



Neighborhood News

July 2026



Celebrate America's 250th birthday at Bellevue Family 4th

By Christina Faine

Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

Join the Eastside's largest Independence Day celebration at the Bellevue Family 4th. Activities take place from 5-10:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 4 at Downtown Park, 10201 NE 4th St.

Presented by the Bellevue Collection and co-produced by the Bellevue Downtown Association, the event will feature live music, family entertainment, food vendors and a fireworks display at 10:05 p.m. set to live music.

The Amazon Entertainment Plaza will host live music by regional artists, and the Family Fun Zone will include merchandise vendors, entertainment and children's activities like a selfie-tent, a themed scavenger hunt and inflatable interactive games. Food and beverage vendors start service at 3 p.m. in the food court around the park perimeter.

Celebrate July 4th safely

The Bellevue Fire Department would like to remind 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.

Visit BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-family-4th for an interactive map, event rules and the day's full schedule.

Getting to the event

Transit service to and from the Bellevue Transit Center is available and light rail will be open until midnight. Free parking will be available after 5 p.m. at the Bellevue Collection properties (bellevuecollection.com/visit-here/parking/).

Parking for people with disabilities will be available on the first floor of the southwest Bellevue Square garage. Travel on Northeast Eighth Street and turn south onto 101st Avenue. Entry to the garage with a permit is open until 9 p.m.

Visit BellevueWA.gov/traffic-advisories for a full list of street closures.



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance at 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.

정보	Information	情報
Información		Информация
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اطلاعات		資料
सूचना	425-452-6800	

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Swing Arts Foundation's Jazz and Swing Dance Social at City Hall Plaza

Community Programming Fund returns

By Emily Sherman

Public Space Management Specialist

Looking for something to do this summer? Now in its second year, the City of Bellevue's Community Programming Fund supports more than 100 free community activities and events in public spaces from June-September.

This year's lineup includes cultural celebrations, live music, dance and fitness classes, night markets, family-friendly activities, workshops and community gatherings hosted by local organizations. Events will take place in parks, plazas and other public spaces throughout the city and create opportunities to connect with neighbors, try something new and enjoy the Bellevue summer.

View upcoming events and learn more at BellevueWA.gov/bucketlist.

Summer nights, the silver screen and reel fun at Movies in the Park

By Bridgette Larsen

Parks Marketing Coordinator

Grab a blanket, pack a picnic and enjoy free outdoor movies under the stars this summer at Downtown Park and Crossroads Park. A 40-foot movie screen will transform the parks into outdoor movie theaters, creating a memorable summer tradition for all ages.

Movies begin at dusk and admission is free.

Downtown Movies in the Park

Downtown Park, 10201 NE Fourth St.

Tuesdays, July 14-Aug. 18

Arrive early for live music, interactive entertainment and vendors beginning at 7 p.m.

- July 14: *Goat*
- July 21: *Super Mario Bros Galaxy*
- July 28: *Encanto*
- Aug. 4: *Zootopia*
- Aug. 11: *Lilo & Stitch*
- Aug. 18: *How to Train Your Dragon*

Crossroads Park, 16000 NE 10th St.

