



Neighborhood News

July 2025

Fireworks, festivities to dazzle at Bellevue Family 4th

Celebrate Independence Day at the Bellevue Family 4th, the Eastside's largest fireworks event, on Friday, July 4, 5-10:30 p.m. at Downtown Park, 10201 NE Fourth St.

The Family 4th, presented by The Bellevue Collection and coproduced with the Bellevue Downtown Association, will feature live music, family entertainment and fireworks set to live music by the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra at 10:05 p.m.

The lineup at the Amazon Entertainment Plaza includes MiSSMANAGED at 5 p.m. (rock) and The Nines! (dance/party) at 7 p.m. Yard games and merchandise vendors will provide family entertainment and activities for children. Games including cornhole and hula hoop lessons will be available on the east side of the park. Food and beverage vendors will start service at 5 p.m.

Visitors are encouraged to walk, roll, bike, take transit or carpool to the event.

Transit service to the Bellevue Transit Center (at Northeast Sixth Street and 108th Avenue



Northeast) from Seattle and surrounding areas is also available. Light rail service will be extended to 11:30.

Several streets will be closed to vehicle traffic near the park for safety and to minimize delays. A full list of street closures is at BellevueWA.gov/traffic-advisories.

Street parking on nearby residential streets is prohibited. Free parking will be available after 5 p.m. at the Bellevue Collection properties.

Parking for people with disabilities has been moved to the first floor of the southwest Bellevue Square garage. To access the ADA parking, travel on Northeast Eighth Street and turn south onto 101st Avenue. Entry to the garage with a permit is open until 9 p.m.

The Bellevue Fire Department reminds everyone that personal fireworks are not allowed in Bellevue – this includes selling, using or possessing them. To help keep everyone safe, personal fireworks, alcohol and drugs are not permitted at Downtown Park. Also, please leave grills and camp stoves at home.

Fire Prevention Officers will be conducting emphasis patrols the evening of July 4. The use of fireworks can be reported on the MyBellevue app.



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

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BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news



Neighborhood Walks at BelRed, Cougar Mountain and Eastgate

Meet your neighbors and visit with the city's department directors and manager in an informal setting during this year's edition of Neighborhood Walks.

City staff look forward to enjoying your neighborhood and visiting with you! You can walk the route or just visit with us and your neighbors at the starting point.

This year's walks are scheduled for the following neighborhoods:

BelRed Arts District

Thursday, July 10, 6:30-8 p.m.

Start at corner of Spring Boulevard and 132nd Avenue Northeast. Sandy Vo, director of BelRed Arts District Community Alliance, will be part of this walk.

Eastgate

Wednesday, July 23, 6:30-8 p.m.

Start at South Bellevue Community Center. This walk will include the site of the new neighborhood park.

Cougar Mountain/Lakemont

Thursday, July 24, 6:30-8 p.m.

Start at Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE. This walk will include Mandarin interpretation for some participants.

Have questions about Neighborhood Walks? Please email neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

Fire Department adds jet skis to strengthen water rescue program

The Bellevue Fire Department is taking water rescue to the next level. Thanks to the support of the Bacon Family Foundation, Bellevue Fire Foundation and local donors, four rescue jet skis are now part of the department's water rescue fleet.



Every year Bellevue firefighters respond to water emergencies. Historically, our rescue efforts have been limited to a couple hundred feet from shore. These new jet skis will allow crews to reach people in distress further, faster and more safely than ever before. The jet skis' speed and maneuverability make them ideal for navigating crowded recreation areas and busy waterways.

"This is a game changer for our water rescue program," said interim Fire Chief Dave Tait. "Seconds matter in a water emergency, and these jet skis help us get to people quickly, no matter where they are on the water."

Firefighters spent the spring months familiarizing themselves with the new equipment and making sure they could deploy the jet skis at a moment's notice. While the jet skis won't be staffed 24/7 like a fire engine, when a water emergency comes in, water rescue technicians will jump into action and get them moving within minutes.

Bellevue Fire would like to remind everyone that drowning is 100% preventable. Wearing a Coast Guard-approved life jacket is the best way to make sure you stay safe when recreating on the water.





