Bellevue Parks & Community Services

A New Community Park
Eastgate Area Properties
Master Plan

City Council Presentation
March 9, 2009
Agenda

- Background & History
- Master Plan Process
- Park Development Preferences
  - Master Plan Alternatives
  - System Needs & Opportunities
  - Community Response
- Current Alternatives
- Comments & Questions
Issues

- Hierarchy of recreational use
  - Sportsfields
  - Recreational building
  - Off-leash facility
  - Preserve meadow
- If sportsfields are included
  - How many?
  - Single or multiple sport?
  - Lighted?
- Picnic area development in woods
  - Vehicle access?
  - Parking?
  - Shelters?
Eastgate Area Properties (27.5 acres)
Property Qualities

- Last large property capable of supporting a range of park facilities
- Convenient access (1-90/160th)
- Significant natural areas/neighborhood buffer
- Complementary adjacent land uses
Why Master Plan?

- Shared Long-Range Vision
- Long-Term Development Plan
- Phased Implementation
- Planning Level Cost Estimates
After Tonight

- Prepare recommended park master plan
- Community meeting #4
- Revise Plan as necessary
- Park Board recommendation
- Council adopts Master Plan
- Design/Permit
- Phase 1 construction
Community Input to date

- 3 Community workshops (340)
- Workshop card exercises (126)
- Neighborhood meeting (40)
- Petition (242)
- E-mails & phone (250)
- 3 Web surveys (385)

1,383
Initial Preferences

*Through 1st Workshop, on-line survey and e-mails:*

- Walking on Trails
- Athletic Fields
- Off-Leash Dog Area
- Aquatic Facility
- Playground & Picnicking
- Observe Nature & Wildlife
- Leave it alone / Save the meadow
Design Alternatives
(Workshop #2)
Response to Five Alternatives

- Single Purpose Alternatives (C & E) had most polarized views (love/hate)
- Multiple Use Options (B & D) generated fewest objections
- Avoid Active Uses in Natural Areas
- General support for indoor recreation building
Areas of Agreement

- Picnic facilities
- Children’s play area(s)
- Enhance trails & connections
- Limit vehicle access to 160th
- Utilize existing parking if possible
- Maintain residential buffers
- Environmentally responsible
Design Alternatives (Workshop #3)
Potential Uses

- Sportfields
  - multi-sport vs single sport
  - quantity
  - lighting
- Off-Leash Dog Facility
- Indoor Recreation Building
- Preservation (woods & meadow)
Bellevue Sportsfields

Citywide Challenges
- Field shortage (little league & soccer)
- Traffic, noise & lights
- Site capacity

Advocates’ Issues
- Poor quality fields
- No complex
  (Redmond, Kirkland, Issaquah)
- Economic benefit
Bellevue Sportsfields

Development Practice
- Geographically dispersed
- Maximize resources
  - School partnership
  - Multi-use
  - Synthetic surface
  - Lights

Service Level Needs
- Little League
- Soccer
Bellevue Sportsfields

Recent Sportsfield Investments

- 2003 – Multi-Use, Highland Middle School
- 2005 – Multi-Use, Lewis Creek Community Park
- 2007 – Soccer Type, Robinswood Community Park
- 2007 – Softball, Bellevue High School

Future (Levy Funds)

- 2010 (est.) – Soccer, Newport Hills Park
- 2010 (est.) – Soccer, Wilburton Community Park
- 2013 (est.) – Multi-Use, Surrey Downs Community Park
Advocates’ Issues
- Historical neighborhood use
- Dog owners not well served
- Robinswood not adequate

Current Conditions
- Dogs welcome on-leash
- #1 Complaint to Parks
- 1 off-leash facility in Bellevue; 3 nearby

Legend
- City Off-Leash-Area
- Non-City Off-Leash-Area
- Site of Interest

Bellevue
Nearby
Ongoing Off-Leash Study

- Recommendations to Park Board 3/10/09
  - Improvements at Robinswood
  - 2-4 Additional small facilities
Indoor Recreation Building Opportunities

- Aquatic Facility
- Indoor Sports (soccer, baseball, hockey, basketball)
- Public/Private partnerships
Major Indoor Aquatic Center

Mid-Range alternative from draft Aquatic Center Feasibility Study
Preservation

Woodland

Meadow

Woodland

Meadow
Preservation

- 37% of Bellevue is under tree canopy (9% lost in last 10 years)
- ¼ of this is in Bellevue’s Park & Open Space System
- 80% (2000/2500 ac) of Bellevue’s Park & Open Space is natural
Open Area Alternatives

A

B

C
Issues

- **Hierarchy of recreational use**
  - Sportsfields
  - recreational building
  - off-leash facility
  - preserve meadow

- **If sportsfields are included**
  - how many?
  - single or multiple sport?
  - lighted?

- **Picnic area development in woods**
  - vehicle access?
  - parking?
  - shelters?
Comments & Questions