



Meeting Agenda
Parks & Community Services Board

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

5:00 PM

Robinswood House

Special Retreat Meeting

The Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board will be conducting a special retreat meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at Robinswood House, 2430 148th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA. Public comment will not be taken at this meeting, however, members of the public are still welcome to observe. To address the Board in writing, please email parkboard@bellevuewa.gov with the subject line "Written Communications – June 17".

1. Tour of Robinswood Park

2. Call to Order and Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Director's Report

- a) [26-415](#) Parks CIP Project Status Report

5. Board Communication

6. Discussion/Action Items

- a) [26-416](#) 2027-32 Parks & Community Services Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget
approximately 45 minutes

7. Adjournment

For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4162 (voice) or email ParkBoard@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

Rules of decorum for public communication and conduct at meetings were adopted by the City Council in Ordinance 6752. Copies of this ordinance can be found on the city's website, and are also available from the City Clerk's Office.



Parks CIP Project Status Report

June 2026

The Capital Projects Team continues to make progress on park planning efforts and improvement projects. This report features projects that have reached new milestones since the last report.

BelRed Neighborhood Park Master Plan

The city is planning a new neighborhood park at 12525 NE Spring Blvd. The park master plan will help guide the design and construction of this new 8-acre park in the BelRed neighborhood. Approximately 25 people attended the first community engagement meeting on May 7 at Highlands Community Center. An online survey to gain additional community feedback closed on June 7 and the project team is now reviewing results. Community engagement opportunities for this summer are being planned.

Pop-up Off Leash Area Program

Parks & Community Services initiated a temporary pop-up program to test accessible and safe off-leash sites for pets and their owners in 2023. Off-leash areas have been built at Crossroads Community Park, Wilburton Hill Community Park, and Wildwood Park. Improvements, such as benches and water, are being added to these permanent sites. New pop-up off-leash areas are now being implemented at Enatai Neighborhood Park, Goldsmith Neighborhood Park, and the Highland-Glendale site at 820 134th Ave NE. An online survey is available now on the city website to solicit feedback: [Dogs in Bellevue Parks | City of Bellevue](#). News releases will be issued soon to promote the new pop-up locations and survey.

Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2

In Summer 2025, City Council directed staff to proceed with construction documentation and permitting to develop phase 2 of the park which will include the Meydenbauer Bay Park Gateway Plaza at Main and 100th Ave SE, additional parking, and an interim shoreline promenade expansion. In May, the city received State approval to utilize GCCM (General Contractor Construction Manager) alternative delivery for this project. GCCM allows the city to hire the general contractor during the design phase to utilize their construction and cost estimating expertise to create best value for the project.

2026 Renovation Projects

Projects identified in the 2026-2031 Renovation, Refurbishment, and ADA Accessibility Program Report are underway. Community engagement opportunities were held at Crossroads Community Center to get user feedback from teens for a planned “teen room” upgrade. Final scoping is nearly complete for repairs and updates at the Bellevue Aquatics Center, with work anticipated to occur in August. A survey to gain community feedback on potential improvements at Enatai Neighborhood Park will be available soon.



More Active Projects

Park projects take time to implement, and the following projects continue to make steady progress.

- Ashwood Park
- Aquatic Center Design
- Airfield Park
- Eastgate Commons
- Trail Projects at Coal Creek, Mercer Slough, 168th Ave Open Space, and Eastrail
- Waterfront park projects at Clyde Beach Boathouse, Chism Beach Park, and Lake Sammamish
- Kelsey Creek Park Restroom
- Park Operations Facility
- Robinswood Park Playground

While there have been no major changes since the last Park Board meeting, please reference prior months' reports for the latest information. New updates will be shared when meaningful milestones are reached.

[26-360 - Parks CIP Project Status Report](#) (May 2026)

[26-283 - Parks CIP Project Status Report](#) (April 2026)

[26-238 - Parks CIP Project Status Report](#) (March 2026)

[26-183 - Parks CIP Project Status Report](#) (February 2026)

Parks capital projects are also featured on the City's [Capital Projects Dashboard](#). This dashboard is updated quarterly (next update scheduled for June). Click "Filter by Department" and select "Parks & Community Services" to see the department's active projects. Click symbols on the map or choose from the list of Active Projects to see project details.

Additional information on park projects can be found here: [Current Projects | City of Bellevue](#)

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: June 17, 2026

TO: Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Camron Parker, Assistant Director
Wyatt Thompson, Park Planning and Development Manager
Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: 2027-32 Parks & Community Services Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget
For discussion – no Board action required

At the June meeting, the Parks & Community Services Board will return to the 2027-32 budget process. As advisors to the City Council, one of the duties of the board is to provide comments on the projects proposed in the Parks & Community Services Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget (Attachment A). This is transmitted in the form of a memo similar to the quarterly memos prepared throughout the year. For reference, the recommendations submitted during the last budget process are attached (Attachment B).

In April, the board received a presentation with an overview of the city's budget process and an update on the current programs and projects underway and planned in the current CIP budget. In June, the board will discuss and agree upon key messages and themes that will form the communication to the City Council on the proposed 2027-32 Parks CIP budget. A draft letter will then be reviewed and approved by the board at the July meeting. This process is consistent with prior budget cycles.

Staff will lay the groundwork for board discussion by reviewing several items related to the CIP budgeting process. Elements include a review of the City's budget process, City Council strategic target areas (Attachment C), citywide and department planning frameworks, and a status update on the department's 2025-30 CIP portfolio.

Budget Process

The budget is one of the City's most important documents. The budget process organizes all city operating and capital budgets around six Strategic Target Areas. Parks & Community Services' capital improvement proposals are primarily directed at the High Quality Built and Natural Environment target area.

Parks & Community Services' capital project proposals are responsive to the City's Strategic Target Areas and Council Priorities. In addition, they address needs and

objectives identified in the adopted Parks and Open Space System Plan (System Plan; bellevuewa.gov/park-plan) and projects promised in voter-approved parks levy packages in 2008 and 2022.

This fall, the City Manager will present a Preliminary Proposed Budget to the City Council with the Parks & Community Services Board's transmittal included. The City Council will review the proposed budget through a public process and adopt the final budget before the end of the year. We will keep the board informed of the Parks CIP status throughout the process.

Guiding Plans and Levies

Citywide planning starts with the City's Comprehensive Plan, which is a foundational policy document that guides the city's growth and development over 20-year spans. The last update occurred in 2024. It provides the policy basis for other guiding plans completed by various departments focusing on more specific neighborhoods, facilities, or services.