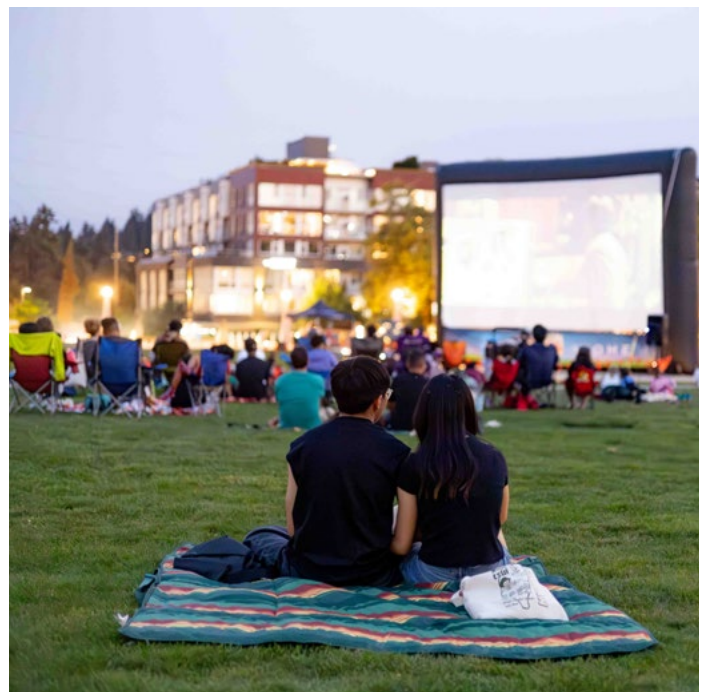
Thursdays, Aug. 6-27

- Aug. 6 - *Emperor's New Groove*
- Aug. 13 - *Zootopia 2*
- Aug. 20 - *Wicked*
- Aug. 27 - *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*

Know before you go

- Dogs are welcome on leash.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in parks.
- Movies may be canceled due to rain or unhealthy levels of smoke.

For movie schedules, entertainment details and weather-related updates, visit BellevueWA.gov/outdoor-movies and sign up for event alerts.



Join an upcoming Keep Bellevue Beautiful cleanup

Each cleanup runs from 9-11 a.m. on the following days:

- **Sunday, July 5 | Downtown Park**
(Post-Fourth of July clean-up)
- **Saturday, July 11 | Woodridge**
(Bannerwood Park)
- **Saturday, July 25 | Crossroads**
(Crossroads Park)
- **Saturday, Aug. 8 | Northeast Bellevue**
(Ivanhoe Park)
- **Saturday, Aug. 22 | Wilburton**
(TBD)

Learn more and sign up at BellevueWA.gov/signature-streets.

Eastgate and Factoria Neighborhood Area Plans

By Justin Panganiban

Community Development Senior Planner/Urban Designer

After 10 months, the Great Neighborhoods team has published draft neighborhood area plan for Eastgate and Factoria. The plans include engagement with more than 1,200 community members.

Currently under review by the Planning Commission, the plans outline present-day neighborhood conditions, opportunities, challenges and policies and reflect community feedback collected throughout the process.

Public input on the future of Eastgate and Factoria was gathered over the course of more than 30 events throughout both neighborhoods, which included city-hosted community workshops, walks and events. Each neighborhood plan, available at EngagingBellevue.com, features policy updates that reflect the community's shared priorities and support the area's long-term vision and goals.

In the coming months, the Planning Commission is expected to hold a public hearing on the proposed plan updates before developing recommendations for the City Council. This hearing will give community members an opportunity to share their thoughts on the proposed updates directly with the commissioners.

To learn more about the upcoming hearing and how to participate, visit BellevueWA.gov/planning-commission. You can also read our latest community engagement reports and download materials from past events by visiting the Eastgate and Factoria Great Neighborhoods tab on EngagingBellevue.com.



Great Neighborhoods community event at South Bellevue Community Center

Blueberries are back!

By Christina Faine

Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

It's finally blueberry season. Beginning July 8, enjoy U-pick blueberries at Mercer Slough and Larsen Lake Farms. Both locations offer a peaceful park setting for seasonal U-pick experiences and fresh produce stand visits.

The Mercer Slough Farm Stand at 2220 Bellevue Way SE sells fresh fruits and vegetables, cut flowers and other local produce. It's a short walk from the South Bellevue light rail station and park-and-ride, with access by sidewalk or through Mercer Slough Nature Park trails.



The Larsen Lake Farm Stand at 700 148th Ave. SE offers cut flowers, seasonal fruits and vegetables, U-pick opportunities and frozen blueberries. You can also purchase fresh-picked blueberries and other seasonal produce at the Lake Hills Farm Fresh Produce Stand.

Learn more at BellevueWA.gov/blueberry-farms.



Volunteer with the Office of Emergency Management

By Tesslyn Matthes

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Bellevue's Office of Emergency Management is looking for volunteers to help build a better prepared and more resilient community! If you're 18 years and older, you can help your neighbors and the city respond to and recover from a disaster. Opportunities include:

Bellevue Communications Support: Join a team of dedicated HAM radio operators that provide auxiliary communications services to the city and surrounding region during emergencies.

