



Meeting Agenda

Parks & Community Services Board

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

6:00 PM

Room 1E-113 & Virtual

Parks & Community Services Board meetings are conducted in a hybrid manner with both

in-person and virtual options. To attend the meeting, you may do so:

- In-person;
- By calling (253) 215-8782 and entering webinar ID: 823 1743 7579; or
- By clicking the link below to join the webinar:

<https://cityofbellevue.zoom.us/j/82317437579>

Passcode: 271058

The sign-up form to speak during Oral Communications will be open from noon-5:30 p.m. on the date of the Parks & Community Services Board meeting. To be added to the speaker list for oral communications, you may sign up in person using the QR code posted outside Room 1E-113 or online using the below link. If you wish to address the Board in writing, please email ParkBoard@bellevuewa.gov with the subject line “Written Communications – July 15”.

<https://bellevuewa.gov/parks-oral-comms>

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes

- a) [26-461](#) Approve Draft Minutes:
-05.20.2026
-06.17.2026

4. Oral and Written Communications

5. City Council Communication

6. Director's Report

- a) [26-462](#) Parks CIP Project Status Report

7. Board Communication

8. Discussion/Action Items

- a) [26-463](#) Bellevue Naturalist Program
approximately 15 minute presentation/15 minute discussion
- b) [26-464](#) 2027-2032 CIP Budget Recommendations
approximately 5 minute presentation/20 minute discussion
- c) [26-465](#) Chair and Vice-Chair Elections
approximately 20 minutes

9. New Business

10. Adjournment

For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4162 (voice) or email ParkBoard@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

Rules of decorum for public communication and conduct at meetings were adopted by the City Council in Ordinance 6752. Copies of this ordinance can be found on the city's website, and are also available from the City Clerk's Office.

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday
May 20, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clima, Vice-Chair Valverde; Boardmembers Chianglin, Clark, Drever, Kronoff

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Chou

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Briar

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Betsy Anderson, Justin Panganiban, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Susan Ulep, Ryan Walker

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

Chair Clima called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Kronoff and second by Vice-Chair Valverde to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Drever to approve the April 15, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chair Clima reviewed the guidelines for Oral Communications (Council Ordinance 6752).

Amy Hirotaka, representing Isan Bellevue, spoke in support of recognizing Bellevue's Japanese American history through the naming of the park at Main Street and 112th Avenue SE. A fourth-generation Japanese American (Yonsei), Amy Hirotaka shared family ties to Bellevue spanning more than a century and described Isan Bellevue's mission to preserve and share the history of Japanese American farmers and families who contributed significantly to the community. Recent partnerships with King County Parks and local artists to commemorate Japanese American

agricultural history were highlighted. Support was expressed for honoring the legacy and resilience of Bellevue's Japanese American community through the park naming process.

Scott Lampe, President of the Meydenbauer Bay Neighbors Association (MBNA), introduced the organization and expressed appreciation for collaboration between neighborhood representatives and Parks staff regarding Meydenbauer Bay Park planning efforts. Appreciation was extended to staff member Wyatt Thompson for conducting a recent site tour with neighborhood leaders. Comments addressed several changes to the park master plan supported by MBNA, including maintaining access along 100th Avenue SE and postponing or eliminating a proposed community building component. The importance of Meydenbauer Bay Park as a key element of Bellevue's park system and future Grand Connection corridor was emphasized, along with a desire for continued collaboration with Parks staff.

Alex Tsimmerman discussed concerns regarding public participation policies at Bellevue public meetings. Comments included criticism of City leadership, meeting procedures, and limitations on public comment opportunities. Chair Clima reminded Alex Tsimmerman to focus remarks on matters within the Board's authority and duties. Following the comments, Chair Clima stated that the Parks & Community Services Board does not condone hateful or offensive speech but respects individuals' First Amendment rights to express views regardless of agreement or disagreement with those views.

Heather Trescases spoke in support of the proposed naming effort for the park at Main Street and 112th Avenue SE and commended Parks staff for collaboration with Isan Bellevue in recognizing the contributions of Bellevue's Japanese American community. The naming effort was described as an opportunity to share an important story in Bellevue's history and honor the legacy of the Japanese American community.

