

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: August 7, 2023

To: John Stokes, City Councilmember, Parks & Community Services Board Liaison
and Bellevue City Councilmembers

From: Paul Clark, Chair
Parks & Community Services Board

Subject: Second Quarter 2023 Report and Communication

The Parks & Community Services Board is pleased to welcome three new members as well as new leadership. Our new board members include Eileen Chou, Elizabeth Kronoff and Michelle Valverde. Appointments made by the Council over the past several years have produced a board that exhibits wide-ranging diversity in several demographic characteristics and geographic diversity from neighborhoods across the city. We are pleased this trend continues with these new appointees, and we look forward to working together to share our diverse representations and perspectives, in support of Council priorities in the coming years.

Leading those efforts are newly elected Chair Paul Clark and Vice-Chair Rowena Clima. With this change, the board extends its thanks to continuing board member Dave Hamilton for four years of leadership in both the Chair and Vice-Chair role as well as board member Eric Synn, who cycled off the board in May after eight years of service.

The board received presentations this quarter on two longstanding programs that have served Bellevue residents for decades—the Robinswood Tennis Center and Bellevue Youth Theatre. In different ways, both facilities successfully work to advance the mission of Bellevue Parks & Community Services to build a healthy community.

The board kept an eye on the future with a discussion of capital planning and construction projects expected in the near term, many supported by the new parks levy. Additionally, feedback was given on park-related policies being considered for the draft Comprehensive Plan Amendment to the Wilburton/NE 8th Street Subarea Plan.

For Wilburton, the board supported a set of policies consistent with the established city vision for the area, including the 2022 Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan and the Council's preferred future Lid Park with greenspace at the Lincoln Center property, as articulated in the Grand Connection Framework Plan. This includes planning for a system of new neighborhood parks and other public spaces with strong connections to existing parks including Wilburton Hill Community Park and the Bellevue Botanical Garden. These new connected parks will benefit future neighborhood residents but also be valued by all city residents, workers and visitors. The Eastrail and Grand Connection will be defining features of the area. Both will be popular trails and can be developed as a linear park with a wide range of engaging public gathering spaces and features. Finally, the existing natural features such as Lake Bellevue and Sturtevant Creek are worth preserving and improving for wildlife, public access, and neighborhood aesthetics.

Thank you for your continued support of the board and its work. If you have any questions, please contact me anytime at pclark@bellevuewa.gov.