



DATE: January 18, 2022

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

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Human Resources
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SUBJECT: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) - Accessible changing tables for adults and children to be installed in several park locations

It is our pleasure to share a city accomplishment that promotes accessibility and community inclusion at City of Bellevue parks for caretakers and people with access and functional needs – accessible changing tables at several park facilities.

Background

In January of 2019, the Council was briefed about the city's newly updated ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP), which was then adopted by City Manager Miyake. The SETP is an assessment of the city's current policies and practices and an accompanying plan to ensure that the requirements of Title II of the ADA are met.

To ensure the community was an authentic part of the update process, a robust community feedback effort was undertaken during the development process. Focus groups, surveys and one-on-one interviews were conducted, wherein the city heard from nearly 300 individuals about physical and programmatic barriers to access at city-owned facilities. The public was encouraged to provide any feedback they felt would increase access in the city for people with disabilities over and above the compliance-based recommendations that meet federal and state regulations.

During the prior SETP study session with Council, councilmembers asked: "What is one thing we heard in our feedback efforts that was a great idea, but did not make it into the plan?" One of these "great ideas" was to provide accessible changing tables in the restrooms at park facilities.

The Project

Community members expressed during the SETP feedback process that the availability of changing tables accessible to all residents would allow community members with access and functional needs to enjoy outings and experience longer periods of enjoyment in the community by providing comfortable, safe and nearby facilities to manage routine hygiene needs. These residents as well as their families or caregivers would benefit from better convenience, privacy and ease of use when needing to meet basic needs.

As a result, a grant application was submitted to secure funding for 13 changing tables accessible to both adults and children to be installed at eight sites around the city. These sites are:

- Highland Community Center
- North Bellevue Community Center
- Meydenbauer Bay Beach Park
- Newcastle Beach Park
- Wilburton Hill Park
- Robinswood 22nd St Sport Fields
- Crossroads International Park
- Bannerwood Park Stadium

The total amount of the grant is \$97,000 and the application was successful. The City of Bellevue was awarded the full amount. All tables are on order, being scheduled for installation, should be completed by early 2023.

Summary

The City of Bellevue efforts to provide accessible changing tables in publicly owned spaces demonstrates the City's ongoing commitment to support persons with disabilities and those with access and functional needs. These improvements will allow residents to extend the time they can enjoy being out and about in the community with family and friends without worry and discomfort about how they will take care of their routine hygiene needs.