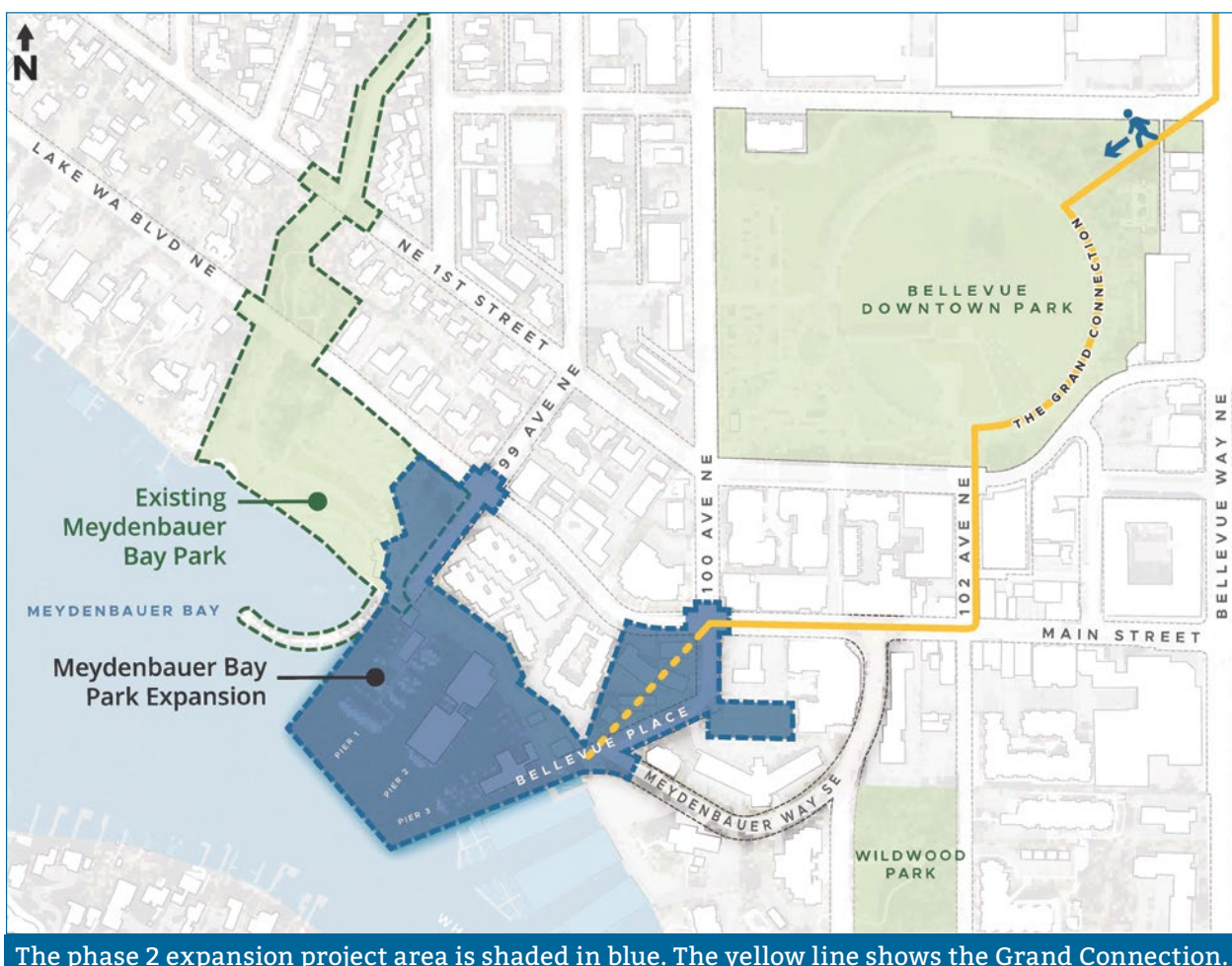
Meydenbauer Bay Park, nestled on the downtown waterfront, is a local gem. Expanded in 2019 to include a distinctive pedestrian pier, larger beach, children’s play area and kayak/paddleboard rentals, the park is an iconic destination people come from near and far to enjoy.

Now, the city is in the midst of planning a second phase of park expansion, south along the shore toward the intersection of 100th Avenue Northeast and Lake Washington Boulevard. Residents and others have shared a strong desire this past year for improved amenities, additional parking and pedestrian and water access.

What do you think? A survey is available until July 15 at EngagingBellevue.com/meydenbauer-bay-park-expansion.

Residents will also be asked more about the improvements to the park they want to see at meetings and events this summer and fall.

Back in 2010, the city adopted the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan to guide the future of the park. Over the past year, park planners have asked the community about their priorities for Meydenbauer Bay Park’s future, integrating input, city needs and the 2010 plan as guideposts for designs.



The phase 2 expansion project area is shaded in blue. The yellow line shows the Grand Connection.



Mini City Hall from page 1



Staff with the Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC), a community partner that operates at Mini City Hall, speak with residents at the opening.

as well as state senators Patty Kuderer and Lisa Wellman, were there to see the facility for which they had helped secure funding.

A video of the opening is available at [YouTu.be/imNH5oWOWRk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imNH5oWOWRk).

Novel idea in '94

In 1994, Mini City Hall was established at the Crossroads mall to provide easy access to information and referral services for community members. From the beginning, it was a different kind of shop, in time having the word “welcome” in multiple languages as part of its signage.

A novel idea at the time, the little, 360-square-foot office became a trusted resource for help, with the warmth of city and nonprofit staff making a difference. Demand for services grew steadily over the years. The number of nonprofit partners grew too, to provide those services.

In recent years, Mini City Hall burst its seams. Many partner organizations had to offer their services from tables in the mall corridor because there wasn't room in Mini City Hall itself.

In 2023, thanks to the vision of the City Council and the support of the state Legislature, the city secured a new, 10-year lease and a state grant for a bigger facility.

Services and Partnerships

At its new digs, next to Trudy's Hallmark near the mall's south entrance, Mini City Hall provides personalized service Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., delivered by staff proficient in Cantonese, Mandarin, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Telugu, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.

Direct services include Bellevue water bill payment, King County pet license, healthcare, computer skill building, immigration support, job counseling, housing and more.

Community partners at Mini City Hall are:

- **Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC):** Bilingual navigators who speak Russian and Chinese provide assistance in employment, social benefits, medical, legal and financial services, children's school issues, housing and childcare resources.
- **Washington Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA):** Trained volunteers available to answer Medicare questions and provide enrollment assistance.
- **International Community Health Services (ICHS):** Staff provide information and access to the Washington state healthcare marketplace and Medicaid.
- **Indian American Community Services (IACS):** Staff provide social services including rental assistance, women's career services, early childhood education, crisis care and youth leadership programs in English and seven Indian languages.
- **KinOn Computer Lab:** Hands-on computer and smart phone assistance including computer file organization and email, translation tools set up, coaching on device operation, scam and virus identification and prevention.
- **Africans on the Eastside:** Culturally relevant resources to African immigrants, including bereavement and crisis support, school resources and government program navigation, and mental health and wellness support.
- **Puget Sound Energy:** Helping with applications for Puget Sound Energy's Bill Discount Program.
- **Immigrant Woman Community Center:** Providing case management and assistance for new immigrant settlement, rental, housing and utilities application assistance, employment resources, and new business support.

To ensure accessibility for all, Mini City Hall also offers phone interpretation services in 240 languages. Mini City Hall continues to explore offering additional city and community services and is working on adding passport assistance later this year.

More information is at [BellevueWA.gov/mini-city-hall](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/mini-city-hall) or reach out to staff at 425-452-2800 or minich@bellevuewa.gov.

El Ayuntamiento Pequeño

El Ayuntamiento Pequeño (Mini City Hall, por sus siglas en inglés) es un centro de servicios comunitarios que extiende los servicios de la ciudad y las conexiones comunitarias a la población diversa de Bellevue. Ahí, usted puede pagar desde su factura de agua, obtener su licencia para sus mascotas y hasta explorar una amplia gama de recursos comunitarios, como opciones de atención médica, alquiler y asistencia con los servicios públicos y más, el personal amable y bilingüe del Ayuntamiento Pequeño (Mini City Hall, por sus siglas en inglés) está aquí para ayudarlo. Para obtener más información, visite nuestras nuevas instalaciones en el Centro Comercial Crossroads, Suite E1, 15600 NE Eighth St., o en línea en [BellevueWA.gov/mini-city-hall](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/mini-city-hall), o comuníquese con el personal al 425-452-2800 o minich@bellevuewa.gov.

