

Date: April 15, 2026

To: Naren Briar, City Councilmember, Parks & Community Services Board Liaison and Bellevue City Councilmembers

From: Rowena Clima, Chair
Parks & Community Services Board

RE: Q1 2026 Report and Communication

To start 2026, the Parks & Community Services Board launched the master planning process for a new neighborhood park in the BelRed neighborhood; deepened our understanding of programs and citywide efforts that support greater park and community services access and engagement for Bellevue's diverse communities; and welcomed our new City Council Liaison, Naren Briar. The board thanks Deputy Mayor Dave Hamilton for his years of support and dedication as our previous liaison.

Master Plan Kick Off for a New BelRed Neighborhood Park

BelRed's transformation into a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood requires a comprehensive system of parks, trails and open space to serve residents, employees, and visitors.

The city has laid the foundation for this effort in numerous ways. The BelRed Subarea Plan and other planning documents provide a framework for parks and open space in this area, including a strong vision for stream corridors as a focal point. To support parks and other infrastructure needs, the city previously purchased a property located along the West Tributary of Kelsey Creek between 124th Avenue NE and 130th Avenue NE.

In February, the board began the master planning and naming process for the purchased property. The master plan is funded by the voter-approved 2022 Levy for Parks and Open Space, along with other sources. Staff outlined the park development process that will be led by Parks & Community Services staff and a landscape architectural and engineering design team. Board members asked questions, offered feedback on site planning principles to consider, and made suggestions for outreach efforts such as a request for hybrid meeting options.

Through the design process, the board will explore the full range of community visions, values, and priorities when developing the recommendation for the park plan and name, which is estimated to be delivered to City Council in early 2027.

Supporting Equity and Engagement with the Community

During our January and March meetings, the board received informational presentations about the human services needs in the community, the Diversity Advantage Plan, and services and tools aimed at increasing knowledge and access to park facilities and recreation programs for all.

Program Marketing and Communications

In January, staff provided an overview of the methods and tools that Parks & Community Services uses to connect community members to department programs and services. Social media, an e-newsletter, and a recently redesigned comprehensive Activity Guide are just a few of the channels the department uses to reach the community. The board expressed appreciation for the clarity and user-focused design of these outreach materials, as well as how translation services and varied communication channels help reach residents who face language, technology and other barriers.

Human Services Needs Update

In January, the board received an in-depth look at the latest edition of the Human Services Needs Update. This assessment provides background on community needs to assist with planning efforts throughout the city, including those that the Parks & Community Services Board provides recommendations or feedback on. The board discussed the challenges with data collection due to political conditions; the consequences of reductions in federal funding for services; the relevance of the data and findings to parks, recreation, and community-building efforts; and volunteer opportunities and other supportive actions that members in the community could take.

Diversity Advantage Plan (DAP) 2035

In March, staff from Parks & Community Services and Human Resources provided a summary of the recently adopted Diversity Advantage Plan (DAP), with focus on Equity Objectives E4.6 and E4.7, which cover parks and open space. Removing physical and programmatic barriers, enhancing inclusive park design, expanding recreation scholarship opportunities, and improving outreach through translation services and registration support are examples of Parks & Community Services work that aligns with the DAP. Our discussion underscored that advancing equity requires sustained cross-department collaboration and ongoing community feedback to ensure services effectively meet diverse and changing needs. The board looks forward to the development of the external and internal data dashboards that will communicate implementation progress of DAP 2035. The board is grateful for the work of staff and council to further the core city value of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration with the board. If you have any questions, you can contact me at rclima@bellevuewa.gov.