



## Neighborhood Proposals

This list includes proposals brought forward by members of the community. Ideas from the community have been gathered together and listed here as potential strategies to implement some of the Goals and Policies found in the Northwest Bellevue and Northeast Bellevue Neighborhood Area Plans. This list may be referenced by both community members and City staff to identify more immediate ideas for addressing the challenges facing the community today. This is not a comprehensive list but instead represents those ideas that came up multiple times throughout the Great Neighborhoods process. Most of the ideas on this list could be applied to either neighborhood, other neighborhoods, or are Citywide action ideas. The below symbols are used to represent those that are more directly relevant to either Northeast Bellevue or Northwest Bellevue.




 This idea is specifically relevant to Northeast Bellevue.

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Some ideas could be implemented by the community themselves, whether on a small scale amongst residents of a single street or as a full Neighborhood effort. In some cases, these could also be supported by City programs. Most of these ideas revolve around getting the community together, improving connection and overall neighborhood resilience.


Other ideas would require assistance by the City in some way, whether as a lead or as a strong supporter. Some of these ideas would require additional support from the community.

### Sense of Place Action Ideas

- Explore causes and impacts of increased redevelopment within the City's single-family neighborhoods.
  -  Use Northwest Bellevue, and potentially West Bellevue, as examples to understand the causes and impacts of increased redevelopment in the areas most impacted by it.
    - Determine which, if any, of the following approaches may be appropriate throughout the City:
      - Consider additional limits on FAR within single-family neighborhoods.
      - Consider increased setbacks based on type of single-family zoning.
      - Consider increased density, such as townhomes or similar scale, in areas of heightened demand to encourage the addition of more homes rather than larger single-family homes. This would require a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) and a rezone.
  -  Identify opportunities to create a smoother transition between Downtown's density and single-family areas within Northwest Bellevue by exploring opportunities for areas near Downtown to act as areas of transitioning density. If warranted, this would require a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) and a rezone.
  -  Consider opportunities for an amended long-term agreement regarding the Bellevue Technology Center site to allow for:

- Continued public use of the pathways (community desire)
- Public use of the meadow (community desire)
- Continued preservation of the grove of trees (community desire)
- Allowances for additional development (owner desire) that can be accommodated by the surrounding infrastructure

### Sense of Community Action Ideas


- Support the organization of block parties, front-lawn gatherings, or other methods of getting neighbors together.
  - Organize block parties or front-lawn gatherings to get to know neighbors (community-led action idea). Work with Neighborhood Outreach staff to help train teams of organizers to host block parties.
  - Provide comprehensive and clear education, online and in the form of a one-pager, outlining the necessary steps in the various pathways available in the City to create temporary gathering locations such as block parties, food trucks, and other temporary events.
  - Identify barriers to permitting process for community events such as block parties and neighborhood parties at parks. Consider the following parts of the process in particular:
    - Right of way permitting
    - Sound amplification permitting: increased allowable times
    - Fees associated with permitting process
    - Complexity of various processes and education around them
- Develop themed community building activities (community-led action idea), often available at community events such as block parties:
  - packing emergency preparedness kits,
  - gift and coat drives,
  - tree care workshops and
  - other fun activities to bring people in the neighborhood together
- Identify which neighborhoods are lacking in organized community events and locations for such activities.
  - Target these areas for education around available City programs and opportunities to bring residents together.
  - Identify potential gathering area opportunities where they are lacking.
-  Explore partnership with the Bellevue School District on renovation of former Bellevue Youth Theatre building at Ivanhoe sports field to create indoor community gathering place. The building is currently closed and would need significant renovation to bring it up to code requirements for such use.
- Create an informal or formal distribution network for getting the word out about events and organizing activities within the neighborhood. Consider a community organization that spans the full Neighborhood Area (of particular interest in Northeast Bellevue). Consider the following activities that could be organized by such a group:
  - Create community groups (community-led action idea) for any of the following activities:
    - Walking, cycling, roller-skating or other means of moving around together

- Welcome-wagon resurgence within individual sub-neighborhoods (of particular interest in Northwest Bellevue – could be related to education about recycling and other helpful tips for new residents)
  - Reading books (e.g. book-club)
  - Gardening
  - Neighborhood events such as in parks – organize setup and cleanup crews
- Form a volunteer team to assist with exterior home improvements on the Day of Caring and Sharing annually.
- Match residents together for housing based on age, interests, etc.
- Provide opportunities to bring students/youth together to help seniors with daily tasks (home maintenance, errands, technology, etc.).

### **Housing Affordability Action Ideas**

- Assess opportunities for and interest in incorporating new housing typologies, such as DADUs, duplexes or cottage-style housing, into low-intensity use areas. This would require a change to the Land Use Code allowing for such uses in these land use districts.
  - Particularly explore this in areas with increased demand that are currently seeing redevelopment with larger homes where there is potential for multiple, more affordable homes.
- Explore opportunities to lessen barriers to introducing new ADUs within the Neighborhood, working with the community to determine best approach. This could include
  - Training on how to be a landlord
  - Educational materials on the process for permitting ADUs
  - Increasing the permitted size of attached ADUs/clarifying existing requirements and if they create unintended limitations
- Assist seniors in identifying opportunities for reduced property taxes.