For Parks & Community Services, the Parks and Open Space System Plan (POSSP) contains the community's long-range vision for acquisition and development of parks and trails and preservation of open space. It also sets the standards for the operation and maintenance of Bellevue's parks, trails and open spaces over time. Importantly, the POSSP holds the ideas that are ultimately put into the Parks CIP. It also provides support for projects that are included in voter-approved levies (Attachment D).

Capital Improvement Program

The proposed 2027-2032 CIP utilizes a new organizing element for budgeting and tracking capital projects based on portfolios and program areas. Parks & Community Services will have one project portfolio with four programs:

- Park Development and Expansion
- Trails and Natural Systems
- Waterfront and Destination Parks
- Renovation and Renewal

The Park Development and Expansion program includes projects to build-out new parks and facilities or make major enhancements to existing parks that add or change major program elements. The System Plan emphasizes acquisition and development of parks to meet future demand and geographic equity.

The Trails and Natural Systems program focuses on projects that expand and enhance the citywide network of trails and natural areas. The System Plan identifies open space, greenways, wildlife corridors, and trails as a core capital focus area with strong community support for trail access.

The Waterfront and Destination Parks program comprises projects that develop new or improve existing waterfront parks, protect shoreline ecology, and enhance iconic destination sites such as Downtown Park. Waterfront access and destination parks are called out as a distinct program category due to the complex and high-visibility nature of these capital investments.

The Renovation and Renewal program works to maintain safe, accessible and energy efficient parks and park facilities. Bellevue Parks & Community Services maintains a large, aging system that requires ongoing renovation and refurbishment to meet community needs and expectations.

Board Discussion

As shared during the April presentation, broad and ongoing economic uncertainty points to a budget process that is focused on maintaining current levels of service. Following that presentation, board members identified some initial items of note, including:

- Equitable access and removal of barriers to accessing parks and programming.
- Land acquisition challenges associated with acquiring expensive land in dense commercial or urban settings, along with the key role that partnerships and/or the development process might play.
- Importance of trail connections and continuing to build out the network.
- Maintaining and enhancing flexibility in urban park design.

At the June meeting, the board will refine these items and discuss others to include in the memo to the City Council.

Attachments

- A. Parks & Community Services CIP Program and Project List
- B. 2024 Parks & Community Services Board memorandum to City Council
- C. City Council Strategic Target Areas
- D. Parks and Open Space Levy report

Attachment A: Parks & Community Services CIP Program and Project List

Park Development and Expansion

P-AD-101	Bridle Trails/140th Street
P-AD-103	Bel-Red Parks & Streams
P-AD-105	King County Parks Levy (2020-2025)
P-AD-107	Ashwood Park Development
P-AD-108	Aquatics Facility Design (A&E)
P-AD-109	Eastgate Neighborhood Park
P-AD-110	Factoria Neighborhood Park
P-AD-111	Off-Leash and Emerging Sports Facilities
P-AD-115	Japanese Memorial Garden
P-AD-117	NE 2nd Street Downtown SE Neighborhood Park
P-AD-118	Wilburton Parks & Streams
P-AD-83	Bellevue Airfield Park Development

Trails and Natural Systems

P-AD-112	Parks Trails
----------	--------------

Waterfront and Destination Parks

P-AD-104	Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2
P-AD-106	Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park
P-AD-113	BBG Design and Development
P-AD-114	Park Shoreline Restoration
P-AD-116	Kelsey Creek Farm Major Renovation

Renovation and Renewal

P-R-11	Parks Renovation & Refurbishment Plan
P-AD-96	Mercer Slough East Link Mitigation
P-AD-119	ADA Accessibility Barrier Removal

G-117	Parks Operations Facility
-------	---------------------------

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Date: June 20, 2024

To: Lynne Robinson, Mayor
Mo Malakoutian, Deputy Mayor
Dave Hamilton, Parks & Community Services Board Liaison
City Councilmembers

From: Paul Clark, Chair
Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board

Subject: 2025-2034 Parks Capital Investment Program Recommendations

Thank you for the opportunity to advise the City Council on the Parks & Community Services 2025-2034 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. We hope that these comments are helpful as the Council prioritizes the City's capital investment needs for the next ten years.

Council Vision, Strategic Target Areas and Priorities

At the April, May and June board meetings, the Board reviewed the budget process and the proposed parks capital investments in relation to the Council's Strategic Target Areas (STA) and 2024-2026 Priorities. The parks projects proposed in the current budget provide a high return on investment by aligning with multiple target areas, including:

- High Quality Built and Natural Environment,
- Community Safety and Health,
- Vibrant Economy, and
- Thriving People and Communities.

Per the Council Vision objectives, "we work to create iconic destinations and vibrant spaces for everyone to enjoy." Park capital projects have been, and continue to be, at the forefront of advancing this vision through Council priority projects such as the new Aquatic Center, Meydenbauer Bay Park, Ashwood Park, Downtown Park NE Corner, and Grand Connection implementation. In addition to these, the parks system will help advance several of the 2024-26 Priorities. Trail projects will be advanced that develop Eastrail regional trail connections for residents and workers. At the system level, parks and trails should factor thematically into the city's effort to update its brand identity and community centers and park facilities serve as places to enhance community engagement strategies.

Parks & Open Space System Plan Goals and Funding Strategy

Overall, the Board considered a variety of factors in developing these recommendations, drawing from community needs expressed in the Council-adopted 2022 Parks & Open Space System Plan and recent planning initiatives and policy direction from the Comprehensive Plan update. At the root are recommended funding for multiple previously funded project commitments from the 2008 and 2022 Parks Levies, including ongoing foundational support for

Parks & Open Space Acquisition and the *Parks Renovation and Refurbishment Plan*. When surveyed, Bellevue residents consistently say that they want to continue expanding the park and trail system through property acquisition and the development of existing parks. They also consistently praise and value the high level of maintenance provided at existing parks. Keeping existing facilities open, safe and welcoming with regular maintenance and renovation is a cost-effective way to maintain park accessibility for the community.

Our Focus: Increasing Access

Springing from that foundation, proposed and recommended projects for this budget cycle are centered around the concept of “increasing access.” They are responsive to the community’s interest in equitably expanding the park and trail system; improving universal access to existing parks; increased access to parks and recreation resources in growing urban neighborhoods; increased connection and access to waterfront, beaches and pools; and new access to emerging sports and recreation.

