

# Neighborhood

## Voices



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# BelRed

The BelRed neighborhood is undergoing a remarkable transformation. Once dominated by strip malls and industrial uses, BelRed is now emerging as a thriving mixed-use community. As an owner of Bellevue Brewing in the Spring District, I see positive changes every day outside our windows. The light rail system has significantly improved accessibility, attracting new residents, businesses, and customers. The neighborhood is becoming more pedestrian-friendly with the addition of bike trails and sidewalks. As BelRed continues to evolve, it is poised to become an even more vibrant and desirable place to live, work, and play.

—Dan Arildson, BelRed Neighborhood Area

Working in The Spring District is truly amazing because it brings to life the concept of live, work, play within one TOD (transit-oriented development). We have thousands of employees filling the new office towers and sidewalks with life and vibrancy; many of them commuting in by bicycle, shuttle or light rail. As you wander through the park don't be surprised to be greeted by neighbors, pets, and children playing on the swings or in the fountain. Between the harvestable garden beds, summer concert series, free community library stand, retail options and various events throughout the year; we have something for EVERYONE at The Spring District!

—Linda Hoffner, BelRed Neighborhood Area

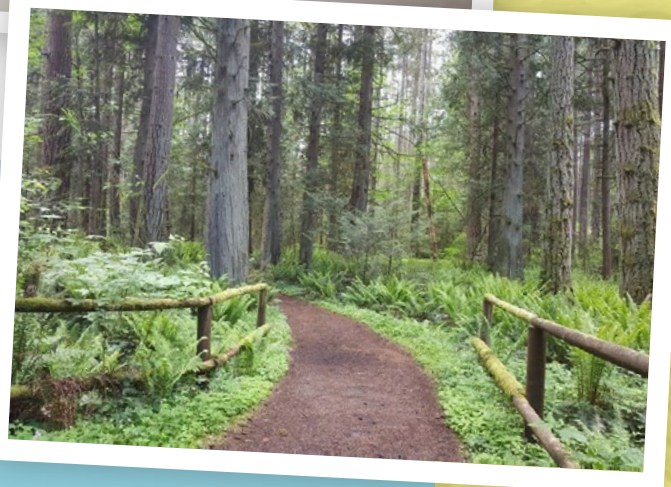




# Bridle Trails

Bridle Trails is anchored by the 482 acre Bridle Trails State Park and many smaller neighborhood parks. It is a heavily wooded equestrian community with an extensive trails system and predominantly single family homes. Our 25 neighborhoods and over 13,000 residents enjoy the proximity to shopping, highways, downtown Bellevue, top rated hospitals and schools, senior center and major employers like Microsoft, Amazon, Google and Facebook. We are proud of our volunteers in Bridle Trails Community Club, Bridle Trails Park Foundation and many neighborhood associations who put on fun yearly events like Bridle Trails Night Out and Party in the Park and work together to preserve the character, quality and livability of our area as well as tackle emerging issues like homelessness, traffic, density, urban development and deforestation.

—Eva Orlowska-Emadi, Bridle Trails Neighborhood



# Area Cougar Mountain / Lakemont

The Cougar Mountain neighborhood, the name says it all. We are next to one of the most beautiful parks in the area, with 3,000 acres and over 35 miles of trail, “walking distance”. In addition, we host the Lewis Creek Park and other smaller recreational facilities that offer tennis, pickleball, and several other activities. The peaceful setting of the area motivates the residents to walk and interact with neighbors; the diversity of its population is one of its most significant qualities. Lakemont Blvd offers a small but gratifying commercial area, it serves us well without generating traffic congestions.

Neighbors are concerned with potential development of a new residential community next to Cougar Park on Lakemont Boulevard, which many see as a threat to the bionetwork of the area; another is the risk that some park users face crossing Lakemont Boulevard at the entrance to Cougar Mountain Park, we need a pedestrian bridge or some other creative solution. And we have a dream... to be able to visit the rest of Bellevue using public transportation, leaving our cars home... embracing a more sustainable lifestyle.

