

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC**New City Park at Main Street Update**

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Parks & Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**DIRECTION**

In late 2024, the City of Bellevue took ownership of a new park space at the corner of Main Street and 112th Avenue SE. This park was constructed by Sound Transit on top of the light rail south tunnel portal and dedicated to the city. Staff seek Council's direction to initiate a naming process consistent with the Council's policy for naming park and recreation facilities.

RECOMMENDATION

Direct staff to initiate a naming process for the park at the corner of Main St and 112th Avenue SE and seek a name recommendation from the Parks & Community Services Board for Council consideration.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Sound Transit acquired multiple properties on the corner of Main Street and 112th Avenue SE to support light rail staging and construction of the south portal of the tunnel that extends through downtown Bellevue. As part of Sound Transit's park impact mitigation plan, the city and Sound Transit collaborated on the design of a park space to be developed above the tunnel portal infrastructure. Per the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Sound Transit, the parties agreed to transfer the land for this new park from Sound Transit to the City with reserved easements for the light rail infrastructure.

In September 2024, the land transfer was completed and Bellevue Parks & Community Services assumed full maintenance and operations responsibility for the new park.

The new park conveys multiple benefits, including:

- implementing a section of Lake to Lake Trail system;
- delivering Parks & Open Space System Plan and Downtown Subarea Plan goals for a linear park and buffer area on Main Street (similar in function to McCormick Park on north side of downtown); and,
- providing safe walkable access to the 2 Line East Main Station for neighborhoods north and south of Main Street in the Downtown and Southwest Bellevue Neighborhood Areas

Next Steps

It is not typical for the city to obtain a pre-developed park. Since the park opened, the community has been inquiring about the city's plans and intent for the park. To bring the space into the fold and instill

within it a Bellevue-specific character, steps are necessary to integrate this new place into the existing parks and open space system. The first step in that process is to identify and adopt a name.

In Bellevue, park and recreation facilities are named following City Council policy and procedure, as established by Resolution 10151. According to this policy, the City Council may refer a naming process to the Parks and Community Services Board or retain the process with the City Council. Customary practice of the City Council has been to refer the process. Past practice has also been to solicit potential park names from the community. Any and all Bellevue residents and park users would be welcome to submit ideas and share name preferences.

Potential names will be screened against the five criteria in the naming policy. If the process is referred, the Parks & Community Services Board will assess potential names meeting the criteria and then recommend a name to the City Council for consideration. Once a name is adopted by the Council, a park sign will be installed, and park system maps will be updated.

Additional steps to meld the park into the existing park and trail system are evaluated as opportunities arise. Such opportunities may include highlighting the space as part of the local Lake to Lake trail system, adding enhancements or installing additional seating or park features that will encourage use and visitation, or adding elements that serve to interpret Bellevue history.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

S-DT-108. Provide a lineal green space buffer in the vicinity of the southeast corner of Downtown to transition from single family residential uses to higher density residential and commercial uses north of Main Street within Downtown.

PA-10. Develop partnerships with other public agencies, non-profits and the private sector to provide and fund parks, open space, and cultural and recreation facilities in the city.

Resolution No. 10151, Park Naming Policy

Fiscal Impact

There are no fiscal impacts associated with naming the park.

OPTIONS

1. Direct staff to initiate a naming process for the park at the corner of Main St and 112th Avenue SE and seek a name recommendation from the Parks & Community Services Board for Council consideration.
2. Provide alternate direction to staff to initiate the naming process for the park at the corner of Main St and 112th Avenue SE.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Vicinity Map
- B. Park Naming Policy, Resolution No. 10151

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A