Community Engagement & Outreach:

Promote preparedness with your neighbors through presentations, information booths and preparedness networks.

Emergency Response Support: Support citywide response efforts, including staffing city-run emergency shelters, working in the Emergency Operations Center and more.

Interested? Submit an application at BellevueWA.gov/oem-volunteer-application or by emailing oem@bellevuewa.gov.

Hearing loss and older adults

By Bellevue Network on Aging

Hearing loss is one of the most common and overlooked health challenges facing older adults. More than 48 million Americans experience some degree of hearing loss and the risk increases significantly with age.

Untreated hearing loss can contribute to social isolation, depression, cognitive decline, and even a higher risk of falls.

Signs often appear gradually, such as turning up the TV volume, struggling to hear on the phone, or frequently asking others to repeat themselves.

The good news is that solutions for this issue have never been better. Today's hearing aids are a far cry from the bulky devices of the past. Options range from traditional hearing aids to new over-the-counter devices, with modern models featuring Bluetooth connectivity, rechargeable batteries, noise filtering and smartphone controls.

Many Medicare Advantage plans now offer varying levels of coverage. It is important to check your individual plan, as some plans offer no coverage.

The Hearing Loss Association of America – Washington (HLAAWA) advocates and offers resources for the state's 1.5 million people living with hearing loss. This volunteer nonprofit, based in Redmond and affiliated with the national HLAA, supports individuals throughout King County. Learn more at hearingloss-wa.org or by calling **503-882-0115**.

Veterans may also qualify for free assessments and hearing aids through the Veterans Administration. See if you're eligible by calling **877-222-8387** or applying online at va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/. Veterans can learn more by visiting prosthetics.va.gov/psas/index.asp.

If you or a loved one suspects hearing loss, don't wait. Help is more accessible than ever.





Planning Commission to hold public hearing on amendment application

By Teun Deuling

Community Development Senior Planner

On Wednesday, July 22, the city's Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for final review of the privately initiated Evans Plaza Comprehensive Plan map amendment (permit application 25-121477-AC).

The amendment proposes re-designating five parcels in the Bridle Trails neighborhood from General Commercial to Lowrise 2 Mixed Use.

Privately initiated amendments are subject to a two-step process:

- Threshold review, evaluating whether a proposed amendment should be in the annual work program
- Final review, evaluating the merits of a proposal

During each step of a privately initiated plan amendment, the Planning Commission holds a public hearing to gather community feedback prior to making recommendations to the City Council.

The Evans Plaza application was added to the 2026 Comprehensive Plan Amendment workplan by the City Council in March.

For more information, visit

BellevueWA.gov/comp-plan-amendments

Input wanted on future transportation investments

By Laura Milstead

Transportation Public Information Officer

Bellevue invites members to help shape future transportation investments by taking a survey open through Monday, Aug. 10. Your feedback will guide how the Transportation Department recommends funding during the next budget cycle.

As Bellevue continues to grow with new housing, jobs and travel options, the city is introducing a new structure for organizing transportation projects. All projects are now grouped into five program areas: Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility, Neighborhood Mobility, Vehicle Mobility, Preservation and Reconstruction, and Major Projects. This structure helps community members see how Bellevue is planning ahead to support safe crossings, better neighborhood streets, and improved access to the regional transportation system.

To support long term needs, Bellevue is also evaluating a transportation benefit district – a potential tool that would create stable funding for projects essential for preparing our transportation system for new users and new travel modes as we grow. The City Council will consider whether to fund this in the 2027–28 budget process.

Community members can get involved by completing the Transportation Investments Survey or inviting staff to share information with neighborhood groups. Survey links and engagement opportunities are available at BellevueWA.gov/moving-bellevue-forward.





City making it easier to host events

By Marisol Morales
Community Development Marketing Specialist

Continuing its evolution as a destination city in the Northwest, Bellevue will host more events this year than it ever has before. The city is also making the process for hosting activities and events more intuitive and straightforward by offering maps, guides and an online checklist.