— VanRex Gallard, Cougar Mountain/Lakemont Neighborhood Area





# Crossroads

We have such a fun group of neighbors. We love organizing impromptu barbecues, play dates and random fun events in our cul-de-sac! We have a big race between the kids on bikes and the Harley. The kids won by a landslide! Our neighborhood feels like you are in a country park or woodland setting thanks to all the trees and the beautifully kept gardens. You wouldn't guess that we are less than half a mile from Fred Meyer and right off of busy 148th Ave. NE and near Crossroads Shopping Center.

Neighbors are concerned about the rising use of drugs in the community, especially as some of our houses back up to a church parking lot and this is a location not visible immediately from 148th. We are all very vigilant to watch for crime or drug use and work with the authorities on helping those that are victims of substance abuse.

—Steve Hilbert, Rock Creek, Crossroads Neighborhood Area



# Downtown

The Downtown neighborhood includes all of the things we want, all in a small, walkable area. Living here, we are just blocks away from best shopping and restaurants in the Northwest, and we walk our dogs at Bellevue Downtown Park and kayak with them from Meydenbauer Bay Park. The promise of the Grand Connection to walk from the Eastrail to Meydenbauer Bay is world-class. If we need to go somewhere, we are close to the Downtown transit center where busses run regularly and we'll soon have a light rail station. We feel safe here, and Downtown is clean and well-maintained.

Downtown has a vibrance of innovation and creativity brought by the variety of companies that do the business here. Employees are young and old, and come from many backgrounds, which brings a cool energy to the streets and shops through the working days and into the evenings.

The impact of all the additional people coming to Downtown to work and live will be significant. Construction today is loud and clogs our already over-crowded streets. We worry about impacts to traffic and livability with thousands more to come.

—Patrick Schlight, Downtown Neighborhood Area





# Eastgate

I bought my 1954-era rambler in 1994 and quickly came to love my neighborhood. We in Eastgate love the trees, our cute Newport Way Library and schools, and friendly and very diverse neighbors. Eastgate is a safe, quiet and walkable neighborhood. It's entirely residential on the south side of I-90 but for the highly valued Eastgate Plaza collection of grocery, drugstore, and retail shops. On the north side of I-90 there is denser business and residential development, with its proximity to the Eastgate Transit Center. Close by will soon be the Eastgate Housing Campus with affordable housing, supportive housing, and a low-barrier men's homeless shelter.

Eastgate residents are increasingly concerned about safety and the rise in property crimes. Traffic in and out of the neighborhood continues to be a hot-button issue. Many Eastgate homeowners are also distressed by many original, more affordable homes being torn down and replaced by huge multi-million dollar homes.

—Leslie Geller, Eastgate Neighborhood Area

Horizon Heights is just up the hill from Eastgate Elementary School. Our 151 homes were built in the late 70s and early 80s. We have an active Community Association which hosts three social functions each year and interacts with the City on neighborhood issues such as traffic speeds, snow plowing, and code compliance issues. The Association promotes an atmosphere of community in this age where minimal social interaction seems to be in vogue. We loved gathering with neighbors to help with spring planting at the entryway to our neighborhood!

—Phil Morrissey, Horizon Heights, Eastgate Neighborhood Area



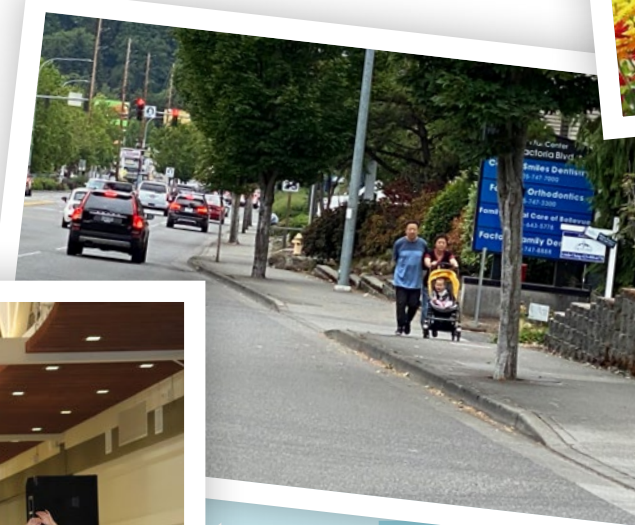
# Factoria

Factoria stands out for its convenience. Everything you need is just around the corner—highway access within 5 minutes, diverse grocery stores, a mall, medical facilities, schools, and more are all within this compact yet efficient neighborhood.

