

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: November 14, 2023

TO: Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Ryan Walker, Senior Planner
Parks & Community Services
Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director
Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: Recreation Program Plan Update 2023
Board action requested – review and endorse plan

Action Requested

The Parks & Community Services Board is asked to endorse the 2023 update to the Recreation Program Plan.

Proposed Motion: Move that the Parks & Community Services Board endorse the 2023 update to the Recreation Program Plan, as presented.

Background

Parks & Community Services is in the process of updating one of its long-range policy documents, the Recreation Program Plan. First developed in the late 1990s, the Recreation Program Plan guides the department's investment in recreation programming. The Plan iterates the vision for recreation programming in the city and establishes goals, strategies, and actions to implement that vision.

The Plan is a required document set forth by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), under which Bellevue Parks & Community services is an accredited agency. Through recently updated CAPRA accreditation requirements the Recreation Program Plan shall be updated every 2-3 years (the prior standard was about every 5 years).

The current Plan dates from 2020 and was updated significantly at that time, including extensive community outreach. The 2023 update is seen as an interim update. To meet accreditation standards, the update will be complete by the end of 2023. The core tenets of the current Plan remain relevant. This update provides an opportunity to assess progress and consider pertinent changes given trends in the last few years. Changes, as discussed at prior Board meetings, are focused on the implementation actions, with consideration of those completed since 2020 or those that need to be revised or added based on trends in recreation programming and in the city.

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The Parks & Community Services Board was introduced to the Recreation Program Plan update at the July 2023 meeting. At that meeting, discussion with the Board focused on Plan goals, strategies, and actions as well as the department recreation services broadly and changes since 2020. Proposed edits to implementation actions were reviewed at the October Parks & Community Services Board meeting.

As part of this Plan update, various staff reviewed the document and a workshop was held. Outreach was conducted at meetings of the Bellevue Diversity Advantage Network, Bellevue Network on Aging, and, most recently, with Youth Link Board. Youth Link members expressed continued interest in enhancing program accessibility, particularly around cost and transportation, and ensuring that gathering spaces for teens and young adults are available throughout parks and recreation facilities. Minor edits were made based on this feedback, Parks Board input in October, and final staff review. The draft Recreation Program Plan is included for review. Text is flagged to assist with review. The draft plan contained in this packet is not in final design format.

Next Steps

Following endorsement by the Board, staff will make any final refinements to layout and appendices by the end of 2023 and prepare the final design. The Recreation Program Plan will be submitted as part of the supporting documentation for the accreditation process. The information will be submitted for review to the team of CAPRA officials evaluating our department's documentation, the organization, and our park system. This Plan does not require City Council adoption.

Additional information on the Recreation Program Plan is available online at: <https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/parks/planning-and-development/studies-plans/recreation-program-plan>. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact me at (425) 452-4280 or rwalker@bellevuewa.gov.

Attachments/Related Documents

Attachment A: Draft Recreation Program Plan – 2023 Update