Access to Parks and Trails for Underserved Areas

Both the Parks & Open Space System Plan and Environmental Stewardship Initiative acknowledge that access to existing parks is not equal across all neighborhoods. With a goal of bringing a park or trail to within 1/3-mile of every Bellevue resident, the current budget included funding for *Eastgate* and *Factoria Neighborhood Park* development. These projects in underserved neighborhoods carry forward into the next budget, along with additional funding recommended for *Park Trail System Access and Expansion*. Park trails are used by 80% of Bellevue residents and adding trail connections is an efficient and effective way to increase park access to more underserved neighborhoods. Examples of planned projects include an Eastrail trail connection in Woodridge and trails within the recently acquired Woodlawn Park open space in Newport Hills.

Access to Existing Parks for Users of All Abilities

Additionally, two recommended projects focus on expanding universal access at existing parks. Targeted funds through the *ADA Accessibility Barrier Removal Initiative* will accelerate the pace of projects that increase access to existing park facilities for all users of all abilities. A new project, *Kelsey Creek Farm Energy and Accessibility Renovation*, has twin goals to modernize the Twin Valley Barns and other features at the popular park to lower energy use and increase physical accessibility, while retaining the historic character at this beloved park.

Access to Greenspace and Recreation Opportunities for Urban Residents

An evident goal of the Council is the planning and development of high-quality, livable urban neighborhoods. It is imperative that these neighborhoods include parks and recreation opportunities to create places where families and businesses can flourish. Well-maintained parks contribute positively to the overall economic development of the City, including raising property values, attracting and retaining key businesses, promoting tourism, and protecting water and air quality.

To support this outcome in Downtown Bellevue, continued funding is recommended for *Ashwood Park Design and Development* and a new project is recommended to support underserved residents by developing a new *Downtown SE Neighborhood Park* on land that was previously acquired for this purpose.

For new urban neighborhoods in BelRed and Wilburton, much work is needed in property acquisitions and park development to achieve city goals and ensure that new residents do not live in park deserts. To further this work, continued funding is recommended for *BelRed Parks and Streams* and a new project, *Wilburton Parks and Trails*, is recommended for the Wilburton Commercial Area. These two projects will provide walkable access to new parks where none exist today.

Access to Water

Second to our trails, community beach and waterfront parks are the highest used facilities and hold the second highest priority for Bellevue residents for additional park development. Of the 14 miles of lakefront shoreline within city limits, the public has access to approximately 12% of that shoreline in the form of public beach parks and boat launches on Lake Washington. The city has no public access to Lake Sammamish. To advance these needs, budget proposals continue the city's investment in the *Meydenbauer Bay Park Design and Development (Phase 2)*, *Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Beach Park*, and an ongoing program for *Park Shoreline Restoration* at existing older beach parks.

In addition, Bellevue's one public pool is nearing the end of its useful life despite the growing number of children and adults in our city that need swimming lessons for basic public safety. In 2003, the Board recommended to site a new Aquatic Center at Bellevue Airfield Park. The Council agreed and directed an updated master plan for the park to advance through environmental review. Two recommended capital projects, *Bellevue Aquatic Facility Design and Development* and *Bellevue Airfield Park Development* are positioned to advance this priority project.

Access to Emerging Sports and Recreation

The 2022 Parks Levy includes needed funding to allow our existing parks and park facilities to respond to contemporary and culturally specific recreation trends through *Off-Leash Areas and Emerging Sports Facilities*. Continuing the funding for this project is recommended along with funding for *Bellevue Airfield Park Development*, which will provide pickleball and other new recreation facilities for our growing community.

We appreciate the ability to provide comments on the 2025-2034 Parks CIP Plan and look forward to continuing to engage as the budget process moves forward. Feel free to contact any of the Parks & Community Services Board members if you have questions or comments.



Bellevue City Council 2024-2026 Vision & Priorities



Bellevue welcomes the world. Our diversity is our strength. We embrace the future while respecting our past.



Bellevue is a city of diverse and connected neighborhoods.

Our inclusive residential communities are safe, friendly and welcoming, with gathering places that connect neighbors to each other. Housing options abound, with many choices in a range of affordability levels.



Bellevue is a great place for business.

Businesses choose Bellevue. We compete with the world, and collaborate with local and global business partners to help them achieve success. We value our talented workforce. Entrepreneurs turn their vision into reality through access to human, intellectual and monetary capital. We welcome and support our businesses, from small mom-and-pop shops to world headquarters.



Education is a core value.

We are well-educated, well-trained and prepared for life in the 21st century, where we create the future. Students of all abilities are prepared and supported for success in their future, and we continuously strive for improvement.



We celebrate all aspects of our culture.

We embrace our many diverse cultures through arts, history, business, entertainment, food, community gatherings and nightlife. Cross-cultural connections enrich our community and sense of belonging.



We are a “City in a Park.”

We value our abundant open space – whether it be the tranquility of a wooded trail or a paddle through the Mercer Slough. Everyone has access to activities and amenities, be they people-watching in an urban plaza, enjoying our trails, playing a favorite sport or gazing at the shimmering sun on a bright blue lake.



Bellevue is an equitable community.

Bellevue is diverse and welcoming, and everyone, from newborn babies to people with decades of life experience, feels a sense of belonging, with opportunities to engage and thrive. Equity is a core value, and we actively work to build an inclusive community, free from racism, hate or bias.



Innovation is an integral part of our community.

We embrace and support innovation in all aspects of our community – systems, institutions, businesses, schools and government. This innovative spirit is crucial to Bellevue’s success.



Environmental sustainability drives our long- and short-term actions.

Our natural environment is an integral part of our sense of place, and its preservation is paramount. We focus on reducing our environmental impacts in order to support the health, wellbeing, and resilience of individuals, our community and the region.



Our elected leaders share these goals and this vision.

Bellevue cares for all people by listening, being accountable to and engaging with residents and stakeholders. We provide the vision and strategy needed to fulfill our ambition for excellence and be leaders and collaborators throughout the region. Bellevue is respectful of and respected by our neighbors.

The future of Bellevue is multidimensional, and city government will keep the trust of its residents by focusing on:

- High performance government
- Vibrant economy
- Safe and efficient transportation system
- High quality built and natural environment
- Community safety and health
- Thriving people and communities

2024 Strategic Target Areas and Objectives



High Performance Government

Bellevue's well-managed government is foundational to the success of the Council's Vision and City service

Bellevue is committed to providing exceptional City services through data-informed and collaborative decision making, strategic investment of public resources, strong commitment to our employees and inclusive engagement.

Community members are informed about and understand how their local tax dollars are used and the services they receive. We make public investments wisely and equitably – providing valuable city services and ensuring superb infrastructure to support growing communities and businesses. City facilities are well-maintained and optimized to best serve the public.