центр обслуживания населения

предоставляющий городские услуги и связи с общественностью жителям Бельвью. Вежливые и доброжелательные сотрудники, владеющие иностранным языком, всегда готовы помочь жителям нашего города в решении проблем: от оплаты счетов за потребление воды, покупки лицензии на содержание домашнего животного до изучения широкого спектра доступных общественных ресурсов, таких как медицинские услуги, помощь в аренде жилья, оплате коммунальных услуг и многого другого.

Для получения дополнительной информации посетите наш новый офис в торговом центре Crossroads Shopping Centre, Suite E1, 15600 NE Eighth St., веб-сайт [BellevueWA.gov/mini-city-hall](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/mini-city-hall), или свяжитесь с сотрудниками центра по телефону 425-452-2800 или по электронной почте minich@bellevuewa.gov.

Tòa Thị Chính Thu Nhỏ

Tòa Thị Chính Thu Nhỏ là một trung tâm dịch vụ khu vực mở rộng cho các dịch vụ của thành phố và kết nối cộng đồng với cư dân đa dạng của Bellevue. Từ việc thanh toán hóa đơn tiền nước, mua giấy phép nuôi thú cưng cho đến khám phá nhiều nguồn tài nguyên cộng đồng như các lựa chọn chăm sóc sức khỏe, lớp học ESL, tiền thuê nhà và hỗ trợ tiện ích, v.v., đội ngũ nhân viên song ngữ và thân thiện của Tòa Thị Chính Thu Nhỏ luôn sẵn sàng trợ giúp quý vị. Để biết thêm thông tin, hãy ghé thăm văn phòng mới của chúng tôi tại Crossroads Shopping Center, Suite E1, 15600 NE Eighth St., [BellevueWA.gov/mini-city-hall](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/mini-city-hall), 425-452-2800, minich@bellevuewa.gov.

是一個社區服務中心

Mini City Hall是一個社區服務中心，旨將市政服務和社區聯繫擴展到 Bellevue 多元化的人口當中。Mini City Hall的服務項目涵蓋支付水費、購買寵物許可證，以及探索各種社區資源，如醫療保健選擇、ESL課程、租賃和公用事業援助等項服務，友善的雙語工作人員會隨時為您提供幫助。要了解更多信息，您可以光臨座落在 Crossroads Shopping Center 的新建設施，單元號是 Suite E1，地址在 15600 NE English St. 您也可以上網了解，網址 [BellevueWA.gov/mini-city-hall](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/mini-city-hall)，或者給工作人員打電話：425-452-2800，或寫 email：MiniCH@bellevuewa.gov

미니 시청

Mini City Hall(미니 시청)은 벨뷰의 다양한 주민들에게 도시 서비스와 커뮤니티 연결을 확대하는 우리 동네 서비스 센터입니다. 수도 요금 납부, 반려동물 등록증 구입부터 건강 의료 옵션, ESL 영어 수업, 임대, 유틸리티(전기 가스 등) 지원 등 다양한 커뮤니티 리소스 탐색에 이르기까지 미니 시청의 친절한 이중 언어 직원들이 여러분을 도와드릴 준비가 되어 있습니다. 자세한 내용은 Crossroads 쇼핑 센터, Suite E1, 15600 NE 8th St., 의 새로운 공간 또는 온라인 [BellevueWA.gov/mini-city-hall](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/mini-city-hall) 을 방문하거나 425-452-2800 또는 minich@bellevuewa.gov 으로 직원에게 문의하시기 바랍니다.



Mini City Hall staff Irma Farsch, left, and Tram Hoang help residents at the opening.

Draft Comprehensive Plan update addresses growth

By BROOKE BROD
Community Engagement Lead

The city has released a draft update of the Comprehensive Plan that offers a bold vision for addressing growth and development in Bellevue over the next 20 years. The new plan is designed to meet the city's growth targets of 35,000 new housing units and 70,000 added jobs with new policies related to housing, land use, sustainability and equity.

The Planning Commission, which has been reviewing the draft plan and making recommendations, hosted public hearings about it on June 20 and 26. Residents and others are encouraged to attend and provide comment.

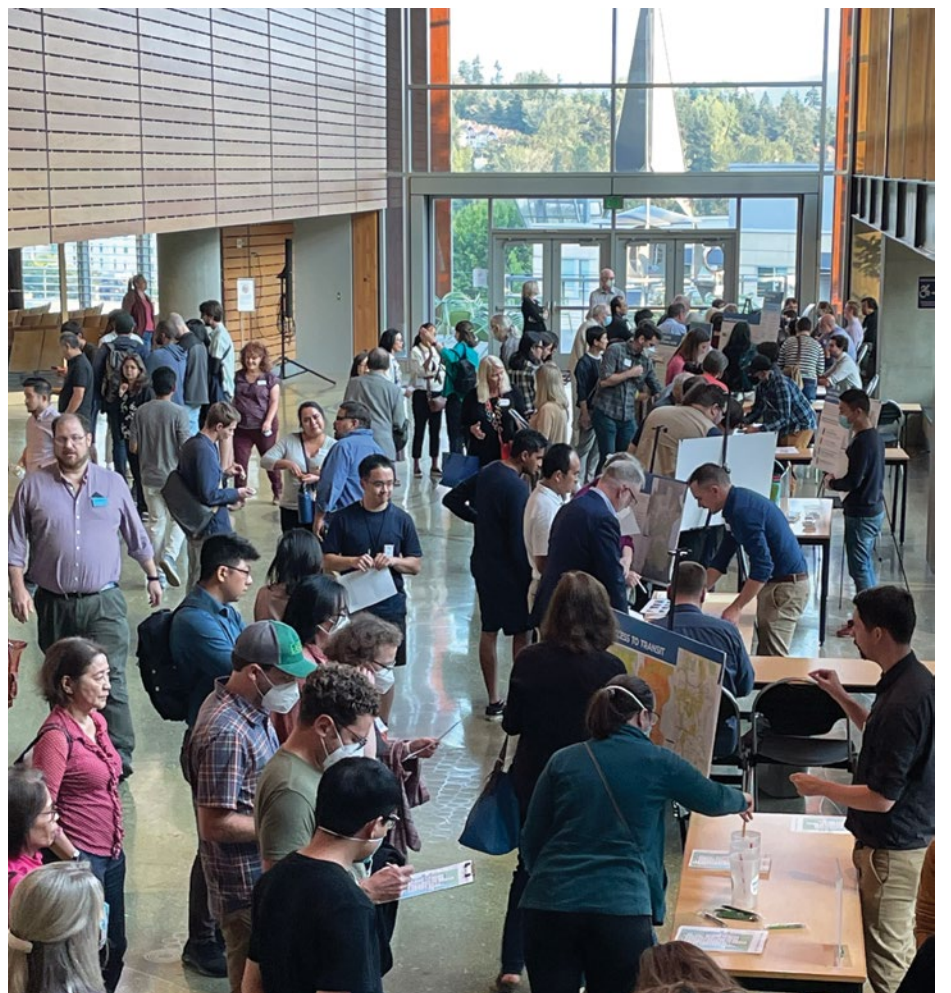
The plan's growth strategy directs most of the city's growth in housing and jobs to mixed-use centers – downtown, BelRed, Crossroads, Wilburton, Eastgate and Factoria – where there is good access to transit and other amenities. This is coupled with a focus on enhancing neighborhood centers throughout the city to support greater walkability and access to goods and services.

The plan supports diverse housing choices in all neighborhoods by encouraging and allowing middle-scale housing (such as duplexes, triplexes or cottage housing) throughout Bellevue.

The draft plan, which will replace the current one last significantly updated in 2015, is the product of over two years of work that included environmental review; climate, housing, and equity analyses; and broad community input.

Over 7,000 individuals provided feedback through workshops, online questionnaires, popup events and more, all part of a community engagement effort that won a VISION 2050 Award this spring from the Puget Sound Regional Council. The city was recognized for employing community liaisons and translations to collect input from Bellevue's diverse population.

Bellevue residents expressed appreciation for the city's natural beauty and a desire for preservation and enhancement of the environment for future generations. To support such efforts, the plan focuses on reducing carbon emissions, protecting natural areas and preparing for challenges brought on by climate change.