While Factoria lacks extensive green spaces and trail systems, it benefits from its proximity to the Coal Creek Natural Area to the south, the Eastrail to the west, and the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway trail to the north, providing easy access to numerous trails and natural features in the region. Due to its compact nature and high population density,

Factoria faces challenges such as homelessness and other issues common in urban areas. Our community is actively working with the city to address these concerns and ensure safety for everyone. Like many neighborhoods, Factoria is evolving. We now have a new homeless shelter and an affordable housing complex nearby, with plans for a multi-use apartment complex next to the Factoria Mall. We are confident that our resilient community will continue to make Factoria a vibrant and convenient place for years to come.

—Thushan Abeysekera, Factoria Neighborhood Area



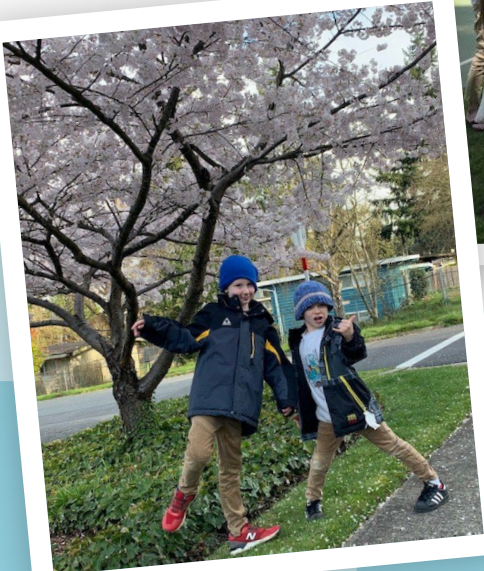


# Lake Hills

There is so much to love about the Lake Hills neighborhood. I love the beautiful greenbelt, walking paths and parks. Lake Hills is a beautiful mix of people from all around the world. I love the friendly and inclusive atmosphere. My kids and I have made a number of long-lasting friendships just going to the park.

I worry about the increase in reckless driving throughout the Lake Hills neighborhood. The two main issues I have witnessed are excessive speed and failing to stop at a stop sign or signal. We need to keep our families safe!

—Jessi Cassidy, Lake Hills Neighborhood Area





# Newport

Newport Hills is a humble, friendly, and cozy neighborhood where my family feels safe and relaxed. I love the beautiful hiking trails that surround Newport Hills such as Coal Creek. I appreciate the football field at Ringdall Middle School, where my 5 year old son and I bike, jog, and play soccer weekly. We are minutes to I-405 and to shopping in Factoria & Newcastle, but the neighborhood still feels very private because we are situated on a hilltop. The residents go out of their way during holidays like Halloween and Christmas to make the neighborhood enjoyable for the kids. It's pretty quiet here during the day without much traffic, but I am concerned about a steady rise in car theft and other crimes.

—Diane Li, Newport Neighborhood Area





# Northeast Bellevue

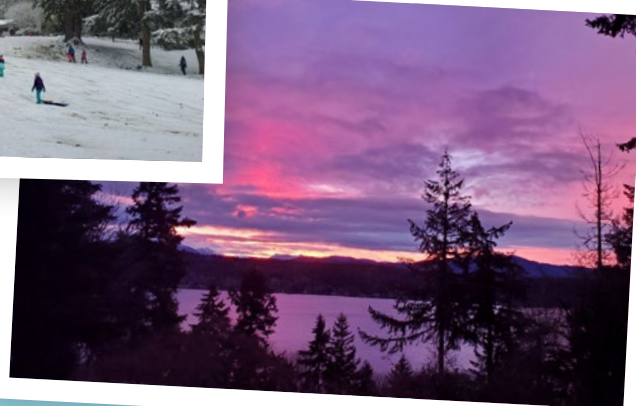
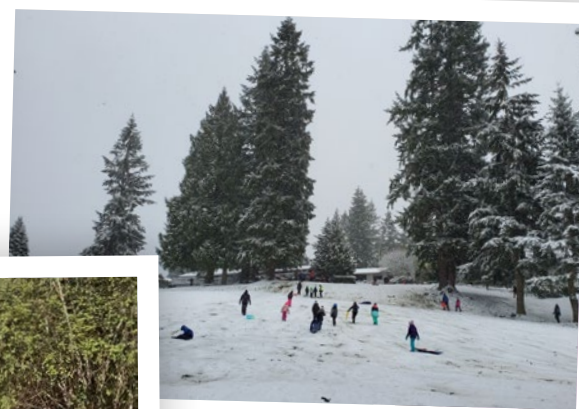
Ardmore is where I have lived for 20 years. I raised my children here and I continue to enjoy my neighborhood. It is a culturally diverse neighborhood, close to stores and restaurants.