Angela, a Bellevue resident, shared concerns regarding increasing demand for pickleball courts and resulting impacts on tennis court availability, particularly in the Somerset area. Suggestions included creating additional pickleball facilities or repurposing underutilized courts to better accommodate demand and reduce pressure on existing tennis facilities.

Nicole Myers provided comments supporting recognition of Bellevue's Japanese American community and suggested highlighting individuals, youth organizations, and community leaders associated with local Japanese American heritage. Specific references included the Bellevue Judo Club, Seinen Kai youth organization, and community leaders who contributed to the development of Bellevue's Japanese American community.

Ryan Walker, Senior Planner, reported receipt of written correspondence from Gordon Paulson regarding concerns related to the Bellevue Botanical Garden docent program. Staff indicated that concerns raised in the correspondence were under review and additional information would be provided as appropriate.

Janelle Martin, a former Bellevue Botanical Garden docent, expressed concern regarding the recent discontinuation of the docent program at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Comments noted the educational role of volunteer docents and the importance of preserving institutional

knowledge and historical interpretation for visitors. A request was made for Board and staff review of the decision and exploration of options for preserving the educational and historical contributions provided by the docent program.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Briar provided an update on recent City Council activities. Recent Council discussions included a study session presentation about the City's partnership with the community organization Isan Bellevue to develop a Japanese American commemoration project in the park at Main Street and 112th Avenue SE. Council interest was expressed in ensuring continued involvement by Isan Bellevue throughout the naming process for this park. Potential collaboration with the Arts Commission was also discussed should art be incorporated into the park as part of the design process.

Councilmember Briar reported Council approval of a letter to Sound Transit advocating for subarea equity and continued advancement of future rail service connecting Bellevue and Kirkland. Updates were also provided regarding Housing Opportunities in Mixed-Use Areas (HOMA), supporting additional housing and mixed-use development in areas including Crossroads and Newport Hills.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A. **Parks CIP Project Status Report**

Assistant Director Camron Parker provided updates regarding Parks & Community Services activities and upcoming events, including the City's July 4th celebration. Appreciation was expressed for Boardmember Clark's eight years of service on the Parks & Community Services Board and contributions to Bellevue's parks system. Boardmember Clark's term on the Board has ended.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Drever reported attendance at community engagement meetings related to the Great Neighborhoods planning process for Eastgate and Factoria and commended staff efforts to gather broad public input. Attendance at the Prana Asian Indian Festival at Crossroads Park provided opportunities to learn about Indian culture and community traditions. Visits to Phantom Lake, Larson Lake, and Coal Creek Trail highlighted recreational use of local natural areas and identified storm-related trail obstructions. Upcoming participation in a Keep Bellevue Beautiful volunteer event was noted. Concerns were also raised regarding parking compliance and enforcement at the 40th Street Boat Launch during peak boating season.

Boardmember Kronoff reported visits to Phantom Lake and conversations with residents regarding recreational opportunities and park access. Concerns were shared regarding

availability of soccer fields and opportunities for informal recreational use by adults. Community interest in expanding native and pollinator-friendly landscaping within Bellevue parks was also noted. Appreciation was expressed for Boardmember Clark's leadership and longstanding focus on improving connectivity throughout Bellevue's park system.

Vice-Chair Valverde reported continued observation of strong community use of Bellevue parks through regular park visits. Increasing demand for playgrounds and recreational facilities during peak periods was noted. Interest was expressed in evaluating park lighting, recreational amenities, and opportunities to adapt underutilized facilities to better meet community needs. Reduced public access to certain school playgrounds was identified as an additional challenge contributing to increased demand at City parks. Observations were also shared regarding limited use of some basketball courts and potential opportunities to evaluate facility usage and future recreational needs.

Boardmember Chianglin reported recreational visits to Downtown Park and observations regarding the high quality of park maintenance and cleanliness. Concerns were noted regarding visitors feeding wildlife and observations of water clarity within the park's water feature. Commendation was given to Parks staff for maintaining a clean, attractive, and welcoming park environment. Appreciation was also expressed for Boardmember Clark's years of service and contributions to Board discussions.

Boardmember Clark reported that service on boards and commissions is an important component of government and community engagement. Emphasis was placed on the value of public participation, protection of First Amendment rights, and the importance of maintaining opportunities for community input. Appreciation was expressed to fellow Boardmembers, City Councilmembers, Parks staff, and community partners for years of collaboration and support.

