

Parks & Community Services Board

Regular Meeting

March 14, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall

Room 1E-113

450 110th Avenue NE

Bellevue, WA



AGENDA

Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting

<p>Boardmembers:</p> <p>Stuart Heath, Chair</p> <p>Debra Kumar, Vice-Chair</p> <p>Yu Deng</p> <p>Sherry Grindeland</p> <p>Jared Nieuwenhuis</p> <p>Eric Synn</p> <p>Mark Van Hollebeke</p> <p>City Council Liaison:</p> <p>Jennifer Robertson, Councilmember</p> <p>Staff Contacts:</p> <p>Terry Smith – 425-452-5379</p> <p>Nancy Harvey – 425-452-4162</p>	<p>Tuesday March 14, 2017 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bellevue City Hall Room 1E-113 450 110th Avenue NE Bellevue, WA</p>																														
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">Page</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Call to Order of Meeting – Chair Heath</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Approval of Agenda (1 minute)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Approval of Park Board Minutes (1 minute)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> a. Minutes from the February 11, 2017 Special Meeting (Board retreat)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> b. Minutes from the February 14, 2017 Regular Meeting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Oral Communications/Public Comments</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>Note: Three-minute limit per person; maximum of three persons permitted to speak to each side of any one topic. Five minutes if representing a group.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. City Council Communication (5 minutes)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Director’s Report (5 minutes)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td> • Follow-up on Oral Communications/public comments from prior meetings</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Board Communication (7 minutes)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. Chair Communication & Discussion (5 minutes)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td> • Next Quarter’s Agenda Items</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> • Follow-up on Oral Communications/public comments from prior meetings</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Page	1. Call to Order of Meeting – Chair Heath		2. Approval of Agenda (1 minute)		3. Approval of Park Board Minutes (1 minute)		<input type="checkbox"/> a. Minutes from the February 11, 2017 Special Meeting (Board retreat)	1	<input type="checkbox"/> b. Minutes from the February 14, 2017 Regular Meeting	5	4. 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. Five minutes if representing a group.</i>		5. City Council Communication (5 minutes)	N/A	6. Director’s Report (5 minutes)	N/A	• Follow-up on Oral Communications/public comments from prior meetings		7. Board Communication (7 minutes)	N/A	8. Chair Communication & Discussion (5 minutes)	N/A	• Next Quarter’s Agenda Items		• Follow-up on Oral Communications/public comments from prior meetings	
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	<p><i>Agenda continues on following page</i></p>																														

Wheelchair accessible. American Sign Language (ASL) or other interpretation available upon request. Assisted listening devices available. Call at least 48 hours in advance for any request. 425-452-4162 or Relay Service 711.



9.	Discussion/Action Items (time for presentation/discussion)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> a. Grand Connection/Wilburton Initiative CAC Report (5/5, Board feedback requested) – Vice-Chair Kumar	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/> b. Downtown Livability Land Use Code Update (30/30, information and Board feedback requested) – Emil King (PCD), Camron Parker (Parks)	9
	<input type="checkbox"/> c. Board Work Plan Items (60 minutes, discussion):	N/A
	• Budget Process Review & Future Funding Strategy	
	• Liaison(s) to other Boards/Commissions	
	• Quarterly Report to Council	
	• Board Visioning	
10.	Boardmember committee/liaison reports	N/A
11.	New Business (1 minute)	N/A
12.	Other Communication	
	<input type="checkbox"/> a. CIP Project Status Report	15
	<input type="checkbox"/> b. Email re Coal Creek Trail	19
	<input type="checkbox"/> c. Email re Lewis Creek Park Bench	21
13.	Information	
	<input type="checkbox"/> a. List of upcoming Parks special events	23
	<input type="checkbox"/> b. Next scheduled regular Park Board meeting – April 11.	N/A
14.	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. Five minutes if representing a group.</i>	N/A
15.	Adjournment	

Email the Board: parkboard@bellevuewa.gov

**WELCOME TO YOUR
BELLEVUE PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
MEETING**

Most Parks & Community Services Board business is conducted in public, and citizens are most welcome to watch and listen.

In order to hold a meeting, a quorum of at least four Boardmembers must be present. The Board follows the City Council's example, which operates under its own Rules and Procedures, and conducts its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Boardmembers may add items to the meeting's agenda for discussion or action, with a majority vote of those present, at the time when the agenda is approved.

Before any agenda item can be acted upon, the Chair will call for a motion to take action on that item. After the motion is seconded, the Board discusses the arguments for and against the motion.

Sometimes a Boardmember will propose a different course of action on a subject on the agenda. This is called a substitute motion and also requires a second. After discussion, the substitute motion is voted upon first. If a majority of the Boardmembers vote for the substitute motion, it passes and the matter is completed. If the substitute motion fails to obtain a majority, the Board returns to the original motion and continues to discuss and vote on it.

Other times, a Boardmember may wish to change a pending motion in some way. This is called an amendment. It also requires a second and is voted upon before a vote is taken on the main motion. If the amendment passes, the main motion is then voted upon "as amended." If the amendment does not receive a second or a majority vote, the main motion, as originally proposed, is voted upon.

When necessary, the Board may recess to an executive session. During these closed sessions, the Boardmembers are limited, by law, to discussing only such items as personnel issues, property acquisition and disposition; or to receiving advice from legal counsel on pending or potential litigation. The Chair or Vice-Chair will announce both the reason for any executive session and the anticipated time when the Board will return.

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING (RETREAT) MINUTES**

Saturday
February 11, 2017
8:30 a.m.

MSEEC
Bellevue, WA

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Heath¹, Vice-Chair Kumar, Boardmembers Deng, Grindeland, Nieuwenhuis, Synn, Van Hollebeke

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Terry Smith

MINUTES TAKER: Nancy Harvey

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Heath called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

2. **PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD'S ROLE:**

Boardmembers answered the question "What is your role as a Boardmember?"

- Ambassador of parks
- Advocate for the community, parks, and the community's wellbeing
 - Knowledgeable about master plans and long-range plans
 - Protect/preserve what we have
- Advisor to Council
- All of the above – for Community Services also
 - Youth Link
 - Community Centers
 - Programs
- Link to, advise and connect with other Board/Commissions when relevant.
 - Planning Commission
 - Human Services Commission
 - Arts Commission
 - Other boards/commissions
- Serve as an intermediary/liaison between citizens and the Council.
 - Land acquisition issue? (Need clarification)
 - Other areas
 - Conduit to the process, to the Council
 - Communicate

¹ Arrived at 8:37 a.m.

- Responsibility to be educated and informed about the parks system in general.
- Promote the common good of the community.

Boardmembers discussed “What is the role of the Board?”

- Determine the best strategy
 - Listen to stakeholders
 - Decide how to express your role
 - Risk
- Balance ideas/recognize and understand the diversity on the Board.
- Clarify role to community – and what’s realistic
- Role with other boards/commissions:
 - Listen, observe, and report back
 - Community and elevate when needed
 - Time on our agenda?
 - Add a standing item on agendas.
 - Staff – contact liaisons of other commissions to let us know of relevant items.

“Parking Lot” ideas for future discussion:

- Connection with other Boards and Commissions
 - Joint meetings
 - Process/representation – what is the trigger as work impacts us?
- Need clarification on role in the community
 - When to talk, what to say
 - How to channel response
 - Managing the shades of grey
- Community Services
- By-Laws – coordination with other boards/commissions
- Oral Communications response process.

3. **PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD’S DRAFT WORK PLAN:**

The Board discussed the draft work plan for 2017-2018.

To the “red” (Council directed) work items, they added:

- Bylaws

To the “green” (Board requested) work items, they added:

- Budget process review and future funding
- Liaison to other boards and commissions
- Quarterly reporting to Council
- Board visioning

The Board generally agreed on the value of the “purple” (Department presentation/education) items, as many of them pertain to the Community Services areas.

4. **PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD DRAFT BYLAWS:**

The Board decided to table most of the discussion about bylaws until the February 14, 2017 meeting. Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that Boardmembers come prepared to suggest:

- What's missing in the draft bylaws?
- What's most important, or an essential expression of the Board's role?
- What specific suggestions does each Boardmember have for adding to or tweaking the draft bylaws?

5. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The Parks & Community Services Board adjourned the meeting at noon.

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

Tuesday
February 14, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Heath, Vice-Chair Kumar, Boardmembers Deng, Grindeland¹, Nieuwenhuis

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmembers Synn, Van Hollebeke

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Terry Smith

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Heath at 6:03 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Kumar and second by Boardmember Nieuwenhuis to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Kumar and second by Boardmember Deng to approve the January 10, 2017 Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

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

No public comments.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

No report.

¹ Arrived at 6:07 p.m.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

No report.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Deng reported that she recently attended the Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation Benefit Auction. The event and performance of *Songstruck* were enjoyed.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

No report.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Grand Connection/Wilburton Initiative CAC Report

Vice-Chair Kumar encouraged Boardmembers to complete the survey on the Wilburton commercial area's future. This information will help the planners and the Community Advisory Council with future visioning. In addition, Vice-Chair Kumar noted that there will be a walking tour of the Grand Connection area on February 18, 2017. Boardmembers are encouraged to attend.

