



Meeting Agenda
Parks & Community Services Board

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

6:00 PM

Room 1E-113 & Virtual

Parks & Community Services Board meetings are conducted in a hybrid manner with both in-person and virtual options. To attend the meeting, you may do so:

- **In-person;**
- **By calling (253) 215-8782 and entering webinar ID: 823 1743 7579; or**
- **By clicking the link below to join the webinar:**

<https://cityofbellevue.zoom.us/j/82317437579>

Passcode: 271058

The sign-up form to speak during Oral Communications will be open from noon-5:30 p.m. on the date of the Parks & Community Services Board meeting. To be added to the speaker list for oral communications, you may sign up in person using the QR code posted outside Room 1E-113 or online using the below link. If you wish to address the Board in writing, please email ParkBoard@bellevuewa.gov with the subject line “Written Communications – April 15”.

<https://bellevuewa.gov/parks-oral-comms>

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - a) [26-282](#) Approve Draft Minutes - 03.18.2026
- 4. Oral and Written Communications**
- 5. City Council Communication**
- 6. Director's Report**
 - a) [26-283](#) Parks CIP Project Status Report

7. Board Communication

8. Discussion/Action Items

- a) [26-284](#) 2027-28 City Budget Process and Parks CIP Overview
approximately 30 minute presentation/30 minute discussion
- b) [26-285](#) First Quarter 2026 Report and Communication to Council
approximately 10 minutes

9. New Business

10. Adjournment

For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4162 (voice) or email ParkBoard@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

Rules of decorum for public communication and conduct at meetings were adopted by the City Council in Ordinance 6752. Copies of this ordinance can be found on the city's website, and are also available from the City Clerk's Office.

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday
March 18, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clima; Boardmembers Chou, Clark, Drever, Kronoff

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chair Valverde, Boardmember Chianglin

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley McVein, Douglas Raiford, Mariam Sarwary, Ryan Walker

OTHER STAFF PRESENT: Sara Boyle

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

Chair Clima called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Kronoff to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Chou and second by Boardmember Drever to approve the February 18, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chair Clima reviewed the guidelines for Oral Communications (Council Ordinance 6752).

Alex Tsimmerman made statements regarding Bellevue public meeting procedures, camera angles and speaking time limits, as well as statements regarding Bellevue Councilmembers. Two warnings were given to speak on matters encompassed within the power and duties of the Parks & Community Services Board.

Joe Kunzler expressed disapproval of Alex Tsimmerman's comments. Emphasis was placed on maintaining focus on community topics such as parks and public services, along with praise for

Bellevue's public infrastructure and leadership and defense of city officials against prior accusations. A recommendation was made for Board action to prevent similar disruptions in the future, along with reaffirmation of support for respectful civic engagement.

No additional speakers came forward either in person or online.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A. **Parks CIP Project Status Report**

Acting Director Shelley McVein focused on upcoming programs, events, and efforts to improve accessibility to Parks & Community Services offerings.

The report highlighted the release of the summer activity and day camp guides. To support equitable access, the city will host a summer camp open house at Crossroads Community Center, where staff will provide one-on-one assistance with registration, financial aid information, and translation services to improve accessibility for diverse community members.

The report also previewed several upcoming community events, including the Bellevue Youth Link "Unity Through Diversity" event at City Hall featuring youth cultural performances, as well as seasonal activities at the Bellevue Botanical Garden such as the Dahlia Tuber Sale and March Mania plant sale. A reminder was included regarding the upcoming sheep shearing event in April.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Clark shared that visits to Downtown Park occurred regularly, including earlier that day, with observations of usage patterns at the Inspiration Playground. Appreciation for returning to meetings and confidence in department leadership were also expressed.

Boardmember Chou described attendance at an indoor kite flying program at Crossroads Community Center, noting the activity as unique and beneficial. The program requires physical coordination and supports motor skills and balance, including an example of a child improving through participation. A suggestion was made for the city to highlight similar programs due to recreational and health benefits and meaningful community impact.

Boardmember Drever spoke regarding approaches to managing homelessness and related services. Emphasis was placed on coordination between parks, police, and human services, particularly as warmer weather increases park usage. Interest was expressed in learning more

about how parks staff, including park rangers, prepare for and respond to these challenges while balancing community needs.

Boardmember Kronoff reflected on two topics: acknowledgment of discomfort with earlier public comments alongside support for protecting free speech as a core democratic value, and insights from a trip to Silicon Valley where integrated natural spaces and restored habitats within urban environments were observed. A suggestion was made for Bellevue to continue prioritizing ecological connectivity and preservation of natural elements during growth.