In addition to FIFA World Cup-themed festivities taking place throughout the tournament, the city continues to support a growing number of community-led, cross-cultural and arts events.

The city announced in late May that it is awarding \$300,000 from its Community Programming Fund to 38 organizations to host small-scale events, including music and cultural performances, fitness and dance classes, night markets, workshops and other family-friendly events across downtown, Crossroads, BelRed, Factoria and Wilburton.

“As a growing global city, Bellevue is opening its arms to the region and the world—neighbors, workers, students and visitors alike,” said Jesse Canedo, chief economic development officer. “Our event organizers asked us to help them bring people together more often by simplifying steps and lowering costs and this summer we’re delivering.”

Learn about CPF award recipients and upcoming events at BellevueWA.gov/cpf. See all city events at BellevueWA.gov/calendar.

For people planning their own events in Bellevue, from block parties to large-scale events that require special event permits, the city is offering predefined event packages featuring traffic control plans, guidance on required permits and staffing, and information on fees.

A new page on the city’s website – BellevueWA.gov/plan-event – provides high-level, interactive guidance to organizers of events of all sizes, depending on how they answer a series of questions. The tool directs organizers to appropriate permits for their plans—and emails the organizer a customized checklist.

“Bellevue is proud to be a welcoming, safe and responsive community” said Canedo. “Whether you’re from Lake Hills, Laurelhurst or London—we welcome you!”

Summer in Bellevue starts at the shoreline

By Bridgette Larsen
Parks Marketing Coordinator

Did you know Bellevue is home to six beach parks along Lake Washington? Whether you’re planning a waterfront picnic, family beach day, paddleboarding adventure or relaxing afternoon by the water, Bellevue’s beach parks offer plenty of ways to enjoy the summer.

Beach parks in Bellevue

- Chesterfield Beach Park
- Chism Beach Park
- Clyde Beach Park
- Enatai Beach Park
- Meydenbauer Bay Park
- Newcastle Beach Park

Each park offers its own unique experience, from swimming beaches and waterfront trails to picnic areas, scenic views and water access.

Get out on the water

Looking for a new way to explore Bellevue? For a guided adventure, join Canoe Mercer Slough and experience Bellevue’s largest remaining freshwater wetland from the water. Led by city park rangers, this paddling experience explores the winding waterways of Mercer Slough Nature Park while highlighting local wildlife, wetland ecology and conservation efforts.

Visit BellevueWA.gov/canoe to sign up.



Kayak, canoe and stand-up paddleboard rentals are available at Meydenbauer Bay Boathouse and Enatai Beach Boathouse through bestkayakrentals.com.

Planning your visit

Visitors are encouraged to check current beach conditions and the lifeguard schedule before heading to the water by visiting BellevueWA.gov/beach-parks.

Experience Bellevue

Save the date – Experience Bellevue returns on Sept. 19

Join us for the 2026 Experience Bellevue celebration on Saturday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This year, we are celebrating and welcoming our community right at City Hall! Come enjoy cultural performances, get to know city departments, engage in fun workshops and discover what makes Bellevue so unique. All is free and open to the public. Registration for workshops and tours opens Aug. 3.



Attention Downtown Bellevue Residents – Your Vote Matters!

Submit your ballot by July 23 for your top three Neighborhood Enhancement Program projects

By David Isaak
Neighborhood Outreach Manager

Be a part of the voting! Tell us which projects you'd like to see funded with the \$975,000 in available funds the city has allocated for your



Downtown Bellevue. Simply return the POSTAGE PAID ballot included in the voter's pamphlet that each Bridle Trails neighborhood household received in June.

Voting is BY MAIL ONLY and limited to ONE BALLOT PER HOUSEHOLD ADDRESS, allowing you the opportunity to rate, in priority order, which three projects you feel are most deserving to be funded.

Project specifics and a map showing the project locations for the seven Downtown Bellevue NEP projects can be found on the City of Bellevue's NEP website in the Downtown Bellevue Area section at BellevueWA.gov/nep.

Ballots must be postmarked by **Thursday, July 23**, to be included in the voting process. Remember to include your address, and for those in multifamily buildings, your apartment/condo number must be included as well, for your vote to be counted.