B. Park Board Development/Retreat/Retreat Discussion Continuation

Boardmembers reviewed the draft Bylaws that were prepared at the Board retreat. They also reviewed both Boardmember Synn's and Van Hollebeke's written comments that were submitted regarding the draft Bylaws. Boardmembers agreed that a subcommittee, consisting of Boardmembers Grindeland and Synn, should be formed to finalize the Bylaws. The following Bylaw edits/comments were discussed:

- Page 1, Paragraph 1: after "Parks & Community Services Board" add "(hereafter known as 'The Board')." Then, all references to the Board should be changed in the document.
- Page 1, Article 1, Paragraphs 2 and 3: these should be consistent with Ordinance 6241 (see 3.62.050).
- Page 1, Article 1, Paragraph 3: include the proposed grammatical edits.
- Page 1, Article 1, Paragraph 4 and Sub-items: include the proposed grammatical edits; however, further clarification is needed regarding the Board's authority or responsibility related to Item A.
- Page 2, Article II, Item A.1: since the Board does not appoint their own Boardmembers, this item should be stricken from the Bylaws.
- Page 2, Article II, Item A.3: should be stricken from the Bylaws.

- Page 2, Article II, Item B: need clarification regarding the timing of electing Officers.
- Page 2, Article II, Item D: delete the proposed edits.
- Page 2, Article II, Item E: need clarification regarding this item.
- Page 2, Article II, Item G: remove this item, since it is already stated in Ordinance 6241.
- Page 3, Article II, Item H: the proposed edits are redundant.
- Page 3, Article II, Item I: item should be stricken from the Bylaws.
- Page 3, Article III: no changes discussed.
- Page 4, Article IV, Items A and B: items should be stricken from the Bylaws.
- Page 4, Article V, Item F, second sentence should read: “Any member anticipating absence from an official meeting should notify the Chair or Vice-Chair ~~or~~ and Board staff in advance.”
- Page 4, Article V, Item F, third sentence: need clarity as to who can grant an excused absence.
- Page 4, Article V, Item G: item should be stricken from the Bylaws, since it is already stated in Ordinance 6241. If not stricken, need clarification regarding how many times per year—is it per calendar year?
- Page 5, Article VI, Item D: need to add verbiage noting that these items are guidelines (i.e., the Board wants discretion to alter if necessary).
- Page 5, Article VI, Item 4 and Article VII: need clear direction on Oral Communications and expectations. The internal process should be written. Is dialogue allowed?
- Page 7, Article VIII: no changes discussed.
- Page 7, Article IX, Item E: need clarification if this is consistent with the City’s policy.
- Page 8, Article X: no changes discussed.
- Page 8, Article XI: no changes discussed.
- Page 8, Article XII: no changes discussed.
- Page 8, Article XIII: correct typo in title.
- Page 9, Article XIV: no changes discussed.
- Page 9, Article XV: no changes discussed.
- Page 10, Article XVI: no changes discussed.
- Page 10, Article XVII: no changes discussed.

In addition to the items noted above, Boardmembers Synn and Grindeland will contact Boardmember Van Hollebeke to incorporate his edits/changes to the Bylaws. A revised draft of the Bylaws will be provided at the March Board meeting.

Boardmembers also reviewed the Parks & Community Services Board Agenda Items Planning 2017-2018 spreadsheet. Boardmembers suggested that 2-4 meetings each year be held at off-site locations. In addition, a work session will be utilized at the discretion of the Board Chair or Vice-Chair.

Boardmembers requested that a high level overview of the green highlighted items on the Parks & Community Services Board Agenda Items Planning 2017-2018 spreadsheet be provided at the March Board meeting. In addition, Boardmembers would like to prioritize the purple highlighted items and have the Crossroads Center – CAYA program presentation at the March Board meeting.

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

Boardmember Grindeland reflected on the Crossroads Community Center holiday event. She stressed the importance of these types of events in the community (i.e., affordable). She has been a part of this celebration for many years and has enjoyed the many cultures that Crossroads brings together. In addition, Boardmember Grindeland invited Boardmembers to attend the 19th Annual Gumbo Night, which will be held on March 30, 2017 at Boardmember Grindeland’s home.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Email re SBCC staff

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Next regular Parks Board meeting—March 14, 2017, Bellevue City Hall

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Kumar and second by Boardmember Deng to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).



Memorandum

DATE: March 6, 2017

TO: Chair Heath and members of the Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Emil A. King AICP, Strategic Planning Manager 452-7223
eking@bellevuewa.gov *Planning & Community Development*
 Camron Parker, Senior Planner 452-2032
cparker@bellevuewa.gov *Parks & Community Services*

RE: Downtown Livability Land Use Code Update

BACKGROUND

On-going Work of Planning Commission

On March 8, 2017 the City’s Planning Commission is scheduled to hold a public hearing on a draft Code amendment that would update Bellevue’s Downtown Land Use Code, Part 20.25A. Over the past 18 months, the Commission has been reviewing and further refining recommendations from the Downtown Livability Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The draft Land Use Code represents the second installment of amendments necessary to advance the Downtown Livability Initiative. Council adopted a set of “Early Wins” code amendments in March 2016. These included updates to the land use charts, signage requirements for publicly accessible spaces, mechanical equipment location and screening standards, street trees requirements, minor adjustment to the Downtown boundary, overhead weather protection requirements and an extension of the Major Pedestrian Corridor.

Downtown Citizen Advisory Committee

Informed by a set of Land Use Code “Audits” and significant public input, the Downtown CAC convened 13 times between May 2013 and June 2014 to develop a set of recommendations for potential code changes as well as a number of areas for additional analysis. The 14-member CAC was Council-appointed and included representation from the Planning Commission, Transportation Commission, Parks & Community Services Board, Human Services Commission, Environmental Services Commission, Arts Commission, Bellevue Downtown Association, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, small business, and nearby neighborhoods, as well as an architect, a Downtown resident, a City-wide representative and a Downtown employer.

Major Downtown Livability Milestones to Date

▪ Planning Commission public hearing on draft Land Use Code	March 8, 2017
▪ Notice of public hearing on draft Land Use Code	February 16, 2017
▪ Urban Land Institute peer review of incentive zoning analysis	January 2017
▪ Consolidated code package available for public review	November 2016
▪ Proposed structure and approach for incentive zoning system	June 2016
▪ Interim controls re: retail/pedestrian frontage adopted by Council	May 2016

▪ "Early Wins" Downtown code amendments adopted by Council	March 2016
▪ Council guidance for updating Downtown incentive zoning	January 2016
▪ Joint Council/Planning Commission meeting on incentive zoning	November 2015
▪ Commission begins review of CAC recommendations	June 2015
▪ Council direction to Commission to begin code development	May 2015
▪ CAC Final Report published	October 2014
▪ Downtown CAC completes work	June 2014
▪ Land Use Code Audits published	June 2013
▪ Downtown CAC begins work	May 2013
▪ Downtown Livability Initiative launched by Council	2013

DISCUSSION

On March 14, 2017, staff will: (1) provide a brief review of the City's parks and open space vision for Downtown Bellevue; and (2) provide an overview of specific items in the draft Land Use Code that relate to the parks and open space vision. Staff will capture feedback from the Board and forward it to the Planning Commission for consideration as they refine the draft Land Use Code package. At Commission meetings following the March 8, 2017 public hearing, the Planning Commission will work to finalize the Land Use Code Update and transmit its recommendation to City Council for final review and approval.

City's Parks and Open Space Vision for Downtown

The Parks & Community Services Board last discussed the parks and open space vision for Downtown Bellevue in late 2015 as it updated the Parks & Open Space System Plan. The plan is available online at www.bellevuewa.gov/park-plan.htm or via hard copies provided to each board member. The discussion of Downtown Bellevue can be found on pages 60-63. The list of capital project objectives included in the plan for Downtown is on page 67 and these projects are mapped in Appendix One.

Another helpful point of reference is the recent presentation to the Parks & Community Services Board regarding the Grand Connection. This was presented in January 2017. Materials and the presentation for that meeting are available at the Board's web page: www.bellevuewa.gov/park-board-agendas-2017.htm.

Downtown Livability Land Use Code Update

The Downtown Livability Initiative represents the first substantial update of the Downtown Land Use Code (Part 20.25A LUC) since its original adoption in 1981. The update responds to over 30 years of development and ensures Downtown's regulatory framework is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, in particular the Downtown Subarea Plan's central theme of making Downtown more viable, livable, memorable and accessible.

The Planning Commission is in the process of refining a draft Land Use Code to ultimately transmit as a recommendation to City Council for final review and approval. A public hearing on the draft Land Use Code will be held on March 8, 2017. See link to draft Code and public hearing staff report at www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PlanningCommission/PCP_3-8-17.pdf.

A. Downtown Amenity Incentive System

The draft Land Use Code includes an updated amenity incentive system (see LUC 20.25A.070, pages 69-81 of March 8 Planning Commission packet). In essence, the incentive system allows a development project to exceed its base (or as-of-right) density and/or building height if amenities are provided on-site or through in-lieu fee provisions. The updated incentive system includes the following 18 bonusable amenities. As articulated in the draft Code, each amenity includes specific design criteria and bonus rates by Downtown Neighborhood.

