

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: May 21, 2025

To: Dave Hamilton, City Councilmember, Parks & Community Services Board
Liaison and Bellevue City Councilmembers

From: Rowena Clima, Chair
Parks & Community Services Board

RE: January - April 2025 Report and Communication

Over the first four months of the year, the Parks & Community Services Board engaged in a wide variety of topics representative of the full and varied range of activities within the scope of the department. From park master planning to community service programming, the department is engaged in its stated vision to connect everyone in Bellevue to each other and to nature, enabling them to live, grow, and thrive.

Ashwood Progress

The 2022 Parks and Open Space Levy provided funding to advance a long-held community interest in updating the master plan for Ashwood Park. Input for the park's design was gathered during board meetings, three community meetings and other outreach methods. Working through multiple design options, the board unanimously selected a preferred design in February and transmitted that recommendation to the Council in April. The board was pleased that the Council concurred with the board's recommendations and directed the preferred concept to environmental review.

Grand Connection Inspiration

A Grand Connection double feature was provided with updates and overviews of the most current design work for both Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2 and the Grand Connection Crossing. Both projects share similar goals of providing additional public space for a growing urban core, facilitating community connections, and providing improved interconnected pedestrian experiences through Downtown.

Parks and Community Services in Focus

Educational presentations were provided to the board from the Resource Management Division and those responsible for keeping Bellevue's developed parks clean, safe and beautiful year-round. The dedication and pride of the staff engaged in this work was apparent and admirable. Similarly, staff from the Adult Probation Division shared their successes keeping our community safe by providing community programs that serve as alternatives to incarceration.

In April, the board was pleased to meet jointly with the Human Services Commission. The meeting was an opportunity to engage with fellow commission members to learn more about what each body does in support of the department. Additionally, staff from the city's Homeless Outreach Team provided an overview of the city's response to

individuals experiencing homelessness in our community, a topic relevant to both groups.

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