

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Neighborhood Enhancement Program Update

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DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**INFORMATION
ONLY**

This update will provide a review of the Neighborhood Enhancement Program which completes its seven-year cycle around Bellevue's neighborhood areas (2015-2022) this year.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) provides residents the opportunity to recommend and select small capital projects for City-funded improvements in their neighborhoods. The NEP rotates through 14 NEP areas over a seven-year cycle. This year, NEP will complete its current seven-year CIP cycle (2015-2022) and this report provides a status summary of projects and accomplishments since the program was reconstituted by Council in 2015.

The NEP successfully provides a method for funding moderate-cost, but important, improvements that cannot compete successfully for funding against larger or higher-priority CIP projects. It also provides multiple meetings and engagement to empower residents in a democratic process to direct City funds for local improvements that could be accomplished in the near-term. The success of the NEP has been attributed to the philosophy that residents are in the best position to decide how to improve their own neighborhoods. Funds are allocated to respective neighborhoods based upon the number of households in the designated neighborhood area.

Reflecting the varying character and creativity of each neighborhood, Neighborhood Enhancement projects range in type and scope, including gateway landscaping, wetland enhancements, park and playground improvements, trails and crosswalks, lighting and even the addition of bat houses for the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

In 2022, Newport and Somerset residents will be participating in the NEP process in their neighborhood areas.

2015- 2021 Status Report

The NEP is more than a capital program. NEP is often the first introduction residents have to City of Bellevue programs. Participation allows for the City to promote the development of capital projects, and

to use NEP as a unique outreach opportunity to help establish relationships with residents and inform them of other City programs.

NEP is a community driven capital improvement program that facilitates a democratic process where every household in the City can participate. It is a “high-touch” program where residents are acknowledged for their participation during each phase of the program. The result is that, over the past seven years, an average of 11.5 percent of Bellevue NEP neighborhood area households have participated in voting (with percentages ranging from 5.2 percent to 18 percent by individual neighborhood area).

NEP is also a key opportunity to hear from Bellevue residents about the neighborhood improvements that reflect local needs and their highest priorities. Between 2015 and 2021, residents in 12 neighborhood areas submitted 1,307 ideas for improving their neighborhoods. These ideas were shared with the relevant City departments and routed as community input for consideration for future neighborhood investments. From the total project ideas submitted, 219 projects were scoped and included on Voter’s Pamphlets ballots and represent over \$21M in scoped construction costs.

Since 2016, 38 Neighborhood Enhancement projects have been selected by area residents and will provide meaningful neighborhood improvements for Bellevue neighborhoods. Fifteen projects have been completed, while 23 NEP projects are still in design and construction stages. NEP projects are completed within three to five years after they have been voted on and selected by residents.

The status of Neighborhood Enhancement Projects, by neighborhood area, is as follows:

EASTGATE/FACTORIA (2016)

- Horizon Heights Streetlights: Project completed Summer 2018
- Lattawood Park Lighting: Project completed February 2021
- 152nd Avenue SE & 52nd Place SE Trail: Project completed December 2016
- SE 38th Street Gateway Landscaping: Project completed Fall 2020

COUGAR MOUNTAIN/LAKEMONT (2016)

- Lewis Creek Park Wetland Buffer Enhancement: Project completed November 2018
- Lakemont Boulevard SE Path: Project completed Summer 2019

WEST LAKE SAMMAMISH (2017)

- West Lake Sammamish Flashing Crosswalk: Project Completed February 2018
- Northup Way Left Turn Lane: Integrated into West Lake Sammamish Parkway Phase 2: Estimated project completion Spring 2022

NORTHEAST BELLEVUE (2017)

- 164th Avenue NE Landscaping: Estimated Project completion Fall 2022
- Ardmore Playground Improvement: Project Completed Summer 2019
- Ardmore Park Trail: Project Completed Winter 2019

BRIDLE TRAILS (2018)

- NE 40th Street from 140th Avenue NE to 14500 block NE - From Re-Striping to NEW Sidewalk! Estimated Project Completion Summer 2023 (NEP funding \$75,750 + Transportation department budgets \$1,650,000)
- Cherry Crest Elementary Intersection Improvements: Project Completed Summer 2020
- Cherry Crest Mini Park Improvements: Estimated Project Completion Fall 2022

NORTHWEST BELLEVUE (2018)

- Bellevue Way Landscape Enhancement: Estimated design phase completion Fall 2022, Estimated project completion Fall 2023
- 100th Avenue NE and NE 18th Street Raised Intersection: Estimated project completion Summer 2023

DOWNTOWN/BELRED (2019)

- NE 8th Street Pedestrian Enhancements Over Interstate 405: Estimated project completion Summer 2023
- Downtown Park SE Corner Stairs: Project completed Spring 2021
- Bel/Red Mini Off-Leash Dog Park : Estimated project completion *To be determined* (TBD) as project still lacks funding for completion

LAKE HILLS (2019)