Chair Clima reported participation in Earth Day volunteer activities at Wilburton Park involving removal of invasive ivy alongside community volunteers. Attendance at EarthFest and a BelRed Neighborhood Park community meeting was also reported. Public feedback regarding BelRed Neighborhood Park included interest in creating a unique and attractive park while balancing concerns regarding overcrowding. Community participation in the BelRed Park survey process was encouraged. Appreciation was expressed for Boardmember Clark's mentorship, leadership, and dedication to Bellevue parks and the community.

8. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Great Neighborhoods: Eastgate and Factoria Neighborhood Area Planning

Senior Planner Justin Panganiban presented an overview of the Great Neighborhoods Program and draft neighborhood area plans for Eastgate and Factoria. Developed through extensive community engagement, the plans are intended to guide future growth, investment, and community development. Staff reviewed draft vision statements, policies, and concept maps addressing neighborhood identity, mixed use and neighborhood centers, community gathering

spaces, mobility and access, and the environment. Staff noted that Board feedback would be shared with the Planning Commission as part of the continued review.

For Eastgate, staff presented policies that included expanding parks and open space opportunities and connections, supporting implementation of the Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan and a future regional aquatic facility, improving Mountains to Sound Greenway trail access, strengthening community partnerships and programming, and enhancing natural assets.

For Factoria, staff presented policies that included enhancing the neighborhood's international identity, improving access to nearby natural areas and trails, increasing parks and open space opportunities, partnering with community organizations on gathering spaces, and supporting future redevelopment and neighborhood vitality by integrating plazas and public spaces.

Board Discussion

- Support for neighborhood threshold and wayfinding features that reinforce neighborhood identity and improve navigation between destinations.
- Importance of creating safe and accessible pedestrian and bicycle connections between parks, schools, commercial centers, residential neighborhoods, and community gathering places.
- Public safety considerations, neighborhood walkability, and opportunities to incorporate safety principles into future neighborhood planning and implementation efforts.
- Equitable access to parks and recreation facilities, particularly opportunities to address neighborhood park gaps south of Interstate 90 and expand recreational access in underserved areas.
- Importance of partnerships with schools, faith-based organizations, commercial property owners, and private developers to create additional gathering spaces, recreational amenities, and community-serving facilities.
- Recognition of neighborhood identity, heritage, and community history through future planning efforts, park development, gateway features, and interpretive elements.
- Walkability, trail connectivity, access to regional trails, environmental stewardship, stream enhancements, and improved connections between existing parks and open space assets throughout both neighborhoods.

B. Name Recommendation for Park at Main St. and 112th Ave. SE

Betsy Anderson, Senior Planner, and Susan Ulep, Capital Project Coordinator, presented information regarding the name recommendation for the park located at Main Street and 112th Avenue SE. Background information was provided about the park's acquisition and development by Sound Transit and transfer to the City in 2024, as well as the City's partnership with Isan Bellevue to honor local Japanese American heritage through a commemoration project that will be installed at this site. The presentation reviewed the City's park naming policy and park naming process, potential park names generated through public input, and staff research and evaluation that resulted in nine names for Board consideration.

Name options presented for Board consideration included:

- Main Street Park
- Mountain View Park, Cascade View Park, or Rainier View Park
- Isan Park, Legacy Park, or Heritage Park
- Bellevue Japanese American Legacy Park
- Bellevue Nikkei Park

Staff noted that Isan translates to "inheritance," "heritage," or "legacy" in Japanese, and that "Nikkei" refers to people of Japanese ancestry living outside Japan. Staff provided the historical context for each option, described whether the park name had been used elsewhere, and indicated how each name met the City's park naming criteria. The presentation also highlighted opportunities to recognize Bellevue's Japanese American heritage through future interpretive elements, educational programming, public art, and storytelling associated with the park.