When I walk through Ardmore Park, I see young families playing in the field, teens gathering to socialize and kids on the playground which is enclosed by a fence to keep them safe. While walking the trails in the park, I feel like I am miles away from the city. My “little piece of heaven” is at the bridge with a trickling creek running beneath it. I see families out walking dogs and getting exercise together.

I love how responsive Bellevue is to neighborhood needs. I felt like my street was very dark at night. An employee from the city walked down my street with me at night so that I could show them the need for more lights. It wasn't too long after that, we had better lighting on our street!

A concern that neighbors and businesses have is with the old Silver Cloud Hotel becoming a homeless shelter and the impact it will have on the community. Another concern is the rising real estate taxes in Bellevue. There are many people who could potentially be priced out of the neighborhood with ever increasing taxes on their homes.

—Mary Baker, Ardmore, Northeast Bellevue Neighborhood Area

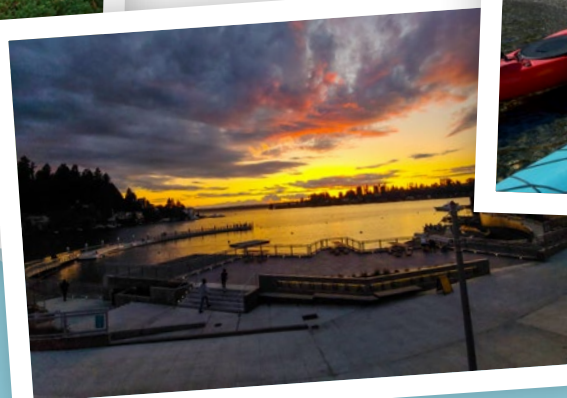


# Northwest Bellevue

Lochleven, in Northwest Bellevue is a welcoming neighborhood with exceptional walkability. We enjoy the energy of the City including the Downtown Park, Meydenbauer Park, hundreds of restaurants and shops and great schools. As a multicultural neighborhood, families meet and greet neighbors as they walk promoting a sense of place and community. We are minutes from boundless outdoor activities: volleyball in the park, kayaking, paddle boarding or sailing on the lake, playing at the beach, or cycling around the lake. Light rail combined with additional protected bike lanes and access to the Eastrail trail system will give neighbors access to a multitude of activities, services and employment opportunities.

Neighbors are concerned with the surge of development and the potential impact to our livability which threatens to erode our sense of community. Downtown development is increasing traffic, compromising parking and removing old growth trees increasing our carbon footprint. Sidewalks are incomplete, forcing families to walk in the middle of streets used to access downtown. We live in a great City, but more efforts are needed to preserve and enhance one of the best places to live now and for future generations. Diversity is our strength and walkability builds community.

—Craig Spiezle, Lochleven, Northwest Bellevue Neighborhood Area





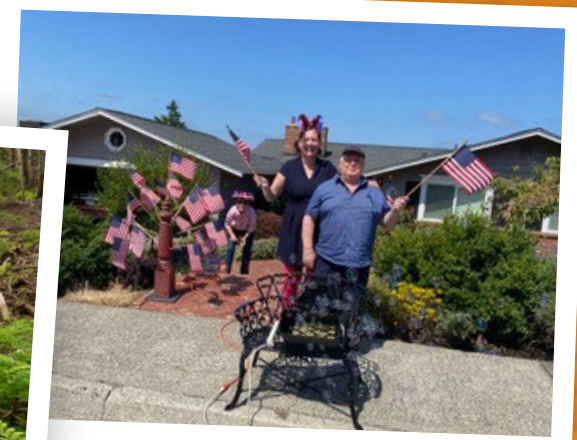
# Somerset

“After 30 years, I love my neighborhood more than ever. I still gasp with awe at our spectacular views of Seattle and Lake Washington. Summer sunsets are magical, as are winter mornings with sunrise reflected in the Columbia Tower and fresh snow on the Olympics. The hiking trails in the Somerset Greenbelt play a huge role in my physical and mental health. I love the proximity to the Newport Way Library and the South Bellevue Community Center. And I treasure the deep friendships my family has forged with many of our neighbors.