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program is a city-funded program that allows residents to propose and select modest, capital projects to enhance their neighborhoods. The \$7 million program rotates through the city's 14 NEP neighborhoods over the course of seven years, serving two areas each year. The \$7 million program allocation is distributed according to the number of households in each area.

Detailed program information can be found at BellevueWA.gov/nep.

Walk with us July 25 and help make roads safer

By Jennifer Cook
Transportation PIO

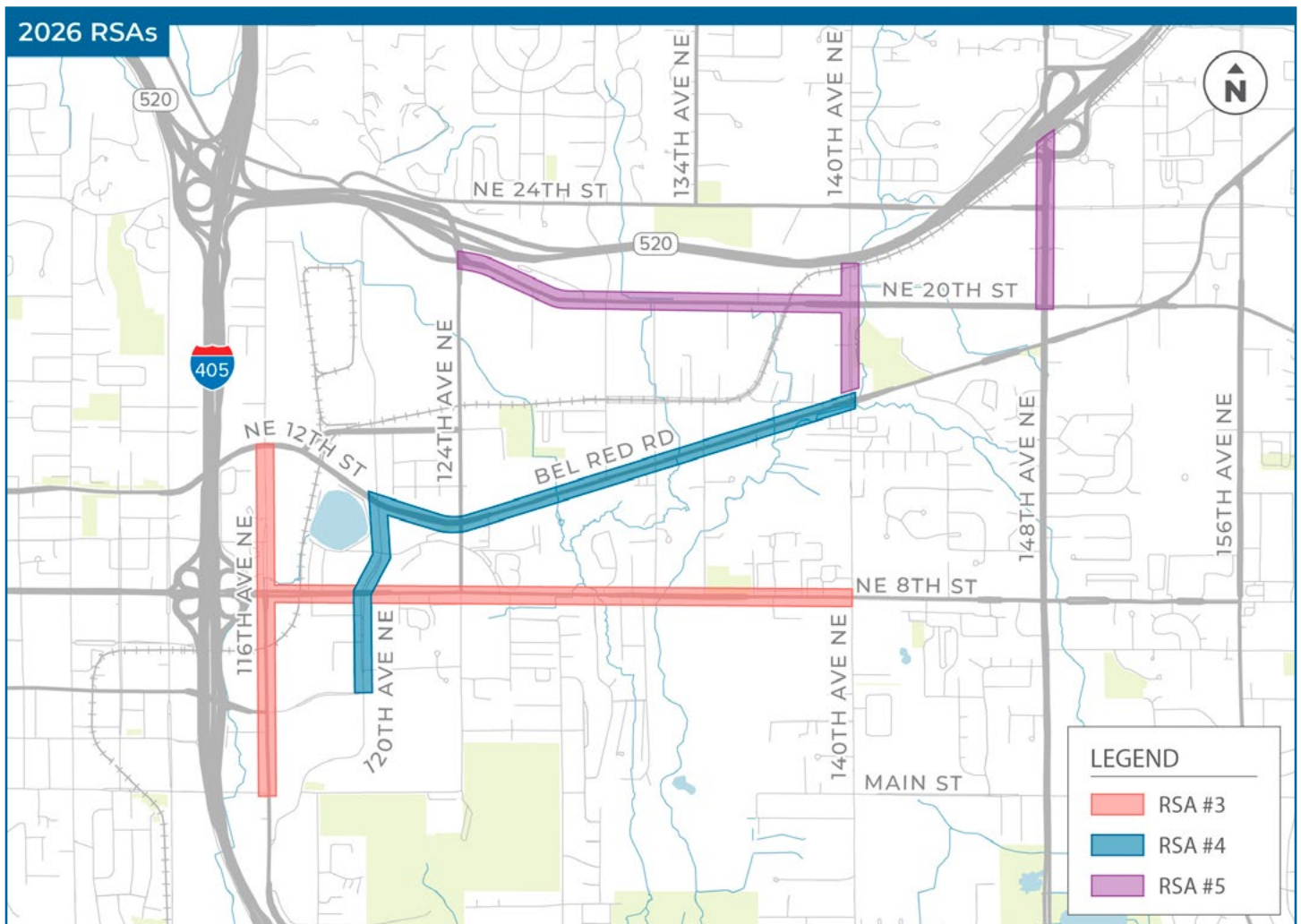
Help shape safer walking, rolling, biking, driving, and transit in BelRed and Wilburton by joining one of this summer's Community Walking Audits. Your feedback will help guide future road-safety improvements.

