

Parks & Community Services Board

Special Meeting

November 27, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall

Room 1E-113

450 110th Avenue NE

Bellevue, WA



AGENDA

Parks & Community Services Board Special Meeting

<p>Boardmembers:</p> <p><i>Debra Kumar, Chair</i></p> <p><i>Heather Trescases, Vice-Chair</i></p> <p><i>Paul Clark</i></p> <p><i>Dave Hamilton</i></p> <p><i>Stuart Heath</i></p> <p><i>Eric Synn</i></p> <p><i>Pamela Unger</i></p> <p>City Council Liaison:</p> <p><i>Jennifer Robertson, Councilmember</i></p> <p>Staff Contacts:</p> <p><i>Camron Parker 425-452-2032</i></p> <p><i>Nancy Harvey 425-452-4162</i></p>	<p>Tuesday November 27, 2018 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Bellevue City Hall Conference Room 1E-113 450 110th Avenue NE Bellevue, WA 98004</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call to Order of Meeting – Chair Kumar 2. Approval of Agenda 3. Approval of Park Board Minutes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minutes from the October 9, 2018 Regular Meeting 4. Oral Communications/Public Comments <i>Note: Three-minute limit per person; maximum of three persons permitted to speak to each side of any one topic.</i> 5. Communications from City Council, Community Council, Boards and Commissions 6. Director’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up on Oral Communications/public comments from prior meetings. 7. Board Communication 8. Chair Communication & Discussion 9. Boardmember Committee/Liaison Reports 10. Discussion/Action Items (presentation/discussion time) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Potential Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue Fieldhouse Partnership (30/30, Board feedback requested) – Patrick Foran and Glenn Kost 	<p>Page</p> <p></p> <p>1</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>11</p>



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11. New Business	N/A
12. Proposed Agenda for Next Meeting	N/A
13. Other Communication	
a. CIP Project Status Report	29
b. Memo and Proclamation for "Lights On Afterschool Day"	33
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d. Communications from and to Dwight Schrag re Ashwood Park, King County Animal Control, and City's budget and planning processes	57
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k. List of upcoming Parks special events	101
14. Oral Communications/Public Comments	N/A
<i>Note: Three-minute limit per person; maximum of three persons permitted to speak to each side of any one topic.</i>	
15. Adjournment	N/A

Email the Board: parkboard@bellevuewa.gov

Online information about the Board -
<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/community-services/boards-and-commissions/parks-community-services-board/>

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday
October 9, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kumar, Vice-Chair Trescases, Boardmembers Clark, Hamilton, Heath¹, Synn², Unger

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robertson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Betsy Anderson, Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Emil King (Community Development), Glenn Kost, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Dustin Van Nieulande, Siri Nelson (Pacific Science Center), Curt Warber (KC Parks & Rec)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeri Albertini, Ann Breese, Marcia Edwards, Ashley Kaiser, Lydia Lauer, Santiago Naranjo, Pearl Nardella, Carol Postell, Candy Roy, Dwight Schrag, Ryan Scott, Robert & Marilyn Shay, Sue Thomas

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kumar at 6:01 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Hamilton and second by Boardmember Synn to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Trescases and second by Boardmember Unger to approve the August 13, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Motion by Boardmember Unger and second by Vice-Chair Trescases to approve the September 11, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

¹ Departed at 8:09 p.m.

² Departed at 7:45 p.m.

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Sue Thomas

12635 NE 2nd Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Thomas does not want the fieldhouse located in Wilburton Hill Park. She explained that when the School District held meetings regarding the new elementary school on Main Street, no one imagined the large scale facility that is there today. She does not think that the illustrations of the proposed fieldhouse properly depict the size and scale of the facility, not to mention the necessary additional parking.

Ms. Thomas believes that the BGCB has deep pocket donors and is not short on funding. She does not want the fieldhouse located in Wilburton Hill Park that tax payer dollars have funded.

Ms. Thomas views the Wilburton Hill Park as a jewel to the community and stated that it should not be defaced with an added sports facility and parking. She urged Boardmembers to keep Wilburton Hill Park as is.

Ashley Kaiser, President/Wilburton Community Association (WCA)

12927 SE 6th Pl., Bellevue, WA

On behalf of the Wilburton Community Association, Ms. Kaiser stated that most Wilburton residents do not support a proposed fieldhouse at Wilburton Hill Park. An electric poll was conducted of Wilburton residents with 112 respondents. In this poll 74% oppose the project and 15% were in support of the project. In a smaller paper poll of 31 respondents, 48% oppose the project, while 42% support the project.

Ms. Kaiser explained that the Wilburton community values the BGCB's many meaningful contributions; however, the community raised the following concerns about locating the fieldhouse at Wilburton Hill Park:

- Loss of wooded park land
- Increased traffic in Wilburton, especially along 124th Avenue NE and north/south cut-through traffic)
- Loss of park land to any structures
- Potential need for additional parking, which would destroy more green space
- Intensification of park usage, causing degradation of the quiet, neighborhood feel of the park

The WCA feels that the proposed fieldhouse would significantly change the Wilburton Hill Park's character and adversely impact the human and ecological services that the park currently provides. They urge the city to concentrate the placement of new structures on already developed spaces rather than on Wilburton Hill Park's natural areas. Ms. Kaiser added that Wilburton residents have yet to hear evidence of a significant, unmet need for the fieldhouse that would justify a large structure on public park lands, especially in a park located in a residential neighborhood already burdened by traffic.

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Ms. Kaiser urged staff to spend time and money on plans to preserve the public forests and playfields, not on plans to redevelop them into structures.

Ryan Scott, Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue (BGCB)

209 100th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

On behalf of the BGCB, Mr. Scott explained that the fieldhouse concept arose from the increased need for recreational activities for kids. Gym and field time are at a premium for the current facilities. There is also an explosion of highly competitive sports programs adding more demand on these facilities. Mr. Scott clarified that the BGCB asked the Parks Board to evaluate the fieldhouse concept. He added that there are a lot of critical issues to address and understand. The BGCB wants to find an effective partnership to provide year-round activities for families in Bellevue.

Dwight Schrag

1106 108th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Schrag asked Boardmembers to encourage City Council to include improvement of Ashwood Park in the next budget cycle. With the explosive population in Bellevue, it will be difficult to stop a building developer from taking over this park if it is not fully developed as intended. Mr. Schrag expressed his frustration about the timing of development of Ashwood Park and the park's condition.

Robert Shay

610 123rd Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

In regards to the proposed fieldhouse project, Mr. Shay expressed his support of the project but opposed the fieldhouse being located at Wilburton Hill Park for reasons stated by other Wilburton community members. He called attention to the Bellevue School District property, near Wilburton Hill Park, as an ideal location for the fieldhouse.

Carol Postell

12641 NE 7th Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Postell explained that introducing the fieldhouse project at the Wilburton community picnic was very preemptive. She expressed her frustration that Council was unaware of the project as well and that the process has been less than transparent.

Ms. Postell agreed with Mr. Shay that the Bellevue School District property should be evaluated for the fieldhouse.

There were 13 community members that stood in support of their concerns and opposition to a fieldhouse being located at Wilburton Hill Park.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

Councilmember Robertson welcomed Boardmember Unger to the Board. She also provided the following update on Council projects:

- Working on the city's budget
- Authorized commencement of neighborhood area planning update, this includes outreach and remaking area plans
- The city recently won an award for the city's robust and comprehensive website

Councilmember Robertson explained that development of Ashwood Park has been on the priority list; however, this project has been delayed in the past due to workload demands. The park is in need of an updated master plan, which is scheduled in late 2018 or 2019. Mr. Foran added that the projects at Downtown Park, Meydenbauer Park, and Surrey Downs Park have been extremely time consuming for staff. Development of Ashwood Park will remain on the priority list until the project is complete.

Boardmember Unger inquired if there are interim improvements that can be made at Ashwood Park until the park is fully improved (i.e., park benches).

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

No report.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Unger visited the northeast corner of Downtown Park and is anxious for the project to begin. She also attended the Kelsey Creek Farm Fair and was impressed by the community engagement at the event.

Boardmember Clark visited Downtown Park and attended the Kelsey Creek Farm Fair. He also visited Goddard Mini Park.

Boardmember Hamilton visited the Crossroads Community Center and commended Vicki Drake for her leadership at the facility. Chair Kumar encouraged Boardmembers to volunteer at the Thanksgiving Dinner or Holiday event at Crossroads Community Center.

Boardmember Synn's wife is taking the Bellevue Essentials course and he spoke very highly of this program.

Boardmember Heath called attention to the October 1 City Council meeting, noting the conduct at the meeting made him sad. He explained that it is sad that people only attend the meetings

when they are upset about something. Boardmember Heath stressed the importance of changing communication patterns with neighborhoods and the importance of proactively communicating.

Boardmember Heath expressed his support for a facility that hosts both a men's homeless shelter and a community pool. He cited the four acres near I-405 as a favorable location.

Vice-Chair Trescases participated in the Bellevue Downtown Association tour of Santa Monica. She was amazed that Santa Monica's Central Park was sparsely used. Vice-Chair Trescases discussed some of the design elements at the park that made the park appear more enclosed and less inviting. She also discussed the ambassador program that is utilized throughout Santa Monica parks that serves a role to help with the homeless population.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Kumar attended the Kelsey Creek Farm Fair. She encouraged inclusion of more food trucks at next year's farm fair. Chair Kumar also visited Tam O'Shanter Park.

9. **BOARDMEMBER/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

No reports.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **MSEEC and Pacific Science Center Update**

Ms. Nelson discussed the hands-on, experiential environmental education that the Pacific Science Center has provided for 25 years. Since 1993, there have been approximately 250,000 program participants, with 14,000 program participants in 2017-2018. The preK-12 programming focuses on STEM learning, inspiring curiosity and building connections with nature and the community.

Mr. Van Nieulande reviewed the milestones for the MSEEC, which included:

- 25 years of onsite programming
- Halfway through 20-year Joint Use Agreement, which was signed with Pacific Science Center in Autumn 2008
- First Pacific Science Center program at Mercer Slough Nature Park: October 1993 in the Sullivan House, moved from Downtown Park

Mr. Van Nieulande also discussed the new interactive, interpretive exhibits that were installed in the Visitor's Center. Planning for these exhibits began in 2012 and was eventually delivered in August, 2018. Mr. Van Nieulande also discussed an idea to utilize an area designated for a classroom building to instead be used to build an outdoor classroom. This would be used jointly by the Pacific Science Center and the City of Bellevue for programming, as well as a place for

public use during non-programming hours. Mr. Foran clarified that costs and an operational partnership would need to be explored in order to complete the outdoor classroom.

Ms. Nelson invited Boardmembers to attend the MSEEC 25th Anniversary Open House on October 20, 2018.

B. Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue's Fieldhouse Proposal

Mr. Foran explained that the BGCB has proposed entering into a partnership with the city that would allow them to fund design, construction, maintenance and operation of an athletic fieldhouse on city property, similar to the city's gymnasium partnership at Hidden Valley Park. He added that community use of the facility would be a collaboration between the BGCB and the city with each party providing programs unique to their respective program goals.

Mr. Foran noted that the fieldhouse concept was introduced to the Wilburton community at their recent neighborhood picnic. City Council was briefed at their October 1, 2018 Council meeting regarding the BGCB proposal to develop a fieldhouse in the City of Bellevue. Council then directed the Parks & Community Services Board to establish a process to review the proposal, including site analysis, and staff is to prepare a management brief outlining this process for Council. The Board has been directed to engage the public, provide opportunities for feedback, and deliver a recommendation to the Council regarding this proposal.

Boardmember Hamilton asked when the fieldhouse concept was first introduced. Mr. Foran explained that the partnership with the BGCB is somewhat iterative. However, the fieldhouse project was first introduced in 2017. Mr. Foran also reviewed the typical structure of a BGCB partnership and clarified that the fieldhouse partnership is with the BGCB and is not dependent on a specific site location (i.e., Wilburton Hill Park).

Boardmember Heath expressed his confusion about the fieldhouse project since he understood Council's direction from the October 1, 2018 Council meeting to specifically target Wilburton Hill Park.

Councilmember Robertson discussed the city's history with partnerships and the benefits to the community. She also reiterated the need for more indoor facilities. She clarified that the overall goal is to have the Parks Board and staff create an open and transparent dialogue with the community to study the proposed fieldhouse project.

Boardmember Heath asked if Council or staff have any plans to notify the other neighborhoods that are identified as potential fieldhouse locations. Councilmember Robertson clarified that the scope and process must first be identified before communities are notified. Boardmember Heath expressed his frustration with the vague communication process.

Mr. Kost highlighted the key question for the fieldhouse project, which is: *Should the city continue to explore a partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue (BGCB) that allows the BGCB to construct and operate a fieldhouse in a public park, and if so, under what circumstances.* Specific Council direction included:

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- Establish a process to review the proposal.
- If approved by Council, conduct further analysis, including community engagement and site analysis.
- Recommend to Council whether to continue exploring the partnership, and if so, under what circumstances.
- Define the scope and process

Mr. Kost reviewed the fieldhouse concept, potential uses, facility size comparisons, common interests, and legal and regulatory requirements.

Vice-Chair Trescases inquired if Wilburton Hill Park is a neighborhood or community park. Mr. Kost clarified that the park is a community park.

Some of the concerns/issues to explore include:

- Need/public benefit
- Facility uses
- Traffic and parking impacts
- Environmental impacts
- Site alternatives

Boardmember Synn expressed his appreciation for the city's incredible track record of stewardship and the methodical thought process on partnerships.

Boardmember Heath asked if there has been any consideration given to non-park spaces for the fieldhouse location. Mr. Kost responded that there has been brief consideration but nothing formal. Boardmember Heath also called attention to the discussions at last month's Parks Board meeting regarding the aquatic facility. He recalled that the two locations being contemplated for the aquatic facility were Wilburton Hill Park and Bellevue College. Mr. Kost clarified that there haven't been discussions about considering Wilburton Hill Park for the aquatic facility but the Grand Connection area is a consideration, along with other locations. Boardmember Heath encouraged Boardmembers to view the October 1, 2018 Council meeting online video.

Boardmember Clark requested clarification about the fieldhouse location, since he didn't see Wilburton Hill Park as the chosen site in the Board packet. Mr. Parker clarified that the goal is to first define the project.

C. Eastside Rail Corridor

Mr. Warber discussed the Wilburton segment of the Eastside Rail Corridor, which runs from I-90 north through Bellevue to 108th Avenue NE. He noted that the Eastside Rail Corridor Master Plan was completed about two years ago, and now the project is transitioning into the design phase. The next phase of the major capital projects includes the I-405 crossing in partnership with WSDOT, as well as the Wilburton Trestle and NE 8th Street crossing. The trestle work and NE 8th crossing are dependent upon the new King County Parks Levy in 2019.

Vice-Chair Trescases asked if there will be historic interpretation for the trestle. Mr. Warber responded that there will be.

Motion by Boardmember Unger and second by Vice-Chair Trescases to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Councilmember Robertson asked if the Eastside Rail Corridor will include a connection to the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Trail. Mr. Warber explained that improvements will be made for this connection in the short-term and there are longer-term plans to build a new bridge, which would provide a direct connection for people using the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Trail. However, the bridge project is currently not funded.

Boardmember Clark called attention to information included in the meeting packet that discussed the corridor as being “rail-banked.” Mr. Warber clarified that the corridor has several easements and by federal law must be preserved as a continuous route; there is the potential for reactivation of the corridor for freight rail under certain circumstances.

Ms. Anderson discussed the benefits to Bellevue parks and trails from the Eastside Rail Corridor. She added that this corridor will connect many significant origins and destinations within the city and regionally. There will be many areas throughout the community that will benefit from the connectivity.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

12. **PROPOSED AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

No discussion.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. 2018 Well-KEPT Program Brief
- C. Letter and attachments re Ashwood Park from Dwight and Mary Schrag
- D. List of upcoming Parks special events

14. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Robert Shay

610 123rd Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Having served on countless community boards and commissions that the City Council has convened, Mr. Shay expressed his disappointment for the lack of transparency with the fieldhouse proposal. Mr. Shay feels that when the BGCB presented the idea to the city in 2017, the community should have been notified. He requested that full transparency occur from this point forward.

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Hamilton to extend the meeting until 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Santiago Naranjo

11800 SE 4th Pl., #200, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Naranjo expressed his appreciation for the benefits the BGCB has provided to the community. He clarified that the Wilburton community is nervous because of the narrow scope of the project and lack of communication. If the scope is broader, then all possibilities and alternatives should be explored.

Councilmember Robertson clarified that there has not been extensive behind the scenes work conducted on the fieldhouse project.

Boardmember Hamilton expressed his appreciation to Council for recently forwarding the fieldhouse project to the Parks Board. He looks forward to exploring this project in further detail.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Unger to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: November 19, 2018

TO: Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Glenn Kost, Park Planning & Development Manager

SUBJECT: Potential Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue Fieldhouse Partnership
(Board feedback requested)

At your October meeting staff presented an overview of the proposed partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue to develop a fieldhouse. The Board heard neighborhood concern about the potential Wilburton Hill Community Park location, mainly related to tree-loss and traffic impacts.

The City Council has requested that the Parks & Community Services Board develop and recommend to the Council a process to review this potential partnership. At your November meeting, you will hear from the Boys & Girls Club regarding the rationale for introducing this concept to the City. Staff will propose process steps to determine whether the City wishes to proceed with further investigation into this concept, and if so, under what circumstances.

At the October meeting, we asked you to send us your questions about the proposal. We've attached responses to questions received.

Parks & Community Services Board Questions & Responses
11-19-2018

Below are questions submitted by the Parks & Community Services Board after October's meeting. Many of the questions are indicative of those received from the public and we expect many more. Initial responses are provided and more complete information will become available as this process moves forward.

- **What were the criteria the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue used to choose this location?**

The Boys & Girls Club reports that the initial service area (east of I-405 & north of I-90) was identified by the Club because this area is nearest four public housing sites served by the BGCB, which are located along 148th Avenue SE and in the Crossroads neighborhood. Those residents are a target audience for this facility, as there are currently no readily accessible year-round facilities to serve these kids with the type of activities proposed. The Club works in these communities and understands the challenges families face in accessing programs that are not readily available in or around their community.

Based on their knowledge of the parks within that service area, the BGCB identified Wilburton as the preferred site because of its easy access, large size and available parking.

- **What were the criteria the City/Boys & Girls Club used to choose the Hidden Valley location for that field house?**

Two City Council reports that provide background and describe the concept, site selection and essential parts of the agreement are attached (*Agenda Memos of 8/6/12 & 8/5/13*).

- **Why were the other locations removed from the short list of places to locate this field house?**

The reasons vary with each site, but issues range from lack of space to lack of parking, incompatibility of uses, property ownership and wetland concerns. We will review these issues with the Board as the process moves forward.

- **What is the size of a 30,000 square foot or 40,000 square foot clubhouse in relation to the current fields there (soccer and/or existing baseball fields)?**

The area inside the south ballfield fence is approximately 82,000sf. The area of the soccer field, including the perimeter track, is approximately 89,000sf. The buildings shown on the aerial photo presented to the neighborhood were scaled to depict the estimated size, and are ~150' X 250', or ~37,500sf, or ~46% of the area of the ballfield and 43% of the soccer field.

- **What is the traffic flow/timing like around other Boys & Girls Clubhouses?**

The Boys & Girls Club reports that much of their programming is designed to take place outside of peak commute hours, and most Club participants are transported via school bus, Club vans, or walking so traffic and parking impacts are reduced. Parent-based transportation (i.e., pick-up/drop-off) typically span several hours (drop-in type programs) thus reducing traffic and parking spikes.

- **The neighborhood was very concerned about traffic. Changes in morning traffic flow has been related to the new school, but perhaps the traffic flow around the fieldhouse would not be like that?**

Peak traffic flow around a school occurs immediately before and after school. Other heavy traffic times are the morning and evening rush hours, which can sometimes conflict with school times.

- **Specific relatable examples would include the Boys and Girls Club across the street from the Downtown Park, as well as the Hidden Valley fieldhouse?**

Because the uses of the proposed fieldhouse will differ from either the downtown Clubhouse or the Hidden Valley gymnasium, more specific information will be needed about uses and times to determine the specific traffic and parking impacts.

- **What is the capacity at existing indoor fieldhouses in Bellevue? Are they maxed out and is there a proven need? What is the growth like in this area, prior to maxing out? If we're not maxed out now, will we be maxed out in five years?**

There is no other public fieldhouse with comparable uses/facilities to those proposed for this facility. The Hidden Valley Gymnasium is currently operating at capacity during peak periods. Participation in City programs conducted during non-peak periods has increased steadily since opening.