—Lisa Merrill, Somerset Neighborhood Area

The sense of community here is like none that I have ever experienced. Our neighborhood welcomes many cultures and residents from around the world, both young and old. Perched up on a hill in south Bellevue, Somerset offers a convenient closeness to downtown, work, great schools, shopping, cultural centers, hiking trails, great parks and green spaces, lakes and water, mountains and views! Neighbors have been concerned about how neighborhoods are being impacted with the rapid changes and growth of Bellevue. There have been rising concerns in recent years on the increased crime, drugs, speeding and traffic safety that have been cropping up in the community and nearby in Factoria and Eastgate.

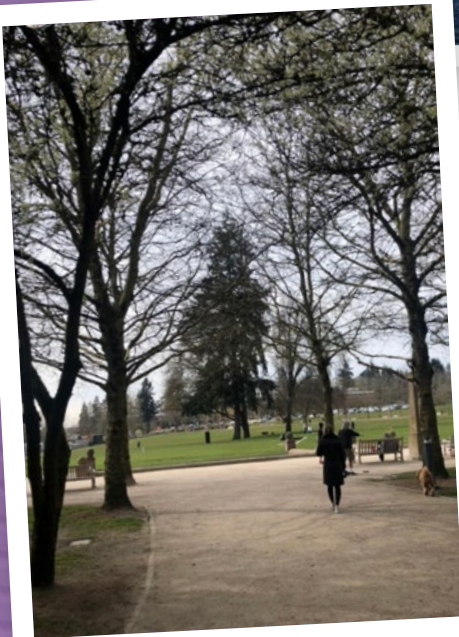
— Angela Cheung, Somerset Neighborhood Area



# West Bellevue

When we moved to Bellevue, we intentionally sought out a home in Enatai. Not only did our daughter want to attend Bellevue High School, we wanted to live in a diverse community, with access to parks, beaches, and the downtown corridor. On any given day we can walk to 6 parks, stroll through the Mercer Slough, visit Old Main Street shopping and restaurants or hop over to Bellevue Square for a quick errand. We love being able to walk to do errands or to the beach where we can take our kayaks for a quick paddle. An added bonus is access to the I90 floating bridge is right around the corner so dinner in Seattle with friends or a Mariners game is only a short drive away. Honestly, you just can't beat Enatai as the best neighborhood in Bellevue!