Board Discussion

- Support for a park name that is distinctive and does not use terms that may be found in other named parks in Bellevue or neighboring communities.
- Support for a park name ~~that is unique and that will~~ communicates a strong sense of Bellevue's heritage and connection to the Japanese American community.
- Support for interpreting the historical significance of Japanese American farming families and agricultural activities that contributed to Bellevue's growth and development prior to World War II.
- Importance of continued engagement with Isan Bellevue and community stakeholders to support historical accuracy and meaningful representation throughout the project.
- Opportunities to incorporate interpretive signage, educational displays, public art, and storytelling elements that provide historical context and enhance visitor understanding of the site.
- Recognition of the park as an opportunity to celebrate cultural heritage, promote community awareness, and acknowledge the contributions of generations of Japanese American residents to the Bellevue community.
- Clarifying that a recommendation to use the name "Isan" is based on the meaning of the word in relation to heritage and legacy, not as recognition for the community organization of the same name.
- Interest in including the Japanese character for "Isan" on park signage and the need to confirm that translated character is correct.

Motion by Boardmember Kronoff and second by Vice-Chair Valverde to recommend that City Council name the park at Main Street and 112th Avenue SE "Isan Park." Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

9. NEW BUSINESS:

Ryan Walker provided a preview of the June Board meeting agenda. Discussion included plans for a special meeting at Robinswood Park, which is expected to include a site visit highlighting youth cricket field orientation changes, future playground improvements, and a tour of the Bellevue Tennis Center. Ryan Walker also noted that budget discussions are anticipated as a primary topic for the June meeting. Additional meeting logistics and timing information will be provided prior to the meeting.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Clima adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Parks & Community Services Board meeting will be held on June 17, 2026.

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
SPECIAL RETREAT MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday
June 17, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Robinswood House

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clima, Vice-Chair Valverde; Boardmembers Chianglin, Chou, Hobe, Kronoff

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmember Drever

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Meredith Petit, Mariam Sarwary, Wyatt Thompson, Ryan Walker

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

Chair Clima called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Valverde and second by Boardmember Kronoff to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Meredith Petit introduced herself to the Boardmembers

4. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:** Boardmembers introduced themselves, their background and their favorite park.

5. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **2027-2032 Budget Process Overview**

Camron Parker, Assistant Director, Wyatt Thompson, Park Planning and Development Manager, and Ryan Walker, Senior Planner gave an overview of the 2027-2032 budget process, policy and planning framework, Capital Improvement Program, as well as an overview of the Parks and Community Services Board's role in the process and the structure for creating a CIP budget recommendation letter for the City Council. Data points and findings of the 2022 Parks & Open Space System Plan were reviewed.

Wyatt Thompson reviewed the Capital Budget Proposals for 2027-2032 that were submitted by the department.

The board discussed and identified possible themes and ideas for the content of their recommendation letter. Those included:

- Accessibility should be a priority. Ensure all people in Bellevue have access to the same quality of life through our parks and community services, have access to water safety and include data which shows how improvements have impacted users.
- Parks should be connected and easy to reach
- Focus on walkability
- Parks as essential public infrastructure that supports health, mobility, climate resilience, community connections
- Growing with Bellevue – as Bellevue grows, parks must grow with it
- The voice of the community/community outreach
- Public/Private Partnerships

Boardmembers were encouraged to come to the next Board meeting prepared to review a draft letter that will spotlight budget recommendations identified by the Board.

6. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held July 15, 2026.

At 8:10 p.m., Chair Clima declared the meeting adjourned.



Parks CIP Project Status Report

July 2026

The Capital Projects Team continues to make progress on park planning efforts and improvement projects. This report features projects that have reached new milestones since the last report.

BelRed Neighborhood Park Master Plan

The city is planning a new neighborhood park at 12525 NE Spring Blvd. The park master plan will help guide the design and construction of this new 8-acre park in the BelRed neighborhood. Park concepts are being developed based on input received at Community Meeting #1 held on May 7 and an online survey that closed June 7. Concepts will be presented at Community Meeting #2 on August 27 (in-person at Crossroads Community Center) and September 3 (virtual).

Pop-up Off Leash Area Program

Parks & Community Services initiated a temporary pop-up program to test accessible and safe off-leash sites for pets and their owners in 2023. A new pop-up off-leash area has been opened at Enatai Neighborhood Park. New areas at Goldsmith Neighborhood Park and the Highland-Glendale site at 820 134th Ave NE are expected to open later this summer. An online survey is available now on the city website to solicit feedback: [Dogs in Bellevue Parks | City of Bellevue](#).

