

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Study session to review the Eastgate neighborhood park preferred design and name recommendation review.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**DIRECTION**

Seeking Council review of the preferred design option for the park property in the Eastgate neighborhood, and direction regarding a new park name. A summary of community preferences will be presented. This includes recommendations from the Parks & Community Services Board for a preferred park design and a new park name.

RECOMMENDATION

Provide comments to staff on the preferred park design concept – Option 2A and return at a later date for final action to name the new park Eastgate Commons as recommended by the Parks & Community Services Board.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**Background**

The Eastgate Neighborhood Area extends east and west, adjacent to I-90. The residential areas south of I-90 were developed well before they were annexed into the city limits. This neighborhood has winding streets and hilly topography and is underserved by both park and trail access. The need for additional walkable neighborhood park facilities is an identified goal of the Bellevue Parks and Open Space System Plan. Bellevue residents supported the 2022 Parks & Open Space Levy, providing funds to acquire, plan, and develop neighborhood-scaled parks in underserved areas, such as Eastgate. To address the need for park facilities, the City acquired two properties in 2022 and 2023 totaling about a half-acre for the purpose of developing a new park (Attachment A).

Community Engagement

Parks & Community Services conducted community engagement in the Eastgate area to identify community needs for the design of a new park to serve the neighborhood. Public outreach began with staff attending the Eastgate Block Party in July 2024 hosted by the Eastgate Community Association to help raise awareness of the upcoming park planning effort. Neighbors were enthusiastic and supportive of the new park. Staff followed up this event with an introductory Parks & Community Services Board meeting later that month and engaged a design consultant to assist with the project.

To help bring attention to the park design and naming process, staff established a project webpage which has a subscriber list consisting of 931 followers. Notices summarizing the project and providing

information on upcoming meetings have appeared in Neighborhood News and have been posted on social media outlets Facebook and X. Additionally, staff coordinated with the Eastgate Community Association to distribute project information to their membership and encourage participation in the planning processes. Three community meetings were held with the most recent taking place in July. Each community meeting was followed by a survey open to any interested stakeholder.

Community Feedback Summary

At the community meetings, staff shared the project background, site elements, park planning project timeline, and community feedback. Participants had opportunities to ask questions and share their thoughts, which were incorporated into the conceptual design options of the park. From the outset, the community shared a preference for flexible open lawn areas, community gathering space, covered shelters/pavilions, play structures and picnic seating.

At the third community meeting in July, staff shared survey results with the community along with two updated conceptual designs. These designs (Attachments B and C) were developed from information compiled throughout the planning process along with community preferences and Parks & Community Services Board feedback.

Park Naming

Concurrent with the community engagement on the park design, outreach included ideas and preferences for a park name. Ideas for park names were solicited from the community, resulting in 73 suggestions. Staff reviewed and refined the list of suggestions, applying the City's park naming policy and procedures (Attachment D). Five names were selected to advance to an additional round of community feedback.

Park & Community Services Board Recommendation

After careful deliberation over multiple meetings, the Board unanimously recommends design Option 2A and the name Eastgate Commons to City Council for consideration.

The Board expressed appreciation for elements of both final design options. Their recommendation of Option 2A recognizes the community's strong preference for the same option. Option 2A includes open flexible lawn areas, community gathering space, play structures, picnic seating and a covered shelter/pavilion. Ultimately, the board concluded that the design of Option 2A best serves the needs of the immediate Eastgate neighborhood as well as the needs of the broader community.

Next Steps

With Council's direction on a preferred design concept, staff will proceed with design, permitting and development of construction documents. With Council direction on a preferred name, staff will return at a later date with a resolution to formalize the name selection.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Bellevue Comprehensive Plan

PA-4: Design parks and facilities to maximize available space and benefits for users, including offering parks with multiple functions and implementation of shared use facilities.

PA-17: Use a community informed planning process to guide substantial development or redevelopment of a park property.

PA-43: Develop parks and facilities in a quality manner to assure attractiveness, full utilization and long-term efficiency.

CE-10: Encourage and support engagement with the entire community, including residents, employees, business owners and visitors to the city or area of the city under consideration.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with identifying a preferred design concept and name for the new park property in the Eastgate neighborhood.

OPTIONS

1. Direct staff to return at a later date with final action to name the new park Eastgate Commons as recommended by the Parks & Community Services Board.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Vicinity Map current
- B. Design Option 1A
- C. Design Option 2A
- D. Resolution No. 10151- Park Naming Policy

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A