Draft List of Bonusable Amenities

- #1 Major Pedestrian Corridor and Major Public Open Space
- #2 Outdoor Plaza
- #3 Donation of Park Property
- #4 Improvement of Public Park Property
- #5 Enhanced Streetscape
- #6 Active Recreation Area
- #7 Enclosed Plaza
- #8 Alleys with Addresses
- #9 Freestanding canopies at street corners and transit stops
- #10 Pedestrian bridges
- #11 Performing Arts Space
- #12 Public Art
- #13 Water Feature
- #14 Historic Preservation of Physical Sites/Buildings
- #15 Historic and Cultural Resources Documentation
- #16 Neighborhood Serving Uses
- #17 Sustainability Certification
- #18 Flexible Amenity

Projects would need to focus 75 percent of their amenities on public open space features (#1-#8 on the above list) because of their importance to livability. Any in-lieu fees collected will be used by the City for open space improvements consistent with the urban design vision for Downtown Bellevue.

B. Open Space Requirement for Additional Height

As part of the Downtown Livability process, taller allowed building heights are being considered. It is proposed in the draft Code that if buildings exceed their current maximum allowed building height they are subject to diminishing floor plate and outdoor plaza space requirements (see LUC 20.25A.075, page 82 of March 8 Planning Commission packet). The outdoor plaza requirement is 10 percent of the project limit, provided that the outdoor plaza space shall be no less than 3,000 square feet in size. The

open space shall comply with the requirements for Outdoor Plazas in the Amenity Incentive System with vehicle and loading drive surfaces not counted as plaza space.

C. Green and Sustainability Factor

The draft Green and Sustainability Factor is a new part of the Downtown code (see LUC 20.25A.120, pages 117-121 of March 8 Planning Commission packet). It includes a score based system for applicants to choose from a suite of landscaping and sustainability elements to install or preserve on site. Some of the elements include bioretention facilities, structural soil systems, preservation of landmark trees, tree installation, green walls and roofs, rainwater harvesting, and publicly accessible bicycle racks. The Green and Sustainability Factor helps to reinforce the “City in a Park” character, improve walkability of Downtown and mitigate impacts commonly associated with dense urban environment.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will capture feedback from the Board on March 14 and forward it to the Planning Commission for consideration as they refine the draft Downtown Land Use Code package.

ATTACHMENT

1. How Livability is Being Advanced by the Code Update

Attachment 1

How Livability is Being Advanced by the Code Update

The draft Downtown Land Use Code currently before the Planning Commission for review and refinement, together with the prior “Early Wins” amendments contribute to the City’s livability objectives for Downtown Bellevue as summarized below.

Walkability

- Increase the width of sidewalks required on multiple streets.
- Improve through-block connections for pedestrians to navigate the Downtown on foot.
- Improve street-edge pedestrian conditions that promote visual interest, pedestrian-scaled lighting and signage, pedestrian amenities, enhanced/active streetscapes and integration of artistic elements.
- Expand weather protection to enhance year-round pedestrian comfort.
- Accommodate additional capital improvements identified as part of companion Downtown Transportation Plan.

Neighborhood Character

- Reinforce key elements of unique Downtown neighborhood character.
- Tailor open space amenities to align with neighborhood needs.

Urban Form, Light and Air

- Enhance access to light and air between towers with separation between towers and ground level open spaces.
- Expand variability in the built environment.
- Enhance skyline form and memorability.
- Improve building form to avoid blocky and homogeneous character of buildings.

Transition Between Downtown and Adjoining Neighborhoods

- Retain graceful transitions between urban forms of the Downtown and adjacent lower intensity neighborhoods.
- Reinforce pedestrian connections between Downtown and adjacent areas.
- Focus on gateways into and out of the Downtown to reinforce transitions.

Downtown Amenities

- Improve relationship of amenities to Downtown neighborhood character.
- Update economics based on market realities to ensure incentives are used and achieve intended outcomes.

More Green and Sustainable Downtown

- Enhance focus on sustainability and ecological performance in the development of buildings and sites throughout Downtown (to ensure a softer and more sustainable environment).
- Increase green features in the pedestrian realm – planter strips and tree pits, green walls, open space.

Accessibility

- Improve accessibility for all residents and visitors to Downtown, including improved accessibility for vans/cars in parking areas and for mobility-impaired pedestrians.

Mixed Use Downtown

- Update code to accommodate the evolving character of uses found in vibrant pedestrian areas (e.g. doggie day cares).
- Level the playing field for nonresidential uses, to ensure that Downtown continues to also serve as a strong office/job center.

Affordable Housing

- Encourage affordable housing through a range of tools (to be further developed with city-wide Affordable Housing Strategy efforts).

Planning for Light Rail Stations

- Improve pedestrian connections around station areas.
- Ensure that the right use and density mix is enabled around stations.

Parking

- Enhance flexibility in the calculation of parking ratios to guard against overbuilding while maintaining parking levels essential to accommodate visitors.
- Enhance parking standards to accommodate multimodal commuters in need of supporting infrastructure (e.g., bike facilities).

Flexibility

- Add flexibility to ensure the Code allows for the best and most creative development ideas.

Building Height and Form

- Add height to incent the development of slender buildings that provide greater tower separation and ground-level open space.
- Add height to foster the use of distinctive architecture that contributes to a variable and recognizable skyline.
- Add amenities to offset the livability impacts of added building height and density.



PARKS CIP PROJECT STATUS REPORT February 2017

Botanical Garden

We have worked with the BBG staff and Garden Society to develop the Urban Meadow landscape plan for the front of the garden to integrate the existing wetland plantings, rock garden, pathway system and Main Street streetscape improvements. The Garden staff has received a \$50,000 grant from King County to assist with construction costs, and the Garden Society has agreed to contribute \$175,000 to complete the project. Both the Urban Meadow and Main Street streetscape projects are scheduled to start this spring.

Congregation for the Homeless (CFH) Temporary Center

On-Going. Staff is working with the Congregation for the Homeless on a temporary men's shelter located in the City-owned Lincoln Center building. Temporary housing for approximately 70 overnight guests have been accommodated, with planning underway to complete additional improvements, including a day center, starting this spring.

Downtown Park – Complete the Circle and Rotary Inspiration Playground Expansion

Though the inclement weather has hindered progress, construction is nearing 65% complete. Utility work and grading is ongoing. Concrete work on the terraced walls in the SE quadrant and south entry feature are nearing completion. Retaining walls along the west and north sides of the Inspiration Playground have been installed, and the initial play equipment has been installed. The concrete work at the SW plaza is complete, and work has begun to extend the water canal. Electrical work is ongoing, and initial work to install the irrigation system is underway.

Grants

We were unable to reach agreement with the Bellevue School District on the long-term use of the Ivanhoe Youth Theatre facility, so we have deferred the planned code compliance improvements in favor of limiting public use of this facility until an agreement can be reached. We are currently working with King County to determine if we can still utilize all or parts of our 4Culture grant on improvements to the youth theater.

We have submitted a letter of interest for a potential 2017 grant to replace the Wilburton Hill synthetic turf field. An agreement to accept a \$500k Federal grant for the Inspiration Playground is scheduled for approval at the March 6 council meeting.

King County, through the efforts of Councilmember Balducci, has provided a \$50k grant to install a video wall in the Bellevue Youth Theatre lobby, and work is now underway.

Kelsey Creek Playground Replacement

After several neighbors expressed concern about our proposed relocation of the Kelsey Creek playground, the staff completed additional analysis and concluded that the location was proper. With some minor modifications, we are proceeding as planned. The equipment has been ordered and construction on schedule to be completed this spring.

Marymoor Park Transfer

We are working with our Utilities staff and RCO to explore options to transfer the City-owned portion of Marymoor Park to King County to allow the County to enter into an agreement with a local soccer organization to redevelop the existing softball fields into a soccer complex.

Meydenbauer Bay Phase 1 Park Development

A construction contract is scheduled for approval at the March 6 Council meeting, with a May construction start expected. Construction is nearing the halfway point on the sanitary sewer, and we continue to work closely with the Utilities project staff and contractor to minimize impacts to the site and the marina during construction. We are also working with our aquatics staff to develop the plans and program to convert the Whaling Building into a boat rental facility. This project will be complete when the remaining park is complete.

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 schematic design is complete. We are currently developing options and cost estimates to determine the scope of work for phase 1 construction.
- **Botanical Garden Projects:**
 - **Ravine Garden:** Project complete.
 - **Visitor Center:** Project complete.
- **Neighborhood Parks:**
 - **Bridle Trails/140th Ave Property:** Project complete.
 - **Bridle Trails Corner Park:** Project complete.
 - **Newport Hills Tyler/Patterson acquisition:** Project complete.
- **Downtown Park “Complete the Circle” Development:** Under construction
- **Hidden Valley/Boys & Girls Club Partnership:** Complete
- **Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park:** No activity.

