

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: January 21, 2026

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

From: Rowena Clima, Chair
Parks & Community Services Board

RE: September - December 2025 Report and Communication

The Parks & Community Services Board closed out 2025 by recommending both the design and name for a transformative new park that will address a longstanding service gap in the Eastgate neighborhood, while also engaging on topics that highlight the quality and breadth of Bellevue's parks, recreation and open space system.

Recommendation for the Design and Name for a New Park in the Eastgate Neighborhood

The Eastgate neighborhood has historically been underserved for both park and trail access. Working with the Eastgate Community Association, the City located and acquired two adjacent properties for a new neighborhood park south of I-90. The new park will fill an access gap, providing neighborhood park-scale facilities within a 1/3-mile walking distance for over 500 households, approximately 360 of which do not currently have a park within a 1/3-mile walk. During the design process, the community participated in three public outreach meetings and the board reviewed and provided feedback during three board meetings.

The board recommended to City Council a preferred design that features an open flexible lawn, play structures, picnic seating and a covered pavilion. The new park will provide essential play areas in a neighborhood that has many families with young children. Additionally, the park will provide space for community gathering, which the neighborhood lacks. For these reasons, the board concluded that the preferred design will best serve the needs of the Eastgate neighborhood. The Council reviewed and concurred with the preferred design in November 2025.

At that same meeting, the Council concurred with the board's recommended name of Eastgate Commons. The board drew this name from over 70 suggested names that were gathered through community outreach process. The name was formally adopted by the City Council during a January 2026 meeting. The board thanks City Council for providing input for this exciting park project and for their support for the preferred design and name.

Exploring Parks Facilities, Processes and Projects Through Informational Presentations

During fall 2025, the board explored several key elements of Bellevue's parks and recreation facilities.

At the October meeting, the board reviewed guidelines for the city's park naming process and discussed ways to enhance the process. As part of the feedback, the board identified opportunities to expand community input and create a more equitable approach in the park naming process.

At the November meeting, the board received an update on the numerous projects funded through the voter-approved, 2022 Parks & Open Space Levy. This critical funding mechanism helps to maintain excellence in the parks system and spur quality, innovative facilities in the future. In addition to receiving project updates, the board provided input on options for reporting levy project progress, including website and media opportunities, and a special logo to go along with printed materials. With this feedback, staff will develop materials and share with the community to show the impact of levy funds.

The board regularly receives staff presentations to learn more about our community centers and other facilities. Each of Bellevue's community centers provides an array of unique services and is vital for the community to access resources and recreation opportunities. At the November meeting, staff from Crossroads Community Center highlighted the wealth of services, programming and community spirit provided by the center. Crossroads Community Center serves as an international welcoming place for all to build valuable relationships, and bridge cultures and generations. The board appreciated the innovation demonstrated in the variety of program offerings, such as indoor kite flying, and emphasized continued community engagement to see that the suite of programs are meeting community needs given limited space and high demand at the center.

Celebrating Excellence With CAPRA Accreditation

Finally, the board had the opportunity to learn more about and celebrate an accomplishment that few parks' departments can tout – Bellevue Parks & Community Services was once again accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). Bellevue Parks & Community Services is the only agency in the state that has been accredited continually since 2005. It is also one of only three accredited agencies in Washington and one of only 231 accredited agencies in the U.S. Accreditation provides an objective measure of the operations and management of our parks and recreation system along with the service the system provides to the community. Kudos to staff, community volunteers, board members, and elected officials that come together to support this nationally recognized department.

Thank you for your continued support of the board and its work in 2025. A busy 2026 is on the horizon for the board with additional park planning projects anticipated for review. Board members look forward to continuing to serve the community. If you have any questions, you can contact me at rclima@bellevuewa.gov.