Community members gather in the City Hall concourse to provide input for the comprehensive plan update.

This update also brings a new focus on building an equitable future, where people of all backgrounds are able to thrive. New and updated policies throughout the plan recognize the city's growing diversity, acknowledge the unique needs of different groups and ensure that the city considers the impacts of programs and projects on all parts of the community.

To find out more about the plan and hearings, and how to participate, people can visit BellevueWA.gov/comprehensive-plan or reach out to Brooke Brod at bbrod@bellevuewa.gov.

Greener living tips and events

By ERIN HISLOP
Utilities Conservation and Outreach Administrator

Summer offers a variety of opportunities for Bellevue residents to live greener, from recycling shredded paper and reducing food waste to using reusable coffee cups and recycling right.

Remember your keys, wallet, phone...and cup?!

The cities of Bellevue, Bothell, Kirkland and Redmond have partnered again this summer with local coffee shops to reduce waste from single-use cups. Join the Eastside BYOC campaign by bringing your own cup to coffee shops and stands.



Keep your eyes out for social media updates about BYOC events and chances to win prizes! To encourage this planet-protecting behavior, local artists have created artwork for stickers for your cup, available soon at participating coffee shops.

Reusable cups are better for the planet, reduce litter and are safe to use. More information at BellevueWA.gov/byoc.

Paper Shredding and Recycling Event

Bellevue residents are invited to safely recycle sensitive paper documents at a paper shredding and recycling event at the Sammamish High School parking lot, Saturday, Aug. 17, 9 a.m.-noon or when the collection trucks are full. Shredded paper can no longer go in home recycling or composting carts.

Please bring documents in paper grocery bags – limit five bags or four file-size boxes of paper per car, no exceptions.

Greener Living workshops now all-ages, with craft element

Learn about ways to protect our natural resources at family-friendly Greener Living workshops. Topics include reuse and recycling, safer chemical-free cleaners, composting and ways to use mason jars to reduce food waste in your kitchen.

This year, in-person summer classes are for all ages and will include hands-on crafts while learning. Participants will learn how

to make jewelry out of recycled paper, prep food storage jars and make safe household cleaners, among other things.

We will also offer virtual classes on reducing use of plastic, online tools for waste reduction, easy repair of household items and more.

The entire summer series schedule and registration information are available at BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes.

'Recycle More' guide empowers residents

Do you have unusual or bulky items you want to avoid sending to the landfill? Do you have small electronics or blocks of Styrofoam not accepted in your curbside recycling? The "Recycle More" guide, included with this newsletter, offers local disposal options beyond your cart.

Offered online in multiple languages at BellevueWA.gov/recycle-more, the guide also shows how to safely dispose of hazardous waste such as automotive products, toxic yard care materials, household cleaners and expired or unwanted medications.

Bellevue residents benefit the environment and economy by recycling their plastic, paper, cardboard, glass and metal cans, and by composting food scraps. The guide can help you avoid "wishcycling" materials that contaminate your recycling.

Don't wait for heat and smoke season to install cooling

By SARAH PHILLIPS
Energy Smart Eastside Manager

It isn't all in your head. Summers in the Pacific Northwest—like everywhere—have gotten more intense. Air temperature is hotter on average throughout the summer in Bellevue, with longer, more extreme heatwaves occurring more often.

And a hotter-than-usual summer is forecast for our region this year.

The good news is we have the tools and technology not only to slash our greenhouse gas emissions, but also to increase our resilience to climate impacts. Heat pumps offer air filtration and air conditioning in the warmer, smokier months, in addition to energy-efficient heat in the winter.

The best time to install a heat pump isn't the day the heat dome descends or you wake up to a hazy sunrise. Energy Smart Eastside, a joint home electrification program for Eastside cities, offers eligible residents a \$3,000 rebate on a Mitsubishi heat pump. These savings can be combined with federal tax credits and incentives and rebates from Puget Sound Energy. The Puget Sound Energy Rebates will expire on July 31, so residents hoping to take advantage of the additional \$3,000 from PSE must install before then.

Home electrification is important because burning fossil fuels contributes to climate change, which is leading to hotter summers. In spite of emissions reductions at the local, state, federal and even global levels, we expect to see a 6.3 degree increase in average summer temperatures, with an additional 21 days of extreme heat annually by 2050.

The idea of the Pacific Northwest as an AC-free region is increasingly a thing of the past. But many traditional forms of air conditioning contribute to further warming. Heat pumps can not only heat, cool, and filter your indoor air without burning fossil fuels, but they also reduce overall energy use compared to other forms of heating and cooling.

If navigating the incentives and purchase process of a heat pump sounds daunting, Energy Smart Eastside can help. Residents can schedule a free home energy consultation with a home energy expert. Consultations and other details about heat pump discounts are available at EnergySmartEastside.org.



Lower speed limits proposed for most Bellevue neighborhoods

By JOHN MURPHY
Transportation Planner

The Transportation Department could lower the speed limit on most local streets from 25 mph to 20 mph next year to address neighborhood speeding, the number one traffic safety concern heard from the community.

The City Council is expected to vote on an ordinance for the switch this fall. If they approve, speed limit signs would start changing in mid-2025.

A 20-mph speed limit has proved successful in three neighborhoods (Surrey Downs, along the East Bellevue Greenway, and near Tye Middle School) since it was introduced in 2020. Although these projects primarily changed signage, each deployment reduced speeding, even without added enforcement. Surveys conducted after the change also showed the lower speed limit was supported by the community.

Currently, the default speed limit on local streets is 25 mph. Local streets, which represent 64% of the streets in Bellevue, are designed primarily to provide access within neighborhoods and carry local traffic to collector arterials.

If approved, the lower speed limit would be another tool in the city's robust traffic calming toolkit. Lower speeds are associated with safer streets and signal a culture shift of the community: safety starts on your street. A few local streets would retain a 25 mph limit.

For more information, including a map showing what streets are included in this proposal and to comment on the proposal, please visit BellevueWA.gov/20-mph.

Home repair loans make difference for Newport resident

By CHRISTINA FAINE
Parks & Community Services
Public Information Officer

With the help of interest-free home repair loans from the City of Bellevue, retiree Aimee Johnston still lives comfortably in her home of 50 years. Loans in 2023 funded improvements including outside handrails, driveway and sidewalk repairs, tree trimming and moss removal from the roof.

In 2019, Aimee's daughter Patricia was researching services in Bellevue online when she discovered the city's Home Repair program. She contacted the city to find out if Aimee would qualify.

"As an older immigrant living alone, it's hard (for my mother) to make changes," said Patricia Johnston. "She feels safer in her home with these improvements, which enhance her quality of life."

Aimee, who moved to the U.S. from Morocco with her husband years ago, retired from teaching in the Head Start program at Bellevue College. She lives on a fixed income like many older adults. Aimee's home needed minor but critical health and safety repairs that would strain her modest budget.

The city partners with the King County Housing Authority and Habitat for Humanity,

who together oversee the projects and inspect the work.

"The experience for my mom was exceptional on a social and human level due to the character of the people from Habitat for Humanity and AmeriCorps and the quality of their work," Patricia Johnston noted.

Bellevue homeowners with low and moderate incomes may be eligible for grants and interest-free loans for repairs and replacements of roofs, plumbing, furnaces, driveways, electrical wiring and weatherization projects.

After submitting an application and documents including income tax returns, income documentation and proof of home ownership, Aimee was accepted into the program.

Loans from the Home Repair program don't have to be repaid until the house is sold or the title is transferred, and no monthly payment is required.

To be eligible for assistance, you must have owned and lived in the house for which you are requesting assistance for at least a year, the house must be in Bellevue, you must have current homeowners' insurance and meet the program's income requirements.

To determine income eligibility, count the number of household members residing in the house (household size) and check the maximum allowable income at BellevueWA.gov/home-repair.

For more information about Bellevue's Home Repair Program, contact Donna Adair (dadair@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-4069).



Aimee Johnston, right, stands with her daughter Patricia in front of her house after repairs funded through the city's Home Repair program.

Experienced planner leads Community Development

By **EMILY INLOW-HOOD**
Deputy Communications Officer



Emil King, Community Development Director

Emil King, a planner with the City of Bellevue for more than 20 years, took over the Community Development Department June 1, following the retirement of Michael Kattermann.