Surrey Downs Park Development

Design is ongoing, and application for construction permits is expected this summer. Subject to light rail construction progress, park construction is anticipated to start in the spring of 2018. Staff is working with the adjacent neighbors to address property encroachment issues and to identify an appropriate boundary fence to install prior to construction.

Renovation Program

51 projects were completed in 2016. The following 7 were deferred into 2017:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Coal Creek Nature Park | • Trail head construction (C) |
| Highland Park | • Fire escape replacement (P) |
| Kelsey Creek | • Playground replacement (P) |

- Mercer Slough Nature Park • Sweyolocken boat launch A&E
- Robinswood Park • Shelter for Small Dog OLA (P)
- SE 40th St Boat Launch • Parking lot repairs (U)
- Various Beach Parks • Dock repairs at Chesterfield, Newcastle, SE 40th St, Enatai & Chism (P)

60 projects have been approved for the 2017 program, as follows:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Programmatic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-coring of parks facilities (P) • Multi-site drinking fountain (P) • Park furnishings (P) • ADA projects (Signage & Robinswood House) (P) • Multi-site asphalt repairs (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPDES requirements (P) • Natural Area Restoration (P) • Urban Forestry Park Sites (P) • Streetscapes (P) • Greenways & Trails (P) |
| Bellevue Aquatic Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New parking lot light fixtures (P) • Security system upgrades (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm Springs Pool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pump Replacement (P) • Add UV treatment (P) • Replace Chiller (P) |
| Bellevue Golf Course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking lot sealcoat & restripe (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro shop air handler repl (P) |
| Cherry Crest School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurface sport courts (P) | |
| Crossroads Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace Doors at Int'l RR (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Par 3 Course Furnace Repl (P) |
| Eastgate park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace carpet at SBCC. (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ticket booth & deck (P) |
| Forest Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail repair due to landslide (P) | |
| Goldsmith Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation Replacement (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking fountain replacement (P) |
| Hidden Valley Sports Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New security lighting fixtures (P) | |
| Highland Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealcoat upper parking lot (P) • Indoor & outdoor skate pk impr. (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace flat roof at gym • New exterior lighting fixtures |
| Kelsey Creek Farm Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace irrigation controller (P) • A&E for Educational Barn Imp. (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraser cabin log repairs |
| Killarney Glen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealcoat parking lot (P) | |
| Lakemont Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealcoat parking lot (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail at Summit Tract A (P) |
| Lewis Creek | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealcoat parking lot (P) | |
| Mercer Slough | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSEEC Sullivan deck repl (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSEEC Interpretive signs (P) |
| Meydenbauer Marina | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whaling Building remodel (P) | |
| NW Arts Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A&E for code upgrades (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temp registration area fix (P) |
| North Bellevue Community Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooring Replacement (U) • Kitchen Improvements (U) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boiler & AHU replacement (P) |
| Robinswood Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phased irrigation sys. Repl. (P) • Robinswood House, door repl. (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis bubble replacement (P) • Tennis indoor court resurface (P) |
| Saddleback Mini | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace play equipment (P) | |
| Sunset Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace play equipment (P) | |
| Wilburton Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A&E soccer turf replacement (P) • Sealcoat parking lot (P) • McDowell House repairs (P) • BBG re-stain Tateuchi Pavilion (P) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBG repair RILL (P) • BBG re-stain Visitors Center (P) • BBG paint Shorts House (P) |

Project Status: Planning: (P) Under Construction: (U) Complete: (C)

From: Dave G
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 9:33 PM
To: DeWald, Dan <DDewald@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: Coal Creek Trail

Hello Dan – a quick comment and question. First, as an avid trail runner, I'm amazed at the work you and your team do. For living in a "city", you have created such an amazing set of resources for the citizens. Thank you! I wanted to check in for what the ETA is to clear up the coal creek trail? It was rocked pretty hard last week with lots of down trees. Don't confuse my question with a complaint or a request to rush it – I simply want to know when I can expect to add it back to my options for trail runs with my son. Cougar Mountain (albeit hillier) is a fine consolation prize in the interim. Thanks for a guesstimate on the timing.

Dave G
13241 SE 57th Street
Bellevue, WA 98006



From: DeWald, Dan
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 9:10 AM
To: Dave G
Cc: Vandall, Chris <CVandall@bellevuewa.gov>; DeWald, Dan <DDewald@bellevuewa.gov>; Heasty, Jay <JHeasty@bellevuewa.gov>; Cunningham, Isaac <ICunningham@bellevuewa.gov>; Gary, Maurice <MGary@bellevuewa.gov>; Lindsay, Matthew <MLindsay@bellevuewa.gov>; Vukelich, Steve <SVukelich@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: RE: Coal Creek Trail

Hi Dave,

Thank you for your email and kind remarks – we appreciate hearing from residents who use the COB trail system. We have damage throughout the park system and are working our way to the internal Coal Creek system. We have the full crew scheduled for this Thursday and Friday at Coal Creek. We will try to get there earlier if we can.

I am retiring on March 10, 2017 so please contact Chris Vandall, Greenways & Trails Program Supervisor (cc'd above and cell is 425-864-1838) if you have questions or suggestions on improving Bellevue's trails.

In addition, I cc'd our trails crew/staff who deserve all the credit and will appreciate reading your email.

Thanks again –

Dan DeWald
Natural Resource Manager
Bellevue Parks
425-452-6048

Harvey, Nancy

From: Debra Kumar <debrakkumar@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 5:32 AM
To: Vandall, Chris; Kukal, Curtis
Cc: Foran, Patrick; Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy
Subject: Lewis Creek park bench

Dear Curtis and Chris,

Thank you for your work on the park bench at Lewis Creek. It looks great! Please extend my sincere thanks to the boy scout troop who built the bench. They did a terrific job. Not only is the bench beautiful, it looks very sturdy as well.

I look forward to using the bench to sit and listen to the birds in the nearby trees, and to take in the sweeping view of the park. It really is a nice addition to the path, and I hope many park users will enjoy the bench.

Thanks again!
Debra Kumar

MARCH 2017

- March 1** **Springy Goats (Early Release Wednesday),**
1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
Help create enrichment opportunities to actively engage and entertain our farm animals. Learn how they think, how each animal needs different activities based on their instincts, and why it's important for animals to stay busy. Let's make our farm animals' habitats rewarding and fun. We'll work in the farm yard and do art/craft activities, too. **Ages:** 6 to 10 years old. **Cost:** \$25/residents and \$30/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** 425-452-7688, course 111277. **Info:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-450-7688.
- March 3** **Lewis Creek Story Time: “Fuzzy, Buzzy Bumble Bees”,**
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. Gentle bumble bees fly all around our gardens, visiting flowers and helping them grow. Hear stories about these special bees and how they live. We always make a fun craft to take home. **Ages:** 3 years and older. This is a parent/adult and child class. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for children and adults. **To register:** <http://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov/> or 425-452-6885, course 112319 or 112320. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- March 4** **Garden Class: “Permaculture for the Backyard Gardener,”** 10 a.m. – noon
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
This class will be taught by Seattle Tilth. Explore ways to integrate natural patterns and ecology into your backyard garden. The goal of permaculture, short for “permanent agriculture” or “permanent culture,” is to minimize inputs and maximize relationships between plants, animals, environment and people. Go beyond organic gardening by learning the basics of permaculture to discover more holistic and sustainable techniques for your backyard garden! Learn the basics of “systems thinking” to create efficient and abundant gardens that integrate human needs with the natural ecosystem. **Cost:** \$25/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>
- March 4** **Lewis Creek Ranger Hike, 10:30 a.m. - noon**
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:** Moderate (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

- March 5** **Wetlands Don't Stink!** - 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
 Wetlands play a very important role in cleaning the water that goes into our local lakes and rivers. Discover wetlands, their wildlife, and how they impact the ecosystem around them! **Ages:** 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- March 10** **Discover Spring: It's Time to Wake Up Bear,** 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
 Did you know that many animals sleep through the winter until springtime? Join a park ranger and learn which animals do this, and why they sleep through the cold. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** \$2 suggested donation. **Pre-registration:** Required for children and adults. **To register:** <http://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov>, course 112722. **Info:** 425-452-6993.
- March 11** **Northwest Perennial Alliance March Mania Plant Sale and Master Gardener Clinic,** 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 This early spring plant sale features spring ephemerals and choice garden plants not readily available at other times of the year. The sale brings together a fabulous group of specialty nurseries and growers who are not generally open to the public. Learn from these experts and let them help you choose some of the earliest bloomers of the season to brighten up a drab space in your garden. Shop great vendors like Windcliff, Bouquet Banque, Growing Girls, Lee Farm and more. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the educational programs of NPA and the NPA Border. Open to the public. **Cost:** Free admission; costs vary for plants. **Info:** http://www.northwestperennialalliance.org/march_mania.php
- March 11** **Lucky Leprechauns,** 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
 Top o' the mornin' to ya! Join us for art, games, music and all things green. Don't forget to have your leprechaun wear something green so you won't get pinched! There's a pot of "gold" waiting for you at the end of the rainbow! This is a child and caregiver class. **Ages:** 2 to 5 years old. **Cost:** \$25/residents and \$30/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register and information:** 425-452-4106, course #111291.
- March 11** **Nature's Greatest Landscape Engineers,** 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 Beavers' ability to change the landscape is second only to humans. These amazing rodents are so valuable to the ecosystem that Native Americans often referred to them as the "sacred center." Not only do they create a healthy habitat for a number of aquatic species, but they also provide essential natural services for humans as well. Come learn more about these nocturnal creatures that call the Mercer Slough home. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