- **If we install a fieldhouse, we lose something we currently have - either forested area, baseball fields, or a soccer field. What is the capacity like in Bellevue and in that vicinity of those three resources?**

Athletic field requests for field time consistently exceed field capacity. The growth of women's sports and select leagues, the demand for practice times and the growth of non-traditional sports has and will continue to stretch capacity in the future. In terms of forested area, roughly 80% (about 98 acres) of the 123-acre Wilburton Hill Community Park is currently natural area.

- **How many other soccer fields are there?**

We manage 10 soccer fields across the city. However, Wilburton is one of only five lighted fields with synthetic turf, and only four of these are regulation size, which provide the greatest benefit (capacity). This does not include School District-owned fields, which have lighted, synthetic turf at all four high schools and unlighted synthetic turf fields at most middle schools.

- **How many other baseball fields are there?**

We manage 22 baseball/softball fields. However, many are only large enough to accommodate Little League baseball (up to 12-year-old) or for men's and women's softball. The Wilburton fields are among the few that accommodate older youth baseball (13-16-year-old). In addition, the School District manages a baseball field and softball field at each of their four high schools.

- **When those sports are in season, are those other fields already at capacity?**

All lighted, synthetic turf fields are at capacity during the soccer/lacrosse seasons. Some capacity exists at Wilburton during the baseball season, as other fields that accommodate older youth exist at Marymoor, though much less convenient.

- **How far are most users of this type of facility willing to travel?**

We expect that this facility will draw users from throughout the community, as the type of activities proposed are not available in other parts of Bellevue, especially during non-summer periods when weather conditions and lack of light force most activities indoors.

- **For this type of facility, what are the specs that make it work for most uses?**

- **AKA - can we just repurpose an old tall building that already exists and is currently unused, or to service all the different uses, does the facility need to have a minimum footprint? Why?**

The estimated building size is believed to be optimum to accommodate the activities envisioned. There is no minimum footprint required, and the footprint will vary based on the uses envisioned. These options would be explored during building design. There are no City-owned vacant buildings that could be repurposed to accommodate the uses envisioned.

- **Is the 30-40K square foot requirement inclusive of parking?**

No. Parking would be extra and would add significantly to the footprint (impact) of the facility. This is why one site location criteria was to identify parks with the potential for shared parking.

- **What specific traffic concerns does the Wilburton community have?**

The traffic concerns expressed to-date have focused on increasing development in the Wilburton and BelRed area as well as the new Wilburton school that opened this fall. A detailed traffic analysis would be commissioned as part of the process moving forward.

- **Regarding regulations/laws about setbacks, what applies around this type of facility, what are the basics on that?**

The Land Use Code regulates a variety of elements ranging from the appropriateness of buildings in residential areas, building setbacks, height restrictions, landscaping, parking, lighting and wetland protection to name a few.

- **If neighbors are concerned about a building being visible from their backyard where there used to be trees, is that really a possibility, or would setbacks/buffers address their concerns, but they don't yet know that those would be incorporated?**

The nearest site (option A) would be ~500' of wooded property from the nearest home.

- **Has BGCB already identified where on the Wilburton park property they'd like to/plan to/already envision, where the property would go?**

The potential locations at Wilburton were identified by Parks staff.

- **We mention loss of forest/soccer fields/baseball fields. If those aren't all on the table (like the short list of other properties isn't really being considered), please let us know. If we're really worried about loss of forest/tree canopy, and the plan is to place a facility on baseball field, then we can have a more direct/informed dialogue.**

Each option will have pros and cons that must be evaluated as part of the process.

- **Does the field house come with any dedicated outdoor space as well, if so, is that included in the 30-40K square feet, and is it accessible/open to the public?**

No.

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue (BGCB) at Hidden Valley Sports Park.

STAFF CONTACTS

Patrick Foran, Director, 452-5377

Glenn Kost, Planning & Development Manager, 452-5258

Parks & Community Services Department

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

Staff requests that Council endorse the basic elements of the proposal and direct staff to proceed with the next steps as described below.

POLICY QUESTION

Should the City enter into a long-term lease with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue (BGCB) that allows the BGCB to construct and operate a gymnasium at Hidden Valley Park in exchange for public benefits at the park commensurate with the estimated value of the property lease?

BACKGROUND

Hidden Valley Park

Hidden Valley Park is a 17.17-acre community park acquired by the City in 1965. It contains a full complement of park amenities, including one lighted baseball/softball field, two little league ballfields, a paved 140-car parking lot, playground, lighted tennis court, basketball court, restrooms, storage buildings, and pedestrian pathways (attachment 1). Vehicle access is via 112th Avenue NE. A second park access is located at the north end of the park off of NE 24th Street. The park is surrounded on three sides by single-family residential homes, and on the fourth side by low-rise office buildings. The park sits in a valley, with homes to the south/southwest rising 30-40 feet above the park and buffered by large trees. Homes to the west and the office buildings to the east sit 10-20 feet above the park.

Park use has remained similar over the years, with athletic uses dominating. It is currently used extensively by little league baseball, men's and women's softball, and sports camps. Spring and summer are the heaviest use periods. Company picnics and the use of the neighborhood park amenities at the north end of the park are also common. In the 1980's, the lighted field was home to the Pay 'N Pak fast pitch softball team, often drawing 500-1,000 spectators for games.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue

The BGCB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that currently operates in 14 sites throughout Bellevue, including their main facility in downtown Bellevue, as well as programs in seven schools and three public housing sites. Their downtown facility is located along 100th Avenue

NE, west of the Downtown Park, and includes the main club building, parking lot, a small house, and the Ground Zero teen center. BGCB has outgrown these facilities, and they have been seeking ways to expand their facilities for several years. BGCB determined that their downtown site was insufficient to accommodate their needs, and they developed plans to construct a new 45,000 square-foot "flagship" facility with multiple gymnasiums and program spaces on a new site. BGCB began exploring sites in west Bellevue to accommodate this larger facility.

Request to use Surrey Downs Park. In 2007, BGCB asked the City to consider providing a portion of Surrey Downs Park to construct this facility, with the idea that the City would contribute a portion of the construction costs and then utilize part of the facility for community-wide programming. BGCB participated in the park master planning process that began in late 2007. The resulting Surrey Downs Park Master Plan identified an approximate 2-acre "building zone" that included a series of parameters limiting the impact of a potential building at this location. These limitations, together with the uncertainties and timing surrounding the light rail alignment and relocation of the existing court facilities, made it clear that the Surrey Downs site would not meet BGCB needs, so they continued exploring alternate west Bellevue locations to accommodate their facility.

Request to use Chapin Property. In 2010, BGCB approached the City about acquiring the 4.26-acre City-owned Chapin property located at the SE corner of Bellevue Way and NE 20th Street. This property is undeveloped, but identified as a future neighborhood park in the Parks & Open Space System Plan. Council reviewed this request at their April 11, 2011 Study Session and authorized staff to continue exploring options with the BGCB. However, after thorough due diligence, BGCB determined that it would not be feasible to develop their flagship facility here.

Request to use Hidden Valley Park (HO). After exploring these and other site options, BGCB adjusted their facility program to require a smaller footprint than the previous flagship facility, allowing BGCB to seek smaller sites to accommodate their need. In 2011, BGCB proposed a partnership at the City-owned Hidden Valley Park that would allow BGCB to construct an approximate 20,000 square-foot multi-purpose gymnasium to accommodate three full-sized basketball courts. The proposal was presented to the City Manager on January 9, 2012. City staff and BGCB have been working together to develop the basic terms of an agreement that benefits both parties and also complies with state law. In short, BGCB is looking for a site to accommodate their gym, preferably near outdoor sports facilities to complement their indoor programs. At the same time, the City has been seeking ways to increase sportsfield capacity, especially in west Bellevue.

CONTEXT

The City and BGCB have worked together in support of children and families for many years. Partnerships at the South Bellevue Community Center, Lake Hills Clubhouse, and Ground Zero Teen Center are examples. BGCB is continuing to expand youth and teen programming in the Crossroads and Lake Hills neighborhoods. The HV gymnasium proposal is part of a BGCB strategy for a targeted community-wide approach designed to serve more children with a broader footprint in multiple sites throughout the community. The plan includes:

- Reconstruction/modernization of the Main Club/Child Care/Admin building on the existing downtown site;

- Acquisition and remodeling of the surplus Lake Hills Library to facilitate program expansion to serve youth in east Bellevue including teen center activities and expansion of their current Lake Hills Technology Center (completed);
- Construction of a stand-alone multi-purpose gymnasium in West Bellevue (HV);
- Collaboration with the City to expand the after-school program for elementary school children at the Crossroads Community Center (completed); and
- Opening of three new club locations in King County Housing Authority sites in East Bellevue (Eastside Terrace, Spiritwood Manor, and Hidden Village).

These investments are in addition to BGCB's long-standing afterschool and summer school programs provided at several elementary schools in east Bellevue. BGCB also provides significant youth program subsidies and scholarships annually (\$794,000 in 2011).

THE PROPOSAL

BGCB and the City would enter into a partnership allowing BGCB to construct a gymnasium at Hidden Valley Park (HV) in exchange for public benefits at the park commensurate with the estimated value of the long term lease, as follows:

1. The City would provide a 50-year, \$1/year lease to the BGCB to construct an approximately 20,000 square-foot multi-purpose gymnasium facility (gym) at HV, located near the park's entry off of 112th Avenue NE.
2. BGCB would design, construct, and operate the gym solely at their cost, sized to include three full-sized basketball courts, and designed to accommodate multiple sport courts. The capital cost for the gym is estimated at \$4 million. The City has no financial obligation for the gym.
3. The City and BGCB share equally in the cost to construct additional athletic field and site improvements at HV as follows, at a total cost of up to \$6 million (attachment 2):
 - a. Install synthetic turf on the existing lighted adult softball field, staying within the current field footprint - estimated at \$1.9 million.
 - b. Add a third little league field with a synthetic turf infield, and add synthetic turf infields to the existing two fields - estimated at \$1.7 million.
 - c. Complete other site improvements required to support the total project including entry and circulation improvements, increased parking capacity, and storm water management code compliance - estimated at \$2.0 million.
 - d. If costs change as the project proceeds, both parties share equally in cost reductions or cost increases.
 - e. Third party institutional grants that reduce the cost of the athletic field and site improvements will be credited to the party that secures them. Any grant must be able to be utilized within the framework of a public works project, and cannot unnecessarily restrict the use of the park.
4. The City will have use of the gym space at no cost.
5. BGCB and City will work jointly to schedule the use of the gym and sports fields as follows:
 - a. BGCB will schedule the use of the gym for City programs during non-club times, generally daytime during the week.

- b. The City will schedule the use of the HV fields for BGCB outdoor programs without displacing existing programs.
6. BGCB and City agree to work jointly towards ensuring that all Bellevue youth are served, regardless of their ability to pay.

The total capital project is estimated at \$9.6 million and includes a comprehensive redevelopment of HV Park as summarized below.

	BGCB	COB	Total
Gymnasium	\$4.0M	\$0.0M	\$4.0M
Site Improvements	1.0M	1.0M	2.0M
Sportsfields	1.8M	1.8M	3.6M
Total	\$6.8M	\$2.8M	\$9.6M

LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES

- 1. Restrictions on the use of property purchased with voter-approved Park Bond funds.**
The City purchased this site with proceeds from voter-approved General Obligation Bonds approved in 1965. The bonds were issued in 1966 "for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, developing and improving parks, parkways and other recreational facilities" within the City, and have since been paid off. The deed contains no language restricting the use of the property, and Bond Council has reviewed the deed and related bond ordinances and finds no conflict with the proposal.
- 2. Authority to enter into this Partnership.** RCW 35.59.080 provides the authority for a city to lease "all or any part of a multi-purpose community facility" to any municipality, government agency, private corporation, or individual. The terms and conditions of any agreement are at the discretion of the City Council. RCWs 67.20.020 and 36.68.020 authorize cities to lease land to agencies or private parties and then "lease back" or contract for space to conduct recreational programs.
- 3. Gift of Public Funds to Private Entities.** Article VIII, Section 7 of the Washington State Constitution prohibits gifting of public funds to private entities "except for the necessary support of the poor and infirm." Thus the City cannot simply provide property to the BGCB without consideration received by the public. The form and amount of consideration is at the discretion of the City Council (Compensation section, page 6).
- 4. Public Work Projects/Prevailing Wage.** Any project that includes City funding is defined as a Public Works project, and subject to the rules governing items such as public bid laws and prevailing wage rates. The current proposal contemplates BGCB being solely responsible to construct and pay for the gym, while the City would manage the remaining site work as a public works project, with the parties sharing the cost. Gymnasium construction would not be a public works project.
- 5. Land Use Regulations.** The property is zoned R-3.5, and community recreation centers are allowed under the City's Land Use Code as a conditional use; thus a Conditional Use Permit and environmental review (SEPA) will be required in addition to the standard array of earthwork and building permits.

COMPARATIVE AGREEMENTS

Several existing agreements provide similarities to the current proposal:

1. **Ground Lease Agreements with Kindering Center and Youth Eastside Services (1983, 1985).** Under the terms of two 50-year, \$1/year ground leases, YES and the Kindering Center leased specific building areas and constructed facilities in Crossroads Park to provide ongoing social services. Both agreements include provisions for shared parking within the park. Both agencies met the Constitutional definition of supporting the poor and infirm. Both agencies fully funded the cost of their facility, and ownership of the buildings reverts to the City upon expiration of the ground leases.
2. **Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) with the BGCB at the South Bellevue Community Center (2003).** The City originally identified the need for a community center south of I-90 and, after a selection process, identified the BGCB as our partner. Under the terms of the 30-year JOA, BGCB contributed \$1.5 million towards construction of the \$12 million South Bellevue Community Center. The City owns and maintains the facility. BGCB provides programs for youth and teens, while the City serves pre-school, adult, and senior populations in accordance with schedules developed jointly by the parties.
3. **Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Use Agreement (JUA) with Pacific Science Center at Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center (2004).** The City originally identified the need for an environmental education center at Mercer Slough. The City and PSC jointly obtained funding to construct MSEEC facilities through public and private sources. The City funded approximately \$5.5 million of the \$12 million project cost. Under the terms of the 20-year JUA, the City owns and manages all land and buildings. PSC has exclusive use of two buildings to conduct environmental education programs that complement City programs.

PLANNING AND POLICY GUIDANCE

Several relevant planning goals and policies helped guide the discussion.

1. The **Parks & Open Space System Plan** provides that multi-use community recreation centers be equitably distributed throughout the city. This facility provides a key component of a multi-use community center, and west Bellevue is among the least-served areas of the community for indoor recreation. The Plan also suggests establishing or expanding partnerships with the School District and other service providers to supplement programs and facilities provided in City-owned facilities.
2. The **Comprehensive Plan** provides relevant policy guidance regarding the delivery of community recreational services, as follows:
 - Develop and promote partnerships with public agencies and private service providers to plan, develop and utilize facilities to meet the cultural, recreational, and social needs of the community.
 - Provide geographically dispersed community centers, using city-owned facilities as well as partnerships with the school districts and other non-profit agencies, to meet residents' needs for indoor recreation, athletic instruction, arts, meeting space, and special activities.
 - Provide a variety of services and programs throughout the city serving the general population and placing special emphasis on programs and services for youth, seniors, the disabled, and the disadvantaged.

- Accommodate social services at recreation facilities and community centers when they complement recreation, cultural, and social programs.

COMPENSATION

Compensation must comply with the legal requirements established by state law, though the City Council is given latitude in establishing the form and extent of compensation. The City appraised the value of a 50-year lease of a 2.5-acre portion of HV along 112th Avenue NE to use as a benchmark for discussion. The parcel size was estimated to be the minimum needed to construct a 20,000 square foot gymnasium with requisite parking and setbacks. The independent appraisal, completed by Murray & Associates on March 27, 2012, established the leasehold value as \$2.3 million. The estimated value of the athletic field and site improvements to HV (item #3 above) is \$5.6 million, shared equally by the parties, or \$2.8 million each. In addition, proposal items 4 and 5 provide gym use time for City programs during weekday school hours at no cost, which represents a value to the City. Using only half of the available weekday time, the rental cost to the City is conservatively estimated to be \$86,000/year (using the South Bellevue Community Center gymnasium rental rates of \$55/court/hour).

NEXT STEPS

If Council wishes to proceed, the following steps remain before an agreement could be finalized:

- **Community outreach.** Multiple opportunities will be made available to inform the public about the project, to encourage feedback, and to allow the public to ask questions and express concerns. Both the City and BGCB would participate in this process.
- **Negotiate the agreement.** Many details must be worked out before returning to Council, including funding and payment schedules, design process and approval authority, construction sequencing, facility scheduling, shared parking, lease terms, signage, maintenance obligations, insurance provisions, and extension/termination clauses.
- **Funding.** Both parties must commit to a significant capital outlay before this partnership can proceed. BGCB is dependent on the success of a fundraising campaign. The City must obligate CIP funds.
- **Design and Engineering.** Conceptual designs have been completed in order to provide reliable cost estimates. Detailed design and engineering plans will be needed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Hidden Valley Park existing conditions (aerial photo)
2. Hidden Valley Park proposed improvements

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT

Resolution No. _____ authorizing execution of: (1) the Ground Lease, Joint Development & Joint Operating Agreement (the “Agreement”) with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue; and (2) amendments to the Joint Operating Agreement, attached as Exhibit D to the Agreement, so long as such amendments are within the limits described in Section E of the Agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, the Agreement requires the City to construct improvements to Hidden Valley Sports Park with an estimated cost of up to \$6 million. The terms of the Agreement requires the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue (BGCB) to reimburse the City for half of these costs, up to \$3 million. Sufficient Park Levy funds are available in project P-AD-86 to complete the City’s share of these improvements. Staff will return at a later date with a request to amend the budget to recognize the additional funds from the BGCB.

STAFF CONTACTS

Patrick Foran, Director, 452-5377

Glenn Kost, Planning & Development Manager, 452-5258

Parks & Community Services Department

Monica Buck, Assistant City Attorney, 425-4082

City Attorney’s Office

POLICY QUESTION

Should the City enter into a long-term agreement with the BGCB that allows the BGCB to construct and operate a gymnasium at Hidden Valley Park in exchange for public benefits that include improvements to the park and public use of the gym as described herein?

Separate actions are requested to execute the Ground Lease, Joint Development & Joint Operating Agreement and to authorize amendments to the Joint Operating Agreement (“JOA”), attached as Exhibit D to the Agreement. Upon mutual written consent of the parties, the JOA can be modified over time by the City Manager or designee within the limits of the overall Agreement, whereas only the City Council can modify the terms of the Ground Lease and Joint Development Agreement.

BACKGROUND

The BGCB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that currently operates at fourteen sites throughout Bellevue, including their main facility in downtown Bellevue, and also runs programs in seven schools and three public housing sites. The City and BGCB have worked together in support of children and families for many years. Examples include the South Bellevue Community Center, Lake Hills Clubhouse, Ground Zero Teen Center, and programs at the Crossroads Community Center. The Hidden Valley gymnasium proposal is part of a larger BGCB strategy for a targeted community-wide approach designed to serve more children with a broader footprint at multiple sites throughout the community.

The BGCB has been seeking locations to construct a multi-sport gymnasium in west Bellevue for many years. At the same time, the City sought ways to increase indoor recreational space and sportsfield capacity in west Bellevue. Hidden Valley Sports Park became the logical solution for both parties. It is a 17-acre community park that contains a full complement of outdoor park amenities and support facilities, including sportsfields, a parking lot, playground, court games, restrooms, storage buildings, and pedestrian pathways. The park sits in a valley, with homes to the south/southwest rising 30-40 feet above the park and buffered by large trees. Homes to the west and the office buildings to the east sit 10-20 feet above the park.

City staff and BGCB developed the basic terms of an agreement that achieved both parties' goals, complied with state law, and was consistent with City policy guidance. That conceptual agreement was supported by Council at the August 6, 2012 Study Session, who authorized staff to proceed with the next steps of developing this agreement.