Robinswood Park Playground

Plans for the playground replacement at Robinswood Park are complete and have been submitted for final permitting. The project is expected to bid in the next few months. Construction is expected to occur late in the year. Images of the proposed playground are provided at the end of this report.

More Active Projects

Park projects take time to implement, and the following projects continue to make steady progress.

- Ashwood Park
- Aquatic Center Design
- Airfield Park
- Eastgate Commons
- Trail Projects at Coal Creek, Mercer Slough, 168th Ave Open Space, and Eastrail
- Waterfront park projects at Clyde Beach Boathouse, Chism Beach Park, and Lake Sammamish
- Kelsey Creek Park Restroom
- Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2
- Park Operations Facility
- Park Renovation and ADA Plan

While there have been no major changes since the last Park Board meeting, please reference prior months' reports for the latest information. New updates will be shared when meaningful milestones are reached.



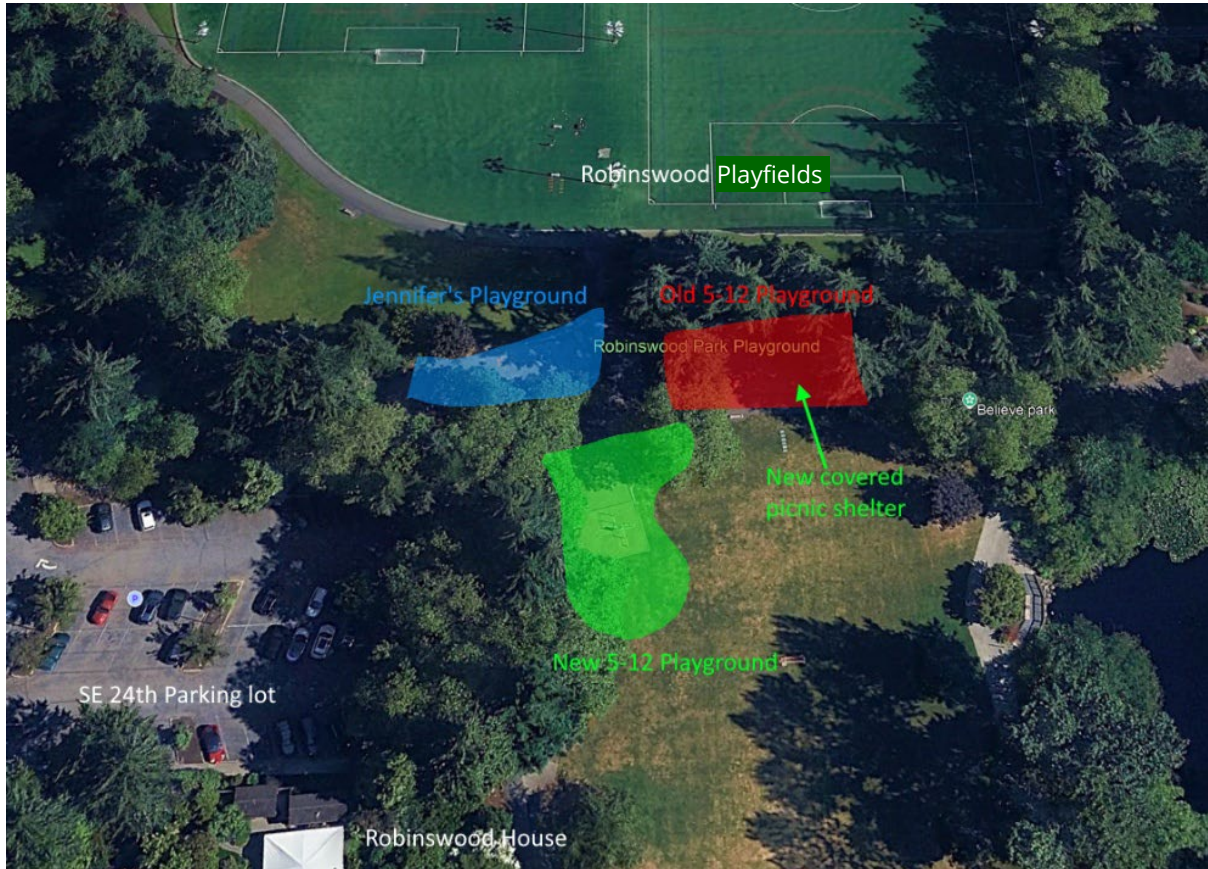
- [26-415 - Parks CIP Project Status Report](#) (June 2026)
- [26-360 - Parks CIP Project Status Report](#) (May 2026)
- [26-283 - Parks CIP Project Status Report](#) (April 2026)
- [26-238 - Parks CIP Project Status Report](#) (March 2026)
- [26-183 - Parks CIP Project Status Report](#) (February 2026)