Chair Clima spoke about visits to Woodlawn Park and mentioned an upcoming Earth Day event at Wilburton Park. The Bellevue Essentials program was also highlighted as a valuable opportunity for civic engagement, with encouragement for community participation.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Report on City of Bellevue's Diversity Advantage Plan 2035**

Sara Boyle, DEI Community Outreach and Engagement Administrator, and Douglas Raiford, DEI Program Administrator, presented an overview of the City of Bellevue's Diversity Advantage Plan 2035 (DAP), a comprehensive citywide framework adopted in December 2025 to guide diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts over the next decade. The plan builds on the 2014 Diversity Advantage Plan and establishes 41 equity objectives aligned with city strategic priorities, addressing both external service delivery and internal operations. Bellevue's demographic profile—including a majority non-white population, a high percentage of residents born outside the United States, widespread multilingual households, and a significant population of individuals with disabilities—was cited as a key factor supporting the need for a more tailored and equitable approach to public services. Implementation enhancements include standardized departmental Short-Term Equity Plans (STEPS), a centralized tracking and reporting system, and the development of more than 100 Key Equity Indicators (KEIs) to measure long-term outcomes. Upcoming milestones include the launch of internal dashboards by June and public dashboards by September to improve transparency and accountability.

Discussion emphasized the role of KEIs as tools for measuring impact rather than activity, with a focus on disaggregated data to identify disparities across neighborhoods and demographic groups. One example noted that while a majority of Bellevue residents live within walking distance of a park, only about 10% of Factoria residents have similar access, demonstrating how aggregate metrics can mask inequities. Parks & Community Services described efforts to align with the DAP through actions such as removing physical and programmatic barriers, enhancing inclusive park design, expanding recreation scholarship opportunities, and improving outreach through translation services and registration support. A cross-departmental "barriers team" and ongoing needs assessments were identified as key approaches to identifying and addressing inequities.

Board discussion included questions regarding data limitations, particularly gaps in demographic information such as LGBTQ+ representation, as well as challenges in addressing inequities

affecting smaller or specialized populations. Additional concerns focused on balancing high-level metrics with actionable outcomes, especially in rapidly urbanizing areas where traditional measures like park proximity may not fully reflect access or capacity constraints. Responses clarified that KEIs are intended to inform decision-making and guide further inquiry rather than provide immediate solutions, and that meaningful progress depends on integrating quantitative data with qualitative insights from community engagement. Overall, discussion underscored that advancing equity requires long-term cultural and structural change, sustained cross-department collaboration, and ongoing community feedback to ensure services effectively meet diverse needs.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Ryan Walker said that the April meeting will focus on reviewing the budget process and Capital Improvement Program, including updates on current projects and planning for future funding decisions.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Clima adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Parks & Community Services Board meeting will be held on April 15, 2026.



Parks CIP Project Status Report

April 2026

The Capital Projects Team continues to make progress on park planning efforts and improvement projects. This report features projects that have reached new milestones since the last report.

BelRed Neighborhood Park Master Plan

The city is planning a new neighborhood park at 12525 NE Spring Blvd. The park master plan will help guide the design and construction of this new 8-acre park in the BelRed neighborhood. A project kick-off update was shared with the PCS Board in February. A project website has been created on the Park Planning and Development Current Projects page on the city website: [BelRed Neighborhood Park](#). The first community engagement meeting will be held May 7, 2026, from 6:00-7:30 PM at Highlands Community Center located at 14224 NE Bel-Red Rd, Bellevue.

Bellevue Airfield Park Planning and Design

The Airfield Park Master Plan, adopted by City Council in September 2024, includes a new aquatic facility, eight pickleball courts, a basketball court, a multi-use flex field, a children's playground with multiple play zones, a splash pad, accessible picnic facilities, trails, and terraced lawns. The project was approved to use progressive design-build by the State's Project Review Committee in February. An RFP to hire the design-builder is still in development and will be released soon. Once the design-build team is hired, design and permitting are expected through 2028, followed by construction in 2029-30.

Robinswood Park Athletic Field Turf Improvements

Construction to replace the synthetic turf athletic fields at Robinswood Community Park is now complete. The project includes new energy-efficient sports lighting and inclusion of a cricket pitch in addition to markings for soccer and lacrosse.

Trail Projects

The city continues to expand and enhance the trail network, connecting open spaces and providing recreational access to the many natural areas and greenways throughout Bellevue. In preparation for an upcoming update to the Parks and Open Space Plan, staff are preparing a Trails Report that lays out strategic goals for the trail system.