PROGRESS SINCE 2012 COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

- **Community Outreach.** Both the City and BGCB participated in the process of informing the public of this concept, including a public meeting on October 11, 2012, a public hearing as part of the land use approval process, as well as City and BGCB websites. Strong support was expressed, even by several immediate neighbors who attended the public meeting.
- **Draft the Agreement.** Representatives of the City and BGCB have worked closely and with our respective legal counsel to develop specific terms of the proposed Ground Lease, Joint Development and Joint Operating Agreement. Funding and payment schedules, design process and approval authority, construction responsibilities and sequencing, facility use and scheduling, maintenance obligations, insurance requirements, and extension/termination clauses are addressed in the document.
- **Funding.** Both parties have committed to significant capital outlays in support of this agreement. The City approved \$3 million in the 2013-2014 CIP budget for this project. BGCB has committed to raising the funds needed to complete the construction and operation of the gym, and up to \$3 million for the site improvements.
- **Design, Engineering, and Permitting.** Design and engineering for the gymnasium and site work is nearing completion. Environmental review is complete and a Conditional Use Permit has been issued. Applications for Clear & Grade, Utilities Extension, and Building Permits have been submitted and are being reviewed.
- **Plan changes since August 2012 Council Study Session.** Only minor changes have occurred to the project, including an extension to the park's pedestrian loop path and the addition of an exterior-accessed restroom to the gym to accommodate park users.

JULY 22, 2013 COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

At the July 22 Study Session, Councilmembers requested that several terms of the Agreement be modified or clarified, and that further financial information be provided to allow Council to better evaluate the public benefits of this Agreement. Key modifications to the draft Agreement include:

- The three 10-year lease extensions require City consent (the July 22 draft gave BGCB sole discretion to extend the lease);
- If the lease is terminated prior to the initial 50-year term, the disposition of the gym is at the City's discretion and BGCB's expense. After 50 years, it is at the BGCB's discretion and expense (the July 22 draft required removal at City expense);

- The Gymnasium Design and Construction (Section D) has been incorporated into the Ground Lease (Section C); and
- Modifications have been made to strengthen and/or clarify several terms of the Agreement, including the termination and default provisions.

The proposed Agreement has been revised and is available in the Council Office. Staff has also prepared additional financial information about the cost/benefit of the Agreement to the public (**Attachment 2**).

THE AGREEMENT

BGCB and the City would enter into a Ground Lease, Joint Development and Joint Operating Agreement allowing BGCB to construct a gymnasium at Hidden Valley Park in exchange for public benefits as follows:

1. The City would lease approximately 0.6 acres to the BGCB for 50-years at \$1/year lease to construct a 21,500 square-foot gymnasium at Hidden Valley, located near the park's entry off of 112th Avenue NE. Three 10-year lease extensions are provided, for a potential term of 80 years.
2. BGCB would design, construct, operate, and maintain the gym solely at their cost, sized to include three full-sized basketball courts, and designed to accommodate multiple sport courts. The City has no financial obligation for the gym, and it would not be constructed as a public works project.
3. The City and BGCB share equally in the cost to construct additional athletic field and site improvements at Hidden Valley as follows, at a total cost of up to \$6 million (**Attachment 1**):
 - a. Install synthetic turf on the existing lighted adult softball field.
 - b. Add a third little league field with a synthetic turf infield, and add synthetic turf infields to the existing two fields.
 - c. Complete additional site improvements to support the total project including entry and circulation improvements, increased parking capacity, drainage and storm water management improvements.
 - d. If costs change as the project proceeds, both parties share equally in cost reductions or cost increases.
 - e. Grants or other external funding received for the site improvements will be credited to the party that secures them, which cannot unnecessarily restrict the use of the park.
 - f. The City will design and manage construction of the site improvements as a public works project, and will continue to operate and maintain the park at City cost.
4. The City will have priority use of the gym for at least 70 court-hours per week throughout the year at no cost. One court-hour is defined as the use of one court for one hour when the gym is configured with four basketball courts.
5. BGCB and City will jointly schedule the use of the gym and sportsfields as follows:
 - a. BGCB will schedule the use of the gym for City programs during the times outlined in the Joint Operating Agreement, which can be modified by the City Manager or designee from time to time as needed.

- b. The City will schedule the use of the Hidden Valley fields for BGCB programs without displacing existing programs.
 - c. Each party is responsible for managing their own programs.
 - d. Schedules will be coordinated to optimize the use of the gym and sportsfields and to manage parking impacts. Generally, gym use will have priority during the winter months and field use will have priority use during the remaining seasons.
6. Both parties will ensure that all Bellevue youth are served, regardless of their ability to pay. Both parties have policies in place to ensure this.
 7. The City will continue to own the leased land. The BGCB will own the building and its contents through the term of the lease. At the end of the lease, gym ownership will revert to the City. If the Agreement is terminated prior to the initial 50-year term, the City may choose to keep the gym or have it removed by BGCB at their expense. After 50 years, the choice to retain the building reverts to the BGCB.
 8. Provisions have been incorporated into the Agreement to safeguard the City's interests, including:
 - a. BGCB must provide an irrevocable letter of credit to cover their share of the site improvement costs before the City advertises for bids.
 - b. BGCB must provide evidence satisfactory to the City that they can complete the full gym prior to starting construction.
 - c. BGCB must maintain insurance in accordance with City requirements covering claims during and after construction, and throughout the term of the lease, naming the City as an additional insured.
 - d. The appraisal utilized to establish the values for compensation has been updated to recognize current values and lease terms, confirming that the Agreement meets the requirements of the Washington State Constitution that prohibits gifting of public funds to private entities.

EFFECTIVE DATE

If adopted by Council, this Resolution will become effective immediately.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt Resolution No. _____ authorizing execution of: (1) the Ground Lease, Joint Development & Joint Operating Agreement (the "Agreement") with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue; and (2) amendments to the Joint Operating Agreement, attached as Exhibit D to the Agreement, so long as such amendments are within the limits described in Section E of the Agreement.
2. Do not adopt Resolution No. _____, and provide alternative direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. _____ authorizing execution of: (1) the Ground Lease, Joint Development & Joint Operating Agreement (the "Agreement") with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue; and (2) amendments to the Joint Operating Agreement, attached as Exhibit D to the Agreement, so long as such amendments are within the limits described in Section E of the Agreement.

MOTION

Move to adopt Resolution No. _____ authorizing execution of: (1) the Ground Lease, Joint Development & Joint Operating Agreement (the “Agreement”) with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue; (2) amendments to the Joint Operating Agreement, attached as Exhibit D to the Agreement, so long as such amendments are within the limits described in Section F of the Agreement.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Site Plan for Gymnasium and Site Improvements
2. Financial information
3. CIP Project Description
4. Proposed Resolution No. _____

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL OFFICE

Ground Lease, Joint Development and Joint Operating Agreement
May 3, 2013 Permit Application plans for Hidden Valley Sports Park Gym and Site Improvements
March 17, 2012 Summary Appraisal Report for proposed lease area
June 12, 2013 Appraisal Update



PARKS CIP PROJECT STATUS REPORT October 2018

Aquatic Center Study

After conducting a review of the four short list teams, the team led by ARC Architects was selected for the feasibility study. Staff is now undertaking contract negotiations with the ARC to finalize the scope of work, fees, and schedule for a potential scale and scope of an aquatic facility, estimated capital and operating costs, site feasibility, and potential partnerships. The initial feasibility study done in 2009 will be updated to serve as a foundation for this new work. We anticipate the feasibility work to begin this winter and extend through most of 2019.

Bannerwood Park

Staff is finalizing an amendment to our agreement with Seattle University to provide additional upgrades to the Bannerwood baseball facility. SU will install a roof over the existing batting cages and construct a small multi-use/clubhouse building behind the 3rd base dugout, all at the cost of SU. We are also amending our agreement with the school district to facilitate these improvements.

2019-25 CIP Budget

The Park Board approved a letter to the City Council endorsing the 2019-25 CIP budget projects. The Leadership Team delivered a recommendation to the City Manager in August, and the City Manager presented his proposed budget to the Council in early October. The current budget proposal includes all initiatives recommended by the Park Board, including continued funding for the Renovation Program, Park & Open Space Acquisition and Park Planning; neighborhood park development in Bridle Trails and Newport Hills; construction at Airfield Park; planning and design for future phases of Meydenbauer Bay; supplemental funding for Downtown Park's NE Gateway; and initial funding for Bel-Red parks and streams. Funding for the Meydenbauer project was reduced slightly during the City Manager's proposal.

Downtown Park – NE Gateway

The Park Board was briefed July 10th on the site conditions, strategies, and challenges facing the Gateway project. The four options presented included strategies for the placement of the Union High Arch, interaction with the adjacent commercial properties, integration of public art, water feature options, gateway plaza, and connections to the DTP. The Arts Program manager is still finalizing a contract with the artist and seeking additional funding for a significant art piece at this location. We have developed a preferred plan based on the Park Board comments and hope to present the preferred site plan to the Board at a joint Park Board/Arts Commission meeting this winter.

Fieldhouse Study

The staff presented an overview of the proposed Boys & Girls Club fieldhouse concept at the October Park Board meeting. Neighborhood concern has been expressed about the Wilburton Park location, mainly related to tree-loss and traffic impacts. A follow up meeting with the Park Board is scheduled for November when the staff will present more detailed site information and a process to determine whether the City wishes to proceed with further investigation into this concept.

Meydenbauer Bay Phase 1 Park Development

Construction is 90% complete, with expected completion at the end of 2018. Only finishing touches remain on the beach house. The swimming platform, floating pier and shoreline restoration is complete with only planting remaining. Retaining walls and terrace work is also complete, with final pedestrian pathway paving to be completed in November. The right-of-way and parking lot paving is complete, and a pedestrian crossing at LWB and 99th St. is being installed. Irrigation is nearly complete. Landscape planting and sodding has started and will continue through mid-December. The Whaling Building renovation is about one-third complete. We are developing a parking plan to address the busy summer season.

Park & Natural Areas Levy Projects Summary

- **Synthetic Sportsfield at Wilburton Hill Park:** Project complete.
- **Synthetic Sportsfield at Newport Hills Park:** Project complete.
- **Lewis Creek Park Picnic Area:** Project complete.
- **BYT Construction:** Project complete.
- **Bellevue Airfield Park:** Site analysis and initial schematic design is complete. The cost estimates for Phase 1 are significantly over the anticipated budget, so we continue to explore schematic design options and costs to determine the Phase 1 scope of work.
- **Botanical Garden Projects:**
 - **Ravine Garden:** Project complete.
 - **Visitor Center:** Project complete.
- **Neighborhood Parks:**
 - **Bridle Trails/140th Ave property acquisition:** Project complete.
 - **Bridle Trails Corner Park acquisition & development:** Project complete.
 - **Newport Hills Tyler/Patterson acquisition:** Project complete.
- **Downtown Park “Complete the Circle” Development:** Project complete.
- **Hidden Valley/Boys & Girls Club Partnership:** Project complete.
- **Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park:** No activity.
- **Surrey Downs Park Development:** Park construction is 90% complete and on track for completion by year’s end. We continue to coordinate park work, construction access and utility infrastructure with Sound Transit. Most of the park is landscaped, and our lawn seed is germinating. Trails are dressed, and pathways paved. Play area surfacing and final electrical work is being completed. The parking lot and park entrance will be the last bit of work to be completed. Some planting/restoration work may continue next spring depending on weather and light rail construction. All but one property encroachment has been resolved and most of the new boundary fence will be installed in November.

Renovation Program

Project Status: Planning (**P**); Design & Bid (**DB**); Under Construction (**U**); Complete (**C**); Deferred (**D**)

The following 2017 projects were deferred into 2018:

- Re-coring of parks facilities (**U**)
- Multi-site drinking fountain (**P**)
- BGC Parking lot sealcoat & restripe (**D**)
- Cherry Crest Resurface sport courts (**C**)
- Eastgate Park Ticket booth & deck (**DB**)
- Forest Park Trail landslide repair (**C**)
- Wilburton Hill Turf Replace A&E (**P**)
- NWAC Restroom Remodel (**C**)
- Robinswood Tennis Bubble (**C**)
- Kelsey Educational Barn A&E (**D**)
- MSEEC Interpretive Signage (**C**)
- McDowell House Repairs (**C**)
- Summit Trail Repairs (**C**)
- Kelsey Cr Paving & Drainage (**DB**)
- Meydenbauer Whaling Building (**U**)

59 projects are approved for the 2018 program, as follows:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Programmatic | • Park furnishings (U) | • NPDES requirements (U) |
| | • Robinswood House ADA (D) | • Natural Area Restoration (U) |
| | • Multi-site asphalt repairs (U) | • Urban Forestry Park Sites (U) |
| | • Energy Conservation (U) | • Streetscapes (U) |
| | • Outdoor Skate Park Refurb. (C) | • Greenways & Trails (U) |
| Bannerwood Ballfield Park | • Parking Lot Improvements (U) | |
| | • Concession Stand Improvements (C) | |
| Chism Beach Park | • Parking Lot Sealcoat & Curb (C) | • Burrows Cabin Insurance (DB) |
| Coal Creek NP | • Lower Bridge Replacement (U) | |
| Crossroads Park | • Spray Park A&E (DB) | • Comm. Center Carpet & Paint (C) |
| | • Air Handler Replacement (DB) | |
| Downtown Park | • Dumpster, Fence & Gator Storg (C) | • Playground Restroom Floor (C) |
| | • Irrigation Improvements (C) | |
| Eastgate Park | • Canal pump replacement (DB) | |
| | • Little League Field Irrigation Replacement (C) | • Challenge Course Improvements (DB) |
| Forest Glen Park | • Playground Equipment Repl. (U) | |
| Goldsmith Park | • Sport Court Repair & Fence Replacement (C) | |
| Highland Community Center | • Irrigation Replacement (C) | • A&E for 2019 Boiler Repl & AC at Gym (P) |
| Kelsey Creek Farm Park | • Exterior Painting (C) | • Chicken Coop Roof Repl & Rabbit Hutch Improvements (U) |
| | • Parking Lot Lighting Repl (U) | |
| | • Boardwalk Foot Bridge Replacement Phase 1 (U) | |
| Lake Hills Nursery | • Exterior Painting (C) | |
| Lakemont Park | • Replace Sewer Pumps (C) | |
| Lattawood Park | • Replace Play Equipment (U) | |
| Lewis Creek | • Visitor Center Exterior Coatings (C) | |
| Mercer Slough | • Siding, Decking & LED Imp. (C) | • Flooring Replacement at Classrooms, Labs (Def) |
| Environmental Education Center & Nature Park | • Visitor Center A/C (C) | • A&E for Overlake Blueberry Drainage (C) |
| Meydenbauer Whaling Building | • Interpretive Signage (DB) | |

- Newcastle Beach Park
 - Picnic Shelter, Caretaker House Painting (C)
- Northwest Arts Center
 - Boiler Replacement (U)
- Odle Trail
 - Paving (C)
- Robinswood Park
 - Tennis Center Fire System (DB)
- Robinswood Park North
 - Cricket Pitch Replacement & Practice Pitch Install (U)
- Sunset Park
 - Pickleball Court Conversion (Cancelled)
- Spiritridge Park
 - Irrigation System Replacement (C)
- Westwood Highlands
 - Sport Court Resurface (C)
- Wilburton Hill Park
 - BBG Ground Cover Garden Irrigation (C)
 - WHP Field 1 Drainage Install (C)
- BBG Shorts House Security FA Panel (C)



DATE: October 15, 2018

TO: Mayor Chelminiak and City Councilmembers

FROM: Patrick Foran, Director, 452-5377
Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director, 452-5213
Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: Proclamation Recognizing "Lights on Afterschool Day 2018"

Lights on Afterschool is a nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families, and communities. The Afterschool Alliance organizes Lights on Afterschool to draw attention to the ways afterschool programs support children by offering them opportunities to learn new things and discover new skills. The events celebrated at afterschool sites across the nation send a powerful message that kids benefit from and need quality afterschool programs.

This year, Lights on Afterschool is celebrated on Thursday, October 25. Nationwide, cities and towns have joined the official celebration by issuing proclamations recognizing the importance of accessible, quality afterschool programs in their communities.

Eastside Pathways is a community-wide partnership that works collectively to attain better outcomes for children, cradle to career. Members of the Eastside Pathways Out of School Time Collaborative, including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, the Bellevue School District, the City of Bellevue Parks & Community Services, Kids Quest Museum, the King County Library System, and the Bellevue Family YMCA have committed to creating activities celebrating Lights on Afterschool on October 25 and to continue to provide quality afterschool and summer programs in the community.



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: Quality afterschool programs and opportunities provide:

- Safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults, and engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

Whereas: The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, the Bellevue Family YMCA, Bellevue School District, City of Bellevue, Kids Quest Museum, the King County Library System, Jubilee Reach and many other non-profit and private service providers provide quality afterschool programs and activities year-round that help children become successful adults; and

Whereas: *Lights-On Afterschool*, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 25, 2018, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and

Whereas: More than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 15.1 million children have no place to go after school; and

Whereas: Many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

Whereas: The City of Bellevue is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy.

Now, therefore, I, John Chelminiak, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the 25th of October 2018 as:

Lights-On Afterschool Day

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Bellevue enthusiastically endorses Lights-On Afterschool and encourages our community to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

John Chelminiak, Mayor
City of Bellevue

From: Pam Johnston <pamjjo@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2018 8:20 PM
To: Council <Council@bellevuewa.gov>
Cc: Environmental Services Commission (ESC) <esc@bellevuewa.gov>; parkboard <parkboard@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: Evaluate Environmental policy steps: 2018 Survey Results for development of Urban Forest Management Plan Sammamish

Given the budget season, do you have enough information to evaluate the budget, schedule, and policy for Urban Forestry: : *Review the progress of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and analyze additional steps that the city may wish to take to achieve environmental goals (including tree canopy,).* from Council vision #10?

Do you have a date in your Work Plan for the review and direction?

Before June of 2017, Sammamish has already updated its tree codes, including requiring **permits for all significant tree removal and retention requirements for private land**. Sammamish is moving steadily forward with its Urban Forest Management Plan, in draft review at City Council. **A license will be required for Arborist, and tree policy review every 5-10 years** .

Here some of the results of their survey

Top concerns for trees

80% Healthy mature trees being removed during development

74% Loss of wildlife habitat

3% No concerns

Sammamish has enough public tress.

11%

Support creation of a business licensing for arboriculture

83% Yes and Maybe with certain conditions

Support a punitive policy for developers who violate tree regulations, suspend business license

89% Yes

See:

https://www.opentownhall.com/portals/246/Issue_6206/outcome
<https://www.sammamish.us/attachments/pagecontent/47708/UFMP%20Sc ope%20of%20Services%20for%20DRG.pdf>

Sincerely
Pamela Johnston

Pamela Johnston
3741 122nd Ave NE
425.881.3301

Assist the City in developing our Urban Forest Management Plan

Thank you for participating!

Thank you for your interest in the Urban Forest Management Plan. Below you will find the results from our recent survey. If you have any questions regarding the survey, or this project, please visit <https://www.sammamish.us/government/departments/community-development/current-projects/urban-forest-management-plan/> (<https://www.sammamish.us/government/departments/community-development/current-projects/urban-forest-management-plan/>) or contact David Goodman, Senior Management Analyst at dgoodman@sammamish.us (<mailto:dgoodman@sammamish.us?subject=UFMP%20Survey>).