Each walk lasts about two hours and is limited to 30 participants. Spots fill quickly, so RSVP early.

Community Walking Audit routes

- **July 25:** Northeast 12th Street/ Bel-Red Road & 120th Avenue Northeast (BelRed/Wilburton)
- **Aug. 22:** Northrup Way/Northeast 20th Street, 140th Avenue Northeast & 148th Ave NE (BelRed)

If you can't attend a walking audit, you can still share your input through a short online questionnaire. RSVP links and the questionnaire are available at BellevueWA.gov/road-safety-assessments.



Safety improvements coming to NE 8th Street in Crossroads

By Jennifer Cook

Transportation Public Information Officer

Safety improvements are on the way for people walking, rolling, biking and using transit along Northeast Eighth Street in Crossroads.

This corridor is part of Bellevue's High Injury Network, areas that account for 8% of city streets where the most serious and fatal collisions occur. Despite its close proximity to frequent transit, the corridor doesn't meet the city's bicycle level-of-service target currently established in Bellevue's Mobility Implementation Plan.

The project builds on community input gathered during a 2021 Road Safety Assessment and a 2023 Safe Streets Corridor study. It's now 60% designed and scheduled for construction in 2027.

This project will install buffered bike lanes on Northeast Eighth Street by replacing one travel lane in each direction:

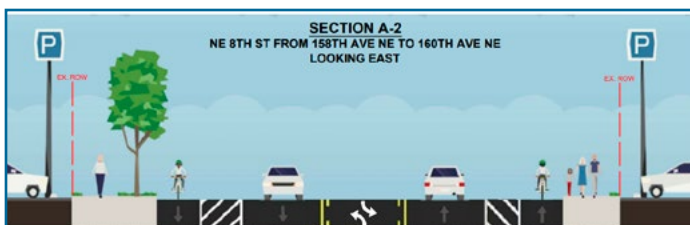
- Eastbound from 156th Avenue Northeast to 160th Avenue Northeast
- Westbound from 160th Avenue Northeast to 158th Avenue Northeast

Existing bike shoulders on Northeast Eighth Street will be widened to become full-width bike lanes:

- Both directions from 160th Avenue Northeast to 164th Avenue Northeast



Before-NE 8th St from 156th Ave NE to 158th Ave NE, looking East



After-NE 8th St from 158th Ave NE to 160th Ave NE, looking East



Bellevue Essentials alumni tour Renewal Food Bank

Plus applications for upcoming cohort due July 13

By Sarina Miller

Community Development Coordinator

A group of Bellevue Essentials graduates received a behind-the-scenes tour of Renewal Food Bank that shows why this program is so special. Alumni walked through the inner workings of the food bank, talked with staff and saw firsthand how much care goes into making sure local families have access to healthy food.

Bellevue Essentials is the city's civic engagement program. It introduces residents to City of Bellevue operations, the people who keep it running and the many ways community members can get involved. Participants build lasting relationships and enjoy unique, hands-on adventures that bring them closer to their city.

Renewal Food Bank serves thousands of neighbors every week. During the tour, alumni learned just how much coordination, heart and teamwork it takes to keep everything moving. The visit was an eye-opening and fun opportunity that won't be forgotten.