We're giving out more free trees, targeting 'priority canopy areas'

Applications for Bellevue's fifth annual Tree Giveaway open July 25, and updates to this year's application process give priority to residents who live in neighborhoods most in need of more tree canopy.

Bellevue times its tree giveaway to coincide with the rainy months so trees have optimal conditions for growth over the critical first months after planting. Once the summer application period closes, trees will be dispersed to residents and community organizations on Oct. 25, along with free watering bags and mulch. Renters can apply with landlord approval to plant trees on their property.

Trees offer many benefits, including preventing flooding, improving air quality and providing shade that helps keep neighborhoods cool. But current tree canopy isn't evenly distributed across Bellevue.

While the city as a whole boasts tree canopy cover of 40%, coverage in certain neighborhoods is as low as 11%. Broadly speaking, communities of color and low-income communities also have historically had fewer mature trees.

The new quick and easy application process is designed to make sure trees are first distributed to the areas of Bellevue where they're needed most – priority canopy areas. Unlike past giveaways, this year applicants located in priority canopy areas will be able to order trees right

away after filling out their applications. All other applicants will be able to select trees as soon as the general tree ordering window opens.

Reminders will be sent to applicants about their tree ordering window, giving them plenty of notice about when it's time to place their orders. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to apply, since those who don't live in a priority canopy zone will still most likely receive trees, though possibly not in their preferred species.

Bellevue's popular Tree Giveaway program started in 2021 and has distributed over 3,000 free trees to local homes and community organizations. This year, the city is again partnering with Amazon and 300 Trees to give out 700 trees to Bellevue residents.

For all the details and to apply, go to BellevueWA.gov/treegiveaway.

Bellevue International Festival returns in August

Embrace Bellevue's cultural diversity at the second annual Bellevue International Festival, on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Crossroads Park. Enjoy performance and food from around the world. Free and family-friendly! Learn more at BellevueWA.gov/international-festival.



The Rangeela Dance Company brings Bollywood fusion to Bellevue at the first Bellevue International Festival in 2024.



New 'Gateway' to connect Meydenbauer Park with downtown

The City Council on June 3 unanimously approved plans for expansion of Meydenbauer Bay Park that include a gateway plaza at Main Street and 110th Avenue, an accessible, zigzag walkway from the gateway down to the beach, and added parking.

This will be the second phase of expansion for the park, expected to begin construction in 2029. In the first phase, completed in 2019, the park was expanded to include a curved pedestrian pier, larger beach, children's play area and kayak/paddleboard rentals.

After discussion, the council voted to proceed to the architectural and engineering design stage to support the permitting and construction of Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2.



New housing policies proposed for Bellevue's mixed-use areas

We're working on new policies to support more housing in Bellevue's mixed-use neighborhoods – places where homes, businesses and services can thrive together. The Housing Opportunities in Mixed-Use Areas (HOMA) project will allow for more housing options and reduce barriers to building homes in specific parts of Bellevue. It also includes options for an affordable housing program that would apply in some mixed-use areas.

The HOMA project is still taking shape, and we welcome your input as it moves forward. The Planning Commission will review draft code updates this fall. A preliminary draft is already available, with more materials coming soon to

BellevueWA.gov/HOMA. We'll continue to share updates and provide more opportunities for community feedback in the weeks ahead.

Bridle Trails NEP ballots due July 24

Neighborhood Enhancement Program projects have been nominated and vetted for Bridle Trails; now it's time for residents of that neighborhood area to vote on their favorites. Ballots must be postmarked by Thursday, July 24, to be counted.



Which projects would you like to see funded with the \$445,000 allocated for Bridle Trails? Simply return the postage-paid ballot included inside the NEP voter pamphlet each Bridle Trails household received in June. Voting is by mail only, limited to one ballot per address.

Voters rate, in priority order, which three projects they want to see funded. Projects will be assigned points; three for first choice, two for second and one for third. Responses will be tabulated, with the highest-scoring projects receiving funding.

Details of the 14 nominated projects and a map showing their locations can be on the Bridle Trails page at BellevueWA.gov/nep.

Remember to include your address. For those in apartment or condominium complexes, your apartment or condo number must be included as well for your vote to be counted.