- March 12** **Lakemont Highlands Open Space Ranger Hike**, 10 a.m. - noon
Meet at: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
 Explore the lesser-known trails of South Bellevue. Parks and open spaces guide you (and wildlife) through friendly neighborhoods. **Distance:** 3.5 miles. **Level of difficulty:** Difficult (350 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- March 12** **Family-Friendly Ranger Walk**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 Bring the whole family to join a Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This family-friendly program allows parents and their kids to explore the mosaic of habitats while learning more about the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. This hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge on the shores of the Slough. From there you are able to continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- March 15** **Pony Pleasure (Early Release Wednesday)**,
 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
 Help create enrichment opportunities to actively engage and entertain our farm animals. Learn how they think, how each animal needs different activities based on their instincts, and why it's important for animals to stay busy. Let's make our farm animals' habitats rewarding and fun. We'll work in the farm yard and do art/craft activities, too. **Ages:** 6 to 10 years old. **Cost:** \$25/residents and \$30/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** 425-452-7688, course 111278. **Info:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-450-7688.
- March 15** **Garden Lecture: "Beautifying Your Garden with Blue Poppies, Giant Lilies, Rhododendrons, and More!,"** 7 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 Steve Hootman will discuss and illustrate methods, ideas, examples, and specific instructions for the home gardener and the collector. Included will be many beautiful images of these special plants in their native habitats in China and the Himalayas. **Cost:** \$5/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$15/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Recommended. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>

March 17-18 Puget Sound Dahlia Association Tuber Sale and Master Gardener Clinic,
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street

Thousands of locally-sourced dahlia tubers will be available at this annual sale, priced around \$5 each. Select from many different forms, sizes, and colors. Several of our most knowledgeable dahlia growers will be available to help you with your choices. Come early for the best selection! **Cost:** Open to the public; no admission fee. Costs vary for tubers. **Info:**
<http://www.pugetsounddahlias.org/>

March 17-26 “The Ugly Duckling” (Bellevue Youth Theatre Production),

March 17, 18, 24 and 25 at 7 p.m.; March 19, 25 and 26 at 2 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre-Crossroads, 16051 NE 10th Street

Sometimes heroes come in odd packages, but it is what’s on the inside that counts. This classic Hans Christian Andersen tale tells the story of a little duckling who doesn’t fit in with his family. Unbeknownst to them, he turns out to be much more than they ever imagined. This is a story of friendship, bravery, and self-confidence. **Ages:** Suitable for audiences of all ages. **Cost:** \$12. All seats are reserved. Purchasing in advance is highly recommended! We frequently sell out and often don’t have tickets on the day of the show. Prices go up to \$15 if purchased beginning March 13. Group rates are available. **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.

March 18 Hiking History: From Glaciers to Greenways, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE

What mysteries lie beneath the soggy surface and between the diversity of aquatic plants? Through both natural processes and human interactions, the area has changed drastically over thousands of years. Join a Ranger for a guided history hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park to uncover the past and explore the future. **Ages:** Adults. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

March 18 Wetlands Don’t Stink! - 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Wetlands play a very important role in cleaning the water that goes into our local lakes and rivers. Discover wetlands, their wildlife, and how they impact the ecosystem around them! **Ages:** 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

- March 24** **Nature Movie: “Beavers: The Biggest Dam Movie You Ever Saw”,**
 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 Have you ever seen a beaver lodge or dam and wondered, “How did they do that?” Take an intimate swim with beavers to explore an amazing diverse aquatic habitat that is home to one of nature’s greatest engineers. This film is a heartfelt story following a family of beavers as they grow, play and transform the world around them. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- March 25** **Garden Class: “An Introduction to the Art and Horticulture of Bonsai,”**
 10 a.m. – noon
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 Join local bonsai artists from the Puget Sound Bonsai Association to learn why people are still so captivated by this art form using “trees in pots.” The lecture and demo will highlight the various forms of bonsai, types of plants best suited for bonsai, and a bonsai’s horticultural requirements. This class will specifically focus on outdoor bonsai. **Cost:** \$20/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$30/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>
- March 25** **Nature’s Greatest Landscape Engineers, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.**
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 Beavers’ ability to change the landscape is second only to humans. These amazing rodents are so valuable to the ecosystem that Native Americans often referred to them as the “sacred center.” Not only do they create a healthy habitat for a number of aquatic species, but they also provide essential natural services for humans as well. Come learn more about these nocturnal creatures that call the Mercer Slough home. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- March 26** **Garden Lecture: “The Triumph of Seeds” by Thor Hanson, 1 p.m.**
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 Join award-winning author and biologist Thor Hanson for an exploration of both the natural and cultural history of seeds – why they are so dominant in nature and why we are so utterly dependent upon them. Drawing on his recent book, *The Triumph of Seeds*, Hanson’s presentation weaves science and culture to show how these common wonders shape our world and touch our lives every day. You’ll never look at a seed the same way again. Doors open at noon for plant sales from Far Reaches Farm and book signing by Thor. Lecture begins at 1 p.m. **Cost:** \$5/Northwest Perennial Alliance members; \$20/non-NPA members. **Info:** http://www.northwestperennialalliance.org/Thor_Hanson_lecture.php

- March 26** **Adult Ranger Walk**, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 Join a Park Ranger to take a short hike through the wetlands of the Mercer Slough Nature Park. With an emphasis on the history and natural resources of the nature park, begin with an overview of the LEED Gold education center and end at the bridge that spans the channel of the Mercer Slough. Afterward you are free to explore further on your own. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- March 30** **Garden Class: “Garden Habitat for Bumble Bees and other Native Pollinators,”** 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 Explore the world of native pollinators, with an emphasis on our native bumble bees. Learn about these beneficial insects and how you can promote their survival with garden features and preferred flowers. Find out the benefits of attracting winged beauty, including butterflies and birds, to make your garden come to life. This is a Bellevue Parks Master Naturalist Species of the Year program! **Cost:** \$25/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>
- March 31 – April 9** **“The Little Mermaid” (Bellevue Youth Theatre Production),**
 March 31, April 1, 7 and 8 at 7 p.m.; April 2, 8 and 9 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
 Enjoy this splashy retelling of the beloved Hans Christian Andersen story. Watch the adventures of the little mermaid as she saves her kingdom and learns what’s truly important to her. This show has songs and dances for the whole family to enjoy. **Ages:** Suitable for audiences of all ages. **Cost:** \$12. All seats are reserved. Purchasing in advance is highly recommended! We frequently sell out and often don’t have tickets on the day of the show. Prices go up to \$15 if purchased beginning March 27. Group rates are available. **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.

APRIL 2017

March 31 – April 9 “The Little Mermaid” (Bellevue Youth Theatre Production),

March 31, April 1, 7 and 8 at 7 p.m.; April 2, 8 and 9 at 2 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street

Enjoy this splashy retelling of the beloved Hans Christian Andersen story. Watch the adventures of the little mermaid as she saves her kingdom and learns what’s truly important to her. This show has songs and dances for the whole family to enjoy. **Ages:** Suitable for audiences of all ages. **Cost:** \$12. All seats are reserved. Purchasing in advance is highly recommended! We frequently sell out and often don’t have tickets on the day of the show. Prices go up to \$15 if purchased beginning March 27. Group rates are available. **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.

April 1

Garden Class: “Orchids,” 10 a.m. - noon

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street

Learn about the characteristics and varieties of orchids from around the world. When buying, learn how to select a healthy orchid and how to care for it once you get it home. Get “hands on” and dissect an orchid blossom to better understand how it is pollinated and what may pollinate it. In addition, orchids are in our holiday foods. Learn about vanilla and its origin. This class will be taught by Mike Cory, secretary of the NW Orchid Society, docent, and board member of Friends of Volunteer Park Conservatory. **Cost:** \$25/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Recommended. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>

April 1

Lewis Creek Ranger Hike, 10:30 a.m. - noon

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:** Moderate (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

April 1

Kids! Bee a Super-Hero for Bumble Bees, 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street

Bumble bee numbers are declining. Let’s learn about these bees and how to help them survive! This will be an active, hands-on program where we’ll learn about the importance of bumble bees as pollinators. We’ll go out into the Lake Hills Ranger Station’s garden and plant some native flowering plants that bumble bees love for their nectar and pollen, and then we’ll learn how to make a bumble bee nest that can be installed in any garden. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** \$2 suggested donation. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** <http://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov>, course 114756. **Info:** 425-452-6993.