—Beth Silverstein, West Bellevue Neighborhood Area



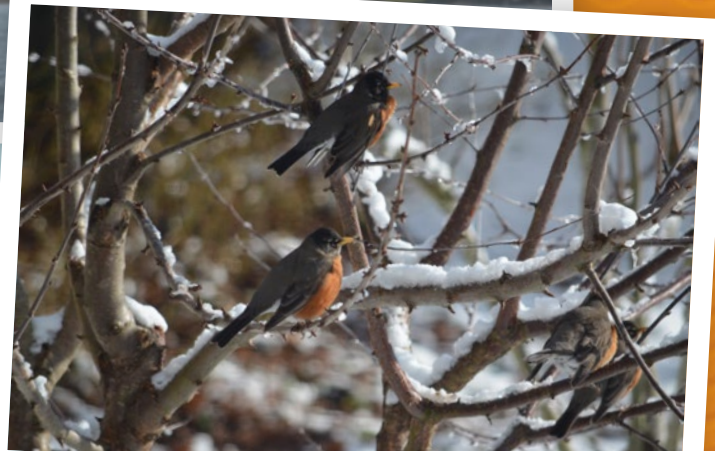
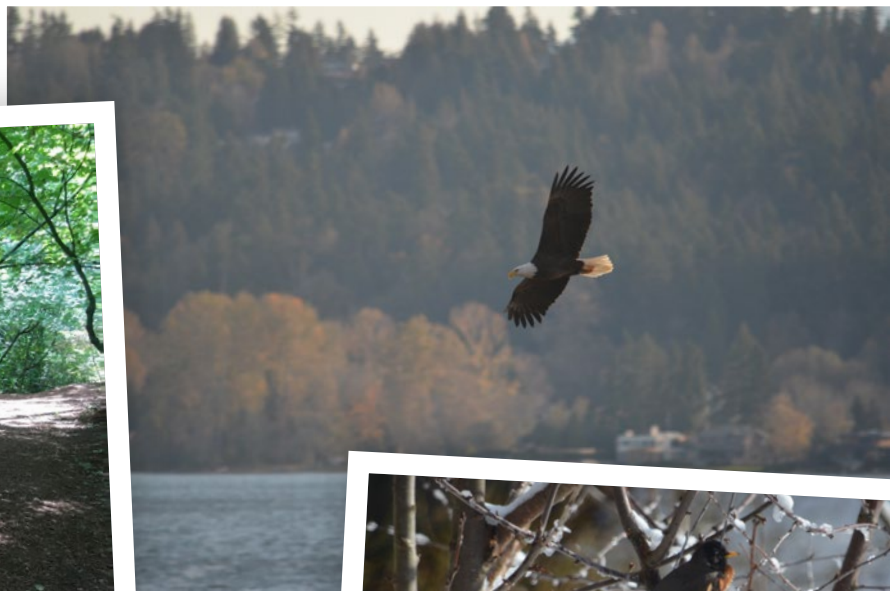


# West Lake Sammamish

“It’s great living in West Lake Sammamish neighborhood with my family. We can enjoy a short hike on sun dappled trails through the tall trees and natural foliage, away from the distractions of modern life—all within our local community. Looking out you can see soaring juvenile bald eagles or the occasional tracks of a deer. The nearby Crossroads shopping mall has a family oriented food court, with kids and seniors playing board games, chess, or simply chatting and enjoying each other’s company. Walking, cycling, driving, or paddling, you can see the diversity of housing: large and small; new and old.

Our community also has challenges: I am concerned about my neighbors that are now aging in place on a fixed income. They should enjoy their golden years without needing additional income. Also, as the demands on our infrastructure increase, we need to focus on safe streets, with predictable and resilient mobility.

—Albert Ting, West Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Area





# Wilburton

Wilburton is simply THE BEST! I hadn't really explored the area before moving to this part of town and I've discovered that it really is just a hidden gem! Wilburton is centrally located with access to all parts of Bellevue and neighboring cities—you're close enough to downtown Bellevue without having to deal with downtown living. The area allows you to fully immerse yourself in the peace, quiet and greenery around. Every amenity one could ever need is practically walking distance away while the beautiful Botanical Gardens and Wilburton park speak to the City's mission wholeheartedly. I just love my neighborhood!