Cohort applications due mid-July

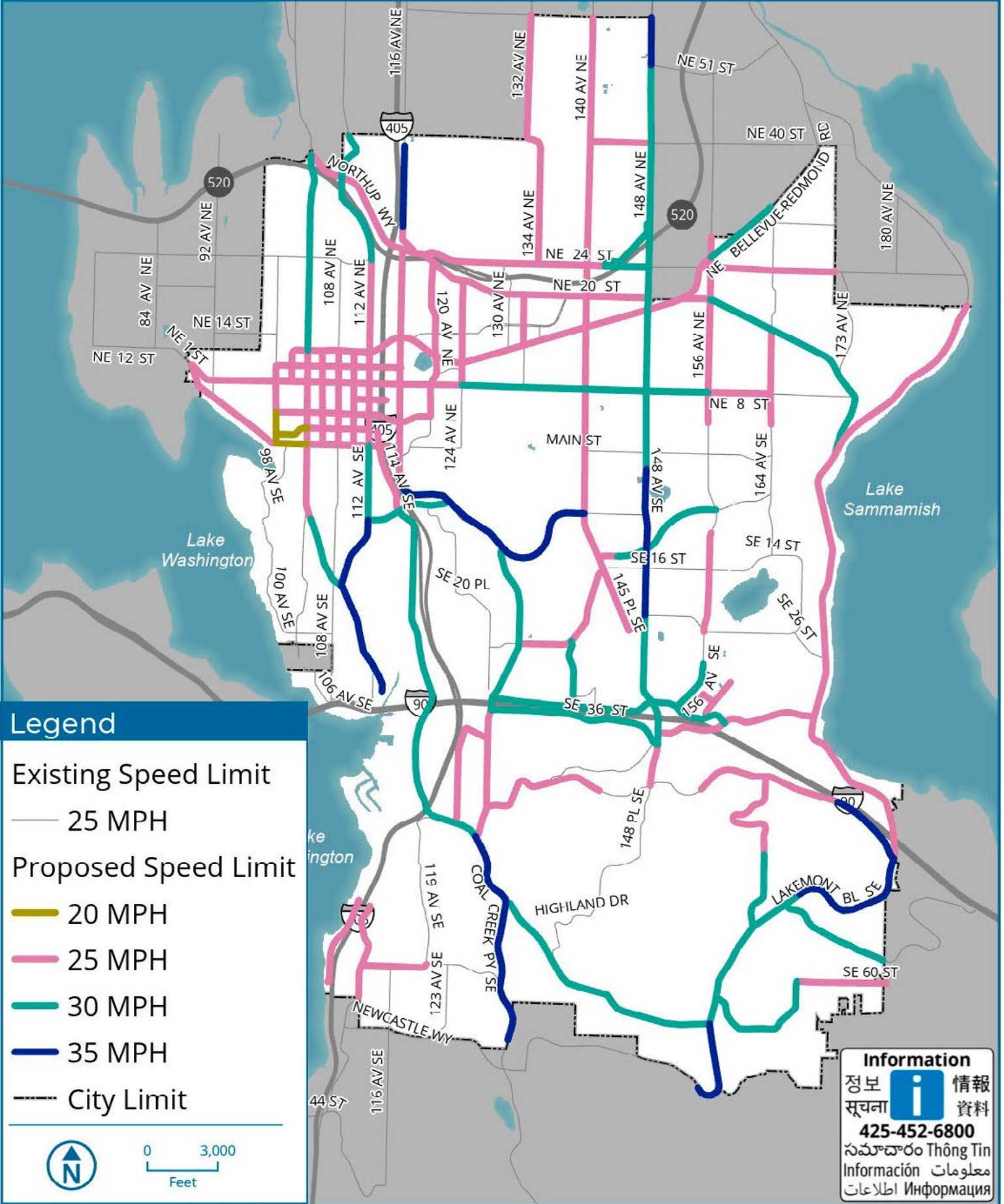
When you join Bellevue Essentials, you become part of an engaged community of residents who continue to develop meaningful memories with the people and organizations that shape our city.

Applications for the 2026 Bellevue Essentials cohort will be accepted until 5 p.m. on July 13.

If you're curious about how your city works and want to have opportunities and experiences like this, now is a great time to apply.

DRAFT Speed Limits

Proposed Speed Limits for All Current 30mph+ Streets



Legend

Existing Speed Limit

— 25 MPH

Proposed Speed Limit

— 20 MPH

— 25 MPH

— 30 MPH

— 35 MPH

--- City Limit



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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.

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 BTV 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			