- April 2** **Monsters in the Bird Bath!**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
 They may look and sound pretty, but backyard songbirds are also vicious predators... if you're an insect! Join us to learn about the amazing variety of feathered predators right here in Lewis Creek Park. **Ages:** 5 years and older.
Cost: Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- April 6** **Garden Class: "Growing Tomatoes in the Pacific Northwest,"**
 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 This class covers all aspects of growing tomatoes in our challenging short season climate – starting from seed, selecting and preparing garden space or containers, good varieties to grow, planting and aftercare, common problems and solutions, and harvesting tips. The information is comprehensive and is appropriate for any level of gardener who is interested in growing tomatoes. Marcia Dillon, the instructor, volunteers at the Bellevue Demonstration Garden, where she manages the tomato beds and grows all of the tomato starts for the BDG spring plant sale.
Cost: \$25/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Recommended. **Info and to register:**
<http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>
- April 7** **Lewis Creek Story Time: "Time to Nest!"**,
 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. Lewis Creek Park is home to dozens of species of birds. Springtime means nests... and nestlings! We always make a fun craft to take home. **Ages:** 3 years and older. This is a parent/adult and child class. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for children and adults. **To register:** <http://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov/> or 425-452-6885, course 112321 or 112322. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- April 8** **Garden Class: "Create a Miniature Fairy Garden,"** 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 This class will be taught by Claire Woodward. You will create a miniature fairy garden using a tray, adding gravel, a lush soil mix, and a choice of up to three tropical plants. After planting, you will be able to choose from special colored sands, rocks, and other decorative elements to complete your one-of-a-kind miniature fairy garden. The typical student will take anywhere from 30 minutes to 1-1/2 hours to complete the garden. All supplies are included. This is a perfect class for families! **You can arrive anytime between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to start your project, as long as you're done by 11:30 a.m.** **Cost:** \$35/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$45/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>

- April 8** **Garden Class: “Create a Succulent Terrarium,”** Noon to 1 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 This class will be taught by Claire Woodward. Students will choose the terrarium shape they prefer, and then will add gravel, a desert soil mix, and a choice of up to three succulent plants. After planting, students will be able to choose from special colored sands, rocks, and other decorative elements to complete their one-of-a-kind terrarium. The typical student will take anywhere from 30 minutes to 1 hour to complete their terrarium. All supplies are included. **Cost:** \$35/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$45/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>
- April 8** **Monsters in the Bird Bath!,** 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
 They may look and sound pretty, but backyard songbirds are also vicious predators... if you're an insect! Join us to learn about the amazing variety of feathered predators right here in Lewis Creek Park. **Ages:** 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- April 9** **Lakemont Highlands Open Space Ranger Hike,** 10 a.m. - noon
Meet at: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
 Explore the lesser-known trails of South Bellevue. Parks and open spaces guide you (and wildlife) through friendly neighborhoods. **Distance:** 3.5 miles. **Level of difficulty:** Difficult (350 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- April 9** **Family-Friendly Ranger Walk,** 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 Bring the whole family to join a Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This family-friendly program allows parents and their kids to explore the mosaic of habitats while learning more about the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. This hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge on the shores of the Slough. From there you are able to continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- April 12** **Garden Class: “Clematis: Queen of the Climbers,”** 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 This class will be taught by Laura Watson. Learn the basics of clematis care from planting to pruning, and view a PowerPoint presentation with photos of many of the different kinds of clematis. The instructor will bring in some clematis vines for a hands-on pruning demonstration. Learn how and where to best grow this beautiful climber and where to obtain unusual hybrids. **Cost:** \$25/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>

- April 15** **Plant Sale: Northwest Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society,**
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
This sale features plants from Far Reaches Farm, Edelweiss Perennials, Cottage Lake Gardens, and more! Members of the Northwestern Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society and regional specialty growers will offer a wide range of plants that grow in the mountains, forests, and deserts of the West, along with plants from Europe, Asia, and South America. Members will be available to demonstrate growing conditions and to give advice. **Cost:** Free admission; open to the public. Costs of plants will vary. **Info:** <https://www.nargsnw.org/2017-spring-plant-sale>
- April 15** **April Pools Day – 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**
Bellevue Aquatic Center, 601 143rd Avenue NE
Children will have the opportunity to learn basic self-help skills in a water emergency with water safety demonstration, lifejacket fitting, and a visit from Mercer Island Marine Patrol and their rescue boat. There will also be free raffles for prizes! **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** 12 and under swim for free; 13 and older swim for \$7. **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4444.
- April 15** **Family Discovery Series: Coexisting with Nature in Urban Environments,**
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
As urban sprawl continues to encroach into wild areas, humans and animals are often forced to share the same space. Many animals are thriving in urban environments, but some of our choices can have a negative impact on their well-being even when we may not realize it. Come discover how we can make better earth-smart choices that affect animals and us. Together we can coexist in a healthy way. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- April 21-30** **“Guys and Dolls” (Bellevue Youth Theatre Production),**
April 21, 22, 28 and 29 at 7 p.m.; April 23, 29 and 30 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
Watch Sky and Sarah fall in love against the backdrop of New York City. This classical musical includes great numbers such as “Luck Be a Lady.” Great fun for the entire family. **Ages:** Suitable for audiences of all ages. **Cost:** \$12. All seats are reserved. Purchasing in advance is highly recommended! We frequently sell out and often don’t have tickets on the day of the show. Prices go up to \$15 if purchased beginning April 17. Group rates are available. **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.

- April 22** **Arbor Day-Earth Day Family Festival**, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Bellevue's annual Arbor Day-Earth Day event will mark the city's 26th year of being recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. The event will include volunteer projects, a tree-planting ceremony, and family festival.
- **Family Festival**, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Held at Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center. Local environmental stewardship organizations will host free activities, ranger walks and eco-demonstrations. Kids can grab an Arbor Day-Earth Day Passport from a ranger and journey through various eco-stations. Completed passports will be entered into a prize drawing. All ages are welcome!
 - **Arbor Day-Earth Day Ceremonial Tree Planting**, 11:30 a.m. - Bellevue Park Rangers and elected officials will participate in the ceremony and recognize many wonderful volunteers and community groups. A ceremonial tree will be planted.
- Ages:** All ages are welcome; family event. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

- April 23** **Garden Lecture: "Butterflies of Cascadia: Life Histories and Conservation,"** 1 p.m. (Doors open at noon for book signing and plant sales.)
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Cascadia, or the Pacific Northwest, is home to more than 160 species of butterflies. In this entertaining lecture, the intimate life histories of a number of these species will be revealed, demonstrating that caterpillars can be just as interesting as the butterflies they eventually become! The importance of conserving our butterflies will be explored and highlighted, as well as things that anyone with a garden can do to help preserve these iconic winged jewels. **Cost:** Free for Northwest Perennial Alliance members; \$15/non-NPA members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:**
http://www.northwestperennialalliance.org/David_James_lecture.php

- April 24** **Movie Night: "MicroCosmos: It's Jurassic Park in Your Own Backyard,"**
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
This film captures the amazing transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly, the birth of a mosquito, stag beetles dueling like titans, and many other minute miracles. You will have a front row seat to watch this hidden universe revealed. With its cast of thousands, MicroCosmos leaves no doubt that "Mother Nature" remains the greatest special effects wizard of all. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:**
MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

- April 25** **Garden Lecture: “Seeking Washington Wildflowers,”** 7 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 Richard Ramsden will provide an examination of wildflowers in their native habitats from roadsides to mountain peaks of Washington. Native species discussed will include many rare or rarely seen. Their unique qualities will be highlighted, as well as suggestions on where to see them this spring and upcoming summer. This program is intended for everyone with an interest in native plants: beginning or advanced, hiker or gardener. **Cost:** Open to the public; no admission fee. **Info:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/819770928174591/>
- April 27** **Garden Class: “Introduction to Organic Gardening for Herbs, Vegetables, and Fruits,”** 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 This class will be taught by Tilth Alliance (formerly Seattle Tilth). Interested in growing your own food but don’t know where to start? Let a Seattle Tilth gardener show you how - with a little sun, soil and water you can turn your backyard into your most local source of fresh, organic vegetables and fruits. We will discuss siting your garden, building healthy soil, basics of garden planning, and pest management tips. The presentation will include a slideshow plus planting demonstration. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions, and you’ll leave with lots of resources to support your gardening success. **Cost:** \$25/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>
- April 28** **What is Weather?,** 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
 The coming of spring brings many changes to Pacific Northwest weather. Come learn from a local Park Ranger what causes changes in weather, and watch a demonstration of how to make your very own cloud in a jar! **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** \$2 suggested donation. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** <http://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov>, course 112723. **Info:** 425-452-6993.
- April 29** **The Great SBCC Challenge,** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
South Bellevue Community Center, 14509 SE Newport Way
 South Bellevue Community Center and Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue co-present this unique event. Teams of 3-5 compete in a series of fun challenges which require athleticism for physical feats, smarts for mental tasks, and artistic abilities for creative endeavors. The team that successfully completes the challenges in the allotted time while earning the most points will be crowned winner! Twists and turns can throw off the most talented, so beware! **Ages:** 6 years and older. One adult per team is required. **Cost:** \$10/team member. **Pre-registration:** Required; registration deadline is Wednesday, April 19. **To register:** <https://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov>, course 111294. **Info:** sbcc@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4240.

