

GOALS FOR THE CITY OF BELLEVUE'S INVOLVEMENT IN RECREATION

Bellevue, like most other cities, has a variety of public and private, scheduled and informal, structured and unstructured, recreation opportunities available to its residents. Through the direct provision of recreation programs or through the use of City parks, open space, and other recreation facilities, the City seeks to achieve the following specific goals in the delivery of structured recreation programs and activities:



1. TO ENSURE THAT THE CITY PROVIDES RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT ALLOW ALL RESIDENTS TO ENJOY THE POSITIVE BENEFITS OF RECREATION

The City will focus its programming and activities on introductory and basic skill development geared to address the needs of specific target populations. Services to non-target populations, and advanced and highly selective activities, will be provided through the community's private recreation organizations. Further, Parks & Community Services will focus service delivery on intervention and prevention programs and services. In all program areas, the department will provide reasonable accommodations and promote inclusion of all residents participating in City-offered programs and services.

2. TO PLACE SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE CITY'S RECREATION PROGRAMMING AND SPENDING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF TEENS, YOUTH, OLDER ADULTS (SENIORS), PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND THOSE WITH LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION

It is Parks & Community Services' policy to provide recreation opportunities for population groups that are under-served by other private recreation service providers. Absent City-sponsored activities, these groups' access to recreation would be limited.



3. TO DESIGN AND DELIVER PROGRAMS COLLECTIVELY WITH OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS IN THE CITY OF BELLEVUE

The City is the largest single provider of recreation services in Bellevue. However, it does not, and should not, attempt to fulfill all the recreational needs of its residents. Other organizations, public and private, are positioned to provide certain services at lower costs or with greater effectiveness than the City. This means more than simply contracting for services. The City's participation in the Eastside Pathways initiative is one example. Eastside Pathways is a collective impact organization with a wide array of partners including the Bellevue School District, social service nonprofits, community-based organizations, parent groups, businesses, funders, families, and youth. Eastside Pathways organizes collection action to benefit all Bellevue youth to improve school readiness, create engaging summer and extended learning opportunities, support good attendance, and enhance career readiness opportunities.



The City should also continue to provide opportunities for volunteerism for individuals, families and groups. Volunteer service connects residents to our programs, makes effective use of community resources and reduces program budgets.



4. TO PROMOTE THE FULL UTILIZATION OF THE CITY'S CURRENT AND FUTURE RECREATION FACILITIES AS APPROPRIATE

Parks & Community Services operates and programs four major community centers, four smaller-scale centers and multiple special purpose facilities throughout Bellevue. The parks and opens space system includes 2,500 acres of forests, natural areas and developed

park sites including indoor and outdoor active recreation facilities, gardens, waterfront access and open areas available for unstructured recreation activities.

To maximize the community's investment in the existing and future parks and open space system, the department commits to make full use of each facility and to promote increased integration, and intergenerational programming across the system.

5. TO BUILD A HEALTHY COMMUNITY THROUGH RECREATION PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

These activities:

- promote a sense of identity and cohesion;
- bring neighbors and neighborhoods together;
- increase the levels of Developmental Assets among youth (see Appendix 4);
- integrate people of various ages, abilities, economic and cultural backgrounds;
- foster pride in the community; and
- provide Bellevue residents with preferential access to City sponsored activities and programs.

All members of the Bellevue community can benefit from participation in recreation activities. The City will continue to program its facilities and community programs to promote maximum use by all residents. The City will also continue its active role in facilitating and producing an ongoing series of community events. Examples of these include, but are not limited to: Bellevue Family Fourth of July, Garden D'Lights, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration, Earth Day/Arbor Day, Crossroads Holiday celebrations and Kelsey Creek Park Farm Fair and Sheep Shearing.



6. TO UNDERSTAND AND PLAN FOR FUTURE NEEDS AND TRENDS IN RECREATION

This goal will be accomplished by actively:

- monitoring changes in Bellevue population;
- assessing the changes in the capacity of Bellevue's recreation providers; and
- seeking regional solutions to meeting Bellevue's recreation needs.

Recreation needs and trends are always in a state of change and development. Bellevue's population is both aging and growing more diverse. The range of other public and private recreation providers and opportunities is constantly changing. Examples of changes in demand include the growth in popularity of adventure programming for teens and young

adults and active/fitness related programming for all ages. These changes can have a substantial impact on the City’s programming, its partnerships, and its facilities. In order to be positioned to respond appropriately to these shifts in demand, the City will need to actively work to maintain an understanding of new trends and opportunities through partnerships, interlocal agreements, and collaboration with other public, private for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