The NEP allows residents to propose and select modest capital projects to enhance their neighborhoods. The program rotates through the city's 14 NEP neighborhood areas over the course of seven years, serving two areas each year.

The \$7 million the council allocated for NEP is distributed among each of the NEP neighborhood areas, according to the number of households in each. In 2025, NEP is available in the Bridle Trails and Northwest Bellevue areas.



NEP spotlight on Bellevue Way landscaping enhancements

This month's Neighborhood Enhancement Program spotlight features enhancements to Bellevue Way Northeast in the Northwest Bellevue neighborhood area. The project was recently completed.

Nearly all areas of turfgrass on the west side of Bellevue Way north of Northeast 24th Street, have been converted to landscaped beds. New plantings and upgrades to the irrigation system will provide seasonal interest for both pedestrians and drivers, enhancing the character of the area.

The Community Development and Parks & Community Services departments partnered with neighborhood residents in support of the project.



Mercer Slough farm stand is back for blueberries

U-pick blueberries are back at Mercer Slough! U-pick will be there and at the Larsen Lake farm stand starting the weekends of June 28-29 and July 5-6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The first 200 people who buy U-pick blueberries at the Mercer Slough farm stand on Tuesday, July 8, will receive free ice cream sandwiches.

After that, U-pick will be at Mercer Slough and Larsen Lake Tuesday to Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., each week through the summer. The farm stands at both locations will be open Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, 10-5.



A new Mercer Slough farm stand was completed in August 2024 to replace the old one rendered inaccessible by the light rail line. At 2220 Bellevue Way SE, the stand sells fresh fruit and vegetables, cut flowers and other local produce.

The Mercer Slough and Larsen Lake farm stands illustrate how Bellevue's agricultural past meets the present. In 1979, the city acquired the Overlake Blueberry Farm, which had operated in Mercer Slough since the 1930s. The Mercer Slough master plan approved by the City Council in 1990 emphasized maintaining and diversifying Bellevue's agricultural heritage.

New Emergency Management volunteer program: a role for everyone

Bellevue's Office of Emergency Management has launched a new volunteer program, offering a variety of opportunities for you to help the city prepare for and respond to emergencies. Whether you live, work or play in Bellevue, there's a way to help keep our community safe.



"There's a role for everyone," says Emergency Manager Carl Lunak. "We need people from all backgrounds – whether you're an accountant, technician or just eager to help."

Bellevue Communications Support

Emergency Management, a division of the Fire Department, has benefited for decades from volunteer amateur radio operators in the Bellevue Communications Support team. If you love amateur radio or want to learn, send an email to

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officers@k7bel.org to learn about BCS. You can help provide emergency communications when other systems fail.

Community Engagement and Outreach

Share your passion for preparedness by joining the city's Community Engagement and Outreach program, which supports public education by giving presentations, staffing information booths or helping with neighborhood events.

Emergency Response Support

Last but far from least, volunteers can help Bellevue during and after disasters by serving as Emergency Response Support. Participants assist at the Bellevue Emergency Operations Center, at shelters and other locations.

Volunteers will receive training and guidance from the Office of Emergency Management. All applicants must complete a background check and brief interview. Learn more and apply at BellevueWA.gov/emergency-management-volunteering. Or email oem@bellevuewa.gov with any questions.

Virtual open house for critical areas ordinance update

The City of Bellevue invites community members to a virtual open house on Monday, July 7, to learn about an update to our critical areas policies and regulations now underway. Please share input on priorities for protecting Bellevue's environmentally sensitive areas.

Critical areas like wetlands, streams, steep slopes and wildlife habitat play an essential role in the health and resilience of our environment. The city is required to review and update its critical areas code every 10 years to ensure it reflects the best available science and aligns with state and federal requirements, including the Growth Management Act.

At the open house, noon-1 p.m. on July 7, city staff will present an overview of the science and guidance used to inform the update, different types of critical areas regulated by the city and how the update process will work, including opportunities for the community to participate.

Your feedback will help guide the ordinance update. Register for the open house and learn more at BellevueWA.gov/critical-areas-update. Additionally, an in-person information session about the draft code will be on Thursday, Aug. 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Pets offer multiple benefits for older adults

According to the National Pet Owners Survey, 70% of U.S. households own a pet. For older adults, pets are more than just furry friends. They can offer a multitude of health benefits.