"I am very pleased Emil will be leading Bellevue's Community Development Department, especially as we plan for the next 20 years of growth and change in our community," said Acting City Manager Diane Carlson. "Emil brings a significant amount of

knowledge and experience in planning and community development and he has strong connections and relationships with the Bellevue community and within the organization."

For the past five years, King has been an assistant director in Community Development, leading the department's planning division, focused on an array of initiatives intended to ensure Bellevue continues to be a livable, sustainable and equitable community as it grows.

Recent major projects for city planners include an update to Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan and advancement of the city's goals and strategic priorities on environmental stewardship and affordable housing.

Prior to working for the city, King was a consultant for Washington cities and counties developing growth management plans and implementation codes.

King is a certified planner and holds a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Washington and an undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The Community Development Department is comprised of 75 staff and includes the planning, cultural and economic development, and neighborhood services divisions. In addition, the department supports the Planning Commission, Arts Commission and Bellevue-Redmond Tourism Promotion Area Board.

Kattermann retired on May 15. He had previously spent a decade working at the City of Bellevue as a senior planner before leading community development at another Puget Sound jurisdiction and returning to Bellevue as director in 2022.

Re-envisioning Ashwood Park

By **CHRISTINA FAINE**
Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

The city is coming up with a new master plan for Ashwood Park – currently two and a half acres of green space and a multi-use playfield nestled between the Bellevue Library and the TEN20 building downtown.

The city never developed the master plan adopted in 1990, and is now updating that plan to better meet current needs, providing stronger connections to a surrounding neighborhood that has experienced significant change over the past 34 years.

Community input will be key as the city explores adding new features to the park, which occupies a block between northeast 10th and 12th streets in the downtown core. The park can be reimagined and reinvented as an inspirational public space for the neighborhood, city and region.

Opportunities for public input

At the first public meeting, on April 3, the community shared new features they would like to see. There will be additional community meetings, surveys and other opportunities to provide feedback this year and next.

People can learn all about the project and sign up for regular updates at BellevueWA.gov/ashwood-master-plan.

Parks, community needs and feedback will guide a range of park design concepts for the community, Parks & Community Services Board and City Council to consider. With that input, the council is anticipated to adopt an updated master plan in 2026.



Ashwood Park is currently a green space and playfield next to the Bellevue Library downtown.

Proposed Utilities capital improvements plan focuses on water mains

By **MICHAELENE FOWLER**
Utilities Public Information Officer

Water mains are one of the main programs in the Utilities Department's proposed 2025-2034 Capital Investment Program budget, which also supports the replacement of aging pumps and reservoirs, as well as construction of new ones for a growing Bellevue.

At \$187 million, water main replacement is the largest program in the proposed \$537 million CIP for water, wastewater and storm utilities. When the budget is adopted, likely in November, it will replace the current 2023-2029 \$317 million budget for Utilities capital

projects. (Bellevue Utilities is switching from a seven-year budget to a 10-year one this year, updated every other year along with the general city budget.)

Founded on strong asset management principles, Utilities' water main replacement program, which replaces about five miles of aging water pipeline each year, helps to keep the annual number of water main breaks here well below the national average.

We all rely on essential services from Bellevue Utilities every day, when we brush our teeth, make coffee or flush the toilet. The proposed CIP includes \$328 million for water utilities (including water mains),

\$85 million for storm and surface water utilities, and \$124 million for wastewater utilities.

Reliable and safe drinking water, environmental and flood protection and safe wastewater disposal are the essential services Bellevue Utilities provides residents and businesses in and around Bellevue.

On average, about one-third of each rate dollar pays for these capital investments. When Bellevue residents pay their utility bills, they support the infrastructure that delivers:

- **Safe and reliable drinking water:** 600 miles of water main pipes and 24 reservoirs

- **Storm and surface water free of pollutants, and flood control management.**

Bellevue protects over 90 miles of open streams and more than 800 acres of wetland while also maintaining flood control sites.

- **Managing wastewater that leaves the inside of homes and businesses through sewer pipes.**

Bellevue ensures public health and safety and minimizes the environmental impact of wastewater from the initial collection and transfer to King County sewer systems for treatment and disposal.

Details about the proposed utilities CIP are available at BellevueWA.gov/utilities-cip.



Africans on the Eastside hold an “Africa Day Celebration with Africans of the Diaspora” at Enatai Beach Park on May 25, one of the first Cross-Cultural Center Without Walls events.

City hires organizations to deliver cross-cultural programs

By SARA BOYLE
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Outreach

Programming for Bellevue’s Cross-Cultural Center Without Walls has begun, after the city awarded contracts in May to 18 local organizations. They will produce 35 free, cross-cultural events—ranging from celebrations of food and music to sessions focused on conflict resolution and community dialogue—over the next 12 months.

Two events took place right out of the gate – Friends of Bellevue Cross-Cultural Center presented Cultural Childhood Games on May 20 and Africans on the Eastside presented an Africa Day Celebration with Africans of the Diaspora on May 25.

In response to a request for proposals issued by the city in February, dozens of organizations responded with proposed programming.

The events are all part of the Cross-Cultural Center Without Walls program, intended to create interactions between people and groups from different racial, ethnic, cultural and other backgrounds. Bellevue is among the most diverse cities in the region, making this programming

key to sharing and learning about the many cultures in the area.

Bellevue studies between 2018 and 2022 showed widespread community support for cross-cultural programming in Bellevue, and a desire for this programming to be “community-led, city-supported”—directed by local organizations with support from city staff and resources.

In 2023 the city held workshops to learn from residents what events and activities they wanted to see as part of the initiative.

The organizations and projects selected to offer programming reflect the vast diversity of the Bellevue community, with nearly 80% of hosting organizations run by people of color, 60% run by women, 50% run by immigrants or refugees, and 17% run by people from the LGBTQIA+ community.

Details about the Cross-Cultural Center without Walls, including organizations hosting events and a way to sign up for updates, are available at BellevueWA.gov/cross-cultural. A calendar of cross-cultural events is included.

City launches safe parking pilot

By BIANCA SIEGL
Assistant Director Citywide Policy and Programs

The Safe Parking program is in the Wilburton area at the Lincoln Center, the former site of the Porchlight men’s shelter. The program provides a designated place for households living in their vehicles to park, rest and access services.

On-site amenities include restrooms and showers, a kitchen, laundry facilities and Wi-Fi, plus support from staff in finding housing and otherwise overcoming barriers to exiting homelessness.

The city contracts with 4 Tomorrow to run the program. 4 Tomorrow is a local nonprofit with a successful history of partnering with the city to support families in the Bellevue School District and individuals experiencing homelessness.

The program is prioritizing families with children, and will have up to 20 vehicles that serve as residences on site at a time.

The first nine families participating in the program, starting in May, have consisted of 27 different individuals, including 15 children who are as young as eight months old. The program is already having measurable positive impacts; in the first weeks of operation, one family working with 4 Tomorrow’s case management staff was already anticipating moving to stable indoor housing by the end of May.

Individuals curious to learn more about the program, or who would like to refer someone to the program, can contact homelessness outreach program manager Nico Quijano (425-229-5819 or nquijano@BellevueWA.gov). Folks interested in volunteering or donating to the program are invited to visit 4Tomorrow.today.

Bellevue Essentials accepting applications for fall classes

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. People who live or work in Bellevue are invited to apply for the fall session of the civic engagement class held on Wednesday evenings, Sept. 11 to Nov. 20.

Participants in Bellevue Essentials will experience the daily structure and operations of city government through immersive and interactive learning. They will 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 greater awareness of volunteer opportunities.

Wednesday classes are 5:30-8:30 p.m., in addition to two Saturday sessions, during which participants explore neighborhoods and parks. Participants meet City Council members and staff leadership, as well as city staff who do the daily work of running Bellevue. Participants must attend 10 of the 12 sessions to graduate.

Over 370 people have graduated from Bellevue Essentials since 2013, and many are making an impact on Bellevue now through service on city boards and commissions, committees and neighborhood associations.

Tuition is \$200; fee waivers are available to those with financial need.

A cohort of 35 participants will be selected who are demographically representative of Bellevue’s diverse community and are committed to the future of Bellevue and to serving their community.

Applications are due by Sunday, July 21, at 5 p.m. A brochure and an easy application for the 2024 class is available at BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials. A video about the program is also available on the webpage.

For alternate formats, interpreters or reasonable accommodations, please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-7855 or email neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact Bellevue’s ADA/ Title VI administrator at 425-452-6168. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, dial 711.