2026 Renovation Projects

Projects identified in the 2026-2031 Renovation, Refurbishment, and ADA Accessibility Program Report are underway. The report identifies projects to repair and renovate existing facilities and park amenities.



2026 projects include energy conservation projects; repairs to asphalt parking lots, sports courts, and irrigation and HVAC systems; deck repairs at the Bellevue Golf Course; siding repairs, kitchen remodel, and teen center upgrades at Crossroads Community Center; new play equipment and/or surfacing at multiple playgrounds; new climbing wall and electrical upgrades at South Bellevue Community Center; restroom and tennis court improvements at Enatai Neighborhood Park; and ADA barrier removal at multiple sites.

More Active Projects

Park projects take time to implement, and the following projects continue to make steady progress.

- Aquatic Center Design
- Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2
- Trail Projects at Coal Creek, Forest Drive, Mercer Slough, 168th Ave Open Space, and Eastrail
- Park (re)development at Ashwood Park and Eastgate Commons
- Waterfront park projects at Clyde Beach Boathouse, Chism Beach Park, and new properties on Lake Sammamish
- Pop-up Off Leash Area Program
- Kelsey Creek Park Restroom
- Park Operations Facility
- Robinswood Park Playground

While there have been no major changes since the last Park Board meeting, please reference prior months' reports for the latest information. New updates will be shared when meaningful milestones are reached.

[26-238 - Parks CIP Project Status Report](#) (March 2026)

[26-183 - Parks CIP Project Status Report](#) (February 2026)

Parks capital projects are also featured on the City's [Capital Projects Dashboard](#). This dashboard is updated quarterly. Click "Filter by Department" and select "Parks & Community Services" to see the department's active projects. Click symbols on the map or choose from the list of Active Projects to see project details.

Additional information on park projects can be found here: [Current Projects | City of Bellevue](#)

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: April 15, 2026

TO: Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Jenny Zhang, Fiscal Manager
Wyatt Thompson, Park Planning and Development Manager
Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: 2027-28 City Budget Process and Parks CIP Overview
For discussion – no Board action required

At the April board meeting staff will provide an overview of the City's budget process, the Parks & Community Services Board role in the 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Program budget, and a status update on the department's 2025-30 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plan. A list of current capital projects are provided (Attachment A).

Consistent with prior budget cycles, staff will also discuss key messages for a Board communication to City Council in relation to the proposed 2027-32 Parks CIP. Key messages and themes identified will be formed into a draft communication to the City Council that will be reviewed at the June meeting.

Budget Process

The budget is one of the City's most important documents. The budget process organizes all city operating and capital budgets around six Strategic Target Areas. Parks & Community Services' capital improvement proposals are primarily directed to the High Quality Built and Natural Environment target area. In addition, the Council has established a set of 2024-2026 Bellevue City Council Priorities (bellevuewa.gov/council-vision).

Parks & Community Services' capital project proposals are responsive to the City's Strategic Target Areas and Council Priorities. In addition, they address needs and objectives identified in the adopted Parks and Open Space System Plan (System Plan; bellevuewa.gov/park-plan) and projects promised in voter-approved parks levy packages in 2008 and 2022.

Key milestones in the budget process include:

- Department Budget Proposals due to the Budget Office by May 1st
- Proposal review throughout the summer.
- City Manager's Preliminary Budget Proposal in mid-September.
- The City Council's adoption of the final budget by November 17.

As advisors to the City Council, one of the duties of the Board is to provide comments on the Parks CIP. An example is recommendations submitted during the last budget process (see Attachment B). The City Manager will present a Preliminary Proposed Budget in the fall, with the City Council adopting the final budget before the end of the year. We will keep the Board informed of the Parks CIP status throughout the process.

Capital Improvement Program

The 2027-2032 CIP will utilize a new organizing element for budgeting and tracking capital projects based on portfolios and program areas. Parks & Community Services will have one parks project portfolio with four programs:

- Park Development and Expansion
- Trails and Natural Systems
- Waterfront and Destination Parks
- Renovation and Renewal

The **Park Development and Expansion** program includes projects to build-out new parks and facilities or make major enhancements to existing parks that add or change major program elements. Examples include P-AD-103 Bel-Red Parks and Streams and P-AD-107 Ashwood Park Development. The System Plan emphasizes acquisition and development of parks to meet future demand and geographic equity.

The **Trails and Natural Systems** program focuses on projects that expand and enhance the citywide network of trails and natural areas. Examples include P-AD-112 Parks and Trails, which includes development of trails and trail amenities at multiple locations. The System Plan identifies open space, greenways, wildlife corridors, and trails as a core capital focus area with strong community support for trail access.