Bellevue does business using data and innovative technology. The City is committed to continuous improvement, performance excellence and strategic use of resources. We ensure high performance by operating under core values that drive our behaviors and by attracting, retaining and developing a diverse workforce. We model an inclusive and responsive work culture by providing growth opportunities and investing in our employees.

We support public engagement, innovation and connectivity using effective and inclusive forms of outreach. We make decisions in a transparent manner, work to address mutual needs and support public engagement. Our residents know their local government listens to, cares about and responds to them. We value strong regional partnerships, advance common goals and advocate for Bellevue's interests on issues including infrastructure, public services, growth, and finance.

High Performance Government Objectives

- 1.1 Align organizational resources and prioritize funding to meet the needs of a growing and diverse community. Strategically maintain and protect the city's assets while enhancing financial sustainability.
- 1.2 Promote and enhance inclusive, accessible community engagement in City services, programs and projects. Deliver responsive and efficient customer service to residents and businesses that foster trust and collaboration between the City and all members of the community.
- 1.3 Optimize data, technology and metrics to guide decisions, improve results and enhance service delivery in an equitable manner.
- 1.4 Advocate for the City's interests and foster supportive partnerships and dynamic leadership at the federal, state and regional levels.
- 1.5 Provide high-quality organizational leadership, management and collaboration.
- 1.6 Maintain public trust through organizational transparency, fiscal stewardship, legal and ethical behavior and regulatory compliance.





Vibrant Economy

Bellevue is a city where innovation thrives.

Bellevue is a destination for residents, workers, visitors and learners from around the world. Home to leading global companies, Bellevue works with a variety of partners to welcome the world's visionaries to take on today's biggest challenges and build a better tomorrow. Whether it is an international corporation or a small business just getting started, Bellevue's culture of collaborating and supporting businesses strengthens our economy. We have a tradition of successful collaboration across government, business and non-profit sectors. We foster the conditions for economic success and support the capacity of public, private and non-profit partners to fuel prosperity and enrich the ability of every member of our community to thrive.

Bellevue has a diversified economy and is an inclusive economic hub. Our K-12 schools and higher education providers inspire innovation and train a culturally diverse workforce to support tomorrow's technologies. Our arts and cultural opportunities, abundant shopping, inspiring public spaces and proximity to major recreational activities make us a premier destination for visitors. With our skilled workforce, well-connected multimodal transportation system, reliable utilities, breathtaking beauty and innovation-oriented culture, businesses grow and prosper in Bellevue.

Vibrant Economy Objectives

- 2.1 Maintain and grow a diverse, thriving economy that can better withstand fluctuating regional, national and global conditions.
- 2.2 Support large and small businesses, including women/veteran/minority-owned businesses, by providing the resources and regulations that businesses need to start, stay, grow and thrive in Bellevue.
- 2.3 Identify and strategically implement financial mechanisms to spur/initiate growth in public and private investment.
- 2.4 Identify and enhance workforce development partnerships and efforts and actively serve as a conduit to residents, businesses and resource partners to attract, retain and engage a talented workforce of various ages, skill sets and backgrounds to support a diverse, inclusive and growing economy.
- 2.5 Strategically invest in services and systems that support residents, entrepreneurs, workers and learners from historically marginalized communities, ensuring they have access to resources and opportunities that enable them to achieve their economic potential.
- 2.6 Build up Bellevue's arts providers' organizational capacity to increase the breadth and depth of artistic and entertainment offerings for Bellevue's residents and visitors.



Safe & Efficient Transportation System

Transportation is sustainable, reliable and predictable. Mode choices are abundant, clean and safe.

Bellevue offers a multitude of transportation options, with a commitment to Vision Zero and emphasis on reliable, predictable, and sustainable travel options for everyone from all walks of life. Bellevue is well-connected to the region via roads, trails, and transit. The transportation network is well-maintained to provide safe travel in neighborhoods, to schools, to health and wellbeing services, and to Bellevue’s bustling entertainment, shopping and commercial centers.

Regional road capacity handles the movement of goods and vehicles, limiting the impact on neighborhoods from cut-through traffic. A state-of-the-art intelligent transportation system provides a predictable travel experience to improve mobility, increase safety, and reduce emissions.

As Bellevue’s roadway network approaches full build-out, alternative modes of travel to private vehicle trips continue to grow. Public transportation is ample, with seamless, reliable connections and a variety of services, including regional high-capacity transit, local bus service, and park & ride facilities. Access to transit continues to expand with micromobility options, taxis, and ride-sharing services. Robust walking and biking networks provide safe and enjoyable ways to get around the city. Bellevue advances equity through transportation so that all individuals, irrespective of their backgrounds, can traverse the city safely and feel a sense of belonging.

Safe and Efficient Transportation System Objectives

- 3.1 Deliver capital projects and programs that address the growth of the city, support accessibility and sustainability, capacity to handle movement, and provide equitable services for all travelers in Bellevue with performance targets in the Mobility Implementation Plan as a gauge.
- 3.2 Eliminate fatal and serious injury collisions through the application of the Safe System Approach, with a particular focus on enhancing the safety of walking and biking near schools.
- 3.3 Provide a high level of proactive maintenance to protect the City's transportation facility investments.
- 3.4 Be a leader in innovation and connectivity through support of the expansion of next generation wireless technology and the integration of autonomous, connected, electric, and shared vehicles into the transportation system of Bellevue.
- 3.5 Expand travel choices and equitable access through improved transit service, new modes such as shuttles and micromobility, and safer, connected facilities for people walking and biking.
- 3.6 Diversify the use of our roadways and curb environment to balance the needs of all daily users and to create opportunities for placemaking, gathering and community building.
- 3.7 Work with regional partners to complete critical regional transportation infrastructure projects to provide reliable multimodal connections into and out of Bellevue.
- 3.8 Assure our transportation facilities, both new and existing, are physically accessible for all users.





High Quality Built & Natural Environment

Bellevue is a livable city with world-class places to live, work, play and learn.

We work to create iconic destinations and vibrant spaces for everyone to enjoy. Growth is focused on dense, mixed-use centers and transit while maintaining a well-balanced mix of business and commercial properties. Residents have access to a wide variety of housing types in Bellevue to meet the needs of households across all income bands and life stages. The City values neighborhood identities and character. Bellevue is a community of diverse, vibrant and well-maintained neighborhoods with connections to transportation, schools, parks, trails and the natural environment.

Environmental stewardship is intrinsic to a healthy community and economy. Bellevue is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing climate resilience, preserving our natural environment, transitioning to clean energy and increasing equitable access for residents to transit, jobs, housing, parks and natural areas.