Parks capital projects are also featured on the City's [Capital Projects Dashboard](#). This dashboard is updated quarterly. Click "Filter by Department" and select "Parks & Community Services" to see the department's active projects. Click symbols on the map or choose from the list of Active Projects to see project details.

Additional information on park projects can be found here: [Current Projects | City of Bellevue](#)

Robinswood Park Playgrounds Redevelopment

The Robinswood Park playgrounds are located south of the playfields and east of the SE 24th Street parking lot.



Robinswood Playground location

Jennifer's Playground: This play area is the 2-5-year-old playground. This playground was dedicated in January 1997 in the memory of Jennifer Cantrell-Herren who organized the construction of the playground. The play area is not changing but will be updated with new equipment, a new entrance, and a new sign.



Jennifer's Playground update rendering looking southwest



Existing Jennifer's Playground looking southwest

Robinswood 5-12 play area: This play area is moving from under the trees to the south of Jennifer's Playground where the swings are currently located. This area will have a new accessible path around the playground and more accessible access to the play equipment. A new covered picnic shelter will be constructed in place of the old play equipment.



New 5-12 year-old play equipment rendering looking southwest



Existing equipment where new 5-12 will be located, looking southwest

Adult Fitness Equipment: the fitness equipment near the split rail fence will remain in place.

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: July 15, 2026

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Curtis Kukal, CWB® – Park Ranger, Parks & Community Services Department

Subject: Bellevue Naturalist Program
For information only - no Board action requested

At the July 15 meeting, Ranger Curtis Kukal will present on the Bellevue Naturalist Program. Managed by the Natural Resource Division, this program provides residents with opportunities to learn about our local natural resources and participate in restoration, conservation and outreach initiatives.

The presentation will focus on recent restoration successes at multiple park sites, explain how volunteers are integrated into our land management framework, and discuss the next application cycle and upcoming events.

To learn more about the program, please visit
<https://bellevuewa.gov/volunteering/environmental-stewardship/bellevue-naturalist>.

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: July 15, 2026

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Camron Parker, Assistant Director
Wyatt Thompson, Park Planning and Development Manager
Ryan Walker, Senior Planner
Parks & Community Services

Subject: 2027-2032 Parks Capital Investment Program (CIP) Budget
Board action requested

At the July 15 meeting, we will resume discussion of recommendations to the City Council regarding Parks capital needs and the 2027-2032 CIP budget. We are requesting Board review and approval of a final communication to transmit to the Council.

At the April meeting, we provided an overview of the City's current budget process and reviewed the Parks & Community Services Board role as part of that process. At the June retreat meeting, we updated the Board on the budget development, reviewed the list of Parks capital budget proposals submitted, and facilitated a discussion of key messages for a Board communication to City Council in relation to the 2027-2032 Parks CIP, as has been done in prior budget cycles.

A draft memorandum that incorporates board comments has been reviewed by the Board Chair and Vice Chair and is included for the board's consideration (Attachment A).

Proposed Motions:

If draft letter is approved as presented:

Move to approve and transmit to the City Council the 2027-2032 Capital Investment Program Budget memorandum, as presented.

If draft letter is approved subject to specific agreed-upon changes:

Move to approve and transmit to the City Council the 2027-2032 Capital Investment Program Budget memorandum substantially as presented, with changes made to address adjustments discussed by the board, and final approval delegated to the Chair. These changes shall be reported back to the Board for informational purposes.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Draft CIP Recommendations Memo to City Council

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: July 15, 2026

To: Mo Malakoutian, Mayor
Dave Hamilton, Deputy Mayor
Naren Briar, Parks & Community Services Board Liaison
City Councilmembers

From: _____, Chair
Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board

Subject: 2027-2032 Parks & Community Services Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
Recommendations

Thank you for providing the Parks & Community Services Board an opportunity to advise City Council on the 2027–2032 Parks & Community Services Capital Improvement Program (CIP). During three meetings, the Board reviewed the proposed capital investments in relation to the adopted 2022 Parks and Open Space System Plan, the Council’s Strategic Target Areas (STAs) and 2024–2026 Priorities, and the needs and aspirations expressed by Bellevue residents through extensive community engagement. The Board considered whether proposed investments reflect community voices gathered and advance Bellevue’s vision as a “City in a Park.”