The **Waterfront and Destination Parks** program comprises projects that develop new or improve existing waterfront parks such as Chism Beach Park and enhance the City's signature parks such as Downtown Park, Meydenbauer Bay Park, Bellevue Botanical Gardens, and Kelsey Creek Farm. CIP Projects include P-AD-114 Park Shoreline Restoration and P-AD-104 Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2. Waterfront access and destination parks are called out as a distinct program category due to the complex and high-visibility nature of these capital investments.

The **Renovation and Renewal** program works to improve existing parks and facilities. Projects in this program are non-routine or larger than can be accomplished with regular maintenance programs, generally cost less than one million dollars, and do not significantly alter a site's program or purpose. Example CIP projects include P-R-11 Park

Renovation and Refurbishment Plan and P-AD-119 ADA Accessibility Barrier Removal. Bellevue Parks & Community Services maintains a large, ageing system that requires ongoing renovation and refurbishment to meet community needs and expectations.

Attachments/Related Documents

- A. Current Parks CIP list
- B. Parks & Community Services Board memorandum to City Council on Parks Capital Improvement Program Recommendations for existing budget
- C. Current CIP (recommend filtering to "Parks" only)
<https://bellevuewa.openbook.questica.com/#/visualization/879869d1-b403-4a0f-b9ab-7a7277b8cccc>

Attachment A: Parks CIP List

Park Development and Expansion

P-AD-101	Bridle Trails/140th Street
P-AD-103	Bel-Red Parks & Streams
P-AD-105	King County Parks Levy (2020-2025)
P-AD-107	Ashwood Park Development
P-AD-108	Aquatics Facility Design (A&E)
P-AD-109	Eastgate Neighborhood Park
P-AD-110	Factoria Neighborhood Park
P-AD-111	Off-Leash and Emerging Sports Facilities
P-AD-115	Japanese Memorial Garden
P-AD-117	NE 2nd Street Downtown SE Neighborhood Park
P-AD-118	Wilburton Parks & Streams
P-AD-83	Bellevue Airfield Park Development

Trails and Natural Systems

P-AD-112	Parks Trails
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Waterfront and Destination Parks

P-AD-104	Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2
P-AD-106	Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park
P-AD-113	BBG Design and Development
P-AD-114	Park Shoreline Restoration
P-AD-116	Kelsey Creek Farm Major Renovation

Renovation and Renewal

P-R-11	Parks Renovation & Refurbishment Plan
P-AD-96	Mercer Slough East Link Mitigation
P-AD-119	ADA Accessibility Barrier Removal

G-117	Parks Operations Facility
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MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Date: June 20, 2024

To: Lynne Robinson, Mayor
Mo Malakoutian, Deputy Mayor
Dave Hamilton, Parks & Community Services Board Liaison
City Councilmembers

From: Paul Clark, Chair
Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board

Subject: 2025-2034 Parks Capital Investment Program Recommendations

Thank you for the opportunity to advise the City Council on the Parks & Community Services 2025-2034 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. We hope that these comments are helpful as the Council prioritizes the City's capital investment needs for the next ten years.

Council Vision, Strategic Target Areas and Priorities

At the April, May and June board meetings, the Board reviewed the budget process and the proposed parks capital investments in relation to the Council's Strategic Target Areas (STA) and 2024-2026 Priorities. The parks projects proposed in the current budget provide a high return on investment by aligning with multiple target areas, including:

- High Quality Built and Natural Environment,
- Community Safety and Health,
- Vibrant Economy, and
- Thriving People and Communities.

Per the Council Vision objectives, "we work to create iconic destinations and vibrant spaces for everyone to enjoy." Park capital projects have been, and continue to be, at the forefront of advancing this vision through Council priority projects such as the new Aquatic Center, Meydenbauer Bay Park, Ashwood Park, Downtown Park NE Corner, and Grand Connection implementation. In addition to these, the parks system will help advance several of the 2024-26 Priorities. Trail projects will be advanced that develop Eastrail regional trail connections for residents and workers. At the system level, parks and trails should factor thematically into the city's effort to update its brand identity and community centers and park facilities serve as places to enhance community engagement strategies.