Those who live alone, including many older adults, may experience social isolation, which can lead to loneliness, depression and poor physical health. The Bellevue Network on Aging notes that pet ownership offers companionship and can help battle mobility limitations, health issues and low energy.

The National Poll on Healthy Aging reports that 55% of adults age 50 years and older have pets. Older pet owners reported that having a pet:

- Helped them enjoy life (88%)
- Made them feel loved (86%)
- Reduced stress (79%)
- Provided a sense of purpose (73%)
- Connected them with others (65%)
- Encouraged physical activity (64%)

Pets can also provide safety and protection. They thrive with structure, which can help older owners to gain a sense of purpose and keep cognitive abilities sharp by maintaining a routine.



Of course, pets aren't for all older adults. Consider whether a pet fits into your lifestyle, needs, home and caring abilities. Are you physically capable of caring for a pet? Is the cost of a pet manageable,

including food, medical care, training, kitty litter and toys?

Consider adopting pets from shelters, which have many pets in need of a home. These animals need companionship as much as you do.

Seattle Humane (SeattleHumane.org or 425-641-0080) and Regional Animal Services of King County (KingCounty.gov/adoptapet or 206-296-7387) both have furry friends to choose from.

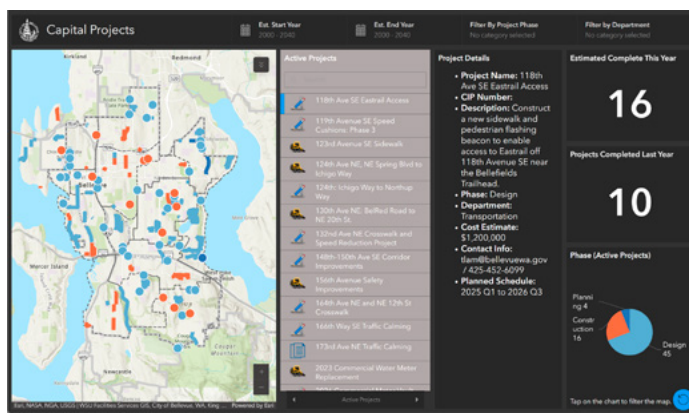
Learn more about city infrastructure projects

There's a new, easy way to find out what capital projects are planned in your neighborhood! Earlier this year, we replaced the online "Projects in Your Neighborhood" tool with a Capital Projects Dashboard. You can get a comprehensive picture of the infrastructure work planned for and going on in your neighborhood and across the city.

With the new dashboard, you can:

- View active and recently completed projects on a map.
- Search for projects by name.
- See details for each project, including a description, estimated cost, estimated completion date and staff contact.
- Filter by project phase, department, start year and/or end year.

Visit BellevueWA.gov/capital-projects to see what projects are planned or under construction.



Community paper shred event Aug. 16

Join Bellevue Utilities on Saturday, Aug. 16, at the Sammamish High School parking lot, 9 a.m.- noon. to have your confidential papers safely shredded!

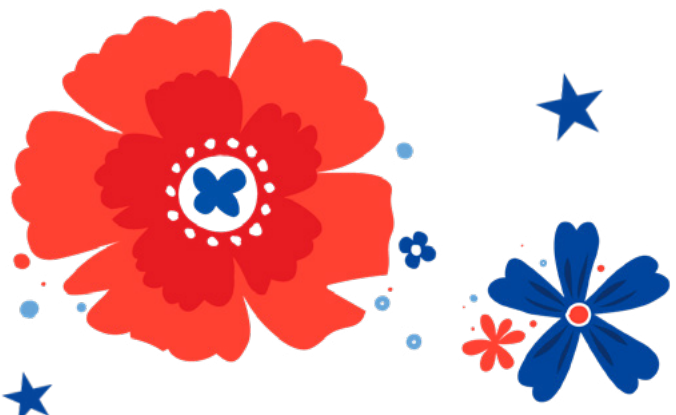


Participants will be limited to four file-size boxes or a five-bag limit per car. The event will end before noon if collection trucks are full earlier. For more information, visit BellevueWA.gov/shred-event-25 or email recycle@bellevuewa.gov.