Known as a “City in a Park”, Bellevue’s parks and open space system is nationally recognized. We have something for everyone, from small parks for neighborhood gatherings to forested trails to large community parks with unique events and experiences. The community enjoys a variety of recreational and sporting opportunities within walking distance of homes and businesses. Our parks and recreation system connects residents and visitors to nature and provides opportunities for improved mental and physical health.

Bellevue is a “Smart City” with excellent infrastructure that supports our vibrant and growing community, including high-tech connectivity. Utility services such as drinking water, wastewater, storm and surface water, and solid waste management are reliable and environmentally responsible. The City recognizes the importance of high-quality public and private infrastructure that enhances livability and access to amenities for Bellevue’s community.

High Quality Built and Natural Environment Objectives

- 4.1 Provide for a variety of housing types that support a range of needs and levels of affordability and enhance vibrant communities.
- 4.2 Work with Bellevue's community to provide equitable long-term comprehensive and strategic planning that increases the ability of all Bellevue residents, businesses and visitors to thrive.
- 4.3 Preserve and protect the quality of public and private infrastructure, the safety and integrity of the built and natural environment, and address challenges of population growth, climate change and sustainable resource use.
- 4.4 Create iconic destinations and vibrant spaces.
- 4.5 Plan, implement and fund the acquisition, development, operations and maintenance of parks, community spaces and essential public infrastructure.
- 4.6 Invest in high-quality technology infrastructure to support smart city initiatives and improve high-speed internet access and affordability for residents and businesses.
- 4.7 Provide a mix of housing, office, service and retail uses in a compact walkable development pattern that optimizes the benefits of transit investment in Bellevue's transit-oriented mixed-use areas.
- 4.8 Support efforts to preserve or enhance the physical and environmental amenities that bring distinctive artistic, cultural or natural character within Bellevue's diverse neighborhoods to life.





Community Safety & Health

All people feel safe, valued and welcome. Our systems and infrastructure are resilient and secure.

Bellevue promotes a community where all people can thrive, feel safe and enjoy access to city amenities and services. We are committed to providing a proactive range of prevention, intervention, enforcement and support activities to protect life, property and the environment.

The City utilizes innovative strategies to ensure safety and health services are provided equitably to our diverse community. These strategies include employing technology to improve response, resiliency and communication. We prioritize cybersecurity to maintain safety, continuation of services, reliable infrastructure and effective emergency preparedness.

Police, fire and emergency personnel provide services to the community every day that reflect our high standards. We work together with the community on education, prevention and preparedness. Bellevue takes a collaborative approach to public safety by partnering with agencies across the region. The City offers high quality services across the justice system, from prosecution of misdemeanors and traffic infractions to equitable access to public defense to probation services focused on support and accountability.

All people in Bellevue enjoy health and well-being. Bellevue customers experience reliable and high quality utility and public services that also advance a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. We are committed to preparing our City government, economy, ecosystems and communities for a changing climate.

Community Safety and Health Objectives

- 5.1 Deliver a high level of public safety services, with a focus on addressing community concerns such as property theft. Continue to build trust as the community grows through data-informed decision-making, maintaining national accreditation, and by leveraging partnerships.
- 5.2 Engage our diverse communities and businesses as active participants in public safety through increased awareness, collaborative prevention efforts, compassionate intervention strategies and equitable enforcement practices.
- 5.3 Provide and maintain reliable utility services and infrastructure that directly preserve and improve public health.
- 5.4 Protect mission-critical physical and technology infrastructure, in addition to sensitive data, against new and increasing threats.
- 5.5 Strengthen resiliency and preparedness with a focus on the communities most impacted.





Thriving People & Communities

Bellevue is an equitable and caring community where everyone can thrive and belong.

Bellevue is the cultural heart of the Eastside, where people from around the world and just around the corner are welcome. Residents have access to cultural opportunities and spaces within our city that bring people together, build bridges to understanding, and provide a sense of community identity and possibility.

Bellevue values, listens to and engages with many voices within our community and is responsive to emerging needs. Residents know they are an essential part of the community and have opportunities, with the necessary infrastructure, to engage with the City and each other. Our facilities and community centers, libraries, City Hall, parks and museums provide programs and spaces where neighbors gather, connect with each other and actively engage in the life of the community.

We strive toward creating a community where every individual has access to necessary resources, housing, and services. We recognize existing needs and disparities, including racial and socioeconomic, and work intentionally to address structural and systemic inequities. The City prioritizes the delivery of programs and services in ways that are equitable, inclusive, accessible and culturally responsive. The City partners with residents, schools, businesses, faith communities and non-profits to work together for the well-being of all.

Thriving People and Communities Objectives

- 6.1 Advance Bellevue as a community in which each and every member has access and opportunity to meet their essential physical and behavioral health, economic, recreational, and social needs, feels a sense of belonging, and has an opportunity to thrive.
- 6.2 Increase opportunities throughout the city for all community members to have access to safe, affordable housing, with the supports needed to remain stable, and prevent homelessness.
- 6.3 Foster relationships and collaborate with residents to further develop cross-cultural connections and promote active engagement in community and city life.
- 6.4 Provide accessible programming opportunities and events that reflect Bellevue's growth and diversity, are culturally responsive, strategically distributed and driven by community needs and interests.
- 6.5 Increase public participation in City decision-making by promoting engagement with diverse communities and providing equitable and inclusive access to City programs.
- 6.6 Intentionally collaborate with community organizations, including educational institutions, human services providers, non-profits, faith communities, neighborhood and community associations, cultural organizations and private entities, to advance opportunities for every individual to flourish.
- 6.7 Build strong and connected neighborhoods where residents volunteer and contribute to solving emerging issues and the mutual flourishing of all.



Bellevue City Council 2024-26 Priorities



1. Identify and implement enterprise approaches to service management, community engagement and data analytics to improve customer service, access and transparency.
2. Develop and establish an updated brand identity for the City of Bellevue that reflects both our past and our future; an identity that is iconic and leaves a lasting impression that Bellevue delivers high quality services and is a place that people want to live, work, learn and play.
3. Explore options to expand arts funding through mechanisms such as the annual grant process, direct investment in the BelRed Arts District or others.
4. Update the Affordable Housing strategy and targets with a focus on implementing high-priority actions.
5. Identify and implement strategies to facilitate use of city-owned property for affordable housing development.
6. Simplify the permitting process for Accessory Dwelling Units by offering pre-approved plans for Detached Accessory Dwelling Units.
7. Develop policy tools to preserve the architectural character of Old Bellevue and support the retention of existing businesses as redevelopment occurs.
8. Work with King County and partner agencies to develop the Eastrail from Renton to Snohomish, including key projects and local connections in Bellevue.
9. Update the Diversity Advantage Plan and implement the near-term actions.
10. Enhance community engagement efforts to increase equitable public participation in city decision-making and improve the reach and effectiveness of the city's engagement strategies.
11. In alignment with the Human Services Strategic Plan, support human services programs to meet community needs and increase equitable access and outcomes.
12. Support programs related to homelessness prevention and programs that help quickly house individuals experiencing homelessness.