—Nina Garkavi, Wilburton Neighborhood Area





# Woodridge

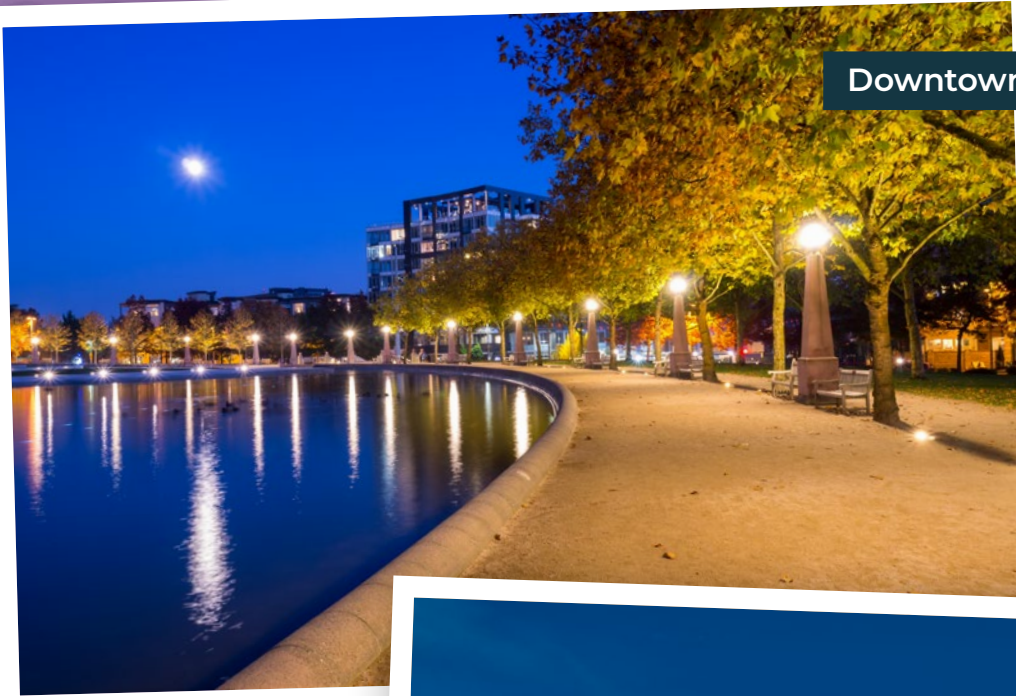
Woodridge has been an idyllic neighborhood to live in since the days of Midlakes swim champs and Journal American newspaper routes for kids with early alarm clocks! These days, the elders of my generation are still to be found on the hill and at lunch, sometimes even on the golf course. Our new neighbors are friendly and eager to connect.

The trees are tall (loved by tree-folks, not so much by view-folks) and the hills make for a great workout. Best of all, the Bellevue Parks trails added in the early 2000's below Woodridge pool have transformed the places to walk, run, and reflect around the hillside. I hope many more people are invited to live, learn, and commute from Woodridge in the next ten years, to add to our bustling neighborhood.

