

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Betsy Anderson, Senior Planner
Susan Ulep, Capital Project Coordinator
Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: Naming recommendation for the park at Main Street and 112th Ave. SE.
Board action requested.

Proposed Motion:

The Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board recommends to the City Council the name <<_____>> for the park at Main Street and 112th Avenue SE.

At the May board meeting, staff will present an update on the ongoing public naming process for the park, including a list of potential names for board consideration. The board will have the opportunity to recommend a park name to City Council, consistent with the Council's policy for naming parks and park and recreation facilities.

Park at Main Street and 112th Ave. SE

The land for the park was acquired by Sound Transit to support light rail staging and construction of the south portal of the tunnel that extends through Downtown Bellevue. As part of Sound Transit's park impact mitigation plan, the city and Sound Transit collaborated on the design of a park space to be developed above the tunnel portal infrastructure. In September 2024, the park was transferred to the city, and Parks & Community Services assumed full maintenance and operations responsibility.

It is not typical for the city to obtain an already constructed park, and therefore the naming process for the park is occurring after park development.

Naming Process

Public outreach for the naming process began in spring 2025 and was conducted using the project website; an online survey; *Neighborhood News* article; social media posts; a postcard mailed to neighborhood residents, community centers, the downtown library, and H-Mart; and yard signs posted nearby.

The survey was translated into the six most spoken languages within a 1/3-mile vicinity of the park and resulted in 258 unique name suggestions, proposed by 157 respondents. Of these suggested names, approximately 30 meet the City Council naming policy for public parks (Attachment B). Staff have researched the 30 names that are compliant with policy and have narrowed the list of possible park names to nine options, listed in Attachment C.

The gap in time between the naming survey and the board's deliberation is attributable to two influencing factors. First, constructive feedback from the board and the City Council after the last naming process (Eastgate Commons) was considered, and modifications to park naming guidelines were implemented to increase the quality of names presented for evaluation. These guidelines were shared with the board at the October 2025 meeting.

The second factor is a partnership agreement regarding a proposed commemorative installation in this park. While it developed independently of the park naming process, the addition of a possible new amenity provides important context that may inform the naming process.

Japanese American Legacy Project

During Sound Transit's construction of the 2 Line, a community-based organization named Isan Bellevue formed with a mission to commemorate Japanese American heritage in Bellevue. They have worked with staff to identify sites for a Legacy Project that honors the contributions of Japanese Americans in the city and builds understanding of the impact of World War II incarceration on the Japanese American community.

Isan Bellevue established a Site Committee in 2018 to identify potential commemoration sites in Bellevue. The city's Arts Program and Parks & Community Services Department participated in the committee's work. After applying selection criteria to sites across Bellevue, the committee identified five potential locations, including the park at Main Street and 112th Avenue SE.

In 2023, the City Council allocated \$250,000 to Parks & Community Services (CIP Project No. P-AD-115) to support planning and conceptual design for the project. In 2024, the first stage of planning and conceptual design confirmed the new park as a feasible location. In December 2025, a final concept design was developed for the commemoration project.

The commemoration project is intended as an addition to the park's current amenities, designed to inspire education and reflection while preserving the pathways, open space, and gathering areas that currently exist. Isan Bellevue has committed to raising all funding for design and construction of the project. The project timeline depends largely on the success of the fundraising campaign, which may take up to five years.

Next Steps

Once the board selects a recommended park name, staff will share the name with the City Council for their review and direction.

Attachments/Related Documents

- A. Vicinity Map
- B. Resolution 10151 Park Naming Policy
- C. Proposed Park Names