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-7228 (voice) or email citymanager@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

2022 Levy for Parks and Open Space

2026 Progress Report





View of Lake Sammamish from future park site.

From the Director

Dear supporters of Bellevue parks,

I am pleased to share this progress report for Bellevue’s 2022 Parks and Open Space Levy. Bellevue’s residents have repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to the long-term health and vitality of our “City in a Park.” The projects identified in this report illustrate how the city is applying your investment to develop a 21st- century park, open space, and trail system for each and every community member.

Over the past couple of years, Bellevue Parks & Community Services has continued to focus on community priorities for the park system, including additional trails, open spaces, and recreation facilities. Guided by the 2022 Parks and Open Space System Plan (bellevuewa.gov/park-plan), we are also working to provide parks and trails in underserved areas of the city, enhance public waterfront access along Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish, invest in emerging sports, and develop large-scale community facilities—such as an aquatic center. You’ll see these priorities reflected in the following focus areas and projects.

We look forward to sharing our progress with you as we continue to implement levy-funded projects over the next few years.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to Bellevue’s parks, open space, and recreation facilities.

Michael Shiosaki,
Director, Bellevue Parks & Community Services



**Bellevue
Parks and
Open Space
LEVY**



Canoeing at Enatai Beach Park.



Mercer Slough blueberry farm.



Planning for Meydenbauer Bay Park phase 2.

Table of Contents

From the Director	3
Introduction.....	5
List of Levy Projects by Category	6
Maintenance and Operations	6
Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails	7
Community Parks	9
Neighborhood Park Development	9
Recreation and Community Facilities	10
Waterfront Restoration and Development	11
Emerging Sports and Off-Leash Areas	12
Park Map.....	13
Park Map Key.....	14



Picking blueberries at Mercer Slough.



Visitors enjoy the dahlia display bed at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Introduction

In November 2022, Bellevue voters approved a Levy for Parks and Open Space to expand investment in Bellevue’s park and open space system. Revenues generated through an increase in property tax over nine years will be used to support new parks and projects and enhance overall maintenance of the park system.

The 2022 Parks and Open Space Levy builds on a long history of bond and levy support for the park system. Previously, voter-approved initiatives have funded expansions of Bellevue’s parks and open space system, with several measures passing since the city’s incorporation in 1953. This includes initiatives approved in 1956, 1965, 1970, 1977, 1981, 1984, and 1988, as well as the 2008 Parks and Natural Areas Levy.

As part of the 2022 levy proposition, the City of Bellevue has committed to using these funds to ensure that Bellevue remains a “City in a Park” for generations to come. Specifically, the levy focuses funding on seven key areas. These include:

- preserving open space, greenways, and wildlife corridors;
- developing trails, community parks, and neighborhood parks;
- investing in emerging sports opportunities, off-leash areas, and recreation;
- planning major community facilities like aquatics and cross-cultural centers;
- restoring and developing waterfront parks and protecting water quality in Bellevue’s lakes and streams;
- acquiring and developing parks and open space in the Bel-Red and Wilburton areas; and
- maintaining improvements consistent with Bellevue Parks’ standards.

In the three years since the levy was approved, the city has completed a variety of park, trail, and open space projects in Bellevue neighborhoods. This progress report highlights these projects.

Together, the levy’s contribution to Bellevue’s park system will help us achieve our vision of a community where everyone can connect to each other and to nature through experiences that help them to live, grow, and thrive.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services: Who We Are

Vision:

In Bellevue everyone can connect to each other and to nature through experiences that help them to live, grow, and thrive.

Mission:

We build a healthy community through an integrated system of exceptional parks, natural areas, recreation, arts and culture, and a broad base of community services.

Equity: A System of Fairness

Equity acknowledges and removes disparities in opportunities, power, and resources so that everyone can reach their full potential to thrive. Bellevue Parks & Community Services practices equity, which is the responsibility of every individual in the department. Equitable access is a right, not a privilege, and is fundamental to our mission of serving all people. Through equitable policies and practices, we cultivate ties that connect people to the fabric of our community.

List of Levy Projects by Category



Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park, a new neighborhood park completed in 2024. Photo by Nate Gowdy.



Maintenance and Operations

Annual levy funding for maintenance and operations has allowed Parks & Community Services to restore select maintenance services at Bellevue's parks and park facilities to meet the city's high standards for care, appearance, and safety. This includes:

- restoration of maintenance levels at 11 neighborhood parks,
- parks with seasonal restroom closures (about half of those in the system) are now open and maintained year-round,
- funding for regular asphalt repair to parking lots and paved trails,
- monthly sweeping of parking lots,
- funding for the waterfront park geese deterrent program, and
- additional materials and supplies for community parks and community centers.



Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails

Coal Creek Natural Area Acquisition

The city, in partnership with the nonprofit conservation organization Trust for Public Land, preserved a key connection between Coal Creek Natural Area and Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park through the 2025 purchase of 12.2 acres of land within this important wildlife corridor. The site protects tributaries of Coal Creek and has high potential for ecological conservation and restoration, an expanded trail network, and interpretation of the environmental history of the site, including its role in coal mining. Funded both by the Parks and Open Space Levy and a \$14.3 million grant from the King County Conservation Futures program, this addition to Bellevue’s open space system is a result of strong local support and partnerships.

Vasa Open Space Acquisition

A 5.7-acre parcel along Vasa Creek was purchased in 2024 from the Vasa Park Resort, which has been operating as a private recreation site along the shores of Lake Sammamish for nearly 100 years. This upland site, located south of the primary resort property, protects steeply sloped and wooded terrain with mature western red-cedar, Douglas-fir, and bigleaf maple canopy. The addition expands the existing “Norelius Property & 41.5 Open Space” to a protected area of 19 acres. This open space linkage will allow for additional habitat conservation, passive recreation, an expanded trail network, and possible future connections to the Mountains to Sound Greenway and West Lake Sammamish Parkway trails. In addition to the levy, contributions from the 2020–2025 King County Parks Levy and a grant from the King County Conservation Futures Program helped cover the cost of the acquisition.

