

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: September 17, 2025

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

From: Rowena Clima, Chair
Parks & Community Services Board

RE: May - July 2025 Report and Communication

This summer, the Parks & Community Services Board transitioned to new leadership, advanced a new neighborhood park design, and provided feedback and insights on citywide planning initiatives.

New Leadership

The board re-elected Rowena Clima to the role of Chair for the upcoming year and elected Michelle Valverde to the role of Vice Chair. The board thanked Eileen Chou for her leadership as Vice Chair for the past year. Additionally, the board welcomed new member, Eric Drever, a resident of South Bellevue with an impressive record of community involvement and public service. Eric fills the seat left vacant by Heather Trescases who completed two terms on the board. During her eight years of service, Heather led the board as Chair and Vice Chair. Heather provided thoughtful feedback on at least 13 park planning projects, advocated for equitable access to parks and services, and championed the preservation of cultural and historical landmarks. Heather's deep commitment to the Bellevue community in both her personal and professional life is unmatched, and her astute advice and opinions will be missed.

Neighborhood Park in Eastgate

The board has enjoyed the opportunity to work on the City Council's goal to develop a neighborhood-scale park in the Eastgate neighborhood. Working in collaboration with the Eastgate Community Association, two adjacent properties were located and acquired, and a design process was initiated. In May, the board reviewed three concept plans, heard feedback from neighborhood surveys, and had discussions about topics such as shelters, play structures, safety, and privacy. The board looks forward to revisiting the concepts and recommending one preferred concept, along with a park name, to the City Council before the end of this year.

Input on Neighborhood Area Plans and the Sustainable Bellevue Plan

At the May meeting, the board provided input on updates to the Crossroads and Newport Neighborhood Area Plans, and in the July meeting, the board provided input on updates to the Sustainable Bellevue Plan. The board reviewed draft policies in each that were aligned with the work and subject matter expertise of the board in parks, natural systems, recreation and community services. All three plans aim to increase walkability in neighborhoods and provide needed community services for residents – all goals consistent with the Bellevue Parks and Open Space System Plan. During the discussions, the board voiced the importance of increasing

accessibility, fostering connectivity, recognizing the history of the area, promoting resilience, and protecting and enhancing natural resources.

Park System Renovation and Refurbishment

Parks, trails, and natural areas are a key component to neighborhood livability and community sustainability. Their service in these areas is enhanced by one of the hallmarks of Bellevue's parks system – the high priority given to maintenance, renovation and refurbishment of park facilities. In July, the board learned more about how park facilities, from individual benches to community center buildings, are tracked, tested and monitored so that the community's investments are kept open, safe and accessible to park and trail users. In a typical year, over 100 projects are completed through the renovation program. Some recent highlights include improved ADA access to South Bellevue Community Center from Newport Way, roof replacement at the Enatai Beach Park boathouse, and replaced play equipment at several locations including Hidden Valley Park, Newport Hills Park, and Clyde Beach Park.

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.