Parks & Open Space System Plan Goals and Funding Strategy

Overall, the Board considered a variety of factors in developing these recommendations, drawing from community needs expressed in the Council-adopted 2022 Parks & Open Space System Plan and recent planning initiatives and policy direction from the Comprehensive Plan update. At the root are recommended funding for multiple previously funded project commitments from the 2008 and 2022 Parks Levies, including ongoing foundational support for

Parks & Open Space Acquisition and the *Parks Renovation and Refurbishment Plan*. When surveyed, Bellevue residents consistently say that they want to continue expanding the park and trail system through property acquisition and the development of existing parks. They also consistently praise and value the high level of maintenance provided at existing parks. Keeping existing facilities open, safe and welcoming with regular maintenance and renovation is a cost-effective way to maintain park accessibility for the community.

Our Focus: Increasing Access

Springing from that foundation, proposed and recommended projects for this budget cycle are centered around the concept of “increasing access.” They are responsive to the community’s interest in equitably expanding the park and trail system; improving universal access to existing parks; increased access to parks and recreation resources in growing urban neighborhoods; increased connection and access to waterfront, beaches and pools; and new access to emerging sports and recreation.

Access to Parks and Trails for Underserved Areas

Both the Parks & Open Space System Plan and Environmental Stewardship Initiative acknowledge that access to existing parks is not equal across all neighborhoods. With a goal of bringing a park or trail to within 1/3-mile of every Bellevue resident, the current budget included funding for *Eastgate* and *Factoria Neighborhood Park* development. These projects in underserved neighborhoods carry forward into the next budget, along with additional funding recommended for *Park Trail System Access and Expansion*. Park trails are used by 80% of Bellevue residents and adding trail connections is an efficient and effective way to increase park access to more underserved neighborhoods. Examples of planned projects include an Eastrail trail connection in Woodridge and trails within the recently acquired Woodlawn Park open space in Newport Hills.

Access to Existing Parks for Users of All Abilities

Additionally, two recommended projects focus on expanding universal access at existing parks. Targeted funds through the *ADA Accessibility Barrier Removal Initiative* will accelerate the pace of projects that increase access to existing park facilities for all users of all abilities. A new project, *Kelsey Creek Farm Energy and Accessibility Renovation*, has twin goals to modernize the Twin Valley Barns and other features at the popular park to lower energy use and increase physical accessibility, while retaining the historic character at this beloved park.

Access to Greenspace and Recreation Opportunities for Urban Residents

An evident goal of the Council is the planning and development of high-quality, livable urban neighborhoods. It is imperative that these neighborhoods include parks and recreation opportunities to create places where families and businesses can flourish. Well-maintained parks contribute positively to the overall economic development of the City, including raising property values, attracting and retaining key businesses, promoting tourism, and protecting water and air quality.

To support this outcome in Downtown Bellevue, continued funding is recommended for *Ashwood Park Design and Development* and a new project is recommended to support underserved residents by developing a new *Downtown SE Neighborhood Park* on land that was previously acquired for this purpose.

For new urban neighborhoods in BelRed and Wilburton, much work is needed in property acquisitions and park development to achieve city goals and ensure that new residents do not live in park deserts. To further this work, continued funding is recommended for *BelRed Parks and Streams* and a new project, *Wilburton Parks and Trails*, is recommended for the Wilburton Commercial Area. These two projects will provide walkable access to new parks where none exist today.

Access to Water

Second to our trails, community beach and waterfront parks are the highest used facilities and hold the second highest priority for Bellevue residents for additional park development. Of the 14 miles of lakefront shoreline within city limits, the public has access to approximately 12% of that shoreline in the form of public beach parks and boat launches on Lake Washington. The city has no public access to Lake Sammamish. To advance these needs, budget proposals continue the city's investment in the *Meydenbauer Bay Park Design and Development (Phase 2)*, *Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Beach Park*, and an ongoing program for *Park Shoreline Restoration* at existing older beach parks.

In addition, Bellevue's one public pool is nearing the end of its useful life despite the growing number of children and adults in our city that need swimming lessons for basic public safety. In 2003, the Board recommended to site a new Aquatic Center at Bellevue Airfield Park. The Council agreed and directed an updated master plan for the park to advance through environmental review. Two recommended capital projects, *Bellevue Aquatic Facility Design and Development* and *Bellevue Airfield Park Development* are positioned to advance this priority project.

Access to Emerging Sports and Recreation

The 2022 Parks Levy includes needed funding to allow our existing parks and park facilities to respond to contemporary and culturally specific recreation trends through *Off-Leash Areas and Emerging Sports Facilities*. Continuing the funding for this project is recommended along with funding for *Bellevue Airfield Park Development*, which will provide pickleball and other new recreation facilities for our growing community.

We appreciate the ability to provide comments on the 2025-2034 Parks CIP Plan and look forward to continuing to engage as the budget process moves forward. Feel free to contact any of the Parks & Community Services Board members if you have questions or comments.

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.