Trail Projects

The city continues to expand and enhance the trail network, connecting open spaces and providing recreational access to the many natural areas and greenways throughout Bellevue. Levy funding supported expansions in the Coal Creek trail network at the Coal Creek Ridgeline Trail, the replacement of three bridges at Lower Coal Creek (construction scheduled for winter 2025–2026), and an expansion to connect into the Forest Ridge neighborhood (currently in design and permitting).



Hiking at Mercer Slough Nature Park.



Toddler Trails program at Lewis Creek Park.



Trail at Sunrise Park.



New property acquisition at Coal Creek Natural Area.

Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails continued

Design and permitting are underway for improvements to the Forest Drive Trailhead, in coordination with the closure and upgrade of Red Cedar Trailhead by King County Wastewater. These trailheads will re-open with improved accessibility, parking, wayfinding, and an accessible trail at Red Cedar Trailhead.

Several projects for the trail network are in the planning and feasibility stages. An interpretive boardwalk at Mercer Slough Farmstand is in the feasibility phase and will connect farmstand-goers to the blueberry fields and provide a trailhead entrance on the western side of Mercer Slough. The city is also working to acquire the necessary easements to develop a greenbelt and trail network at 168th Ave NE Open Space, an area that lacks walkable access to parks. Bellevue Parks & Community Services continues to collaborate with King County Parks on Eastrail—the regional trail running north-south through the city—and is constructing, planning, or supporting improved connections to the trail.



Community Parks

Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan Update

At more than 27 acres, Bellevue Airfield Park is one of the few remaining undeveloped large tracts of park land in Bellevue. In September 2024, the City Council adopted the updated Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan, which includes a new aquatic facility, eight pickleball courts, a basketball court, a multi-use flex field, a children’s playground with multiple play zones, and a splash pad. To meet community goals for passive as well as active recreation, the plan also features accessible picnic facilities in the wooded northwest area of the site, improved trail connections, and a terraced lawn on the sloped area south of the existing stormwater ponds. The architectural and engineering designs are underway to support the first phase of construction for the park and aquatic center.



Newport Hills Woodlawn Park, funded by Bellevue’s 2008 Parks and Natural Areas Levy. Photo by Jeff Faddis.



Neighborhood Park Development

Ashwood Park Master Plan Update

The master planning process for Ashwood Park began in spring 2024 and focused on updating the park’s 1990 master plan to reflect public input and significant population growth in the downtown area. In spring 2025, the City Council concurred with the design recommended by the community and the Parks & Community Services Board. The updated park design includes a large open lawn area, terraced seating, a play area, an off-leash dog area, picnic shelters, restroom, and a parking lot located off NE 12th Street. The City Council adopted the updated plan in December 2025, and the project has entered the design and permitting phase.



Planning for the new Eastgate Commons park site.

Eastgate Commons Park Design

The 2022 Parks and Open Space System Plan identified significant gaps in park facilities in the Eastgate neighborhood. A design process for a new park site began in summer 2024, and the Parks & Community Services Board recommended a preferred design that was reviewed by the City Council in November 2025. The plan for this corner site features a play area for multiple ages, a flexible lawn space, a covered shelter, and picnic tables.



North Bellevue Community Center’s Sounds of Swing dance.



Robinswood Tennis Center tennis program.



Bellevue's current aquatic center is heavily used by individuals and teams.



Youth soccer program.



Recreation and Community Facilities

Aquatic Center Design

A new aquatic center at Bellevue Airfield Park will help the city meet its growing aquatic needs and support affordable access to aquatic programming for all community members. The City Council-recommended aquatic facility concept for Bellevue Airfield Park is approximately 130,000 square feet and includes a 50-meter pool, separate deep-water tank, and pools dedicated to therapy, lessons and programs, and leisure amenities. Dry side spaces will support both aquatic programming and community use and will feature a fitness area, community use rooms, lockers, spectator seating, and other facilities. More detailed architectural and engineering designs are underway in alignment with the first phase of design for Bellevue Airfield Park.



Meydenbauer Bay Park, phase 1 complete.



Waterfront Restoration and Development

Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2 Planning and Design

Parks & Community Services is moving ahead with the next phase of development for Meydenbauer Bay Park, increasing public shoreline access at one of the community's oldest parks. After two years of planning and public outreach, in summer 2025 the City Council directed staff to proceed with construction documentation and permitting to develop phase 2. In this next phase, the park will continue to grow, providing new viewing areas, connections between downtown and the waterfront, and expanded recreation amenities. Park features will include the Meydenbauer Bay Park Gateway Plaza at Main and 100th Ave SE, new parking areas, and an interim shoreline promenade expansion. Design and permitting are expected to take approximately 3 to 4 years before construction begins.

Chism Beach Park Shoreline Renovation

Feasibility and cost analysis are underway for a renovation of the Chism Beach Park waterfront. This project will include ecological restoration of the shoreline to reduce erosion and support salmonid habitat, renovation of the public beach area for improved accessibility, and upgraded lifeguard and storage facilities, among other amenities. Future development will likely be phased based on budget.

Lake Sammamish Property Stabilization

Work is ongoing to prepare the city's newly acquired properties along Lake Sammamish for future planning and public access. This includes the demolition of six existing structures on four sites, which will begin in early 2026.



Pickleball at North Bellevue Community Center.



Off-leash dog area at Wildwood Park.



Foot golf at Crossroads Park.



Emerging Sports and Off-Leash Areas

Pop-Up Off-Leash Program

Parks & Community Services has initiated a pop-up program to test accessible and safe off-leash sites for pets and their owners. The goal of the program is to identify and recommend favorable locations for permanent off-leash area use. The 2023 pilot program resulted in permanently established off-leash areas at Crossroads Community Park, Wilburton Hill Community Park, and Wildwood Park. The temporary off-leash area at City Hall remains in use, with ongoing testing and evaluation of new locations for pop-up off-leash areas.