Trees are important to the quality of life in Sammamish.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree		87.4%	291
Agree		10.8%	36
Disagree		0.6%	2
Strongly Disagree		0.3%	1
Not Sure		0.9%	3

The City of Sammamish recognizes the ecological benefits of forests and tree-covered areas in the municipal code (21A.37.200). Please pick THREE of the following ECOLOGICAL benefits that are most important to you.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Providing varied and rich habitats for wildlife		84.4%	282
Reducing greenhouse gas		28.4%	95
Moderating the effects of winds and temperatures		32.9%	110
Stabilizing and enriching the soil		32.0%	107
Slowing runoff from precipitation and reducing soil erosion		59.0%	197
Improving air quality		44.6%	149
Improving water quality		18.6%	62

Trees can grow to obstruct streets and sidewalks. How often do you encounter this issue with trees in the public rights-of-way?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Daily		6.3%	21
Weekly		4.5%	15
Monthly		3.0%	10
Several Times a Year		24.9%	83
Never		61.3%	204

Trees can become damaged or develop structural weakness over time. These issues may be risks for injury to persons or property. How often do you encounter this issue with public trees?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Daily		2.4%	8
Weekly		1.5%	5
Monthly		2.4%	8
Several Times a Year		29.3%	97
Never		64.4%	213

Trees can appear sick and unhealthy as a result of damage by insects, diseases, or simply poor tree care regimes. How often do you observe this issue with public trees?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Daily		3.0%	10
Weekly		2.7%	9
Monthly		6.0%	20
Several Times a Year		42.8%	142
Never		45.5%	151

What is your satisfaction with the current level of maintenance provided for the City's public trees?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Completely Satisfied		29.9%	100
Somewhat Satisfied		28.4%	95
Neutral		28.7%	96
Somewhat Dissatisfied		9.0%	30
Completely Dissatisfied		3.9%	13

State your position on the following statement: Sammamish needs more public trees.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree		54.4%	180
Agree		26.6%	88
Disagree		8.8%	29
Strong Disagree		2.1%	7
Not Sure		8.2%	27

Where would you like to see more public trees planted? Please check as many as apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Parks (Sammamish Commons, Beaver Lake, etc.)		65.2%	215
Open spaces and Natural Areas (Beaver Lake Preserve, Evans Creek Preserve)		61.5%	203
Streetscapes		68.5%	226
Golf Courses		15.2%	50
Commercial Areas		61.8%	204
Trails and Bike Paths		39.7%	131
Sammamish has enough public trees		11.5%	38
I would like to see fewer public trees		1.5%	5
Natural habitats		58.5%	193

Please select one method you'd like the City to utilize to provide information about urban forest management.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Seminars and workshops		8.5%	27
Interpretive trails and displays		28.4%	90
Website resources		39.7%	126
Online videos (e.g. YouTube)		8.2%	26
Guided nature/tree walks		10.4%	33
Informational brochures		4.7%	15

What is your current awareness of the City's regulations on tree protection and mitigation on private property? Please check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
I was not aware that the City had tree protection and mitigation regulations	20.2%	67
I have visited the City's webpage for information about tree protection and mitigation regulations	27.4%	91
I have read news articles that discussed tree protection and mitigation regulations	44.3%	147
I know about tree protection and mitigation regulations because of personal experience managing trees on my property	38.3%	127

What are your top concerns for trees in Sammamish? Please select all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Safety hazards	34.8%	116
Trees blocking my view	5.1%	17
Trees shading my yard	8.7%	29
Tree debris in my yard	9.3%	31
Unable to remove trees in my yard	17.4%	58
Healthy mature trees being removed during development	79.9%	266
Canopy Loss	62.8%	209
Loss of wildlife habitat	73.9%	246
No concerns	3.0%	10

What are your experiences with tree regulations on private property (examples include: tree protection, permit acquisition, replacement tree plantings, etc.)?

	Response Percent	Response Count
The process was easy and the requirements are reasonable.	15.1%	50
The process was easy but the requirements are too strict.	5.4%	18
The process was easy but the requirements are too lenient.	7.3%	24
The process was difficult but the requirements are reasonable.	3.3%	11
The process was difficult and the requirements are too strict.	9.4%	31
The process was difficult and the requirements are too lenient.	3.0%	10
Not Applicable / No Opinion	56.5%	187

Would you support the creation of a business licensing process to categorize and monitor businesses practicing arboriculture in the city?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	37.3%	120
No	17.1%	55
Maybe, with certain conditions	45.7%	147

Would you support a punitive policy for developers who violate tree regulations? This policy could temporarily suspend a developer's business license in Sammamish for violating tree regulations.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	88.9%	296
No	3.0%	10
Maybe, with certain conditions	8.1%	27

Would you support a citywide special assessment (property tax) to directly increase funding toward urban forestry programs?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	26.6%	88
No	32.0%	106
Maybe, with certain conditions	41.4%	137

Would you support the creation of a city staff arborist position to serve the community as a point of contact for tree issues?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	56.5%	187
No	12.4%	41
Maybe, with certain conditions	31.1%	103

What age group are you representing?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18	0.3%	1
18 to 25	0.3%	1
26 to 35	5.7%	19
36 to 45	21.5%	71
46 to 55	27.8%	92
56+	44.4%	147

What is your relationship with Sammamish's urban forest? (Choose all that apply)

	Response Percent	Response Count
I am a resident of Sammamish	97.6%	323
I am a frequent visitor to Sammamish	3.9%	13
I own a business in Sammamish	6.3%	21
I have experienced challenges from tree ordinances on my private property in Sammamish	13.6%	45
I have planted public trees as a volunteer	19.6%	65
I help care for a public tree adjacent to my property	7.6%	25
I have donated money to a non-profit foundation in support of public trees	13.3%	44
I am a member of/volunteer for a non-profit with an interest in trees in Sammamish	6.9%	23
None of the above	0.6%	2

If you are a resident, how long have you lived in Sammamish?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 1 year		0.3%	1
1-3 years		8.2%	27
4-5 years		6.4%	21
6-10 years		15.5%	51
11-15 years		17.6%	58
16-20 years		13.0%	43
20+ years		37.3%	123
I am not a resident of Sammamish		1.8%	6



Urban Forest Management Plan



Comprehensive Plan

Policy EC.10.10 - Create and support a robust and comprehensive Urban Forestry Management Plan.



Urban Forest Management Plan

Vision - Goals - Recommendations



Regulations

Tree Removal & Replacement -
Incentives - Street Tree List



Programs

Parks - Public Works -
Community Development

From: Ewing, Jennifer

Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 3:58 PM

To: pamjjo@msn.com

Cc: Council <Council@bellevuewa.gov>; Cummins, Mac <MCummins@bellevuewa.gov>; Jain, Arun <AJain@bellevuewa.gov>

Subject: RE: Evaluate Environmental policy steps: 2018 Survey Results for development of Urban Forest Management Plan Sammamish

Hi Ms. Johnston,

Thank you for your interest in the City's 2019-2020 biannual budget. The draft budget includes funding for an update to the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Strategic Plan and funding for the implementation of the plan. This funding reflects the Council priority and direction for ESI, and will address several interrelated environmental goals. This proposed funding will allow for the review of progress to date toward our environmental goals, a possible update to the City's environmental goals, public outreach and engagement, and an analysis of strategies to achieve our goals. This updated plan will include strategies and actions for accomplishing several interrelated environmental goals for climate change, tree canopy, energy, mobility, green building and other related issues. The draft budget that the City Council will consider this fall has \$310k for this effort, which will include the plan update and funds to support implementation of the plan in 2019-2022. This budget amount was developed taking into account staffing resources, work performed to date to support the plan update, and a desire to dedicate funding for the implementation of the plan.

Staff will be briefing Council on plans to update the Environmental Stewardship Initiative Strategic Plan on Tuesday November 13, in which we will provide an overview of the plan update process and workplan for the effort.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Regards,

Jennifer

Jennifer Ewing
City of Bellevue
Environmental Stewardship Program Manager
425-452-6129
jewing@bellevuewa.gov

From: Pam Johnston <pamjjo@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 9:38 PM
To: Council <Council@bellevuewa.gov>
Cc: parkboard <parkboard@bellevuewa.gov>; Environmental Services Commission (ESC) <esc@bellevuewa.gov>; Ewing, Jennifer <JEwing@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: Funding Trees for Health: it is not all about carbon sequestering

Please consider the total benefits of trees for the consideration in funding the Environmental Stewardship Initiative.

"...When you consider all the benefits that street trees can provide to society, there is a strong business case for increased societal investment. One study in California, for instance, found that for every \$1 spent on tree planting and maintenance, urban trees deliver \$5.82 in benefits..." See attached



Funding Trees for Health

An Analysis of Finance and Policy Actions to
Enable Tree Planting for Public Health



Acknowledgments

Authors

Rob McDonald¹, Lida Aljabar², Craig Aubuchon³, Howard G. Birnbaum³, Chris Chandler¹, Bill Toomey², Jad Daley², Warren Jimenez², Erich Trieschman³, Joel Paque¹, Matt Zeiper².

Affiliations

1. The Nature Conservancy
2. Trust for Public Land
3. Analysis Group

Acknowledgments

We thank our advisory committee, for their helpful comments and additions to the manuscript.

Advisory committee

Meera Bhat, Natasha DeJarnett, Craig Holland, Lynn Scarlett, Steven Teutsch, Larry Wiseman, Kathleen Wolf.



As city populations grow, urban trees cannot be viewed as a luxury: Trees are an essential component of a livable community and a core strategy for improving public health.



Executive Summary

The scientific case for the benefits of trees and urban nature has become more solid over the last few decades. Trees and other natural features in cities can help regulate water quality, water quantity, and the timing of water flow. They can help clean and cool the air, reducing harmful air pollutants and ambient air temperatures. They lend beauty to our streets, enhance citizens' lives, and significantly increase property values. When you consider all the benefits that street trees can provide to society, there is a strong business case for increased societal investment. One study in California, for instance, found that for every \$1 spent on tree planting and maintenance, urban trees deliver \$5.82 in benefits.

This report focuses on an area that has received a lot of attention recently, the links between trees and public health. Recent science has shown that the link is robust and economically significant. The central question of this report asks: *If trees are so important for health, how can cities use innovative finance and policy tools to enable tree planting for public health?*

This question is important, because despite the large literature on the many benefits provided by street trees and other natural features, most U.S. cities are experiencing declines in urban forest cover over time, with a net loss of 4 million urban trees every year, or about 1.3% of the total tree stock. New tree planting isn't keeping pace with the mortality of existing trees, either from natural causes or from clearing of trees for new development. If trees provide so many benefits, why are cities letting this natural resource dwindle away? We believe that there are four main barriers preventing cities from fully seizing the power of street trees and other natural features:

1. **Lack of knowledge:** Decision-makers and the public may lack knowledge of the benefits trees provide. We hope reports such as this one can play a role in closing this knowledge gap. For cities willing to invest time and resources, urban forestry science and tools have advanced enough that it is now quite possible to estimate the benefits that current (or future) street trees provide to residents. A first guide for U.S. cities looking to systematically plan urban forestry activities to achieve multiple ecosystem service objectives can be found in [The Sustainable Urban Forest: A Step-by-Step Approach](#), a free handbook developed by the US Forest Service and The Davey Institute.
2. **Public concerns:** There are some public concerns about potential negative problems with trees, such as problems with fallen limbs causing power outages, or trees and untended parks providing spaces for criminal activity. In the report we address these concerns in detail and discuss possible solutions. Concerns can often be alleviated by better urban forestry practices or public education campaigns. Many of the past issues and concerns over street tree planting can be minimized in the future by following the Arbor Day Foundation's [Right Tree, Right Place](#) best practices.

3. Silos: The opportunity to advance tree planting in cities touches virtually every part of the urban landscape—from city streets and parks to private residential and commercial property. Yet the formally designated responsibility to advance tree planting often falls on just one municipal agency, such as a Forestry Office within a city’s Department of Parks and Recreation. As a result, it can be difficult for cities to efficiently identify and harness all tree planting opportunities that might be presented by the on-the-ground work of different municipal agencies. We discuss in this report how cooperative planning processes are one way to overcome this barrier.

4. Lack of financial resources: Trees are often considered a “nice to have” item when compared to other critical municipal needs such as police and fire protection, education, roads, and other public services. This perspective, combined with the annual budget cycle of most cities (as opposed to longer-term planning considerations) leaves tree planting programs minimally funded, and often at risk of reductions. Finally, there is a persistent lack of funding for urban forestry, caused by constrained urban budgets and cities generally prioritizing urban forestry budgets relatively low compared with other priorities. Budgets to support a healthy tree canopy are further strained by a lack of funding for maintenance. Most cities spend less on trees than needed to maintain current stock, let alone enough to increase tree stock to achieve health gains. The last half of this report presents solutions that can help increase funding for urban forestry to benefit public health.

The investment gap: This report quantifies the investment gap—how much more investment in trees we would need to maintain our current urban canopy and then significantly expand it to seize greater potential health benefits. *We estimate that an additional investment of around \$8 per person annually would be enough to create this green future in US cities.* We emphasize that this is an average figure, and the situation will vary greatly in different cities. Nevertheless, it is enough to show that a green urban future is not an impossible dream, but is quite affordable, if policymakers and others decide to make this investment.

Finance and policy solutions: The last section of the report describes some specific solutions that can enable tree planting for public health. *The solution that will work will vary by city, but what matters is giving value—financial and moral—to the benefits that trees provide to health.*

The report discusses some methods commonly used by cities to try to break silos by linking urban forestry to other municipal goals. These can include planning processes such as sustainability or comprehensive plans, heat action planning (where multiple agencies are planning how to mitigate risks from urban heat waves), or planning related to compliance with the Clean Water Act (e.g., stormwater plans).

We also discuss some common financial mechanisms for urban forestry, such as funding from public revenues, municipal codes and policies, and partnerships with companies and NGOs.

We propose in this report that one novel way to overcome the funding barrier may be to more closely link the goals and funding of the health sector with the goals and funding of urban forestry agencies. If trees have significant benefits to physical and mental health, as is increasingly clear from the scientific literature, then why not consider a link between health funding and urban forestry?

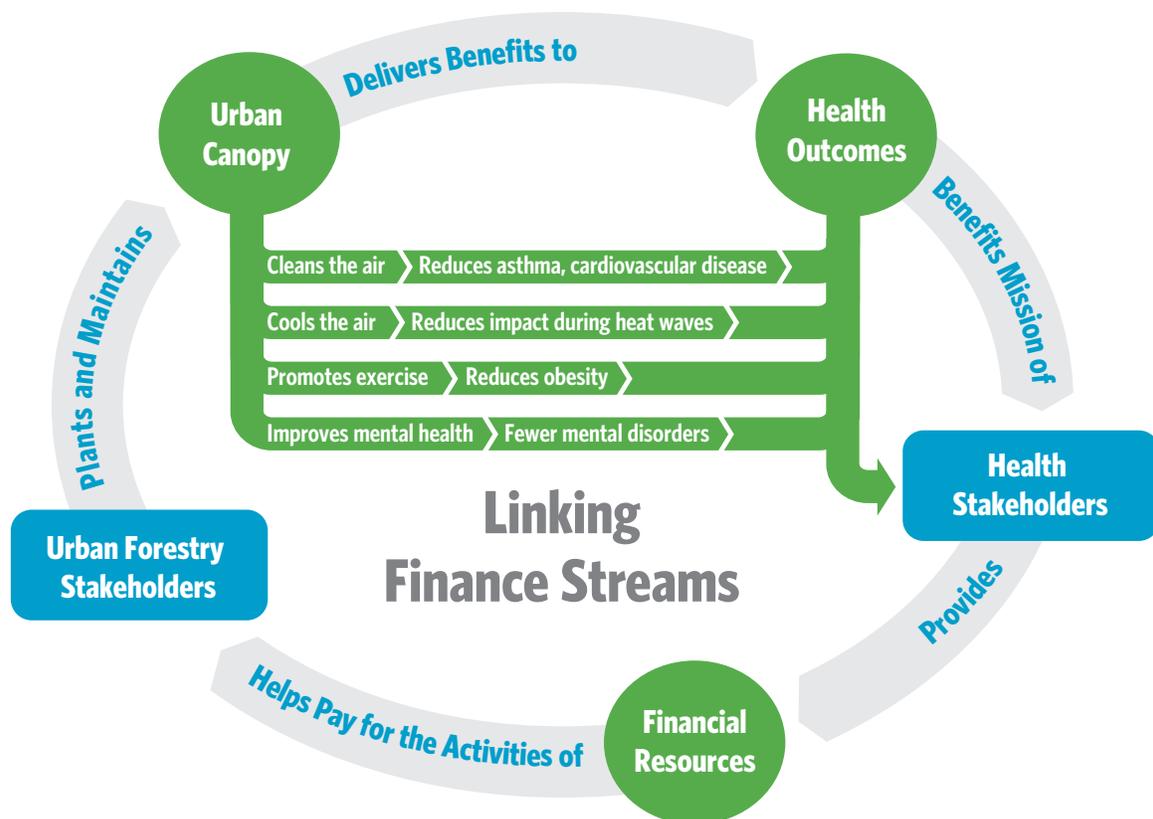


Figure E1. Conceptual model of the linkage between urban forestry funding and health funding.

The concept of linking finance streams for nature and health seems simple (Figure E1). Those whose mission it is to plant and maintain trees and other urban vegetation spend money and resources to make urban areas greener, which delivers significant benefits for mental health. This helps those in the health sector better achieve their mission of improving people’s health and well-being. To complete the circle, therefore, the health sector (whether public or private institutions) could supply some financial resources that help partially pay for the activities of those in the urban forestry sector.

We urge all cities to begin exploring ways to create this vital link between the health sector and urban forestry agencies, using one of the potential models discussed in this report. Working together, the health sector and the urban forestry sector can achieve a healthier, more verdant world.



Photo: © Devan King/TNC

The Nature Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

The Nature Conservancy
4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22203-1606
Phone: 703-841-5300
Website: www.nature.org

From: VERNON SCHRAG <dwights30@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 9:38 AM
To: Kumar, DEBRA <debrakkumar@gmail.com>
Cc: Parker, Camron <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: Ongoing Ashwood Park Issues with Parks Department - King County Animal Control

Dear Debra - Please discuss with Councilmember Robertson:

Add this to your Parks Board agenda in future, please. Ask Camron for copies of photos. Thank you.

Dwight Schrag

RE: King County Animal Control at Ashwood Park & Poorly Maintained Pedestrian Bridge

To Camron Parker <cparker@bellevuewa.gov> • Glenn Kost <gkost@bellevuewa.gov> Copy Mike McCormick-Huentelman <mmhuent@bellevuewa.gov> • bmiyake@bellevuewa.gov

Cameron, Last Friday one of the Parks Department vehicles was parked next to the only sign referring to Parks & Facilities Services Code: Chapter 3.43 (misdemeanor warning for off-leash dogs). When I asked the Parks employee who the posted phone # (425-452-6881) went to, he replied "probably Patrick Foran". He wasn't sure.

Further discussions alluded to the difficulties of getting any action from Patrick Foran regarding dog-leash issues. He seemed to be aware of unresolved conflicts that Parks Employees are experiencing. Not sure? What do you think?

I took a photo-shoot series showing a little sign hooked onto some wire mesh on the back of small bleachers near KidsQuest. The King County Animal Control vehicle was also parked there yesterday. If King County is unable to get City of Bellevue to act, I will give it a try. Just let me know. We can get this done. This is just another indicator of poor communications and lack of follow through in my opinion. **Please discuss with the Parks Board next month.**

Almost no one would be able to visibly detect or be aware of the "Leash Pets" sign since they don't enter Ashwood Park thru climbing bleachers to walk their dogs. The Parks employee was well aware of the problem. What's going on? Very weird. **Why not comply with the King County Posting regulations? These are meant for protections of Public Safety of park visitors.** Do your jobs please!

Also check out the situation with the Pedestrian Bridge leading from Ashwood Park to McCormick Park. (See photos) Very poorly maintained and obviously rotting timber structure. Who looks at this stuff? The entire sidewalk is blocked off on the McCormick side due to "Public Safety Concerns". **Please discuss with Parks Board. Thank you.**

See attached photos regarding Dog Leash posting. Who's in charge?

Dwight Schrag

Ashwood Neighborhood resident

On October 16, 2018 at 7:51 AM Parker, Camron wrote:

Good morning and thanks for letting us know. I will provide this to our Park Ranger program staff, who work regularly with King County Animal Control. -Camron

From: VERNON SCHRAG <[dwights30@comcast.net](mailto:dwrights30@comcast.net)>
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 5:40 PM
To: Kost, Glenn <GKost@bellevuewa.gov>; Parker, Camron <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>
Cc: McCormick-Huentelman, Mike <MMHuent@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: King County Animal Control at Ashwood Park

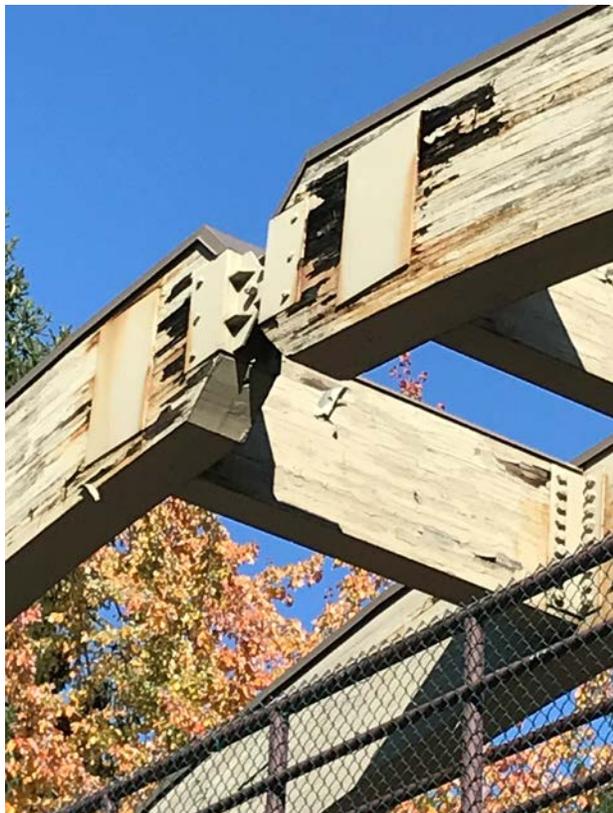
Glenn & Cameron: At about 4:15 pm today at Ashwood Park the King County Animal Control van was parked at the North End Parking lot. She'd been running around the park grounds telling people to "leash-up" their dogs.