Sustainable Summer Swap Outs

Bellevue Utilities' free Greener Living Classes this summer will teach you how to make swaps towards more sustainable options. This month you can learn how to phase out single-use plastics, create safer cleaners and much more.

Find the full class offerings and register at BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes. For questions email recycle@bellevuewa.gov or call Sam Wilder at 206-949-1787.





Wondering about worms?

Wiggle on over to our table at the Bellevue Botanical Garden on Saturday, July 19, 10 a.m.-noon to learn how worms eat our food scraps and turn them into a nutritious soil amendment!

Interested in having a worm bin at home? A limited number of ready-to-go vermicomposting bins will be available by request. Email recycle@bellevuewa.gov to reserve one for pick up on July 19.

Bellevue Essentials applications due by July 23

Applications are available for the 2025 Bellevue Essentials session. This unique civic engagement course offers residents a behind-the-scenes look at how city government works. The session runs this fall, Sept. 10-Nov. 12, and includes eight Wednesday evening sessions, plus one Tuesday evening and one Saturday afternoon in Bellevue's neighborhoods and parks.

Participants will learn through interactive experiences and real-world scenarios that shed light on the challenges and opportunities shaping life in Bellevue.

More than 400 people from all walks of life have completed the program since 2013, and many now serve and lead in their communities. Bellevue Essentials helps residents grow their civic networks, deepen their understanding of local government, and gain tools to make a difference.

Apply at BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials by 5 p.m., Wednesday, July 23, to join the next class and gain the tools, connections and inspiration to make a difference in your community.





Testing traffic lights that adjust for slower walkers

Imagine traffic signals so smart they can sense when a child or older adult is making slow progress crossing a street and automatically extend the walk signal, with no button presses required.

The Transportation Department is going to pilot such an advance starting this summer with its “Safer Signals” project.

With sensors at nearly all of Bellevue’s 200 intersections, the city already operates an intelligent traffic signal system that allows transportation engineers to improve traffic flow, manage congestion or adjust for special events in real time.

Now the city is bringing “adaptive signals for all” to its intersections. With more than half of local crashes involving people walking, biking or using mobility devices – and many of these occurring at intersections – the city is prioritizing vulnerable road users through intelligent technology.

Starting July 7, the city will test this technology at five intersections: four in the Crossroads neighborhood and one in Factoria, selected based on the number of people who frequently walk, bike and use transit in those areas.

The city received \$1.43 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s SMART grant program for Safer Signals. The funding will support installation of advanced traffic signal systems designed to adapt in real time to the needs of everyone, not just people driving.

Traditional traffic signals focus on keeping vehicle traffic flowing efficiently. Bellevue’s adaptive signal pilot will use sensors, cameras and artificial intelligence to detect when people are in the crosswalk and adjust signal timing on the spot. No-turn-on-red signals will trigger when pedestrian and vehicle volumes are high.

These adjustments are small, averaging just three seconds, but they can make a big difference in safety.

This pilot is a key part of Bellevue’s Vision Zero initiative, which aims to eliminate serious and fatal crashes by 2030. If successful, the city plans to apply for additional funding in the fall to expand adaptive signals to more of the city’s intersections.

Community groups interested in learning more or hosting a presentation can contact project manager Kirk Neibert at kneibert@bellevuewa.gov. More information is available at BellevueWA.gov/safer-signals.



Boards and Commissions Meetings

Stay updated on meetings and cancellations:
BellevueWA.gov

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

Arts Commission (4:30 p.m., 1E-113)
First Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/arts-commission

Environmental Services Commission
(6:30 p.m., 1E-113) First Thursday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/environmental-commission

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

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

Human Services Commission (6 p.m., 1E-113)
First and third Monday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/human-services-commission

LEOFF 1 Disability Board (6 p.m., Room 1E-118)
First Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/leoff-1-disability-board

Parks & Community Services Board
(6 p.m., 1E-113) Third Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/park-board

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

Special Events Committee (8:30 a.m., 1E-112)
Second Thursday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/events

Bellevue's Neighborhood Services Division offers a variety of programs and partnerships for residents and community members.

To learn more about involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, please visit our website at: BellevueWA.gov/neighborhoods or call 425-452-6836 or email: neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

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



City Council Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

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