- April 29** **Adult Enrichment: Birding Basics**, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 The Mercer Slough provides essential habitat for both resident and migratory birds. Join a Master Birder from the Eastside Audubon Society to learn more about birds in our area. Enjoy a guided walk through the Nature Park to listen to the songs of spring. Be sure to bring your binoculars and bird field guides as well. **Ages:** Adults only. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- April 29** **Volunteer for Kelsey Creek Farm Event**, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
 We are seeking energetic, fun teens to assist with children’s activities at Kelsey Creek Farm’s special event. Volunteers must be able to follow directions, be comfortable in crowds, and be on your feet in all types of weather. This is a great way to earn your community service hours. Dress to work outside with the public. Wear sturdy shoes that can get wet. Volunteers must pre-register. **Ages:** 14-18 years old and enrolled in high school. **Cost:** Free. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** 425-452-7688, course 110912. **Info:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.
- April 29** **Kelsey Creek Farm Sheep Shearing**, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
 Watch the sheep being shorn of their winter coats. Enjoy wool spinning demonstrations, children’s crafts, tractor/wagon rides, pony rides, food, and animal viewing areas. Free shuttle service will be available at Wilburton Park & Ride and Bannerwood Sports Park. Please note: No pets are allowed in the barnyard area. **Ages:** All ages welcome; family event. **Cost:** Free admission. Costs vary for food and activities. No ATM is on site, and credit cards are accepted for pony rides only. **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.
- April 29** **Fraser Cabin Heritage Program**, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
 The Fraser Cabin, built in 1888, comes to life with activities and interpretation presented by volunteers and staff from the Eastside Heritage Center. Visitors are invited to participate in hands-on activities that relate to 1880s settler life: agriculture, dairy, household tasks, log cabins, games and Eastside history. This program is part of Kelsey Creek Farm’s Sheep Shearing event and is presented by the Eastside Heritage Center in partnership with Bellevue Parks & Community Services. **Ages:** All ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** Eastside Heritage Center – www.eastsideheritagecenter.org or 425-450-1049.

- April 29** **Family Discovery Series: Coexisting with Nature in Urban Environments,**
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
As urban sprawl continues to encroach into wild areas, humans and animals are often forced to share the same space. Many animals are thriving in urban environments, but some of our choices can have a negative impact on their well-being even when we may not realize it. Come discover how we can make better earth-smart choices that affect animals and us. Together we can coexist in a healthy way. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- April 29** **Living with Wildlife – That Woodpecker is Driving Me Crazy!,**
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Ever wonder which species of bird is making that obnoxious sound on the chimney and nearby trees? Of the 11 species of woodpeckers that live in Washington, the northern flicker is probably the most commonly seen and heard. Come learn about the benefits of having woodpeckers in your yard, and how we can get along together. **Ages:** 13 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- April 30** **Lewis Creek Wilderness Tea Party, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join us for a tea party where you never know what new friends you will make! Come learn who lives in our forests, and listen to the sounds of nature as we sip beneath the trees. Wear that dress or tie that you don't mind getting a bit dirty, and sip on our selection of decaffeinated teas. This is a child and caregiver class. **Ages:** Best for ages 3 to 7 with their adult caregiver. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for children and adults. **To register:** <https://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov/>, course 112335 **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- April 30** **Mercer Slough Adult Ranger Walk, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., rain or shine**
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Join a Ranger to take a short hike through the wetlands of Mercer Slough Nature Park. With an emphasis on the history and natural resources of the Nature Park, begin with an overview of the LEED Gold education center and end at the bridge that spans the channel of Mercer Slough. Afterward, you are free to explore further on your own. **Ages:** Adults only. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** mseec@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

MAY 2017

- May 4** **Garden Class: “Selecting and Growing Berries in the Pacific Northwest,”**
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
This class is designed to familiarize the urban and suburban gardener with common, and some less common, berries that can be grown in the Pacific Northwest. We will cover fruit descriptions, soil, planting and training requirements, as well as disease susceptibility. The presentation is appropriate for beginning to mid-range technical, and will follow a printed outline. Questions will be encouraged and answered throughout the presentation. Larry Davis has been an avid backyard vegetable gardener and orchardist for most of his life; he joined the Seattle Fruit Society in the late 1980s and was a King County Master Gardener for twenty years. **Cost:** \$25/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$35/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>
- May 5** **Lewis Creek Story Time: “Birds to Share”,**
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. Each May, International Migratory Bird Day is celebrated across the Americas! As part of this international event, we’ll read stories and make crafts related to the amazing multi-national birds we all love. We always make a fun craft to take home. **Ages:** 3 years and older. This is a parent/adult and child class. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for children and adults. **To register:** <http://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov/> or 425-452-6885, course 117746 or 117747. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- May 6** **Plant Sale: Eastside Fuchsia Society Plant Sale, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
This sale features a great selection of plants from the Eastside Fuchsia Society. **Cost:** Free admission; costs vary for plants for sale. **Info:** 425-452-2750.
- May 6** **Lewis Creek Ranger-Led Hike, 10:30 a.m. - noon**
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-Moderate (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

- May 6** **Nature’s Recyclers**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 Who is cleaning up the forest floor? Fungus, bacteria, and invertebrates are nature’s busy recyclers working endlessly to break down organic material. Not only do they break down decaying matter, but they also turn it into rich nutrient-filled soil necessary for healthy forests. Join a Park Ranger to enjoy a story, hands-on activities, and a chance to meet some wiggly recyclers. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- May 6-7** **Hua Yuan Chinese Floral Art Exhibition**, 9 a.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 The exquisite floral arrangements created by members of the school will be on display. **Cost:** Free! **Info:** 425-452-2750.
- May 7** **Family-Friendly Ranger Walk**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 Bring the whole family to join a Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This family-friendly program allows parents and their kids to explore the mosaic of habitats while learning more about the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. This hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge on the shores of the Slough. From there you are able to continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- May 7** **Living with Wildlife – Black-Tailed Deer**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
 Black-tailed deer are a welcomed friend in many of Bellevue’s neighborhoods. Join us to learn about how to attract deer, deer biology, how to address potential conflicts (including how to protect your fruit trees), what to do if you find a fawn, and much more! **Ages:** 13 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- May 10** **Garden Class: “Make a Crepe Paper Peony,”** 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 This class will be taught by Kate Alarcon. Come celebrate peony season, and learn to make this surprisingly simple paper peony with local flower-maker, Kate Alarcon! This pretty bloom is made of layers of European crepe paper in two different weights; it’s perfect for beginners. It’s also a great one to have in your flower-making repertoire, since it works up so quickly and adds so much drama and texture to an arrangement. We’ll make one flower together during the workshop, and you’ll take home supplies for two more so you can practice at home. All materials and tools provided. **Cost:** \$55/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$65/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>

- May 12** **Bumble Bees in My Backyard!**, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
 What are those fuzzy bees that are fatter than honey bees? How do they differ from wasps and hornets? Why are bumble bees unique and important, and why do they matter to us? How can we help these pollinators do their job? Learn about Bellevue’s busy buzzer, the Yellow-Faced Bumble Bee, *Bombus vosnesenskii*, the Bellevue Master Naturalists’ “Species of the Year.” A short film, art activity, and bee-centered game will be followed by a walk around the wetland at Lewis Creek Park to (hopefully) see and hear bumble bees doing their favorite thing – pollinating flowers! **Ages:** Best for ages 6 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for children and adults. **To register:** <https://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov/>, course 117756. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- May 12** **Lake Hills Greenbelt Evening Ranger Hike**, 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
 Spend the later part of your day going on a walk with a Bellevue Park Ranger. Listen for nocturnal animals, smell the cool evening air, and see the park in a different light. Also, come learn what it takes to be a creature of the night in Bellevue’s parks! **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** \$2 suggested donation. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** <http://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov>, course 112723. **Info:** 425-452-6993.
- May 12-21** **“Oliver!” (Bellevue Youth Theatre Production),**
 May 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 7 p.m.; May 13, 20 and 21 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
 Follow Oliver’s journey from workhouse, to the streets, to a loving home, and all the twists and turns in this classic story. This is a beloved musical. **Ages:** Suitable for audiences of all ages. **Cost:** \$12. All seats are reserved. Purchasing in advance is highly recommended! We frequently sell out and often don’t have tickets on the day of the show. Prices go up to \$15 if purchased beginning May 8. Group rates are available. **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.
- May 13** **The Food Web: Don’t Get Eaten!**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
 In the woods, animals are always looking for a meal! Learn about the intricate web of life that exists all around us in this interactive program. **Ages:** Best for ages 5-9 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

- May 13** **Nature’s Recyclers**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 Who is cleaning up the forest floor? Fungus, bacteria, and invertebrates are nature’s busy recyclers working endlessly to break down organic material. Not only do they break down decaying matter, but they also turn it into rich nutrient-filled soil necessary for healthy forests. Join a Park Ranger to enjoy a story, hands-on activities, and a chance to meet some wiggly recyclers. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- May 14** **Mother’s Day Social**, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 Presented by the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, this lovely open house features light refreshments and beautiful scenery. Stroll the garden and shop for Mom at the Trillium Store. **Cost:** Free! **Info:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/events.html>.
- May 17** **Garden Lecture: “Magic and Miracle: The Subtle and Profound Beauty of Plants,”** 7 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 A maple tree may be entirely a male one year, entirely female the next, and represent both sexes the following year! Dan Hinkley will introduce you to some of the natural world’s strange and wonderful characters on a visual tour of some of his favorite plants. He will discuss some of their unique characteristics, including ornamental attributes, morphological features, pollination strategies, or seed dispersal mechanics. Learn about the mystery surrounding many of the plants you are already growing in your garden, or discover a few you will want to include in the near future. **Cost:** \$5/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members; \$15/non-BBGS members. **Pre-registration:** Recommended. **Info and to register:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>
- May 19** **Wild Babies!**, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
 It’s the end of Spring, and many baby animals are growing up all around us. Discover some of the amazing ways wild babies survive and thrive out in the woods. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** \$2 suggested donation. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** <http://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov>, course 112723. **Info:** 425-452-6993.