King County Officer Wilcox told me she was concerned about lack of proper protections and inadequate Posting Signs regarding off-leash dogs. Her Department had sent several written requests to Parks Department to fix it, but no response. Why no response? What does it take to get your attention; and it costs lots of Tax Dollars to have King County travel to Ashwood all the time??

Can you get back to Officer Wilcox please and get this fixed?? She is mostly concerned for children at KidsQuest and others (elderly) who could be harmed. This seems like a major Risk Management & Liability Issue for Bellevue City Government. Please let me know what further actions to take as a resident of this neighborhood.

Thank you for your service. Dwight Schrag
Ashwood Neighborhood Resident

-
- [IMG_2112.JPG](#) (2 MB)
 - [IMG_2114.JPG](#) (2 MB)
 - [IMG_2123.JPG](#) (3 MB)



From: Parker, Camron

Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2018 1:31 PM

To: VERNON SCHRAG <dwights30@comcast.net>; Kost, Glenn <GKost@bellevuewa.gov>

Cc: McCormick-Huentelman, Mike <MMHuent@bellevuewa.gov>

Subject: RE: King County Animal Control at Ashwood Park

Mr. Schrag,

Thank you for letting us know about your talk with the King County Animal Control Officer. There are leash laws and other animal control laws in both Bellevue City Code and King County Code and there is ongoing coordination between City and County, but it is evident from your email that it is not always perfect.

Our maintenance staff visited the park yesterday, I believe, and installed additional signage at locations they thought would be visible to people entering the park at different locations. Our Park Ranger staff have also checked in with our King County colleagues regarding this issue specifically. Hopefully these steps will make expectations of people and dog behavior a little more clear.

-Camron

From: VERNON SCHRAG <dwights30@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 21, 2018 12:28 PM
To: Baldwin, David <DBaldwin@bellevuewa.gov>
Cc: Kost, Glenn <GKost@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: Budget One 2019-2020 CIP Comments for Downtown Ashwood Park Build-Out

Dear Mr. Baldwin & Bellevue Finance Director Call:

The third and final public hearing on the budget is scheduled for City Council session on Nov. 19.

Re: Community members interested in providing feedback to the council regarding the budget at the public hearing may sign up to speak during that evening's Regular Session, or **submit comments in writing to the Finance Department.**

Re: Feedback is also welcome at other meetings during oral communications.

See attached **comments** for your records regarding public comments. Also, copy of memo to City Council today. The budget process is more problematic than it appears on the surface.

I expect the Mayor will need to give you further directions on budgeting/budget processes for Parks & Community Services Department. Our receipt of memo in September from **Glen Kost indicates no CIP budget was submitted for Ashwood Park Project Completion and Buildout.**

Dwight Schrag

Downtown Ashwood Neighborhood Resident

To: CITY OF BELLEVUE OFFICIALS & PARKS BOARD MEMBERS Oct. 21, 2018

- 1) Attn: D. Baldwin - Bellevue Finance Department
 - 2) Mayor & Bellevue City Council
 - 3) Debra Kumar – Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board
 - 4) Bellevue City Attorney's Offices
- Cc: Mike Huentelman/Mark Heilman

Subject: BUDGET ONE - Public Comments Re - CIP Budget Process 2019-2020; and Parks & Community Services Budget Practices & Needless Delays

Based on my experiences and interactions over a period 2012-2018 (**seven years!**) I regret to inform you that Bellevue Budget One CIP Planning & Budget Process is dysfunctional, flawed, poorly managed and without sufficient oversight to protect taxpayers from errors, cost overruns and abuse. Inadequate planning processes result in needless/costly errors and delays. Confusion reigns, impacting Parks Staff and Neighborhood residents. Information and details regarding such matters are being separately sent **Certified USPS Attn: Bellevue Mayor & Finance Director**.

Bellevue's City Council is complicit and being misinformed by volunteer-members of its Parks Board appointed by Bellevue Mayor's office. Long-standing problems are consistently getting worse. Actions are long overdue for much-needed oversight of Policy reviews, Planning and Budgeting practices. Our Mayor and City Council have full capability to act but have not done so. See suggested steps/options shown per e-mail request. Timely corrections will save time, City resources, and protect against **needless waste of Constituent/Taxpayer funds**. Failure to do so results in downward-spiraling, poor performance. Do your jobs, please. It's time to act.

Budget One Policies for funding 2019-2020 Parks Department budget submittals were marginalized and dishonored by years of failed transparency:

1. **BUDGET IRREGULARITIES of 2017 & 2018 should be reviewed and carefully assessed**
2. **PARKS BOARD inactions & failure to review inputs from residents**
3. **CITY COUNCIL INACTIONS & avoidance of Budget-One facts & data**
4. **MULTI-YEAR'S ATTEMPTS to disregard City policies & public hearings**
5. **DECEITFUL, UNINFORMED COMMENTS by several City Council members**
6. **NON-COMPLIANCE with Policies, Parks-budget planning & oversight**
7. **TRANSPARENCY FAILURES & unfortunate lack of decision-making skills**
8. **AVOIDANCE & LACK OF LEADERSHIP – Insufficient Management ability**

2019-2020 Fund Appropriation List

<u>City Budget</u>	2019-2020 Preliminary Budget	Council Changes	Final 2019-2020 Budget
General Fund	\$476,331,262		\$476,331,262
<u>Other Operating Funds Budget</u>			
Equipment Rental Fund	29,391,569		\$29,391,569
Facilities Services Fund	15,159,233		15,159,233
General Self-Insurance Fund	10,756,913		10,756,913
Health Benefits Fund	63,005,760		63,005,760
Hotel/Motel Tax Fund	27,382,000		27,382,000
Human Services Fund	11,978,517		11,978,517
Information Technology Fund	36,228,745		36,228,745
Land Purchase Revolving Fund	6,724,094		6,724,094
LEOFF I Medical Reserve Fund	470,493		470,493
Park M&O Reserve Fund	6,633,020		6,633,020
Unemployment Compensation Fund	625,673		625,673
Worker's Compensation Fund	6,995,448		6,995,448
Total Other Operating Funds Budget	\$215,351,465	\$0	\$215,351,465
<u>Enterprise Funds Budget</u>			
Development Services Fund	\$78,119,232		\$78,119,232
Marina Fund	1,605,580		1,605,580
Parks Enterprise Fund	14,136,077		14,136,077
Sewer Utility Fund	137,444,156		137,444,156
Solid Waste Fund	3,926,233		3,926,233
Storm & Surface Water Utility Fund	60,057,311		60,057,311
Water Utility Fund	146,271,044		146,271,044
Total Enterprise Funds Budget	\$441,559,633	\$0	\$441,559,633
<u>Special Purpose Funds Budget</u>			
Firemen's Pension	\$7,288,017		\$7,288,017
Housing Fund	9,399,480		9,399,480
Interest & Debt Redemption - Regular Fund	44,309,072		44,309,072
LID Control Fund	71,702		71,702
LID Guaranty Fund	751,700		751,700
Operating Grants, Donations, and Special Reserves Fund	10,097,367		10,097,367
Total Special Purpose Funds Budget	\$71,917,338	\$0	\$71,917,338
<u>Capital Investment Program Budget</u>			
General Capital Investment Program Fund	\$222,188,662		\$222,188,662
Utility Capital Investment Program Fund	312,042,137		312,042,137
Total Capital Investment Program Budget	\$534,230,799	\$0	\$534,230,799
Total City Budget	\$1,739,390,497	\$0	\$1,739,390,497

Dear Bellevue Mayor & City Council re: CIP Budget Process 2019-2020

To council@bellevuewa.gov

Dear Mayor Chelminiak:

You've always been willing to listen to your constituents but others in our Bellevue City Council are not so open-minded or forthright in their dealings with the public. Longstanding issues over completion and build-out of Downtown's Ashwood Park aren't being sufficiently resolved. It will take prioritizing, CIP Budget One funding and tracking of project results to make real progress. Doing nothing is not the solution. Trust in City Government is on-the-line in many respects, as you know so well.

We met with the **Parks Board on October 9th** at their monthly work session, making our request again. There was discussion that the Master Plan Update for Ashwood would proceed? That same promise was made many times over the years. But no action or any tracking of progress ever occurred to our knowledge. This is not proper or right. And the room was also full to capacity with angry complaints by Willburton residents who had also been "blindsided" by poor city planning practices. See what I mean?

But no recommendation to allocate CIP 2019-2020 funds to **finish the Ashwood Park build-out project**. Without funding nothing will take place for many years, if ever! A heavy weight of responsibility rests with the Mayor's Parks and Community Services Board to get this solved. Foot-dragging, lack of initiative or refusing to take accountability is not an acceptable excuse any longer. SEE RECOMMENDATIONS AT BOTTOM OF THIS MEMO.

Also, please see **(attached memo) examples of these negative impacts** on our Downtown and for other Parks properties over the years. To us it seems quite serious and ongoing.

You've recently heard from other disgruntled residents about poor project planning and lack of transparency for both **Willburton and Ashwood neighborhoods. Previously, PSE tree-cutting and Surrey Downs park planning** came under close scrutiny too. These bad relationships linger once they are begun. Who knows how many more may be lurking in Parks Department files? These situations are avoidable with better Council Management and project oversight. Capital cost efficiencies matter. Honesty matters.

So where to start? Leadership is essential for good management of a growing, vibrant City like ours. Bellevue City Council could actually take its **High Performance Government 3-Year Priorities** to heart. Especially those involving **open public engagement, trust building, listening, transparency and financial strategies. Does this make sense?** Hope so.

As for Jennifer Robertson plus Parks & Community Services Board effectiveness:

Certainly a more proactive stance with Chair Kumar and the Parks Board is appropriate to look into the matter; and report back to the City Council by year-end, 2018 before Christmas.

1. The City Code for Parks Board, CH 3.62.070 item “L” says: ... **“May research and provide suggestion regarding new matters or initiatives that council may wish to consider.”**
2. The City Code, per CH 3.62.070 permits the Parks Board: **“Shall perform other duties directed by the City Council. (Ord. 6241 & 2, 2015).**
3. CH 3.60.010 also allows: **“The Council Liaison (Jennifer Robertson) may recommend appointment of a nonvoting ex-officio member (of the Parks Board).**

As Mayor, you can see there are allowable Council options; and real solutions for ways our elected City Council, City Manager, Finance Director and Taxpayer-Constituents can act with full transparency, listening and broader communications for Neighborhood understanding, important and helpful for our City’s future.

Thank you. Please act now on behalf of residents and communities of Bellevue to fix these serious problems for our City.

Sincerely, Dwight Schrag

Downtown Ashwood Park Resident

-
- [Bellevue Budget One CIP 2019-2020 Comments.pdf \(70 KB\)](#)

From: Foran, Patrick

Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 11:07 AM

To: Council <Council@bellevuewa.gov>

Cc: David Hamilton (dave@deliveryexpressinc.com) <dave@deliveryexpressinc.com>; Debra Kumar (debrakkumar@gmail.com) <debrakkumar@gmail.com>; Elliott Bay <elliottbay@yahoo.com>; Eric Synn <esynnparkboard@yahoo.com>; Foran, Patrick <PForan@bellevuewa.gov>; Harvey, Nancy <NHarvey@bellevuewa.gov>; Heather Trescases <heather@trescases.com>; Pamela Unger (Pamrose@aol.com) <Pamrose@aol.com>; Parker, Camron <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>; Paul Clark (paulgclark@gmail.com) <paulgclark@gmail.com>

Subject: Ashwood Park

Mayor Chelminiak and City Council members,

I understand you have recently received additional communications from MR. Schrag regarding the planning and development for Ashwood Park. Attached is the communication I provided to Council earlier. The Park Board received a similar communication from me as well prior to Mr. Schrags' appearance at the October 8th Park Board meeting. If you have any questions please give me a call.

Patrick Foran

Director, Parks & Community Services

City of Bellevue

pforan@bellevuewa.gov

425-452-5377

From: Foran, Patrick

Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 3:59 PM

To: Council <Council@bellevuewa.gov>

Cc: Kost, Glenn <GKost@bellevuewa.gov>; Cummins, Mac <MCummins@bellevuewa.gov>; McCormick-Huentelman, Mike <MMHuent@bellevuewa.gov>; Call, Toni <TCall@bellevuewa.gov>; Brittingham, Shelley <SBrittingham@bellevuewa.gov>; Esparza, Toni <TEsparza@bellevuewa.gov>; Foran, Patrick <PForan@bellevuewa.gov>; McVein, Shelley <SMcVein@bellevuewa.gov>; Parker, Camron <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>; Sanner, Doug <DSanner@bellevuewa.gov>; Stephens, Helena <HStephens@bellevuewa.gov>

Subject: Ashwood Park. Public Comments

Mayor Chelminiak, Deputy Mayor Robinson, Bellevue City Council members,

Mr. Vernon (Dwight) Schrag has sent communications to a variety of parties including City Council members, the Parks and Community Services Board and various city staff that pertain to the timing of a project in the Parks CIP to review the existing Ashwood Park Master Plan and concerns about the general condition of the park. The City's Ashwood Park is approximately 3.75 acres immediately west of the Downtown Bellevue King County Library.

The park is in an undeveloped state with limited improvements which include a parking lot, some tables and benches. Most of the park is an open lawn area which goes brown in the summer because there is no irrigation system. Even in this undeveloped state, the park is regularly used by many including several very popular special events. There is an existing Master Plan which was approved by the City Council in 1993 after a thorough public process. There is a Parks CIP project to Review the existing Master Plan to ensure that it is relevant to the contemporary needs and interests of the community. There are no funds appropriated in the CIP for development of Ashwood Park and wouldn't be until the review of the master plan was completed. The project has been delayed in the past due to workload demands. The Parks Department work plan anticipated starting the master plan review process in the 4th quarter of 2018. However, we might have to move that into 2019 again due to work load.

Over the last few years, we have been engaged in one of the most intensive park development phases in the Bellevue's history which includes the Completing the Circle and the Inspiration Playground in Downtown Park, Phase One of the Meydenbauer Bay Park Plan, Surrey Downs Park and the North East Entry to Downtown Park. These are all very complex, large scale and scope projects

requiring our full attention and resources to successfully complete. ***Meydenbauer Bay Park and Surrey Downs park are on track to be completed by December 2018. Completing those projects will free up resources to apply to conducting the public process for the review of the Ashwood Master Plan.*** The review of the Ashwood Master Plan will be a very high profile project involving substantial community engagement and comment. Because Ashwood Park and McCormick Park are the only public park spaces in the northern tier of Downtown, it is critical that the master plan review be conducted when there is capacity to be thorough, inclusive and creative.

Regarding the general condition of the undeveloped park, in several communications Mr. Schrag has contrasted the condition of the Ashwood lawn area with other fully developed parks. The pictures feature the brown turf in Ashwood which occurs every summer because there is no irrigation system for the main lawn area. We have communicated to Mr. Schrag that we could consider some lower cost improvements that would improve the general park condition and use of the park even in its undeveloped state.

If you have any further questions please give me a call.

Patrick Foran
Director, Parks & Community Services
City of Bellevue
pforan@bellevuewa.gov
425-452-5377

From: VERNON SCHRAG <dwights30@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 10:25 AM
To: Kumar, DEBRA <debrakkumar@gmail.com>
Cc: Parker, Camron <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>; Kost, Glenn <GKost@bellevuewa.gov>; Heilman, Mark <MHeilman@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Bellevue Parks & Communities Board Planning

Hello Again Debra, Greetings from the Ashwood Neighborhood. We've reached out to Willburton Community and also to the Bellevue Downtown Residents (Neighborhood) Association (BDRA). Planning is underway for a sit-down communications session with BDA (Bellevue Downtown Association) on ideas for how to build our Downtown membership to be as strong and engaged as Willburton's. So many new residents to contact in the exploding population Downtown!

We think a non-Voting membership in the Parks Board (ex-Officio) will do for now to get some immediate action going. Jennifer Robertson will have to make that call, recommending such membership to the Bellevue Mayor under City Code Policy. Be thinking who you'd suggest if you get such a request.

See the attached recommendations to Mayor Chelminiak. We believe the City Council needs to step in at this point. Just keeping you informed as a volunteer Chair for Parks Board. Please continue to discuss these issues with Patrick Foran and urge transparency and action for build-out for Ashwood Park. This is important to us as you know so well.

Thanks, Dwight Schrag

Ashwood Neighborhood

----- Original Message -----

From: VERNON SCHRAG <dwights30@comcast.net>
To: wilburtonpresident@gmail.com
Date: October 22, 2018 at 10:09 AM
Subject: Bellevue Parks Board Planning

Dear Ashley Kaiser,

Greetings from the Ashwood Downtown Neighborhood! You are listed as the Neighborhood Association President for your community. Several of us took a private stroll through the Wilburton Park to see where the Boys & Girls Club is proposing first-priority for their one-acre "indoor-sports clubhouse".

For our own Downtown 2-acre Ashwood Park we've had to fend off attempts by the Parks Board/Parks Department Planners to place a Fire Station, as well as a KCLS Library automobile "Traffic Circle" with underground Entry-Tunnel into the KCLS parking garage. Both projects were of at least one-acre in size, about half (50%) of our entire park space. These plans were done behind-the-scenes by City Council until they were sprung on Ashwood Neighborhood.

We also attended the October 9th Parks Board Meeting in City Hall alongside many Willburton residents; and made our own public communications complaints about "lack of transparency and dishonesty" in these project proposals done without our neighborhood's input. Seems we have the same problem? We have longtime friends in Surrey Downs neighborhood who've experienced similar "poor Park-planning" by Parks & Community Services Department.

And then there's this longstanding and ongoing "Fiasco with PSE" and Tree-cutting plans in our city's Phantom Lake area where we also have close friends and former neighbors.

Something has to change. See our attached letter to **Mayor Chelminiak and City Council** provided for tonight's City Council Meeting.

Best to you. Good luck in preserving your beautiful park. We've not been there until our tour last week but we loved it. Stand your ground. PASS IT ON TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

Regards, Dwight Schrag

Downtown Ashwood Park resident

From: Debra Kumar <debrakkumar@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 12:52 PM

To: VERNON SCHRAG <[dwights30@comcast.net](mailto:dwrights30@comcast.net)>

Cc: Parker, Camron <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>; Kost, Glenn <GKost@bellevuewa.gov>; Heilman, Mark <MHeilman@bellevuewa.gov>

Subject: Re: Bellevue Parks & Communities Board Planning

Thank you Mr Schrag. I appreciate you reaching out. I will follow up with City staff and Council.

Debra Kumar

Chair, Parks and Community Services Board

From: VERNON SCHRAG <[dwights30@comcast.net](mailto:dwrights30@comcast.net)>
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2018 3:52 PM
To: Kost, Glenn <GKost@bellevuewa.gov>; Parker, Camron <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>; Kumar, DEBRA <debrakkumar@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Bellevue Mayor & City Council: City Budgeting Process for Ashwood Park Project(s) 2019-2020

Hello Parks & Parks Board leaders. Passing along our latest email with submittals to Mayor & City Council & Finance Director Call. Keeping you updated as we move along towards Budget Decisions for 2019-2020.

Just our latest attempt to get some proactive leadership decisions by our Bellevue City Council to build out Ashwood Park right away. Not years from now or further needless delays as during the past seven years.

Will also send this packet of information to Willburton's Neighborhood Board Members FYI so they can review, discard and/or prepare for their own actions with City Council and Parks Board in coming weeks and months regarding a proposed Fieldhouse in their neighborhood parks land. Neighborhoods matter. Facts matter.

Also, working separately with Downtown Bellevue Residents Association to gather up new residents for membership; and build further general awareness to help us out on these issues. You get the point.

I realize this is a combination of conditions on the ground; City Planning Policies; Neighborhood Inputs during 2017 Survey; and an attempt to analyze and/or report on probable causes for seven years of inactions or planning failures. Trying to put the puzzle and big-picture together for City Leadership to help them make future decisions. Community matters.