- Bat Houses at Lake Hills Greenbelt: Estimated project completion Fall 2022
- Wetland Improvements at Phantom Lake Park: Estimated project completion May 2022
- Flashing Crosswalk at SE 4th Street and 156th Avenue SE: Estimated project completion Fall 2022
- NE 6th Street Wetlands Improvements (South side of NE 6th Street between 148th Avenue NE and 150th Place NE): Estimated project completion December 2022
- Main Street Median Landscape Refurbishment: Estimated project completion Fall 2022
- Robinswood Park Adult Exercise Equipment: Project completed March 2021

CROSSROADS (2020)

- NE 8th Tree Replacement Location: NE 8th from 136th Avenue NE to 164th Avenue NE: Estimated project completion Fall 2023
- 148th Avenue NE Beautification Location: 148th Avenue NE between NE 8th and BelRed Road: Estimated project completion Fall 2022
- 140th Avenue NE and NE 14th Street Street Light: Estimated project completion Spring 2022
- Crossroads Art Project : Estimated project completion Fall 2023

WILBURTON (2020)

- Wilburton Corner Street Lighting: Estimated project completion Summer 2022
- Wilburton Hill Park Ivy Out: Estimated project completion December 2023
- Kelsey Pollinator Interpretive Display at Kelsey Creek Park: Estimated project completion Spring 2023
- NE 8th Children's Tiles: Estimated project completion Fall 2023

WEST BELLEVUE (2021)

- Chism Beach Park Invasive Vegetation Removal & Native Planting: Estimated project completion Fall 2025
- Street and Stair Lighting to South Bellevue Light Rail Station: Estimated project completion Spring 2023
- West Bellevue Gateway and Streetscape Improvements: Estimated project completion Fall 2023
- Additional Benches in Surrey Downs Park: Estimated project completion September 2022

WOODRIDGE (2021)

- Woodridge Trail Enhancement: Estimated project completion Fall 2023
- Woodridge SE 8th Gateway Entrance Landscaping: Location 121st Avenue SE from SE 8th Street to SE 10th Street: Estimated project completion Fall 2023
- Richards Creek Open Space Invasive Vegetation Removal & Native Planting: Estimated project completion Fall 2024
- Residential Street Lights at three selected locations: Estimated project completion Spring 2023

NEWPORT & SOMERSET (2022)

- Households in these neighborhood areas will be submitting and voting on their NEP project ideas in 2022.

In June 2021, the City launched its “State of the Neighborhoods Dashboard” with NEP project descriptions, locations and construction timelines included in the GIS story map available to Bellevue residents on the City website, [State of Our Neighborhoods \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com). Complete project descriptions are found in NEP Project Status – February 2022 (attachment B).

Community Feedback

Each neighborhood area NEP process includes an evaluation opportunity for residents to provide feedback to the program. Here are a few examples of comments that residents have shared since 2015.

“Neighborhoods are important to the city. They’re willing to invest in them and that they’re willing to listen to the people who live in the neighborhoods on what’s important to us...and it’s one of the many reasons why I am very proud to call the City of Bellevue my home.”

“The best thing about NEP program is actually asking us - the community where we want funds to be spent. Community input is always a plus!”

“I was absolutely shocked to learn of this program and to see our neighborhood have a reasonable amount of funds dedicated to projects that our local community had the opportunity to weigh in on and to prioritize. This is the best of city government.”

“I suggested an item and it was rejected. However, I received a personal response of why it was not feasible at this time. I greatly appreciated your personal attention to address it.”

“I have power to change my own city!! I feel great to be able to participate by voting.”

“It was well organized, and we were kept informed about what was happening at each step of the process. I liked the two sessions where we had a chance to ask questions, propose projects and see the short list of projects we were voting on.”

“The NEP projects always make our neighborhoods better! Thank you, Bellevue!”

The NEP is appreciated by residents for the level of input and creativity that the program promotes. Hundreds of residents in each neighborhood provide unique ideas and opportunities for their own area. The program has produced great local assets that are highly appreciated and utilized. City staff have been able to leverage the reach and credibility of the program to secure other funds to maximize the amenities that residents enjoy. As the community grows and evolves, NEP is one of many efforts to learn from and serve our residents through outreach, relationship, and local projects that residents have requested and democratically selected.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

The Neighborhoods Element of Bellevue’s Comprehensive Plan includes the following policy:

N-10. Provide programs and support for residents to make a difference in local neighborhood improvements. This includes ways to direct neighborhood enhancement projects, neighborhood identity signage, gateways, park enhancements, neighborhood art, and maintenance of public rights-of-way.

Fiscal Impact

The NEP has been a longstanding program that supports neighborhood leadership, engagement and community-directed investment for neighborhood enhancement projects. In the 2015-2021 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan budget, Council approved allocating \$5M for the Neighborhood Enhancement Program over the seven-year CIP cycle.

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. NEP Information Sheet
- B. NEP Project Status – February 2022
- C. NEP Neighborhood Areas Map
- D. NEP Criteria List

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A