



Parks CIP Project Status Report

November 2025

Ongoing and Recently Completed Projects: 2022 Parks & Open Space Levy

Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails

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 paid for 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).

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 to connect farmstand-goers to the blueberry fields and providing a trailhead entrance on the western side of Mercer Slough is in the feasibility phase. 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 Planning and Design

At more than 27 acres, Bellevue Airfield Park is one of the few large tracts of land in Bellevue that is still undeveloped. 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. Best alternative procurement and contracting processes are currently being evaluated to support the first, and future phases of park design, permitting, and construction.

Neighborhood Park Development

Ashwood Park Master Plan Update

The master planning process for Ashwood Park began in spring 2024 and has 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 (Alternative F). Alternative F includes a large open lawn area, terraced seating, a play area, an off-leash dog area, and a parking lot located off NE 12th Street. Environmental review for the master plan was completed in early November 2025, and the City Council will be asked to consider adoption of the updated plan in December.

Eastgate Neighborhood Park Acquisition and Master Plan

The 2022 Parks and Open Space System Plan identified significant gaps in park facilities in the Eastgate neighborhood. Funding from the 2022 Parks & Open Space Levy made it possible to purchase the land for this half-acre park and will support its development. A master planning process for the new park site began in summer 2024, and the Parks & Community Services Board recently recommended a preferred design that will be considered by the City Council. The master plan for this corner site features a play area for multiple ages, a flexible lawn space, a covered shelter, and picnic tables.

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. Best alternative procurement and contracting processes are currently being evaluated to support the first, and future phases of aquatic center design, permitting, and construction.

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, enhanced lake ecology and green space, and expanded recreation amenities. Park features will include the Meydenbauer Bay Park Gateway Plaza at Main and 100th Ave SE, additional parking, and an interim shoreline promenade expansion. Design and permitting are expected to take approximately 3-4 years before construction can begin.

Clyde Beach Park Boathouse Demolition

Over the next one to two years, the city will be moving ahead with demolition of the boathouse, launch pier, and piles at Clyde Beach Park. These facilities have been closed to the public due to their deteriorated state, which was confirmed in a recent structural condition assessment. Removal of the



failing structures will restore views across Meydenbauer Bay and make it possible to create a more natural shoreline at this park in the future. The swimming pier is a more recent addition to the park and will remain since it is in good condition.

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.

Emerging Sports and Off-Leash Areas

Pop-Up Off-Leash Program

Parks & Community Services has initiated a temporary 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 round was well-received, and off-leash areas at Crossroads Community Park, Wilburton Hill Community Park, and Wildwood Park are permanently established. Improvements, such as benches and water, are currently being added to these permanent sites. The temporary off-leash area at City Hall remains in use, and new locations for pop-up off-leash areas will continue to be tested and evaluated.

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 markings for a cricket pitch in addition to the park's soccer fields to accommodate increasing use of the fields for cricket. Construction is expected to begin in late 2025 and wrap up in spring 2026.

Non-Levy-Funded CIP Projects

Kelsey Creek Park Restroom Relocation

The restroom serving one of Bellevue's most visited parks was built in the early 1970s and is located in a floodplain that experiences seasonal flooding. This project will reconstruct the park's restrooms in a more resilient location to serve daily visitors, summer camps, tour groups, and beloved annual farm events. Design and permitting are underway, with construction anticipated in winter 2026–27.



Park Operations Facility

To better serve the Bellevue community and continue to provide well-maintained parks, facilities, and natural areas, Bellevue Parks & Community Services is planning a new parks operations facility adjacent to the Bellevue Golf Course. The facility will gather parks operations staff currently spread around the city in one location for better collaboration and efficiency. A community meeting was held in October to share the design prior to land use and environmental review beginning in November. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2027.

Robinswood Park Playground

Design and permitting are underway to update the Robinswood Park playground, including replacing aging equipment and fragmented play areas with an integrated play space. This project will increase accessibility and feature amenities and activities to serve multiple ages, including play spaces for children ages two to five and five to 12, swings, and adult exercise equipment. Design and permitting is anticipated to be completed in 2026 with construction completed in 2027.