Regards, Dwight Schrag

Downtown Ashwood Neighborhood Resident

----- Original Message -----

From: VERNON SCHRAG <[dwights30@comcast.net](mailto:dwrights30@comcast.net)>
To: council@bellevuewa.gov
Cc: "Baldwin, David" <DBaldwin@bellevuewa.gov>
Date: November 2, 2018 at 8:20 AM
Subject: Bellevue Mayor & City Council: City Budgeting Process for Ashwood Park Project(s) 2019-2020

Dear Mayor, City Council & Finance Director:

Please add these [Public Comments & Attachments to City Clerks Official Records re: CIP Budget 2019-2020](#).

Parks Department failed to submit Budget One funding for Ashwood Park. Our Formal Request (details attached) to **take action in 2019-2020 CIP** regarding budgeting Capital Funds to **complete the Downtown Ashwood Park Project in 2019**. We've outlined details of what may be causing difficulties in getting such simple projects planned and completed. Assess what you want to do about it. Problems in Management and Standards seem very clear.

Ask your volunteer members of the Parks and Community Services Board "why"? Facts matter. Please take appropriate action to budget \$2.5 Million for 2019-2020 to build out the Park.

Ashwood's Parking Lot was previously funded and completely built out during 2016-2017. Time to finish the job.

See enclosed **Ashwood Park photo taken September 2018** to get a full grasp of problems. Take a closer look at unhappy, forlorn "***Yuck-Picnickers***". Imagine **your own family's disgust** at trying to picnic on this barren, unkempt piece of land in the Downtown's most dense, fastest growing location with thousands of nearby residents.

Would you go there? Please think about how mothers and fathers feel when their tiny toddlers sit in dust and dirt, not grass. **And KidsQuest Museum and KCLS Downtown is right next to this incomplete project.** You may understand frustrations and anger at Park's failed-decision-making skills over all these many years of inaction.

Make changes in your Parks Planning processes using Budget One Expectation and Bellevue's Planning Policies that allow each of you to be wise-stewards of Downtown's Neighborhood.

What a tragic embarrassment for our so-called "City in a Park". Bellevue's City Council must now address this situation and honor its own "Vision". **2019-2020 Budget Cycle is your opportunity to correct past mistakes.**

We're **not asking for your personal apologies** to your Constituents and our Community. However, you are accountable for these MANY years of delays and excuses. Funding this Ashwood Park Project and getting it built is our modest, realistic request; and will show City Council's Leadership capabilities.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Dwight and Mary Schrag

Downtown Ashwood Neighborhood Residents

----- Original Message -----

From: "Nunnelee, Sandra J." <SJNunnelee@bellevuewa.gov>

To: VERNON SCHRAG <[dwights30@comcast.net](mailto:dwrights30@comcast.net)>

Date: October 8, 2018 at 7:20 AM

Subject: RE: City Council: re-City Budgeting Process for Ashwood Park Project(s) 2019-2020

Dwight and Mary,

Thank you for contacting the Bellevue City Council. This email is to let you know that Council has received your email and appreciates citizens like you who take the time to engage with leadership and become part of the solution. Your email has also been shared with key staff in the city working on this issue.

Regards,

Sandra Nunnelee | Executive Assistant to the City Council | City of Bellevue

425-452-4088 : sjunnelee@bellevuewa.gov : 450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

From: VERNON SCHRAG <[dwights30@comcast.net](mailto:dwrights30@comcast.net)>

Sent: Saturday, October 06, 2018 13:14

To: Council <Council@bellevuewa.gov>

Cc: Finance Department <FinanceDepartment@bellevuewa.gov>

Subject: City Council: re-City Budgeting Process for Ashwood Park Project(s) 2019-2020

Dear Mayor, Council & Finance Staff,

Enclosed per attached is our October Memo & Parks Plan copy regarding progress for budgeting and higher-level of importance we ascribe to build out the Ashwood Park property so your constituents can safely utilize its outstanding potential outdoor benefits by finishing up the park project. We'd like to use it but cannot fully utilize it for numerous reasons we've described to you in years past, beginning 2012.

You've heard from us in prior years (5 years running) about why we think it should receive some budget and capital priority, especially to update the defunct, obsolete 1990 plans; and hold community meetings and public hearings for inputs and recommendations so the park can be built for people to use. There were promises but nothing got done. The badly outdated, old plan still contains referral to a large (civic center) building on the South half of this tiny piece of parks land??

Thank you. We'll be addressing you in November's Council sessions for public inputs once your finalized budget from Director Call arrives in front of you for 2019-2020.

Regards,
Dwight & Mary Schrag
Downtown Ashwood Neighborhood residents

**Public Comments - Bellevue City Council 2019-2020 Budget
Submitted for City Clerk Public Record 11-2-2018**

Attn: Bellevue City Council & Finance Director

November 2, 2018

RE: Parks Department CIP Budget - Ashwood Downtown Park

Lack of City Council Leadership: We can't to decide how to help Bellevue's City Council fix this process. So many issues and mistakes to correct, plus lack of listening skills in City Government. Lack of Council leadership hampered Budget Processes for at least seven (7) years. Stonewalling and inaction seems a flawed decision, shutting down and disregarding inputs from our Downtown Neighborhood, stifling volunteer Parks Board members' action on Ashwood Park.

Ashwood Park's Hidden Agenda: It's likely there was always a well-hidden Park's strategy for Ashwood that NEVER DID include building out a quality green space for outdoor recreation for use by our Downtown Community. Vital factors must be resolved to avoid future conflicts with City Government officials.

CODES & STANDARDS ARE NOT DEVELOPED OR ARE DISREGARDED

There have been failures to meet City Codes and Planning Policies. Not even Park basics like signage for Parks Hours, dog-leash standards, etc were initiated until King County Animal Control and Neighborhood residents put it in writing about proper postings (in 2018). Previous complaints in prior years got no action whatsoever. Grass died out in summer due to lack of proper maintenance. Not a single bench was installed so elderly visitors could sit down. Such poor Bellevue City practices are evidence of improper management.

BASICS ARE NOT IN PLACE FOR ADHERENCE TO CURRENT POLICIES

Fundamentally, we think there may be **no Parks Standards for completing ANY** of the projects on the books. That means the City can go off in some unwise direction at a whim, as recently done for Willburton Park's Fieldhouse idea. City Manager Miyake must establish **"Capital Planning Standards"** similar to those for building streets, utilities and pedestrian walkways. This entire process appears to be slipshod, haphazard and unprofessional; plus lacking basic Management integrity or professional skills to implement projects. And our Tax-dollars are being wasted by inefficiencies, poor progress tracking and **lack of budget oversight**.

PARKS BOARD SEEMS UNCLEAR HOW TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES

(1) **Parks Board Volunteers** haven't gotten organized regarding how to address issues or make informed decisions, ... nor coached how to ask meaningful questions. In September when Parks Board Members asked questions and inquired about what was going on for building out Ashwood Park, they were told they'd ***"already had a briefing and nothing changed since then."*** Will you get this fixed so decisions can be made using facts and data?

(2) **See item 1 above**, exemplifying a ridiculous resolution since the Downtown Community has **not a clue about such "plans or briefings"**. These issues appear to create similar problems for Surrey Downs and Willburton. This

**Public Comments - Bellevue City Council 2019-2020 Budget
Submitted for City Clerk Public Record 11-2-2018**

shaky Parks Department leadership, lack of management skills plus inability to make decisions results from **“Unreliable Planning Processes”**. There’s no reason to assign a Volunteer Parks Board if they cannot (or don't know how to) carry out roles assigned by Bellevue City Council Codes or Policies. Millions of Tax dollars are wasted by cost overruns resulting from poor progress-tracking or ineffective oversight. Trends are obvious that may get quickly **“out-of-control”**.

(3) Dozens of residents were at October's Parks Board meeting, hearing Councilmember Jennifer Robertson being asked about costs for Meydenbauer Project. Robertson replied that Parks Department spent **\$40 Million to date**, ... but **\$\$ figures were 100%-off** since actual costs **exceeded \$80 Million**. Inaccurate costs data got corrected by Parks staff. But errors in knowledge or missing data along with **deficient budget management** impacts Bellevue City Councils' ability to make good decisions.

BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL MUST TAKE CHARGE OF NEEDED CHANGE

October memos to Mayor + City Council, City Manager Miyake and Councilmember Robertson represent real concerns based on years and years of unsatisfactory performance (a personal opinion) by City Planners, City Council, Parks Department plus Finance Department. Results are mediocre at best. But there are areas of City Management that seem to be carried out exceptionally well, so it’s possible to do good work if City Management uses **“reasonable judgment and strive for professional results”**. **Results matter.**

See (3) enclosures for priority consideration of **Community Satisfaction**; and **Planning Policy requirements** that impacts **Capital purchases of Additional** parks land. Council must incorporate sufficient budgets for proper maintenance of existing sites. Long-standing failure to complete Ashwood Park demonstrates **sloppy- adherence to public policy; and disregard for public-transparency.**

Bellevue is also spending/budgeting for a “Grand Connection Downtown” project plus other Capital Land purchases during 2019-2020. Another major “watch-out” for Fiscal Planning and Policy and Code Violations in Bellevue may result. Budget decision-making must include closer attention to policy. At least **four (4) current City Council Members** have been directly informed of Parks Department Planning issues over period 2012-to-present. Can we get Ashwood Capital budgets funded prior to finalizing CIP Budgets for 2019-2020? Thanks.

**Sincerely, Dwight Schrag Downtown Ashwood Community Resident
1106 108th Ave NE Bellevue, WA 98004**

Enclosures (3) – Bellevue 2017 Satisfaction Survey & City Policies

A – Sense of Community by Neighborhood (Table 27)

B - Key Drivers - Healthy Living & Neighborhoods (Figures 26 & 27)

C – Bellevue Planning Policy Sections (PA-19, 26, 27, 28, 29 & 34)

Parks Department Failed or Disregarded City Planning Policies - See Eight (8) Policy Elements

Submitted: November 2, 2018 to Finance Director

CIP 2019-2020 REQUEST ADDITIONAL FUNDING CAPITAL BUDGET \$2.5 MILLION ESTIMATED FOR PLANNING, DESIGN, CAPITAL & LANDSCAPING

Note: Parking Lot already fully re-built & landscaped

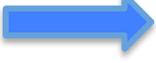
DOWNTOWN ASHWOOD PARK GREEN SPACES

Bellevue Parks & Open Spaces Planning Policies



POLICY PA-24. Encourage the development of facilities for special purpose recreation.

POLICY PA-29. Evaluate existing parks and facilities, and renovate, where appropriate, to maximize efficient maintenance and operating practices, improve safety and accessibility for all users, and to reduce, where feasible, the impacts on adjacent properties.



POLICY PA-37. Actively solicit community input in the planning and delivery of services and programs to ensure that they are convenient and beneficial.



POLICY PA-34. Provide a variety of services and programs throughout the city serving the general population and placing special emphasis on programs and services for youth, seniors, the disabled, and the disadvantaged.

POLICY PA-35. Promote partnerships with public and private service providers to meet cultural, recreational, and social needs of the community.

POLICY PA-36. Provide opportunities for individuals to develop a sense of community through services and programs.



POLICY PA-1. Establish a coordinated and connected system of open space and greenways throughout the city that provide multiple benefits including preserving natural systems, protecting wildlife habitat and corridors, and providing land for recreation.



POLICY PA-2. Support a region wide park and open space system.



POLICY PA-3. Obtain land throughout the community to meet present and future open space needs.



POLICY PA-4. Equitably distribute neighborhood park and recreation opportunities by type throughout the city.



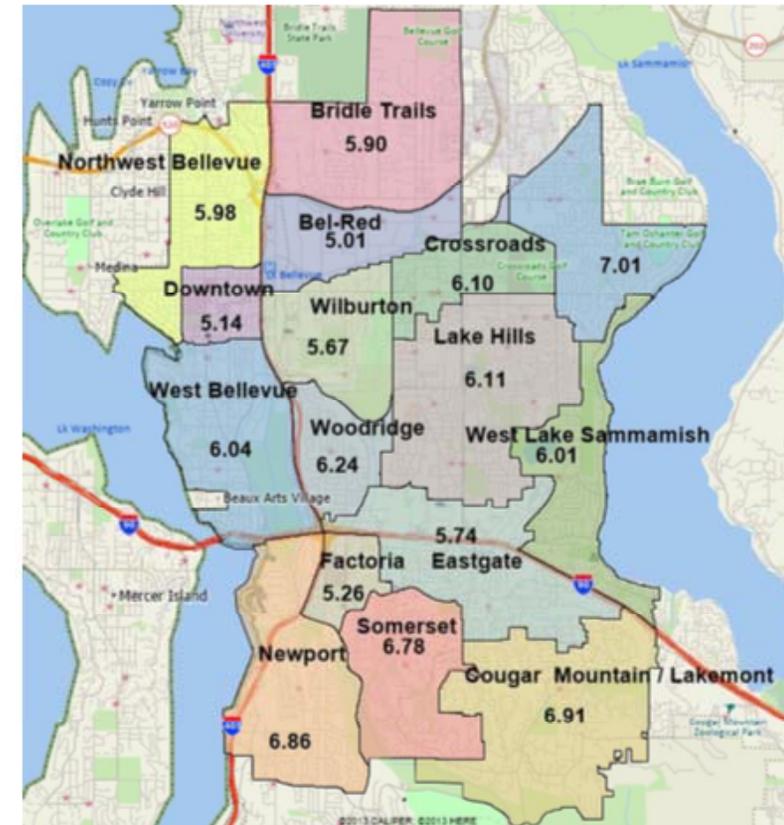
POLICY PA-19. Develop parks and facilities in a quality manner to assure attractiveness, full utilization, and long term efficiency.

Bellevue Satisfaction 2017 Survey: SENSE OF COMMUNITY (SEE DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD) CAN BE IMPROVED & NURTURED

Table 27: Sense of Community by Neighborhood

	No Community	Little	Neutral	Some	Strong Community	Mean	Sample Size
Bel-Red	0%	39%	25%	35%	0%	5.01	(n=4)
Bridle Trails	11%	12%	20%	35%	22%	5.90	(n=44)
Cougar Mountain / Lakemont	0%	13%	2%	61%	23%	6.91	(n=29)
Crossroads	5%	15%	22%	38%	19%	6.10	(n=22)
Downtown	17%	20%	17%	33%	12%	5.14↓	(n=82)
Eastgate	12%	11%	15%	54%	8%	5.74	(n=38)
Factoria	0%	29%	37%	34%	0%	5.26	(n=10)
Lake Hills	8%	18%	11%	48%	16%	6.11	(n=66)
Newport	5%	15%	14%	30%	38%	6.86	(n=31)
Northeast Bellevue	0%	23%	5%	42%	29%	7.01	(n=41)
Northwest Bellevue	10%	17%	13%	41%	19%	5.98	(n=43)
West Lake Sammamish	17%	13%	8%	22%	40%	6.01	(n=20)
Somerset	0%	18%	9%	47%	26%	6.78	(n=21)
West Bellevue	4%	16%	16%	47%	17%	6.04	(n=32)
Wilburton	6%	27%	9%	46%	12%	5.67	(n=15)
Woodridge	6%	15%	14%	56%	9%	6.24	(n=13)

Figure 33: Sense of Community by Neighborhood



Maps illustrate differences in mean ratings by neighborhood.

HOOD2—Some neighborhoods have what is called a “sense of community.” Would you say your neighborhood has a...? Mean based on eleven-point scale where “0” means “No sense of community at all” and “10” means “Strong sense of community”

Base: All respondents

Figure 26: Key Drivers—Healthy Living

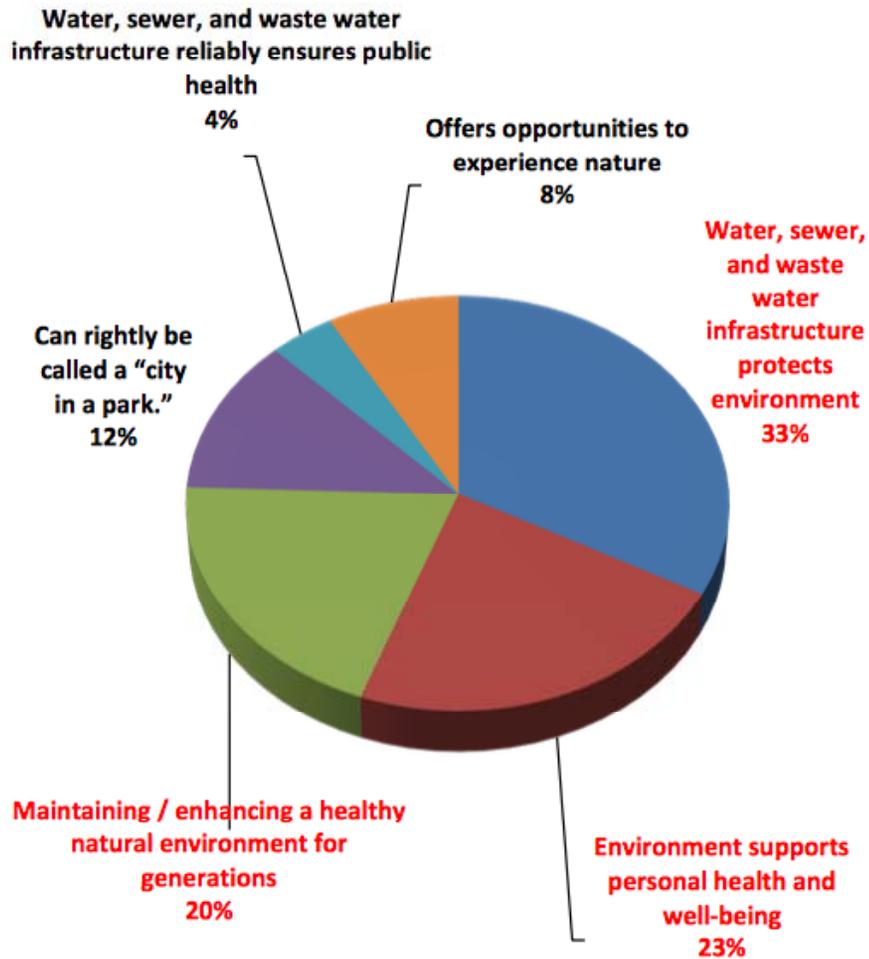
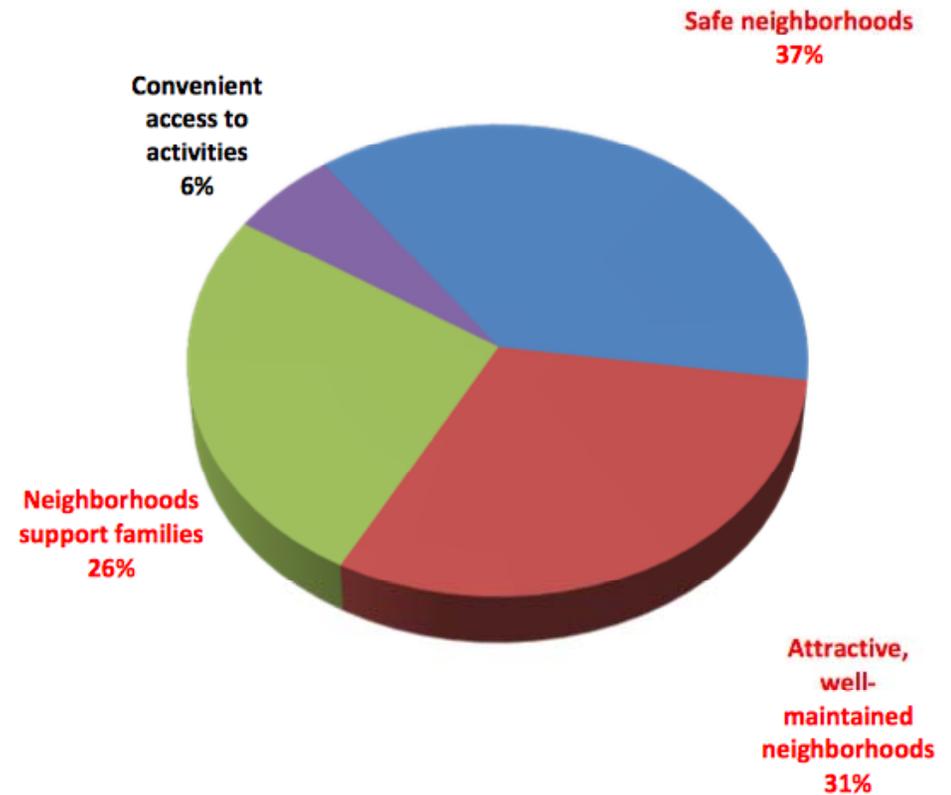


Figure 27: Key Drivers—Neighborhoods



From: Pat M

Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 12:01 PM

To: Parker, Camron <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>; Harvey, Nancy <NHarvey@bellevuewa.gov>

Subject: Bellevue skate parks

Hello,

I'm a Bellevue resident who has been enjoying the local skate parks with my family and I was curious about how the city government evaluates and feels about their utilization levels and if they have been a good investment. Also, how do plans for future parks or expansions get formed?