Pickleball Improvements

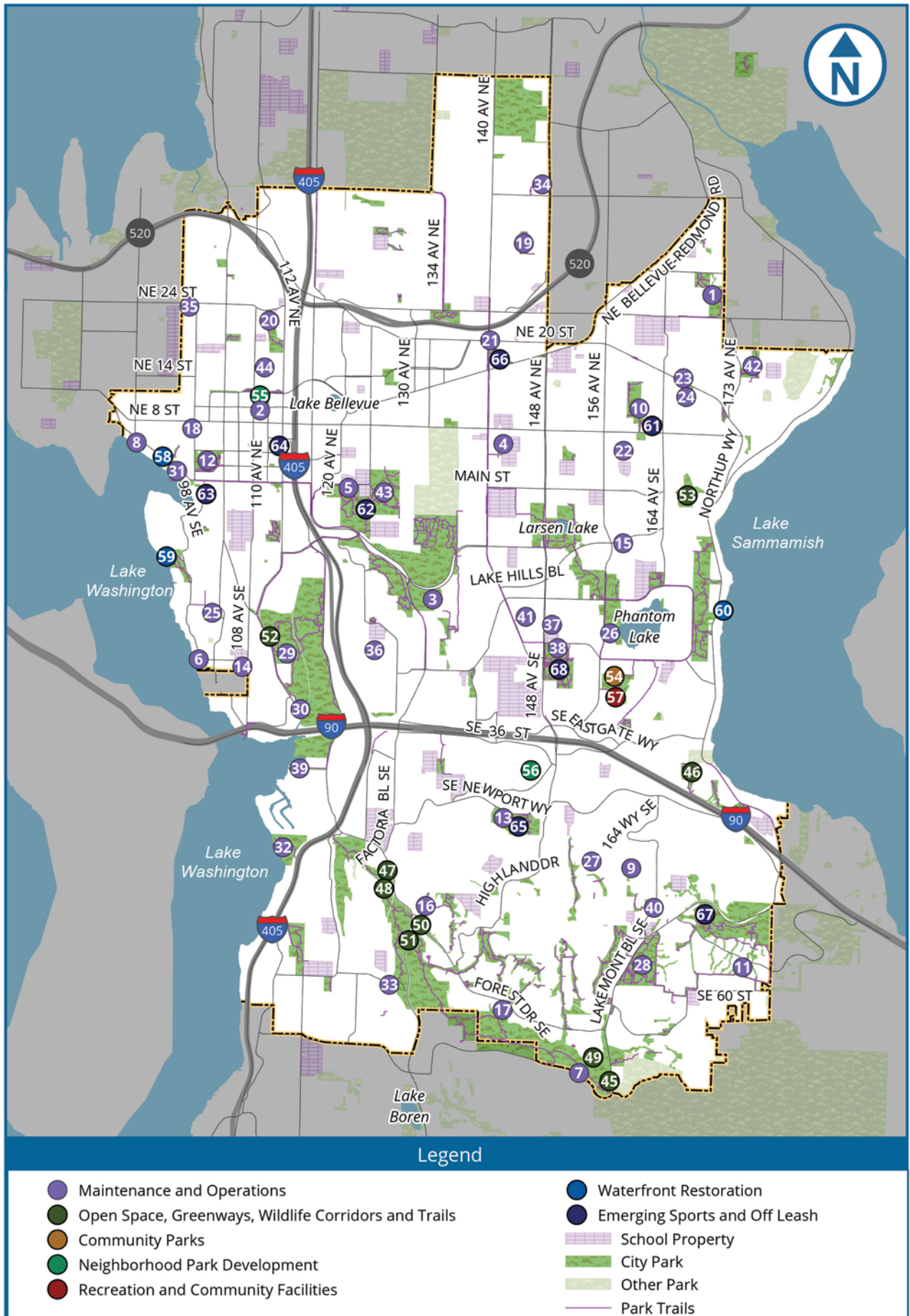
To address the growing popularity of pickleball, new striping and pickleball nets have been provided for 32 shared sport courts across the park system, including at Eastgate, Crossroads, Highland, and Lakemont Parks.

Cricket Improvements at Robinswood Community Park

The synthetic turf athletic fields at Robinswood Community Park are at the end of their lifecycle. As part of the turf replacement, the city is installing a cricket pitch in addition to the park's multi-use markings for soccer and lacrosse. Construction started late 2025 and will wrap up in spring 2026.

Park Map

Park map key on pages 14-15



Park Map Key

Maintenance & Operations

- 1 Ardmore Park
- 2 Ashwood Park
- 3 Bannerwood Sports Park
- 4 Bellevue Aquatic Center
- 5 Bellevue Botanical Garden
- 6 Chesterfield Park
- 7 Cinder Mine Trailhead,
Coal Creek Natural Area
- 8 Clyde Beach Park
- 9 Collingwood Mini Park
- 10 Crossroads Park
- 11 Deer Run Park
- 12 Downtown Park
- 13 Eastgate Park
- 14 Enatai Neighborhood Park
- 15 Evergreen Park
- 16 Forest Hill Neighborhood Park
- 17 Forest Glen Neighborhood Park
- 18 Goddard Mini Park
- 19 Goldsmith Neighborhood Park
- 20 Hidden Valley Park
- 21 Highland Park
- 22 Hillaire Park
- 23 Ivanhoe Park
- 24 Ivanhoe Sportsfield
- 25 Killarney Glen Park
- 26 Lake Hills Greenbelt Phantom Lake
- 27 Lattawood Park
- 28 Lewis Creek Park
- 29 Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm
- 30 Mercer Slough Sweyolocken Boat Ramp
- 31 Meydenbauer Bay Park
- 32 Newcastle Beach Park
- 33 Newport Hills Park
- 34 North Bellevue Community Center
- 35 Northwest Arts Center
- 36 Norwood Village Neighborhood Park
- 37 Robinswood Sportsfield North
- 38 Robinswood Community Park
- 39 SE 40th Street Boat Launch
- 40 Silverleaf Park
- 41 Spiritwood Park
- 42 Tam O'Shanter Park
- 43 Wilburton Hill Park
- 44 Zumdieck Park

Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors & Trails

45 Coal Creek Natural Area Acquisition

46 Vasa Open Space Acquisition

Trail projects:

47 Coal Creek Ridgeline Trail

48 Lower Coal Creek Replacement Bridges

49 Expansion to Forest Ridge Neighborhood

50 Forest Drive Trailhead

51 Red Cedar Trailhead

52 Mercer Slough Farmstand Boardwalk

53 168th Ave. NE Open Space

Community Parks

54 Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan Update

Neighborhood Park Development

55 Ashwood Park Master Plan Update

56 Eastgate Commons Master Plan

Recreation & Community Facilities

57 Aquatic Center Design

Waterfront Restoration & Development

58 Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2 Planning and Design

59 Chism Beach Park Shoreline Renovation

60 Lake Sammamish Property Stabilization

Emerging Sports & Off-Leash Areas

61 Crossroads Park Off-Leash Area and Pickleball

62 Wilburton Hill Park Off-Leash Area

63 Wildwood Park Off-Leash Area

64 City Hall Temporary Off-Leash Area

65 Eastgate Park Pickleball

66 Highland Park Pickleball

67 Lakemont Park Pickleball

68 Robinswood Park Cricket



Downtown Movies in the Park.



CDD-25-66096



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-229-6681 (voice) or email ehanderson@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.