Bellevue Essentials participants learn about Lewis Creek firsthand, on one of the program’s neighborhood walks.



Volunteers prepare to hand out trees for the 2022 tree giveaway.

Tree giveaway to prioritize equity

By **SOFIA FALL**
Sustainability Program Coordinator

While Bellevue has a lush tree canopy in many neighborhoods that contributes to our reputation as a “city in a park,” our urban forest is unevenly distributed. To address that disparity, the city’s annual tree giveaway this year will target neighborhoods that have fewer trees.

Tree canopy (groups of mature trees) improves air quality and absorbs greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Bellevue’s trees also slow stormwater runoff, which can damage infrastructure and homes. Finally, as summers in our region heat up, trees provide critical shade that keeps us cool.

To help residents add to Bellevue’s tree canopy, the city gave away 700 free trees in 2021, 1,000 in 2022 and 750 in 2023 to individuals and organizations. This year, the city is giving away 700 trees. The application period starts Tuesday, June 25. Residents can also receive free watering bags and mulch.

Tree equity scores

Tree equity measures whether a neighborhood has enough trees to experience the benefits of a healthy tree canopy, considering existing canopy, surface temperature and resident income, employment, race, age, language and health.

Decades of studies have shown that residents from historically disadvantaged communities are less likely to live in neighborhoods with considerable tree canopy. By allocating trees first to residents in neighborhoods with lower tree equity scores, the city aims to increase access to tree canopy for residents who will benefit the most.

Trees are also assigned based on planting area conditions, availability and other factors. For our 2024 giveaway, we’ve selected species based on their suitability for our climate and soils, hardiness and pest resistance. We are offering northern spire western red cedar, vine maple, serviceberry, two varieties of evergreen magnolia, lodgepole pine, Garry oak, Douglas fir and coast redwood.

How to Participate

All Bellevue residents, including renters, are eligible. Renters will want to clear tree acquisition with their landlords. Apply and learn more at BellevueWA.gov/treegiveaway.



Fee waivers available for affordable housing development

By **AMANDA ANDERSON**
Development Services Public Information Officer

Affordable housing developers can now apply for permit review and inspection fee waivers from the City of Bellevue for their projects.

In 2023, the City Council established the Affordable Housing Permit Review and Inspection Fee Program to alleviate some of the burden of the high costs of construction on affordable housing developers. Bellevue’s permitting fees are regionally competitive but represent an increasingly substantial cost.

To qualify for fee reductions under the program, a development must be 100% affordable at or below 80% of the area median income for the life of the project. Projects providing permanent housing, emergency shelter or services to people experiencing homelessness may qualify.

Like cities across the region, Bellevue needs more affordable housing. This program is one of many measures the city is implementing to mitigate the cost of developing affordable housing and incentivize construction. The city has made significant progress in this area and has made it a high priority through this program and other initiatives.

More information about the fee waiver program is available by contacting the city’s Development Services Department or at BellevueWA.gov/constructing-affordable-housing.

Bellevue offers sustainability services for nonprofits

By **SOFIA FALL**
Sustainability Program Coordinator

Greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and transportation make up the bulk of emissions in our community. For local nonprofits and smaller organizations, addressing these emissions sources can come with significant upfront costs – and big future cost-savings.

To help nonprofits in our community access the benefits of energy efficiency and electrification, the city has several programs to connect organizations with rebates and resources. With these services, nonprofits can meet sustainability needs and plan for a more climate-resilient future.

Nonprofits and other organizations that own or operate large buildings over 20,000 square feet must meet state energy efficiency or reporting standards. Navigating compliance can take work.

Our Clean Buildings Incentive Program helps building owners and operators reduce energy use, leverage financial incentives for energy efficiency projects and avoid fines by complying early with the law. This includes free building energy use benchmarking, building performance assessments and support for navigating grants and incentives.

Interested organizations can get started by registering with our program partner, MacDonald-Miller: bit.ly/clean-buildings-program.

For organizations already green as can be regarding their buildings, the city is connecting nonprofits with funding and incentives to install electric vehicle charging. Organizations at any stage of the process can fill out our interest form, available in English, Spanish, traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, Russian, Korean and Vietnamese. Get started at BellevueWA.gov/electric-vehicles.

We’re excited to work with you!

A police volunteer for 30 years

By DREW ANDERSON
Police Public Information Officer



Susan Allen, a volunteer with the Bellevue Police Department for more than 30 years, is stepping away this year so she can move out of state to be closer to her family.

Susan began helping the department before a police volunteer program existed and averaged over 356 hours of service each year, often staffing the desk of the Crossroads substation.

As far back as the 1980s, Susan championed causes close to her heart, notably with involvement with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Over the years, she also supported the police at National Night Out gatherings, Drug Take Back events and safety fairs.

Susan served on the board of the Bellevue Police Foundation and participated with neighborhood associations, school traffic safety programs and other community-based initiatives. She received various forms of recognition, including the prestigious President's Silver Volunteer Service award two years in a row.

Susan reminds us of the profound impact one individual can have on our city. For more information about volunteering with the City of Bellevue, please visit BellevueWA.gov/volunteer.

Longer hours when construction noise allowed

By AMANDA ANDERSON
Development Services Public Information Officer

To provide balance between minimizing excessive noise exposure for the community and supporting development, the City Council has expanded the hours when construction noise is allowed.

Construction noise is allowed 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturdays. Before May 23, when a code amendment approved by the council in April took effect, construction noise was allowed 7 a.m.-6 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturdays.

The longer hours are intended to shorten the overall length and impact of construction. Another change to the code allows multiple extensions to construction noise exemptions under one permit within a 30-day period. To ensure neighbors are aware and prepared for additional noise impacts, public notice is required for projects authorized for construction noise outside the newly expanded hours.

The revised city code also has clearer language for what qualifies for extensions of construction noise exemptions. Generally, extensions are related to immediate health, safety and transportation impacts that would require construction activity occur outside of the allowed hours.

The code was also changed to modify the allowed decibel limits for sleeping areas. The change aligns Bellevue's code with federal guidelines and neighboring cities. Additional details on the changes to the noise code are at BellevueWA.gov/noise-code-amendment.

City staff do respond to noise complaints for amplified sound without a permit and other issues. Community members may report complaints by calling the Bellevue Police Department non-emergency phone number, 425-577-5656, or through the MyBellevue customer assistance portal: BellevueWA.gov/mybellevue.



Stay Connected with Bellevue Television

Live and recorded community meetings and special programming

youtube.com/BellevueWashington
BellevueWA.gov/btv

Movies in the Park

Take in a movie under the open sky this summer with Downtown Movies in the Park or Summer Movies in Crossroads International Park. Free popcorn, live music and games are part of the show brought to you by Bellevue Parks & Community Services. Festivities start at 7 p.m.; the movie starts at dusk.

At Downtown Park, family-friendly movies play six consecutive Tuesdays. Presented in partnership with Viome, Charles Schwab and Amazon.



- **July 16** - "Moana" (Pacific Islander Night)
- **July 23** - "DC League of SuperPets" (Pet Day)
- **July 30** - "The Mighty Ducks" (Sports Night)
- **Aug. 6** - "Back to the Future III" ('80s Night)
- **Aug. 13** - "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (Harry Potter Night)
- **Aug. 20** - "High School Musical" (Back to School Night)



At Crossroads Park, the movies are Thursdays in August. Presented in partnership with Crossroads Bellevue Shopping Center.

- **Aug. 1** - "The Sword in the Stone"
- **Aug. 8** - "Space Jam"
- **Aug. 15** - "Elemental"
- **Aug. 22** - "Hook"

In the event of rain or excessive smoke or heat, movies will be canceled. For more information, call 425-452-6885, email outdoormovies@bellevuewa.gov or go to BellevueWA.gov/outdoor-movies.