I'm just a beginner skateboarder, so I feel more comfortable at the parks when there's not a lot of people - going early in the day has been a pretty good time. My kids prefer using scooters, but there really isn't a good facility in Bellevue for those. Maybe a future park could be made to accommodate those as well? The old children's theatre at Ivanhoe sports field might be a good location if there aren't plans for that site yet.

Anyway, thanks for listening and have a good day!

Pat M

-----Original Message-----

From: Mittelstaedt, Theodore

Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 1:42 PM

To:

Cc: Parker, Camron <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>; Harvey, Nancy <NHarvey@bellevuewa.gov>

Subject: RE: Bellevue skate parks

Hello,

Thank you for your note.

The Indoor Bellevue Skatepark has been in operation for 24 years. The success is attributed to many factors; including the good work of onsite staff, and overall support of the community and City. We continually evaluate operations of the skatepark and all recreation programs. Additionally we are always looking at trends in recreation. We strive to have our programs and facilities be flexible enough to effectively respond to trends and community needs, as best we can.

I checked in with Bellevue Skatepark staff on your questions. Over the years we did have some requests for scooters being allowed in the park and for designated sessions for scooters. The mix of skateboarders, and scooter riders in our relatively small skatepark was deemed an unsafe mix. We tried scooter sessions and had a very limited response, thus making those

sessions not viable. We do offer the option for groups to rent the facility for exclusive scooter usage. On site staff at 425-452-2722 can set up rentals.

Also skatepark staff noted that there is a nearby scooter shop <https://www.proscootershop.com/> that has plans to open a scooter park in Redmond in the near future. <https://www.proscootershop.com/pages/indoor-scooter-park>

Thank you for taking the time to send us your questions and observations. Please let me know if you have any more questions or concerns.

Ted Mittelstaedt
Parks & Community Services
Community Services Supervisor
O) 425-452-4882

-----Original Message-----

From: Pat M
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 5:27 PM
To: Mittelstaedt, Theodore <TMittelstaedt@bellevuewa.gov>
Cc: Parker, Camron <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>; Harvey, Nancy <NHarvey@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: Re: Bellevue skate parks

Thanks for the reply! I agree, the existing parks - highland indoor park and outdoor plaza, and the crossroads skate bowl are not well suited for scooter use, and skateboards should have priority.

I was mainly wondering what it would take for Bellevue to consider adding a new park to complement those. Not just to accommodate scooters, but even to offer skateboarding features that the others lack and to provide capacity for the growth of these activities.

My curiosity about this comes from watching videos of spacious skateparks in other cities and puzzling over what conditions bring them into being. (Maybe it's climate, or a much greater number of people interested in using the parks, or something that needs to be driven by the private sector)

Anyway, Bellevue's parks are the best maintained in the area, so I do appreciate having them!

Have a good day,
Pat M

From: Nicole
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2018 5:04 PM
To: Miyake, Brad; Foran, Patrick
Subject: My findings on the Bellevue Skatepark Staff and Volunteers

TO: Brad Miyake
Patrick Foran

RE: Bellevue SkatePark Staff and Volunteers

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you today about the program and specifically about the staff and the volunteers within the skate park programming in Bellevue Campus. I assume you get many letters like this and hold a busy schedule yet it is my hope that you will take a moment to read my note.

My two sons had taken 6 weeks of daily programming over the summer 2018 as well as during last year Spring camp. I do not ever leave my children or drop them off or walk out to use my phone etc; I am always within ear and eye shot of the skate park staff and volunteers. We have experience with many programs as my children go to -swim, gymnastics, piano, soccer, etc.

The staff and volunteers at the skate park (all of them- Joe, Josh, Cameron, Owen, Nate, James) are some of the most impressive teachers and community leaders I have encountered. The way they lead the kids and the culture of success they instill within the park (thus the kids) is heart warming and frankly unusual in today's world. As a group they are leaving a real tangible positive impact on our community, on my community, on the community that my children and their peers reside in. I can't be more grateful for that.

I also can't be any more grateful for what they gave my children every single day- consistently encouraging and displaying themselves with integrity, kindness, and compassion. Kids see right through people and respond accordingly. My youngest is sometimes his worst enemy in achieving his goals, but they didn't let him fail himself, and every day they made certain he left feeling his own version of success. My other child needs a different type of support to attain his goals, they adapted to meet my kids where they were both at individually. As a parent this is something I cannot repay them for, to witness them attain their individual successes made me tear up some days, it is a priceless gift they gave to my children. One that extends beyond the walls of that skate park and will be something they will carry with them as a positive reinforcer in their lifetime of learning.

Anyways wanted to drop note of thanks and note of what I have witnessed first hand daily at the park this summer.

Thank you for the time to read through this note. Thank you for hiring these incredible human beings and letting them develop a program like this. Thank you for continuing to support programs like this for my community.

With much gratitude,
Nicole C, LCSW

Dear Ms. C;

It was a pleasure reading your recent note. Thank you for your kind words. We are very proud of the great work performed by the staff at the Skatepark. I have made sure to share your compliments with Joe Moorman and the Skatepark staff.

Sincerely,

Ted Mittelstaedt
Parks & Community Services
Community Services Supervisor
O) 425-452-4882

From: TRINA B
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 6:26 PM
To: Parkswweb <parkswweb@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: Many Thanks

To the Parks Maintenance Personnel:

I've been wanting to thank your staff for the wonderful job they do to maintain the Bellevue Parks, especially the Lake Hills Park and the Crossroads Park. I don't have children and never discovered the Bellevue Parks before, even though I've lived in Bellevue for decades. Last Spring, I needed to find a safe, flat walkway to take my disabled dog, Buddy, on his daily walks. I have driven by the Lake Hills and Crossroads Parks for years, but never actually drove in and used them until last Spring. Each day, I'm so impressed with how clean, safe, well-manicured and maintained these Parks are. Your staff work hard to keep them so beautiful and I just want to give them a big THANK YOU. I appreciate all they do so we can enjoy the beauty of the Bellevue Parks.

Sincerely,
Trina



Crossroads



Lake Hills

Dear Mr. Foran,

Just a little note to thank you and your entire department for your stewardship of the parks and trails in Bellevue. I live in South Bellevue so I most frequently visit the trails in Robinswood Park, Lewis Creek Park and the Lake Hills Greenbelt area with my older Great Dane Lucy by my side. We have also spent countless hours traipsing over the twisting trails on Somerset Hill near our home.

I am continually struck by my good fortune to live in such a beautiful place and to be part of a community that values access to the natural world. I've included a handful of photos that I have taken over the last couple of years that showcase just a tiny fraction of the beauty and magic in our parks.

Please share my deep gratitude to everyone at the City of Bellevue who cares for our parks. A special note of thanks to whomever had the vision to prop up the moss-laden archway on the trail at Lewis Creek Park. I imagine it would have been faster and more cost-effective to cut down the branches as they dropped lower and began blocking the trail. Instead the magical section was preserved and it still feels like you have entered a fairytale as you walk under the mossy arbor.

The work that you do makes our city a special place - it's important, it's seen and appreciated. 11



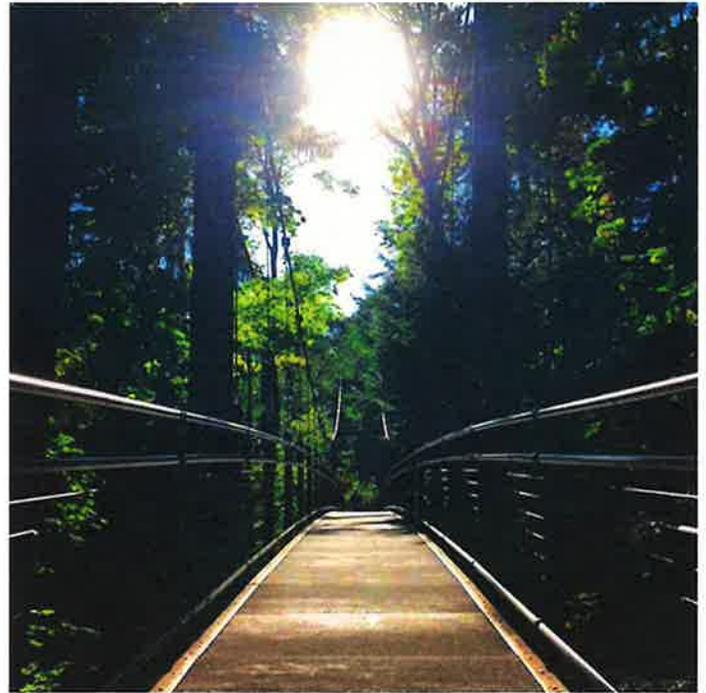
Coal Creek Natural Area



Robinswood Park



Robinswood Park



Bellevue Botanical Garden



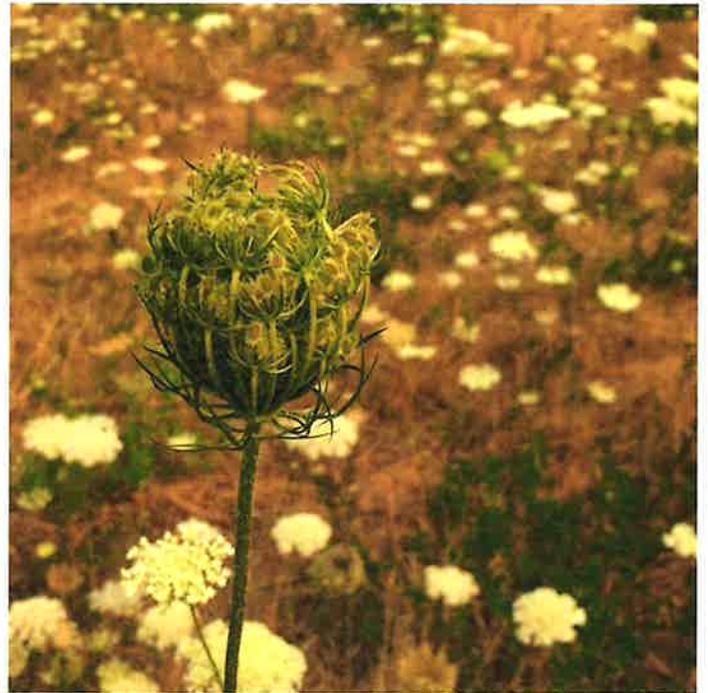
Lewis Creek Park



Mercer Slough Nature Park



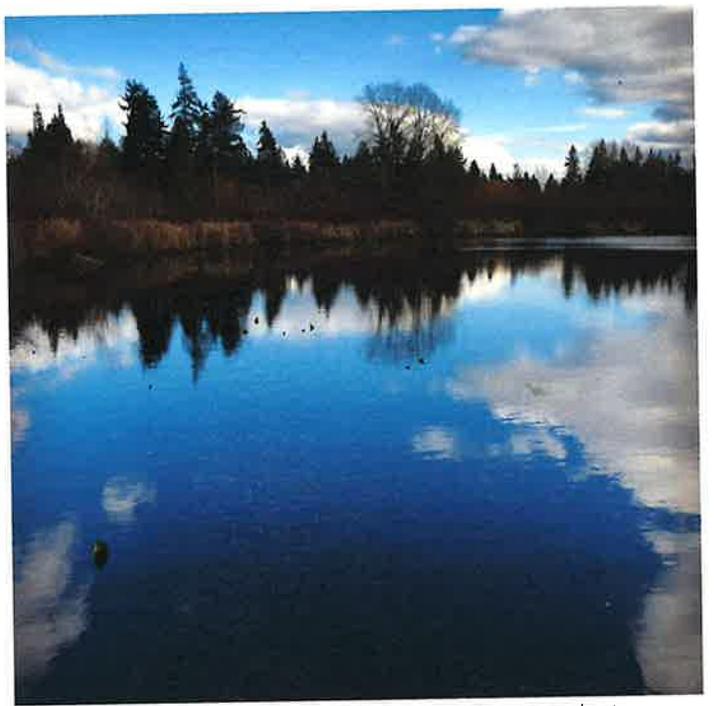
Saddleback Park Trail



Bellevue Airfield Park



Lake Hills Greenbelt



Larsen Lake

From: Martha C

Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2018 8:52 AM

To: Harvey, Nancy <NHarvey@bellevuewa.gov>

Subject: The Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue Fieldhouse at Wilburton Hill Park

Dear Ms. Harvey,

I am not sure who to contact regarding the future BGCB fieldhouse at Wilburton Hill Park. If you are not aware about this project please forward my email to the right person.

I am very concerned about the impact this project will have on the environment, the city's tree canopy and wildlife habitat loss. Wilburton Hill Park is one of my favorite parks here in Bellevue because of its trails, amazing trees, and wildlife (deer, small mammals, raptors, as well as a variety of native and migratory birds) that call this incredible land their home. It is like an enchanted forest. Please do not allow this project to go forward if it will be built in a forested area.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Martha C

From: Chris J
Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 2:12 PM
To: Faine, Christina <CFaine@bellevuewa.gov>; Bowers, Mike <MBowers@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: RE: Bannerwood Park

Christina and Mike – My friends and colleagues enjoyed the article “Bannerwood Bench,” in the October issue of *Bellevue It’s Your City*. In return, I want you to see the blog piece I wrote, “A Thank You to City Staff.”

<https://www.bellevuechamber.org/blogpost/1221166/312792/A-Thank-You-to-City-Staff-Preliminary-Election-Results-Holiday-Food-and-Toy-Drive-Sound-Transit-Service-Changes>

Best Wishes - Chris

Chris Johnson | Director of Government Relations
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
P: 425.213.1208 | F: 425.462.4660 | E: cjohnson@bellevuechamber.org
330 112th Ave. NE, Suite 100, Bellevue, WA 98004



A Thank You to City Staff,

Posted By [Chris Johnson](#), November 7, 2018

<https://www.bellevuechamber.org/blogpost/1221166/312792/A-Thank-You-to-City-Staff-Preliminary-Election-Results-Holiday-Food-and-Toy-Drive-Sound-Transit-Service-Changes>

A Thank You to City Staff

With all the acrimony surrounding this year’s election cycle, I would like to pause and thank City of Bellevue staff for the good work they do, every day in our community.

Earlier this year, I contacted Bellevue Parks staff and suggested installation of a bench at Bannerwood Sports Park. They agreed and now there is a new bench and picnic table in a nice shady area facing the Richards Creek basin, a great place to experience local flora and fauna.

Thanks again to Bellevue Parks staff for your customer-service attitude! Read the full story on page four, in the October issue of [Bellevue It’s Your City](#).

From *It's Your City*
Bench for birders added to Bannerwood

By Christina Faine, Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

With a top-notch baseball stadium, Bannerwood Sports Park is a home field for some serious teams, including the Seattle University Redhawks. But with Richards Creek running through a wetland next to the 12-acre park, the Redhawks aren't the only birds who roost here.

The creek is a magnet for wildlife, and people in the neighborhood visit the park regularly for exercise and as a place to connect with nature. At a resident's request, the city has added a picnic table and bench facing the wetland.

"I thought this was a great example of staff nimbly responding to a constituent request," said longtime resident and daily park visitor Chris Johnson, who contacted Parks & Community Services. "Thanks to Mike Bowers (Parks maintenance) and his colleagues, Bannerwood now has a picnic table and wonderful bench that residents and visitors of all ages can enjoy."

Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Events List
(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