- May 20** **Fraser Cabin Heritage Program**, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE
 The Fraser Cabin, built in 1888, comes to life with activities and interpretation presented by volunteers and staff from the Eastside Heritage Center. Visitors are invited to participate in hands-on activities that relate to 1880s settler life: agriculture, dairy, household tasks, log cabins, games and Eastside history. Fraser Cabin Heritage Programs are presented by the Eastside Heritage Center in partnership with Bellevue Parks & Community Services. **Ages:** All ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** Eastside Heritage Center – www.eastsideheritagecenter.org or 425-450-1049.
- May 20** **Vermicomposting Basics**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 Red Wigglers are often referred to as nature’s greatest recyclers. They turn our food scraps into nutrient-rich soil for free. Join us to learn more about how to build your own worm bin, and get started composting your kitchen scraps using these amazing creatures. Take home your new pets! **Ages:** Adults. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- May 20** **The Food Web: Don’t Get Eaten!**, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
 In the woods, animals are always looking for a meal! Learn about the intricate web of life that exists all around us in this interactive program. **Ages:** Best for ages 5-9 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- May 20-21** **Garden Event: East Lake Washington District of Garden Clubs Terra Tillers Flower Show**, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
 Eastside gardeners will bring their best flowering trees, shrubs, and cut flowers to show off. The show also includes dish gardens and special exhibits. **Cost:** Free! No admission fee, and open to the public. **Info:** <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html>
- May 21** **“Woof Walk” at Lakemont Highlands Open Space**, 10 a.m. - noon
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
 Come explore Lakemont Highlands Open Space with your furry friend! Learn about the natural history and wildlife of the park and how we can keep our pets safe. Please limit one dog per guest with leash, and bring a doggy waste bag. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **RSVP required by 4 p.m. on May 20.** **Distance:** 3.5 miles. **Level of difficulty:** Moderate-Difficult (350 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required by 4 p.m. on May 20. **Info and to RSVP:** 425-452-4195.

- May 21** **Adult Ranger Walk**, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 Join a Park Ranger to take a short hike through the wetlands of the Mercer Slough Nature Park. With an emphasis on the history and natural resources of the nature park, begin with an overview of the LEED Gold education center and end at the bridge that spans the channel of the Mercer Slough. Afterward you are free to explore further on your own. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- May 24** **Youth Link’s 27th Annual Community Leadership Awards –**
 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall, Council Chambers, 450 110th Avenue NE
 Join us for an evening of celebration as we recognize young people’s contributions in our community. Twenty-one program and community awards will be presented, ranging from academics, sports, community service, youth leadership, and youth in arts. Submit youth nominations to www.youthlink.com. Nomination deadline is May 5. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP via <http://27cla.bpt.me/> **Info:** Patrick Alina at palina@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5254.
- May 26** **Nature Movie Night: “Ants: Little Creatures Who Run the World”,**
 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
 They wage wars and live in a world of coded communication and lightning chains of command. They may be small but are capable of lifting 20 times their own body weight. Spend an hour watching this film to learn more about these fascinating social insects. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- May 26** **All About Bats**, 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
 Learn about the only mammals that truly fly! How are bats different from birds or rodents, why do they fly at night, and what do they do during the day? Join Bats Northwest and Bellevue Master Naturalists to discover all about bats: their benefits to the environment, how scientists study our local species, how we can protect bats, and how to address potential conflicts at home. Come prepared to take a short walk outside in search of bats at the end of the program when it gets dark. **Ages:** Best for ages 10 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required for children and adults. **To register:** <http://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov>, course 117758. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

YEAR-ROUND EVENTS

Farm Parties

Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE

Celebrate your child's special day with a visit to the farm! Meet our goats, sheep, rabbits, pig, and ponies. Then create your own wooly sheep to take home. Party packages include one hour tour/craft time and one hour room rental. Parties are limited to 30 children and/or adults. Children under 2 are no additional charge. **Ages:** 2-11 years old. **Cost:** \$165 (resident) and \$180 (non-resident) for 15 or fewer people (children and adults). Additional attendees are \$6 per child. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.

Kids on the Farm Group Tour

Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE

Meet the farm animals and learn interesting animal facts. Experience the old-fashioned skill of wool carding while creating a wooly sheep to take home. These tours are for preschool and school groups. Tours are available weekdays and are approximately one hour in length. **Ages:** 2 years and older. **Cost:** \$90 for 15 or fewer people (children and adults). Additional attendees are \$6 per child and \$2.50 per adult. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.

Springtime in the Barnyard – available in May only

Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place SE

Welcome springtime with a tour of our animals, which may include chicks, goat kids, piglets and a calf. Learn about their special care, then finish up with a walk through the garden. Tours are available weekdays and are approximately one hour in length. **Ages:** 2 years and older. **Cost:** \$90 for 15 or fewer people (children and adults). Additional attendees are \$6 per child and \$2.50 per adult. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month

Reading with Rover

Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th Street

Dogs help kids learn to read. Reading with Rover dogs will be at the Crossroads Community Center to listen to children read to them. This free program inspires children to discover the joy of reading while developing literacy skills and confidence in a fun, safe environment using trained therapy dogs. **Ages:** 6 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** <http://www.readingwithrover.org/> or call Judi Hagen, 425-452-4874.

4th Tuesday each month

Bellevue Youth Court, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Council Chambers

Monthly session of Bellevue Youth Court with two juvenile court cases. **Info:** 425-452-2846 or hstephens@bellevuewa.gov .

1st and 3rd Wednesday each month

Youth Link 25th Anniversary & Community Leadership Awards Event Planning Meeting, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Room 1E-120

Assist in planning our 25th anniversary celebration scheduled for May 2015, and help set the theme, program and marketing of the youth recognition event. Students will help plan and will gain experience in planning the community event from concept to delivery. **Info:** Youth Link: 425-452-5254 or palina@bellevuewa.gov . Visit www.youthlink.com for program and updated schedule.

1st and 3rd Wednesday each month

Bellevue Youth Council Meeting, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Room 1E-120

Youth leadership and community service program for Bellevue middle and high school students. **Info:** Youth Link: 425-452-5254 or palina@bellevuewa.gov . Visit www.youthlink.com for program and updated schedule.

1st and 3rd Wednesday each month

Action Team Meetings, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-120, 450 110th Avenue NE

Participate in planning community special events, community service projects, and other youth leadership activities. Action Teams and planning committees include Youth Link Marketing, Kids Care Coat Drive, Youth Involvement Conference, Community Leadership Awards, We Day, Youth Link University, Crossroads Homework Help, and Youth Link Robotics. **Info:** call Youth Link at 425-452-5254 or email palina@bellevuewa.gov . Visit www.youthlink.com for program and updated schedule info.

1st Thursday each month

Bellevue Network on Aging Meeting, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Room 1E-120

Info: 425-452-7681 or visit www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm.

Every Thursday

Kids Care Coat Drive Planning Committee, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-120, 450 110th Avenue NE

Help plan an annual city-wide coat drive for families in Bellevue. **Info:** Youth Link at 425-452-5254 or palina@bellevuewa.gov . Visit www.youthlink.com for program and updated schedule info.

1st Saturday each month

Lewis Creek Ranger Walk, 10:30 a.m. - noon.

Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Join a Ranger to explore the natural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife, and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required.

Info: 425-452-4195.

Every Saturday

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Walk, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street

Do you know the story behind the Phantom at Phantom Lake? Have you ever seen our feathered migratory visitors? Can you spot a nurse log? Join a Park Ranger for a free guided tour of the Greenbelt. Discover the history of the park, view community gardens, and share stories about our local wildlife. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration** is not required for groups smaller than 10. **Info:** 425-452-7225.

Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Luncheon, Noon

North Bellevue Community Center, 4063 148th Avenue NE

Adults 60 and older can enjoy a delicious, hot lunch. **Suggested donation:** \$3 for those 60 and older; fee of \$6.00 for those under 60. Lunches sponsored and prepared by Catholic Community Services staff and Center volunteers. Special events such as Thanksgiving and Holiday lunches.

Info/Pre-register: 425-452-7681.