### **Mobility and Access Action Ideas**

- Champion vision zero by educating residents of all ages on how to get around their neighborhood safely by any mode of travel.
- Provide education around bicycle etiquette and safety, potentially through any of the following:
  - Produce educational materials highlighting best practices for activities such as signaling, passing, and riding along various types of bike paths.
  - Identify the best routes through individual neighborhoods and familiarize residents with these preferred pathways.
  - Provide opportunities for children to learn best practices, safe routes, and other bicycle lessons in safe environments within their neighborhood.
- Explore opportunities for continuing the City's Healthy Streets program permanently.
-  Study any existing gaps in arterial sidewalks and determine priorities within Northwest Bellevue for improving the pedestrian network. Educate the community on existing plans.

- **NW** Explore opportunities to improve pedestrian experience, including continuous sidewalks and planting possibilities, along 108<sup>th</sup> between NE 12<sup>th</sup> St and NE 24<sup>th</sup> St.
- **NW** Explore opportunities to introduce additional access points to Eastrail.
- **NW** Explore possibility of improving bicycle connections to Eastrail at 108<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, such as adding a bike lane in the uphill direction.
- **NW** Explore options for a short bus route circulating between Downtown and the north end of Northwest Bellevue along Bellevue Way. There are existing infrequent bus routes running along 100<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue Way, and 112<sup>th</sup> Ave NE.
- **NW** Explore opportunities for a pedestrian ferry system to stop at Meydenbauer Bay. This location was considered and ultimately rejected from the recent regional pedestrian ferry studies.
- **NE** Explore ways to link NE Bellevue with adjacent major east to west bicycle facilities and facilities in neighboring jurisdictions to enable convenient access to key destinations such as major shopping and employment centers and light rail stations. Links to facilities in neighboring jurisdictions include:
  - Bike lanes along:
    - NE 40<sup>th</sup> Street
    - Bel-Red Road
    - NE 24<sup>th</sup> Street
    - NE 20<sup>th</sup> Street
    - 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE
  - Shared use paths along:
    - 156<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
    - 148<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- **NE** Explore installation of pedestrian crossings across major arterials with large gaps between crossings such as:
  - Across 164<sup>th</sup> at NE 12<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Across Bel-Red Road at NE 28<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Across Northup Way at 173<sup>rd</sup> Ave
  - Across NE 24<sup>th</sup>
- **NE** Study mobility and access to identify key improvements that could address vehicle congestion on Northeast Bellevue's surrounding arterials, especially into and out of residential areas.
  - Potential improvements could include a study of extending the center turn lane along all of Northup Way

### Environment Action Ideas

- Consider the following in the upcoming Citywide effort to evaluate current codes related to tree preservation:
  - Require permits for cutting down any tree or trees of a certain size.
  - Increase fines for any tree removal as an impact fee.
  - Increase enforcement capacity of existing and/or new codes related to tree preservation.

- **NW** As part of the planned Citywide effort to evaluate the impacts of existing tree preservation codes, reference as examples recent redevelopment in Northwest Bellevue, where the highest number of teardowns and subsequent redevelopment has occurred.
- Actively monitor and analyze the individual neighborhoods' tree canopy to identify trends and inform policy and code amendments.
  - Track number of trees removed through permitting process in each neighborhood.
- Explore opportunities for subsidized assistance (hiring of arborist) in evaluating the health of and, when necessary, removing diseased trees from private property.
- Introduce pea-patches into the neighborhoods, providing small public open spaces and opportunities for community members to gather together and learn about the environment.
- Educate and engage residents in the protection and care of trees through the City's Tree Ambassador program, tree tours and other volunteer programs.
  - Distribute informational flyers on the value of trees and best practices for pruning and tree care.
  - Develop mapping system to identify significant trees (this could be tied to the City's Heritage Tree program), public walking trails and other key community assets within the neighborhoods.
- Create opportunities for residents to take care of their natural environment, such as any of the following:
  - Leaf clean-up in the Fall, particularly for neighbors with physical disabilities
  - Adopt-a-tree program (likely an area of trees to be cleaned up and looked out for, much like an Adopt-a-street program)
  - Education and guidelines for private garden design and maintenance, particularly regarding successful native plants and trees
- Explore opportunities to partner with the school district to educate students and residents on environmental facts, potentially through one of the following means:
  - Labelling trees in parks/streets, potentially as part of Heritage Tree program
  - Introducing community gardens in schools
  - Education the community on ways to address sustainability in the home
- Provide education materials, particularly to new residents, regarding recycling, composting, and other organized environmental best practices across the City.
- **NE** Increase awareness and wayfinding for existing publicly maintained trails and pedestrian access easements for public use throughout Northeast Bellevue by
  - Installing trail markers identifying official trails and pedestrian access easements
  - Creating a map of existing trails and easements for public use in Northeast Bellevue