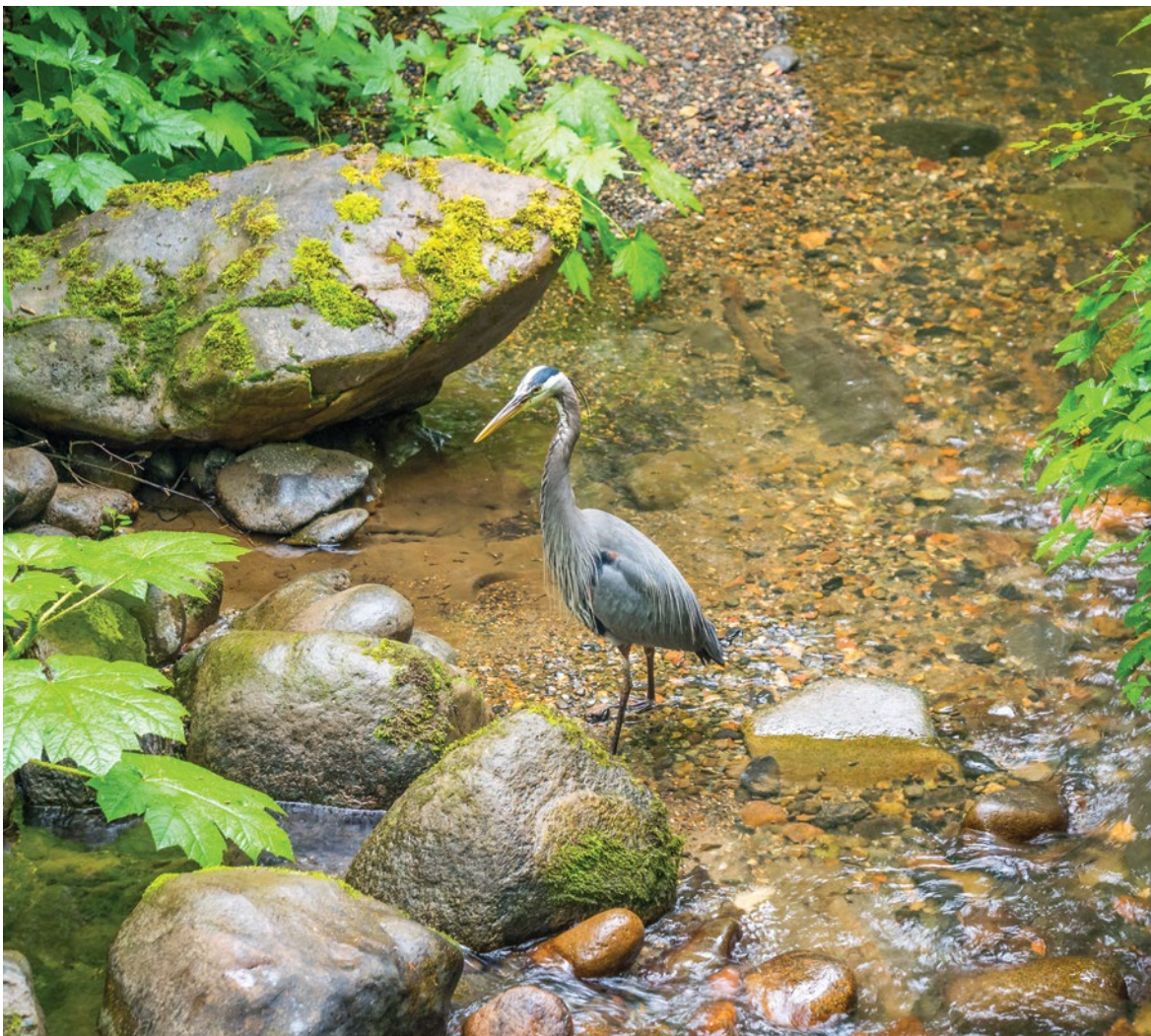


We'll cross that bridge...

With a grand opening scheduled for June 23, Eastrail's new Northeast Eighth Street bridge will provide a critical crossing over one of the busiest streets on the Eastside for people walking.

The north side of the bridge will connect directly at ground level with the Wilburton light rail station. To support transit-oriented development in Wilburton, the bridge will provide a safe crossing for Eastrail users and thousands of other new commuters in the area.

Metal cladding decorates the overpass, which will also feature several art installations to honor the area's Japanese American heritage.



Help city plan for healthier streams

By MICHAELENE FOWLER
Utilities Public Information Officer

Did you know Bellevue has over 80 miles of streams? Our streams, lakes and wetlands are home to abundant wildlife and provide a valuable space for us to enjoy nature.

To improve the health of Bellevue's streams over the next 20 years, the city is developing its first Watershed Management Plan.

Between now and July 31, area residents and businesses can share their thoughts on the health of Bellevue's streams at [EngagingBellevue.com/watershed-management](https://engagingbellevue.com/watershed-management). Your input will help ensure community values are reflected in the new plan. People who take a survey on the site may qualify to participate in a paid focus group.

Planning for RapidRide K line

By LAURA MILSTEAD
Transportation Public Information Officer

King County Metro and the cities of Kirkland and Bellevue continue to plan for the RapidRide K Line, which will run from the Totem Lake Transit Center in Kirkland to the Eastgate park-and-ride, with stops at downtown Bellevue and Bellevue College, 20% faster than standard bus routes.

Metro will reintroduce the project to the community and gather feedback on proposed routes and station locations. Metro will invite community members to respond to a survey in June and July.

Previous project milestones

Planning for the K Line began in 2014 as a core component of Bellevue's Transit Master Plan adopted by City Council, which established the city's vision for a frequent and connected transit network. The K Line won't just connect riders between Totem Lake and Eastgate but will provide connections to other major transit routes in the area, including Sound Transit's light-rail 2 Line, I-405 Stride bus rapid transit and the RapidRide B Line in Bellevue.

King County Metro began the first phase of community engagement during the fall of 2019 to understand Bellevue and Kirkland's transit needs and priorities, as well as gather input to inform the route's initial design.

Second phase of engagement

In partnership with the city, Metro will continue to focus engagement efforts on meeting people where they are, hosting events in the community, partnering with community-based organizations and engaging people in the languages they prefer to use. Metro has developed easy-to-understand materials in eight languages.

With support from Bellevue's Transportation Department and City Council, the K Line project team seeks to complete planning this fall. Metro aims to begin applying for federal funding in 2025 and begin service as early as 2030.

Details are available at [KingCounty.gov/en/dept/metro/travel-options/bus/rapidride/k-line](https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/metro/travel-options/bus/rapidride/k-line) or email the K Line engagement team at rapidride@kingcounty.gov.



The RapidRide K line could join the B line shown here as a quick bus option in Bellevue.

These projects are under construction

BelRed

120th Ave NE Multimodal Improvements (NE 16th St to Northrup Way): Reconstruction of street with frontage improvements including on-street parking, a bike lane (east side of street), and walkways on both sides. Other improvements include traffic signal modifications, streetlights, landscaping and water main installation. Design is complete and construction began in May.
Paul Krawczyk, pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

124th Ave. NE Improvements (between Ichigo Way to Northrup Way): Upgrades include a multipurpose path on the west side of 124th Avenue between Northeast 16th Street and Ichigo Way only, sidewalks on both sides of the street separated by landscape planters, construction of a culvert that fish and wildlife can navigate and raising and widening 124th Avenue to five lanes. Construction began last year and is expected to finish this fall.
Marina Arakelyan, marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov



Citywide

Pavement Preservation: Resurface streets – including grinding, fresh asphalt, new pavement markings, upgraded curb ramps and new sidewalks. Construction began in April and will continue through October. A map of all 2024 resurfacing projects is available at BellevueWA.gov/pavement.
Isack Habte, ihabte@bellevuewa.gov

Commercial Water Meters: Replacing commercial water meters in downtown and Factoria. Construction anticipated summer 2024.
Paige Young, pyoung@bellevuewa.gov

Cougar Mountain/Lakemont

Horizon View 2 Reservoir and Pump Station Replacement: Replace reservoir and associated pump station. New reservoir will hold more water than the aging existing reservoir, and the new pump station will include an emergency backup generator. Offsite water mains will also be included. Construction fall 2023 to winter 2025/2026.
Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov

Horizon View 3 Pump Station Reliability Improvements: Utilities will be installing an uninterruptable power system to the pump station to increase reliability during power outages. Construction summer of 2024.
Jim Nicolls, jbnicolls@bellevuewa.gov

Cougar Mountain 1 Pump Station Rehab: Replacing aging backup generator and mechanical and electrical equipment in this station. Also site and sidewalk improvements and new roof on pump station building. Construction is anticipated to start June 2024.
Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov

Downtown

Downtown Overlay: Bellevue Way, Northeast Fourth and Eighth Sts.: Grind, overlay and upgrade ADA ramps on Northeast Eighth Street between Bellevue Way and Interstate 405, Northeast Fourth Street between Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue Northeast, and Bellevue Way between 112th Avenue Southeast and Northeast Fourth Street. Construction Summer 2024.
Tyler Lam, tlam@bellevuewa.gov

