



City of Bellevue

East Link Mitigation—Parks and Open Space

Fact Sheet

<p>Overview</p>	<p>Parks are one of the things that make Bellevue such a fantastic place to live. Any parkland disrupted by the East Link project will be replaced with new parkland of equivalent size, value and function.</p>
<p>Regulating code(s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington Wildlife and Recreation Grant Agreements (RCW 79A.25.100) • Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Agreements (36 CFR 59.3) • Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act • City of Bellevue Codes
<p>Applicable locations</p>	<p>The East Link alignment is adjacent to two existing Bellevue parks—Mercer Slough Nature Park and Surrey Downs Park. Each of these areas will experience impacts due to the addition of light rail to the adjacent right of way. The city and Sound Transit have worked throughout the alignment selection and final design process to minimize park impacts and provide appropriate mitigation.</p>
<p>Mercer Slough Nature Park</p>	<p>Anticipated impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public will lose vehicular and pedestrian access to the existing fruit stand building. • The existing Heritage Loop Trail will be subject to a long-term detour during construction. • Winters House and the u-pick blueberry program will be closed to the public during construction. City staff will maintain the park and blueberry fields during the closure. • Of the area within the park converting to light rail, a portion of two grant acquired parcels (totaling 1.06 acres) are required to be replaced with park property of equivalent size, function and value. <p>Planned mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Heritage Loop Trail will be relocated to the east, and will include new boardwalk trail segments. • A new fruit stand and restroom building with consolidated public access and parking for both the blueberry farm and Winters House, will be constructed at the Winters House location. • The city has acquired the 6-acre “Moon/Ross” property on the east side of the park to replace parkland converted along Bellevue Way. This new property will allow the Environmental Education Center to be connected by internal trails to the remainder of the park. • Sound Transit will restore the Swaylocken wetlands located in the Mercer Slough Nature Park, including removing invasive species and replacing the area with indigenous plantings, woody debris and enhanced aquatic areas, among other things.
<p>Surrey Downs Park</p>	<p>Anticipated impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park will lose approximately 1-acre of land, and vehicular and pedestrian access from 112th Avenue SE. <p>Planned mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mitigate for the loss of 1-acre and access from 112th Ave SE, Sound Transit will construct a new 1.5 acre park on the corner of Main Street and 112th Ave SE. This new park will become city parks property once constructed. It will provide pedestrian access for the neighborhood to the East Main Station and become a gateway element for Main Street entering Downtown. • Additionally, two properties purchased by the City on NE 2nd Street in Downtown will be used for tunnel construction staging and then available for development into “pocket parks” following construction.
<p>Bel Red Safeway Site</p>	<p>The city purchased the 6-acre Bel Red Safeway site to be developed into a park for the Bel Red corridor. Of this total, 1.5 acres of the property are now being used for the West Tributary Wetland mitigation site for East Link, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a new wetland habitat for a variety of flora and fauna species • Improved tree canopy • Enhanced streams and fish passageways