NOVEMBER 2018

- Nov 2** **Lewis Creek Story Time: “Warm Winter Beds”**
Two sessions, choose one – 11 a.m. –noon OR 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Look, listen and create during an hour of stories and crafts! When the air gets chilly, our animal friends find homes for the winter. Some animals will find their winter beds close to home, but others will go on loooooong journeys. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Nov 3** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lewis Creek Park, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Park Ranger to explore the natural and cultural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife, and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.
Distance: Approximately 1 mile. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Oct 26-Nov 4** **“Snow White” (Bellevue Youth Theatre play),**
October 26, 27, November 2, and 3 at 7 p.m.
October 28, November 3, and 4 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
This delightful retelling of the classic tale includes all your favorites. Come join us for a fantasy-filled fairy tale suitable for the whole family. **Ages:** All ages are welcome. **Cost:** \$15/ticket. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.
- Nov 3** **History of Wilburton and Kelsey Creek Farm, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
For a few decades, Wilburton was a larger town than nearby Bellevue. It had several hundred residents, its own culture, and a rich history. Come to Kelsey Creek Farm to learn about local Native Americans, early logging operations and the Twin Valley Dairy, all in the context of early Eastside history. **Ages:** 16 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required, but recommended to guarantee your spot. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803534.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Nov 4** **Running – Bellevue Youth Cross Country Event**, noon - 2 p.m.
Robinswood Park, near the playground, 2432 148th Avenue SE
Come join Bellevue Youth Sports on Sunday, November 4 for an exciting outdoor cross-country race at beautiful Robinswood Park. The race will take you through some of the wonderful and well-maintained trails in the park. Runners in grades K-12 can choose to race in either the 1/2-mile or 1-mile races. On-site registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. Parking is limited, so please arrive early.
Ages: Kids in kindergarten through 12th grade. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4627.
- Nov 4** **Mercer Slough Family-Friendly Ranger Hike**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., rain or shine
Meet at: Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Park Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This kid-oriented program aims to educate kids and their parents about the Nature Park while discovering the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. The hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge in the middle of the park. From there you will be able to continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Distance:** 1.5+ miles. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (30 feet elevation change). **Ages:** Family event; all ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Nov 4** **Let's Plant a Tree!** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Learn why tree leaves change color and why some trees don't. We'll try some experiments on tree leaves, go for a short walk through the forest at Lewis Creek Park, and then each participant will plant a willow tree! Please wear waterproof shoes. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Nov 9** **Movie with a Ranger: "Wild Kratts: The Blue and the Grey,"**
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
Join a Park Ranger to learn about our local ecosystem and how the animals interact in it. The Wild Kratts episode will show us a fun example of how important everything is in an ecosystem. When one of the characters turns into an oak tree, the team needs to use knowledge of gray squirrels and blue jays to save the day. Watch this family educational show with a Bellevue Park Ranger, and then the Park Ranger will follow with a fun program! **Ages:** 3 to 8 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6993.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Nov 9** **Night Hike at Lewis Creek Park**, 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
When the sun sets and the dark of night creeps in, Lewis Creek Park comes alive! Learn about the different nocturnal and crepuscular species that call the park home, and join a park ranger on a hike through the woods after dark! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as sturdy shoes for the journey. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 and older with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for youth and adult participants at <https://register.bellevuewa.gov> for course 1803883. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Nov 9-18** **“Wendy and Peter: Into Neverland” (Bellevue Youth Theatre play)**,
November 9, 10, 16, and 17 at 7 p.m.
November 11, 17, and 18 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
We’ve all heard the story of Peter Pan. Now it’s time to hear from Wendy! In an original twist of a classic tale, *Wendy and Peter: Into Neverland* explores the world of fairies, pirates and children who never grow up, all through the eyes of Wendy. **Ages:** All ages are welcome. **Cost:** \$15/ticket. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.
- Nov 10** **Salmon Sense**, 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Each year, salmon migrate inland throughout our region... but have you ever wondered why they make this perilous journey or how they find their way? Join us at Lewis Creek Visitor Center as we dissect an adult salmon and discuss this incredible journey. Afterwards, we’ll head outside to learn about stream habitat. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 9-14 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for youth and adult participants by 4 p.m. the Friday before the event. **Info and to RSVP:** 425-452-4195.
- Nov 11** **Living with Wildlife: Cunning Crows**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Crows are one of Bellevue’s most commonly-seen wildlife residents. They have more advanced cognitive abilities than many mammals, have amazing memory and are very social. Find out why crows gather in enormous numbers and what the fuss is all about. Learn what crows know, and discover how we can get along together. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** This program is best for adults. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Nov 12** **Holiday Farm Tour: Veterans' Day**, 11 a.m. – noon or 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park Animal Barn Foyer, 410 130th Place SE
Bring the whole family to come visit our resident farm animals! Meet our ponies, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, and rabbits, all while discovering what it takes to be a farmer. You will get to pet many of our animals and even feed some of them!
Ages: 2 years and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$8/resident and \$10/non-resident per person. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #18353911 for the 11 a.m. tour, and course #18353912 for the 1:30 p.m. tour.
- Nov 17** **Turkey Trot**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Y'all come on down to the Northwest Arts Center to dance and play! Create a colorful fall turkey centerpiece to enjoy for your holiday table. Snacks included. Caregiver is required to be in class. **Ages:** Ages 2 to 5 years. **Cost:** \$21/resident and \$26/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Nov 17** **Grateful for Goat and Happy for Horses**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
There's a lot to be thankful for at Kelsey Creek Farm! Children will ride a pony, take our goats on a walk, give treats to the animals for a job well done, and then come into the barn for a craft and a treat of their own. Come dressed for the weather. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$30/resident and \$36/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803646.
- Nov 17** **Family Discovery Series: Swim to Spawn**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Salmon were once abundant here in the Pacific Northwest, but they've been on a rapid decline in most of our region. Come learn more about the salmon that make the arduous journey from the ocean to the Mercer Slough, where they will eventually spawn in the shallow waters of Kelsey Creek. Learn about the different stages of our salmon and what you can do to help aid in their survival. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Nov 17** **Let's Plant a Tree!** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Learn why tree leaves change color and why some trees don't. We'll try some experiments on tree leaves, go for a short walk through the forest at Lewis Creek Park, and then each participant will plant a willow tree! Please wear waterproof shoes. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Nov 18** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lakemont Community Park,** 10:30 a.m. – noon
Meet at: Lakemont Community Park, 5170 Village Park Drive SE
This lovely trail winds alongside a creek as we ascend and descend throughout the park. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Distance:** Approximately 2 miles. **Level of difficulty:** Moderately difficult (700 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Nov 22** **Fit for the Feast Masters Swim Workout,** 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center, 601 143rd Avenue NE
Join us for this two-hour Masters swim workout on Thanksgiving Day. All abilities are welcome. **Ages:** 19 years and older. **Cost:** \$12/person; includes a designer t-shirt. **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** Scott Armstrong – 425-452-2806.
- Nov 23** **Youth Appreciation & Safety Day,** 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center, 601 143rd Avenue NE
This event promotes water safety and proper lifejacket use. Come for swimming, raffles and water safety demonstrations. Free t-shirts for the first 50 children (12 years and younger)! **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** 12 years and younger – free! 13 years and older - \$7/person. **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4444.
- Nov 23 – Dec 2** **“Elf the Musical, Jr.” (Bellevue Youth Theatre play),**
November 23, 24, 30 and December 1 at 7 p.m.
November 25, December 1 and 2 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
This is the Broadway musical of the movie that featured Will Ferrell. BYT's version offers wonderful fun as the Elf saves Santa Claus, his father, and brings light and happiness to us all. **Ages:** All ages are welcome. **Cost:** \$15/ticket. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Nov 24 – Dec 30** **Garden d’Lights**, 4:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., every evening including holidays
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Garden d’Lights features over half a million sparkling lights formed into the whimsical shapes of plants, flowers, birds, animals and cascading waterfalls, set amid the natural beauty of the Bellevue Botanical Garden. **Cost:** \$5/person; children 10 and under are free and do not need a ticket. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time or at the event. **Free nights:** November 24-29. **Parking:** \$5 for on-site parking; free parking at Wilburton Hill Park. **To buy tickets ahead of time (beginning October 15) and for driving, parking and general information:** <http://www.gardendlights.org/>
- Nov 25** **Let’s Plant a Tree!** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Learn why tree leaves change color and why some trees don’t. We’ll try some experiments on tree leaves, go for a short walk through the forest at Lewis Creek Park, and then each participant will plant a willow tree! Please wear waterproof shoes. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Nov 28-Dec 1** **Hilltop Holiday Craft Show**, November 28-30, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; and December 1, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Lift your holiday spirit! Come and enjoy a delightful, unique, whimsical craft show featuring thousands of hand-crafted items from over 60 selected Northwest crafters. This show features one-of-a-kind products, including: holiday ornaments, decorations, pottery, jewelry, wood and knit items, and more. **Cost:** Admission and parking are free; craft items vary in price. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106. **Crafter application and information:** hilltop.crafts@frontier.com or <http://www.bellevuehilltopholidaycraftshow.com/>
- Nov 30** **Mice and Rabbits**, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
Sprinting or hopping through the green grass and between the tall trees, mice and rabbits are abundant in our parks through the whole year. How do these little creatures keep themselves safe from predators, and how do they prepare for winter? Enjoy a class about these critters with a Bellevue Park Ranger, and then join us for a craft! **Ages:** 3 to 8 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7225.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Nov 30** **Nature Movie Night: “Salmon: Running the Gauntlet,”** 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Salmon play a vital role in sustaining millions of miles of diverse ecosystems here in the Pacific Northwest. Unfortunately, human interference, over fishing and habitat loss have led to the drastic decline in their numbers. Their imminent disappearance will have lasting negative effects on the richness of our entire region. This film forces us to take a closer look at our conservation efforts. It will shed new light on how we are all connected and pay a vital role in the overall health of these iconic creatures and the health of our ecosystems. We’ll provide the popcorn! **Ages:** All ages welcome, but best for 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Nov 30** **Argosy Christmas Ship Festival,** 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.; ship arrives at 7:10 p.m.
Newcastle Beach Park, 4400 Lake Washington Blvd SE
Join us on shore to welcome Christmas Ships, presented by Argosy Cruises. Come with family and friends to marvel at the parade of boats as they come by the beach. You can join the caroling or just enjoy the onboard choir’s performance. Beach fire provided! **Ages:** All ages welcome; family event. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Events List
(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

DECEMBER 2018

- Nov 24 – Dec 30** **Garden d’Lights**, 4:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., every evening including holidays
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Garden d’Lights features over half a million sparkling lights formed into the whimsical shapes of plants, flowers, birds, animals and cascading waterfalls, set amid the natural beauty of the Bellevue Botanical Garden. **Cost:** \$5/person; children 10 and under are free and do not need a ticket. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time or at the event. **Free nights:** November 24-29. **Parking:** \$5 for on-site parking; free parking at Wilburton Hill Park. **To buy tickets ahead of time (beginning October 15) and for driving, parking and general information:** <http://www.gardendlights.org/>
- Nov 28-Dec 1** **Hilltop Holiday Craft Show**, November 28-30, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; and December 1, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Lift your holiday spirit! Come and enjoy a delightful, unique, whimsical craft show featuring thousands of hand-crafted items from over 60 selected Northwest crafters. This show features one-of-a-kind products, including: holiday ornaments, decorations, pottery, jewelry, wood and knit items, and more. **Cost:** Admission and parking are free; craft items vary in price. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106. **Crafter application and information:** hilltop.crafts@frontier.com or <http://www.bellevuehilltopholidaycraftshow.com/>
- Dec 1** **Let It Snow, Let It Snow**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Winter is coming, and we have to get ready! Come to the farm to learn how we keep the animals comfy all winter long. Children will get to ride a pony, do a farm chore, pet one of our adorable bunnies, and do a craft. We’ll finish by snuggling up in the barn with cocoa and a story. Come dressed for the weather. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$30/resident and \$36/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1803647.
- Dec 1** **Garden Class: Holiday Wreathmaking – Elements from Nature**,
10 a.m. - noon
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Start the holiday season right with a beautiful holiday wreath! Attendees will decorate and take home a lovely wreath made of natural greens. Decorations, ribbon, directions and ideas will be provided. **Cost:** \$60/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members and \$70/non-members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <https://bellevuebotanical.org/>

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Dec 1** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lewis Creek Park**, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Park Ranger to explore the natural and cultural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife, and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.
Distance: Approximately 1 mile. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Dec 2** **Family-Friendly Ranger Hike**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., rain or shine
Meet at: Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Park Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This kid-oriented program aims to educate kids and their parents about the Nature Park while discovering the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. The hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge in the middle of the park. From there you will be able to continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Distance:** 1.5 miles. **Level of Difficulty:** Easy (30 feet elevation change). **Ages:** Family event; all ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Dec 2** **Seafair's Holiday Cruise**, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Meydenbauer Yacht Club, 9927 Meydenbauer Way SE
This annual event serves individuals over 16 years old living with intellectual disabilities. Meydenbauer Yacht Club provides the ships and volunteers to join the parade along the Lake Washington shoreline. Individuals interested in attending must pre-register. Those using a wheelchair or walker need to register directly through Seafair. Space is limited. Interested volunteers should contact Mary Boyle at 425-452-4118. **Ages:** 16 years and older, individuals living with intellectual disabilities. **Cost:** Free. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** Contact Mary Boyle at Mboyle@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4118. **Info:** 425-452-7686.
- Dec 2** **Snoozing Bears**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Bears are snuggled up in their dens snoring away the winter, so now is a perfect time to discover more about them. Come find out about the different bear species that call North America home, and learn which kind you might see in Bellevue if you're lucky. We'll even try hibernating! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

Nov 23 – Dec 2 “Elf the Musical, Jr.” (Bellevue Youth Theatre play),

November 23, 24, 30 and December 1 at 7 p.m.

November 25, December 1 and 2 at 2 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street

This is the Broadway musical of the movie that featured Will Ferrell. BYT’s version offers wonderful fun as the Elf saves Santa Claus, his father, and brings light and happiness to us all. **Ages:** All ages are welcome. **Cost:** \$15/ticket. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.

Dec 7

Lewis Creek Story Time: “Snowflake Bentley”

Two sessions, choose one – 11 a.m. –noon OR 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Look, listen and create during an hour of stories and crafts! Wilson Bentley had a fascination with snowflakes – he spent his whole life studying snowflakes and pioneered a new way to photograph them. Find out more about how snowflakes are made, and what Wilson “Snowflake” Bentley’s photographs show us about snow during this story time. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.

Dec 7

Holiday Ball, 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Highland Community Center, 14224 Bel-Red Road

Get out your holiday best, pack your festive spirit, lace up your dancing shoes, and join us for our annual holiday ball. The Highland Community Center facilitates this event each year for adults living with intellectual disabilities.

Ages: 16 years and older, individuals living with intellectual disabilities. **Cost:** \$10/resident and \$12/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** Contact Mary Boyle at Mboyle@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4118. **Info:** 425-452-7686.

Dec 7 - 16

“Clara and the Nutcracker” (Bellevue Youth Theatre play),

December 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 7 p.m.

December 9, 15 and 16 at 2 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street

Before the Nutcracker was a ballet, there was a book by the same author of *The Three Musketeers*. Now see the story that inspired *The Nutcracker* and all the fun that comes from a live production. **Ages:** All ages are welcome. **Cost:** \$15/ticket. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Dec 8** **Whoooo's Hooting?** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Did you know that a barn owl can find its prey in total darkness? Or that great horned owls can clasp their talons with 28 pounds of force? Join us as we learn all about our favorite silent flying friends, try out our hoots, and dig deeper into an owl's diet by dissecting owl pellets! This is an indoor/outdoor program.
Ages: Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!
Pre-registration: RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the Friday before the event. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Dec 14** **Ranger Program: A Warm Winter Home,** 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
As the winter days become shorter and colder, many animals bundle up inside their little homes for protection. All sorts and sizes of animals build unique shelters to winter through the cold season. Come learn about these animals, their homes, and what we can do to help them keep safe until the spring. **Ages:** 3 to 8 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7225.
- Dec 15** **Sugarplum Fairies,** 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Join us for a sweet beginning to the holiday season by making a gingerbread house, singing songs, dancing and eating yummys for your tummies! Dress in your party clothes for happy holiday wholesome fun. Caregiver is required to be in class. **Ages:** Ages 2 to 5 years. **Cost:** \$21/resident and \$26/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Dec 15** **Family Discovery Series: Whooo is Hooting?** 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Several types of owls can be found living throughout many of Bellevue's Parks. These silent predators of the night are considered a keystone species within the ecosystem. Join us for a fun-filled hour learning about these owls. Dissect an owl pellet to discover who was for lunch. Put your creativity to use with a craft activity that's yours to keep. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Dec 15** **Snoozing Bears,** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Bears are snuggled up in their dens snoring away the winter, so now is a perfect time to discover more about them. Come find out about the different bear species that call North America home, and learn which kind you might see in Bellevue if you're lucky. We'll even try hibernating! This is an indoor/outdoor program.
Ages: Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!
Pre-registration: Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Dec 23** **Whoooo's Hooting?** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Did you know that a barn owl can find its prey in total darkness? Or that great horned owls can clasp their talons with 28 pounds of force? Join us as we learn all about our favorite silent flying friends, try out our hoots, and dig deeper into an owl's diet by dissecting owl pellets! This is an indoor/outdoor program.
Ages: Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!
Pre-registration: RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the Friday before the event. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Dec 28** **Nature Movie: "The Animal House,"** 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Animals build their homes for a variety of reasons, including safety from predators, availability of a nearby food source, and protecting their young. These places are often the site of great drama and extraordinary behaviors. *The Animal House* provides a fascinating look at the "home life of wildlife." We'll provide the popcorn! **Ages:** All ages welcome - best for ages 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Dec 30** **A Winter Wander,** 10:30 a.m. - noon
Meet at: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Head outside this winter to reflect on the passage of time in nature. We'll ponder seasonality, forest changes, and the bygone residents of the area. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Distance:** Approximately 1 mile. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.

**Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Events List
(This list is a guide. Details may change.)**

JANUARY 2019

- Jan 4** **Lewis Creek Story Time: “Stanger in the Woods”**
Two sessions, choose one – 11 a.m. –noon OR 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Look, listen and create during an hour of stories and crafts! Have you ever wondered what a deer is thinking when it spots you in the woods? This month we’ll be reading along from the animal’s point of view as they gather their courage to find out about the mysterious visitor in their midst. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free!
Pre-registration: RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Jan 5** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lewis Creek Park, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Park Ranger to explore the natural and cultural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife, and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.
Distance: Approximately 1 mile. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Jan 6** **Living with Wildlife - It’s a Mole.. It’s a Muskrat... No It’s Mountain Beavers!** 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
An elusive creature most people don’t even realize exists is wandering around Bellevue - the mountain beaver! Join us as we learn more about our shy neighbors, how they help the environment, and how we can keep their homes and teeth out of our gardens. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** This program is best for adults, but participants ages 13+ are welcome with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Jan 6** **Mercer Slough Family-Friendly Ranger Hike, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.**
Meet at: Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Park Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This kid-oriented program aims to educate kids and their parents about the Nature Park while discovering the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. The hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge in the middle of the park. From there you will be able to continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Distance:** 1.5+ miles. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (30 feet elevation change). **Ages:** Family event; all ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Jan 7-11** **Bellevue Main Club's New Student Free Fitness Classes**, times vary
Bellevue Main Club, 209 100th Avenue NE
New students can come and enjoy one week of fitness classes for free at the Bellevue Main Club. Classes focus on overall wellness and include cardio fitness, strength training, Tai Chi movement, balance, fall prevention, meditation, yoga, and breathing. Classes are beneficial for all fitness levels and adult ages. Visit the Bellevue Main Club web page or contact us for a schedule of classes. **Ages:** Adults, 18 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Jan 9** **Northwest Arts Center Open House**, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Explore what Northwest Arts Center has to offer. Free workshops will be available for people to try out different class options. For the workshop schedule, visit <https://parks.bellevuewa.gov/community-centers/northwest-arts-center>
Ages: All ages are welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Jan 11** **Story Time on the Farm**, 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Come enjoy story time in a farm setting. Each story session will involve a different farm animal-related theme and will include a visit by one of our resident farm animals. The stories will come alive for your child, seeing the featured animal characters from the stories in real life. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Doors close when the program begins. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required but recommended; space is limited. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1908461.
- Jan 11** **Night Hike at Lewis Creek Park**, 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
When the sun sets and the dark of night creeps in, Lewis Creek Park comes alive! Learn about the different nocturnal and crepuscular species that call the park home, and join a park ranger on a hike through the woods after dark! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as sturdy shoes for the journey. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 and older with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for youth and adult participants at <https://register.bellevuewa.gov> for course 180740. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Jan 12** **Winter on the Farm**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Adult and child will team together to find out how farm animals survive the chilly winter months. Meet our fluffy and furry animals on a touch-and-tell walk. Come inside and warm up as we continue our fun activities in the barn. Adult/child teams only. A team is one child and one adult. **Ages:** 3-6 years old. **Cost:** \$25/resident and \$30/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1900515.
- Jan 13** **Cascade Canines**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Did you know foxes are the only canids to climb trees or that coyotes tiptoe to be extra sneaky? Discover more about Washington's furry canines and practice your howl with a park ranger this month. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Jan 18** **Story Time on the Farm**, 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Come enjoy story time in a farm setting. Each story session will involve a different farm animal-related theme and will include a visit by one of our resident farm animals. The stories will come alive for your child, seeing the featured animal characters from the stories in real life. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Doors close when the program begins. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required but recommended; space is limited. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1908462.
- Jan 19** **Marshmallow Madness**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Spend a warm and cozy Saturday morning with your child making fun marshmallow art, music, games and a yummy snack! This is a child and caregiver class. **Ages:** Ages 2 to 5 years. **Cost:** \$21/resident and \$26/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106 for course 190366.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Jan 19** **History of Eastside Logging (Presented by the Eastside Heritage Center),**
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Did you know that most of the east side of Lake Washington was clear-cut by 1920? Or that nearly all of the big trees that we see today are less than 100 years old? (It will take another 400 years for our evergreens to reach 'maturity')! Come and see the equipment that evolved from two men working one tree all day with a hand-saw, to sky-line cable operations that could clear a whole Cougar Mountain valley in a single day. Presented in partnership by the Eastside Heritage Center and Bellevue Parks & Community Services. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** This program is best for adults, but participants ages 13+ are welcome with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Jan 20** **Cascade Canines, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Did you know foxes are the only canids to climb trees or that coyotes tiptoe to be extra sneaky? Discover more about Washington's furry canines and practice your howl with a park ranger this month. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Jan 21** **Holiday Farm Tour: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,**
11 a.m. – noon or 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park Animal Barn Foyer, 410 130th Place SE
Bring the whole family to come visit our resident farm animals! Meet our ponies, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, and rabbits, all while discovering what it takes to be a farmer. You will get to pet many of our animals and even feed some of them! **Ages:** 2 years and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$8/resident and \$10/non-resident per person. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1905971 for the 11 a.m. tour, and course #1905972 for the 1:30 p.m. tour.
- Jan 25** **Nature Movie Night: "One Ocean," 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.**
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
The ocean covers more than 70% of the surface of our planet. Researchers continues to explore the vast reaches in search of answers to the unknown. Narrated by the great David Attenborough, this first episode of *Blue Planet II* begins to explore sea life in all regions of the world. We'll provide the popcorn! **Ages:** All ages welcome, but best for 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Jan 26** **Felted Landscapes**, 10 a.m. – noon
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, House, 410 130th Place SE
View different landscapes and become inspired to create your own. We will visit our resident Kelsey Creek Farm sheep, view different landscape pictures, and then use wool roving to make your own felted landscape in a plastic bag. Each child will take home a finished landscape wall hanging. **Ages:** 6-11. **Cost:** \$45/resident and \$54/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #19006011.
- Jan 26** **Family Discovery Series: Creatures Below the Snow**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
The surface of the snow-covered ground looks peaceful and serene; what lies beneath is drastically different. Many animals struggle to survive the harsh winter months, while others thrive below the snow. Listen to a story about these creatures' survival strategies with a Park Ranger, and then enjoy a fun winter craft. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Jan 26** **Cascade Canines**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Did you know foxes are the only canids to climb trees or that coyotes tiptoe to be extra sneaky? Discover more about Washington's furry canines and practice your howl with a park ranger this month. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 to 10 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Jan 27** **Ranger-led Hike at Lakemont Highlands Open Space**, 10 a.m. – Noon
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Bellevue Park Ranger at the Lewis Creek Visitor Center to explore the Lakemont Highlands Open Space trail system. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Distance:** Approximately 3.5 mile. **Level of difficulty:** Moderate (680 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Jan 28** **Farmer for a Day**, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, House, 410 130th Place SE
Come join us at Kelsey Creek Farm for a fun day off school and become a farmer for a day! Experience farm life firsthand as you go behind the scenes and see what it really takes to be a farmer. Help us collect eggs, make animals' meals, clean out stalls, and brush a pony! Bring a lunch, snack and drink. **Ages:** 8-10. **Cost:** \$45/resident and \$54/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course #1906031.