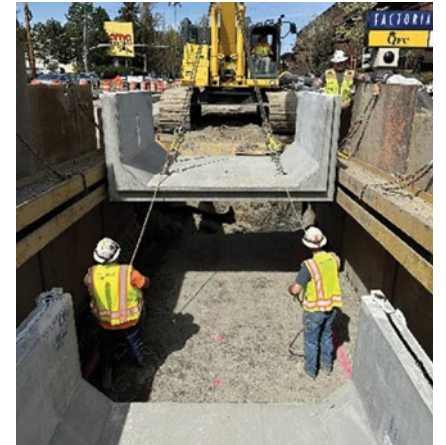
South Downtown Overlay: Grind and overlay the roadway at the following locations: (1) Main Street between 100th and 116th avenues, (2) Northeast Second Street between 108th and 112th avenues, (3) 110th Avenue Northeast between Main and Northeast Second Street, and (4) 112th Avenue Northeast between Main and Northeast Second streets.
Glen Kho, gkho@bellevuewa.gov

The following Transportation, Utilities and Parks & Community Services projects – listed by neighborhood area – are all under construction. Project cost projections change during the design process, so estimates are not provided. Only neighborhood areas with major projects under construction are listed.

Look for updates, including cost estimates, for these and other projects in construction in the fall edition of It's Your City. For more information about projects, please contact the project manager listed.

Factoria

Factoria Boulevard Stormwater Conveyance Improvements: Improve stormwater system capacity along Factoria Boulevard, between Southeast 38th Street and Richards Creek inlet, to reduce the risk of flooding during large storms. Construction January 2024 to November 2024.
Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov



Lake Hills

156th Ave. SE and Lake Hills Blvd. Traffic Signal: Replace the all-way stop at Lake Hills Boulevard and 156th Avenue Southeast with a traffic signal, including ADA ramp upgrades and pavement overlay. Construction anticipated summer 2024.
Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

Main St. and 156th Ave. SE Traffic Signal Upgrade: Replace the 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 anticipated summer 2024.
Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

Newport

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 anticipated summer 2024.
Olivia Aikala, oaikala@bellevuewa.gov

Northwest Bellevue

Flashing Beacon installations: Add rapid flashing beacons and otherwise upgrade marked crossings at Northeast Eighth Street and 95th and 98th avenues Northeast. May also include sidewalk extensions, sidewalk repairs, drainage improvements and reconstruction of curb ramps if required. Construction anticipated summer 2024.
**Brittany Quan, bquan@bellevuewa.gov and
Min Jie Kim, mjkim@bellevuewa.gov**

West Lake Sammamish

170th Pl. Pressure Improvements: Installing 1,800 linear feet of 8-inch and 4-inch water main and pressure-reducing valve stations to address low water pressure and fire flow to the residents along 170th Place east of Weowna Park. Construction is anticipated 2024.
Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov

Wilburton

Wilburton Sewage Pump Station Rehabilitation: Replace aging mechanical and electrical components. Construction through summer 2024.
Bob York, ryork@bellevuewa.gov

Grand Connection Crossing progresses toward 30% design



Community members learn about the Grand Connection Crossing at the 2 Line opening.

By **LAURA MILSTEAD**
Transportation Public Information Officer

Aiming to reach 30% design on the Grand Connection Crossing over Interstate 405 by the end of the year, the city collected considerable input this spring from community members via an online survey and in-person events.

The crossing is the essential component of the Grand Connection, a corridor for car-free travel from Meydenbauer Bay through downtown Bellevue across I-405 to the Eastrail multi-use trail.

Ultimately, the crossing will connect our growing downtown with vibrant neighborhoods in Wilburton.

The project team hosted:

- an online open house in February and March with a survey where over 300 people shared their priorities and examples from other cities
- a table at City Hall during Sound Transit's 2 Line April 27 opening, where thousands watched drone footage of the crossing's proposed path and met the project team
- a May open house at the Bellevue Botanical Garden where community members shared ideas for various features of the crossing such as elevator connections, weather coverings and public art opportunities

Initial themes that emerged from community input included desires for a crossing that offers opportunities for exercise, incorporates green spaces and ensures safety with adequate lighting and separated bike paths.

Evaluating Crossing locations

The project team will spend the next few months analyzing structural and cost considerations for the project, which will guide the location of the crossing. At the end of the summer, the project team will share the selected location option and provide a design update through an online open house.

With a location and initial structural design in place, the project team will begin to incorporate community feedback in the next phase of design.

You can visit BellevueWA.gov/i405-crossing to sign up for project emails or text updates with the latest details about the project.

New street art celebrates pride and inclusion

By **EMILY INLOW-HOOD**
Deputy Communications Officer

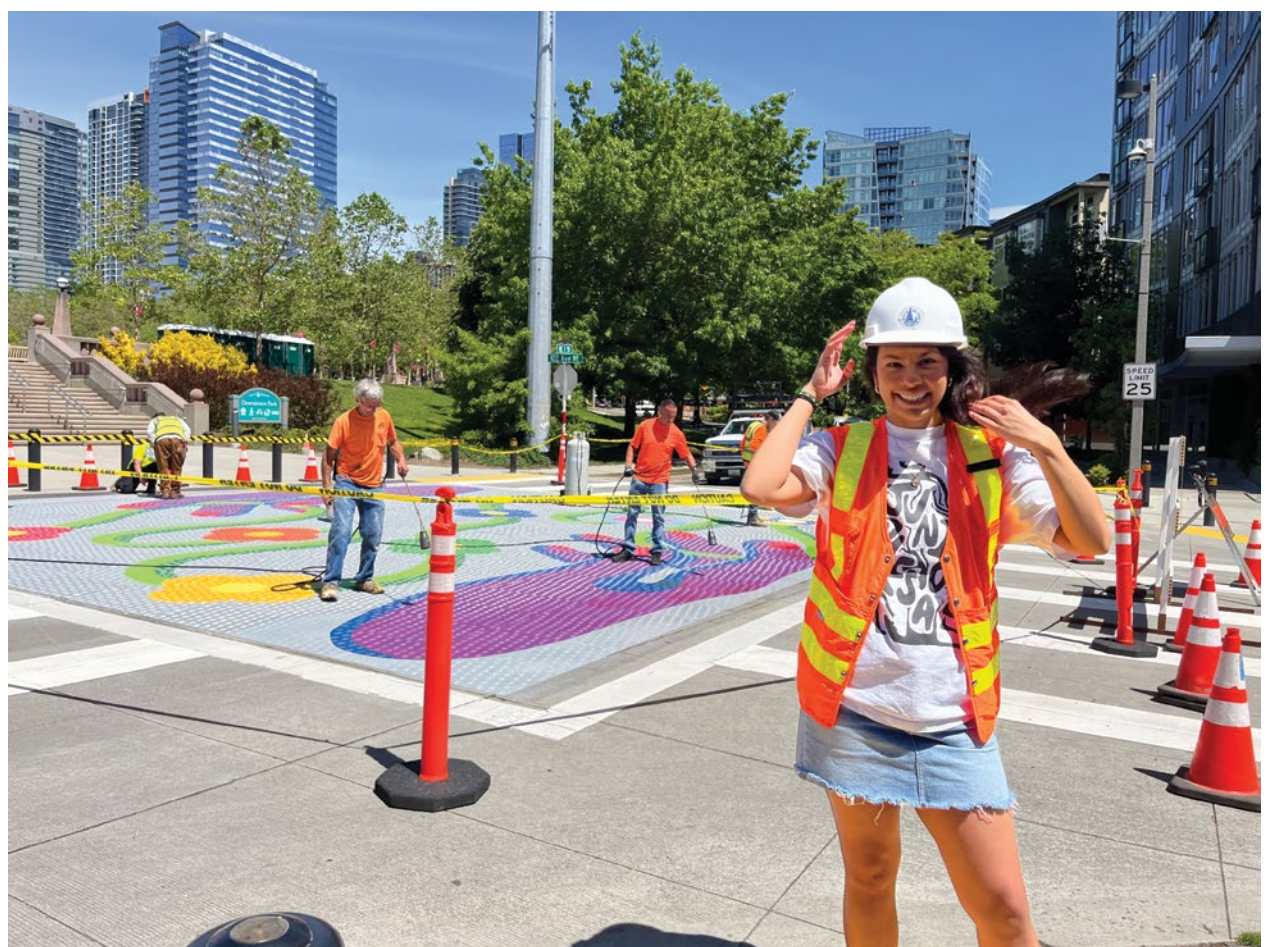
If you're at Downtown Park sometime soon, you'll have a chance to see the city's newest public art. "The Love Between," a pavement treatment at the intersection of Northeast First Street and 102nd Avenue Northeast, celebrates Bellevue's thriving and vibrant LGBTQIA+ community.