—Lori Keller, Woodridge Neighborhood Area







Downtown Bellevue Park



Kelsey Creek Farm



Bridle Trails playground



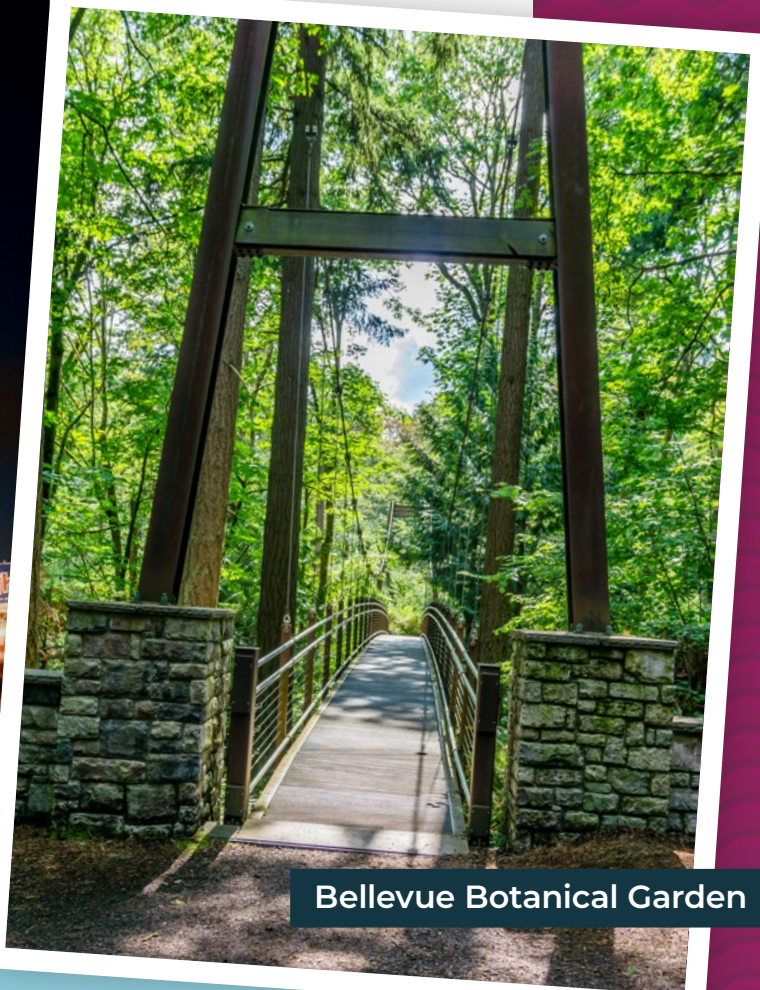
Enatai Beach Park

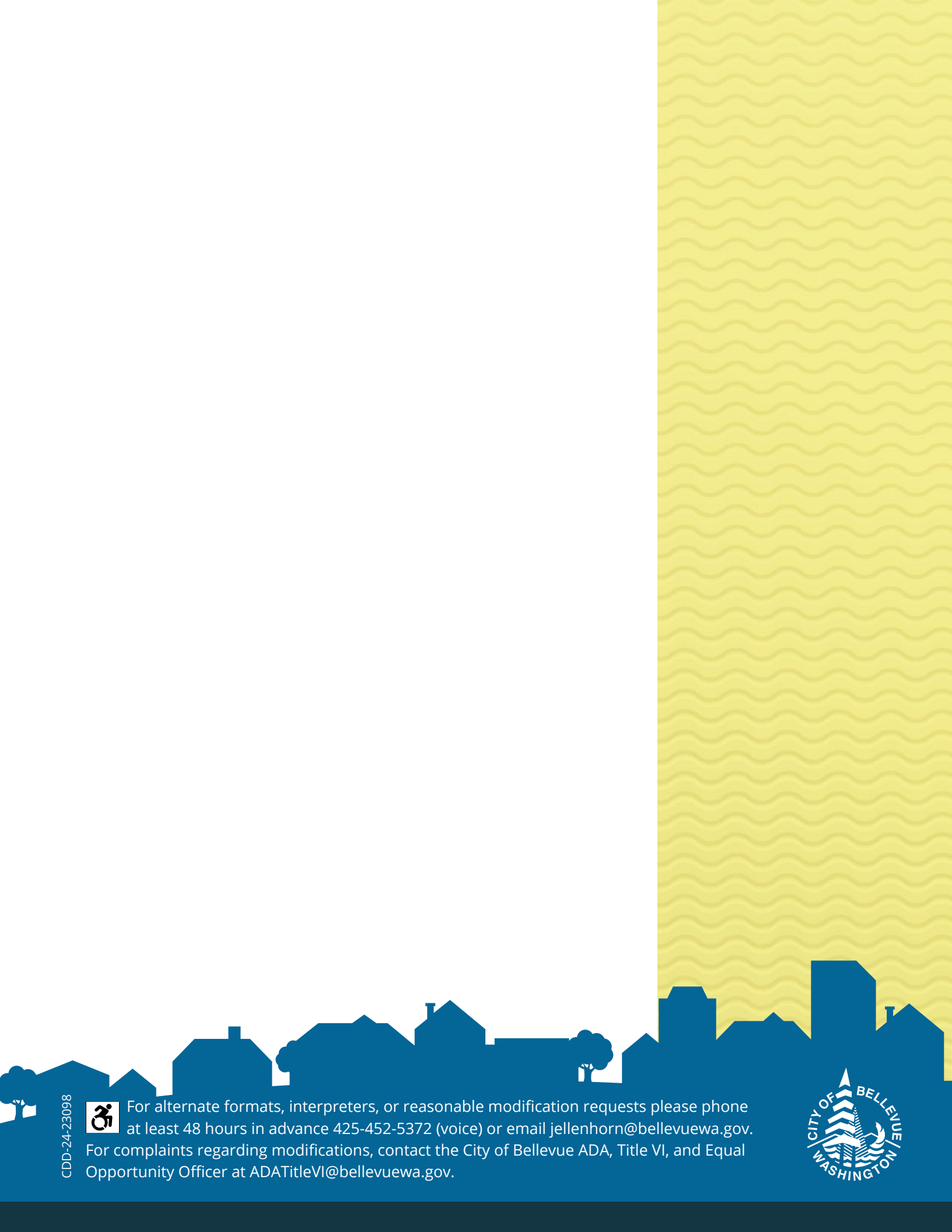


4th of July Fireworks at Downtown Park



Bellevue Botanical Garden





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