Installed in time for the Bellevue Downtown Association's Paws & Pride Dog Jog & Walk on June 1, the art was designed by local artist Esmeralda Vasquez.

"We believe that the diversity in our city is our strength, and this new artwork further underscores our dedication to embracing and supporting our LGBTQIA+ community," said Mayor Lynne Robinson. "We hope this new addition to our streetscape will foster a sense of belonging, and remind everyone that Bellevue welcomes you."

The piece features two large color-blocked hands in the colors of the bisexual flag positioned towards each other, as if they are each offering something to the other. Between the hands, a stem twists and flows through the center, representing the twists and turns that come with navigating life, especially as a queer individual. It is bordered by flowers following the order of the rainbow Pride flag and the colors of the trans and non-binary flags. Vasquez created the design after conducting research and community outreach.

Vasquez was selected as the artist for this project after an open call for local artists in October 2023. She is a self-taught multidisciplinary artist and muralist,



Local artist Esmeralda Vasquez shows off "The Love Between," a pavement treatment she designed that celebrates Bellevue's thriving and vibrant LGBTQIA+ community.

and her experiences as a Latinx/LGBTQ artist from the Yakima Valley has inspired her drive to connect with people from diverse backgrounds.

This new piece of art serves as a reminder that Bellevue is a place where people of all backgrounds can live, work and thrive without fear of discrimination. It is also part of the city's ongoing efforts to create an environment where everyone feels respected, valued and celebrated.

Other efforts by the city include raising the progress Pride flag during the month of June, efforts from the Rainbow Alliance for Diversity, an employee resource group for LGBTQIA+ staff and their allies, the Diversity Advantage Initiative, the Bellevue Police Department's Safe Place program, training for all staff on privilege and microaggressions, and many cultural events such as the recent art exhibition at city hall honoring Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

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.

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.

425-453-1223 or BellevueDowntown.com/events/family-4th

Chalk Art Fest

July 24, 3-6 p.m.

Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th St.

Sidewalk art, face painting, bounce houses and sno-cones.

Chalk will be provided; attendance is free. All ages welcome.

"Amplify"

July 20 at 7:30 p.m.

July 21 at 2 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th St.

Presented by Beyond the Stage Youth. Free

Downtown Movies in the Park

July 16-Aug. 20, Tuesday nights at dusk.

Premovie entertainment begins at 7 p.m.

Downtown Park, 10201 NE Fourth St.

Free movies on a 40-foot screen, free popcorn, Movie will be canceled in the event of rain.

July 16 - "Moana"

July 23 - "DC League of SuperPets"

July 30 - "The Mighty Ducks"

Aug. 6 - "Back to the Future III"

Aug. 13 - "Harry Potter"

Aug. 20 - "High School Musical"

425-452-4240 or

outdoormovies@bellevuewa.gov or bellevueoutdoormovies.com

"Much Ado About Nothing"

Theatre on the Green

July 31, 6:30-7:40 p.m.

Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th St.

Bring a picnic and enjoy a night out in a peaceful, family-friendly environment.

"Treasure Island"

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th St.

Aug. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17 at 7 p.m.

Aug. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 at 2 p.m.

Tickets \$12 - Live Streaming: \$8

"Purrlie's Mission to the Milky Way"

Theatre on the Green

Aug. 7, 6:30-7:40 p.m.

Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th St.

Bring a picnic and enjoy a night out in a peaceful, family-friendly environment.

Crossroads Movies in the Park

Aug. 1-22; Thursday nights at dusk

16000 NE 10th St.

Free movies on a 40-foot screen, free popcorn

Family activities at 7 p.m.; movies start at dusk (around 9 p.m.)

Aug. 1 - "The Sword in the Stone"

Aug. 8 - "Space Jam"

Aug. 15 - "Elemental"

Aug. 22 - "Hook"

Movie will be canceled in the event of rain, excessive smoke or excessive heat.

425-890-3157 or

dwardrop@bellevuewa.gov

Eastside Fuchsia Society Plant Show and Sale

Aug. 17, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St.

Featuring a large selection of hardy fuchsias, bearded iris and daylilies, plus a Fuchsia 101 class 11 a.m.-noon.

Arts in the Garden

Aug. 23, 12-5 p.m.

Aug. 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Aug. 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St.

Artworks for sale presented in a natural setting, with the artists on hand. Discover 28 artists and a wide variety of sculpture and garden art.

Live music and food trucks on Saturday and Sunday.

Free entry. Prices vary for artwork.

Event parking in garden lot: \$10



Customers line up for the wares at the Bellevue Botanical Garden's Arts in the Garden, which will be Aug. 23-25 this year. Photo by Peter Raulerson

Bellevue Youth Theatre Auditions for fall season

Sept. 4-6, 5-6:30 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th St.

425-452-7155 or BellevueWA.gov/byt

Beach Park Lifeguards

Enatai, Meydenbauer and Newcastle:

June 22-Sept. 2, noon-7 p.m.

Chism, Clyde and *Chesterfield:

June 29-Aug 18, noon-7pm

(*Chesterfield will be guarded 2-5 p.m. only and will not be open on days of inclement weather.)

Ranger Hikes, Discussions and Movies

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 and fall recreation programs and day camps. 425-452-6885 or Register.BellevueWA.gov

Kayak, canoe, paddle board rentals

REI Boathouse at Meydenbauer Bay

9899 Lake Washington Blvd. NE

May 30-Sept. 2

■ Thursday, Friday: noon-8 p.m.

■ Saturday, Sunday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Sept. 3-30

■ Saturday, Sunday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

REI Boathouse at Enatai Beach

3519 108th Ave. SE

June 28-Sept. 2

■ Friday: noon-8 p.m.

■ Saturday, Sunday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Farm and Produce Stands

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. 206-485-4812

Mercer Slough Farm Stand


2220 Bellevue Way SE

U-Pick will open when fruit is ripe.

Hours vary. 206-485-4812

CITY CONTACTS

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
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
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	
Aging Services	425-452-4200
Information, Recreation, Youth Sports	425-452-6885
Ballfield, Park 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
Northwest Arts Center	425-452-4106
South Bellevue Community Center	425-452-4240
Marina	425-452-5255
Mini City Hall	425-452-2800
Police Emergency	911
Police Non-Emergency	
General Information and Records	425-452-6917
Crossroads Station	425-452-2891
Factoria Station	425-452-2880
Crime Prevention	425-452-6915
Transportation	
Administration	425-452-6856
Utilities	
Administration	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
Metro Transit/Sound Transit	206-553-3000

 For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4448 (voice) or email ciosso@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

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.

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People enjoy the play features at the new park.

New park in Bridle Trails

By CHRISTINA FAINE
 Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park, the newest addition to Bellevue's extensive park system, opened on May 11 with a community celebration. Ten years in the making, the 1.65-acre park offers play areas, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, benches, hard- and soft-surface paths, a lawn, a bathroom and a 12-stall parking lot.

At 4432 140th Ave. NE, the neighborhood park also offers a window to Valley Creek wetlands and wildlife. The eastern edge of the property abuts five acres of wetland owned by the city, which will remain undeveloped. A loop trail hugs the wetland buffer restored with native plantings.

One of the play areas at the park serves children ages 2-5. The other is designed for children ages 5-12.

"Bellevue's parks are beloved community assets that bring people together to play, learn and enjoy nature," said Mayor Lynne Robinson.

In 2014, the city acquired the property for the park – identified by the neighborhood as a potential park site – from a private seller. The Parks & Community Services Board and City Council both unanimously approved a plan for the park, drafted with community input, in 2016.

Park property acquisition and development was funded by the 2008 Bellevue Parks levy and the King County Conservation Futures program.

Construction started in mid-2023 and was completed this spring.

"Thanks to the community for their active engagement in the planning and development of the park, which reflects the city's strong working relationship with the neighborhood," said Michael Shiosaki, director of the Parks & Community Services Department.