Based on this review, the Board recommends that the City Council adopt and fully fund the proposed 2027–2032 Parks & Community Services CIP, with particular emphasis on investments that expand access to parks, recreation, and nature regardless of age and abilities; strengthen connections among people, neighborhoods, and public spaces; sustain existing assets; deliver voter-approved levy commitments; and ensure the parks and recreation system grows alongside Bellevue. Projects in the proposed budget support many of the major objectives within the *High Quality Built and Natural Environment* STA, as well as elements of *Community Safety and Health*, *Vibrant Economy*, and *Thriving People and Communities* STAs.

The Board’s recommendations emphasize a core theme – **Parks Within Reach** – reflecting community values and the “City in a Park” vision where everyone has access to activities and amenities. Fulfilling this vision requires a connected, equitable, and high-quality park system that supports daily life and evolves with the community.

The proposed CIP advances this vision through investments in access, connectivity, stewardship, partnerships with organizations, and collaboration across city departments. The Board believes parks are essential public infrastructure. Like transportation, utilities, and other foundational systems, parks shape how people move through the city, connect with one another, access nature and recreation, and experience their neighborhoods. As Bellevue continues to grow and evolve, the parks and trails system must grow with it—extending access,

strengthening connections, sustaining existing assets, and completing voter-supported levy commitments.

Guiding Plans and Levy Commitments

The Board's recommendations draw from the 2022 Parks & Open Space System Plan and recent Comprehensive Plan policy direction. The CIP advances commitments from voter-approved 2008 and 2022 parks levies, along with investments in acquisition, renovation, and refurbishment. Delivering these commitments is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring that Bellevue's parks remain safe, welcoming, and high-quality as the city grows.

The proposed CIP also reflects extensive community engagement through system and levy planning, the Comprehensive Plan, and individual project processes. Continued investment demonstrates that community voices have been heard and are reflected in city priorities, strengthening the connection between community engagement and visible results.

The Board encourages the city to clearly communicate and visibly identify how voter-approved levy investments are translated into completed projects and measurable community benefits. Visible recognition of levy-funded projects can strengthen transparency, accountability, and public confidence.

Looking beyond the current CIP, future levy planning will be critical to sustaining Bellevue's park and recreation system, renewing aging assets, addressing emerging needs, and advancing the community's long-term vision. The Board encourages the city to begin this work with sufficient lead time to evaluate future needs, engage the community, and maintain continuity in long-term system investment.

A Parks System Within Reach for All

The Board's guiding principle is simple but transformative: every Bellevue resident should have a park or trail within easy reach. Recommended investments focus on increasing geographic equity, providing accessible connections, and ensuring growing communities have parks that support daily life. These projects have positive impacts on our community by:

Increasing Access in Underserved Neighborhoods

Bellevue's Parks & Open Space System Plan identifies gaps in park access across the city. With a citywide goal of improving walkability and bringing a park or trail within 1/3-mile of every resident, the Board recommends continued investment in neighborhood park development through the *Park Development and Expansion* program. Closing these gaps is fundamental to geographic equity and will extend the system's reach in neighborhoods such as Eastgate and Factoria.

Bridging Gaps in Growing Urban Centers

High-quality, livable urban neighborhoods are a longstanding Council priority. As Bellevue's dense urban neighborhoods grow, parks and recreation opportunities are

essential – providing access to nature, arts, recreation, and gathering spaces that strengthen community cohesion and support families and local businesses. The Board recommends continued and future funding through the *Park Development and Expansion* program to provide parks in BelRed, Wilburton, and Downtown, such as Ashwood Park, ensuring nature remains within reach even in the city’s densest areas.

Connecting People of All Abilities

A connected park system must be accessible to everyone. Approximately 10% of Bellevue residents have a disability, making universal access a critical component of equity. The Board recommends continued funding for barrier removal through the *Renovation and Renewal* program and major accessibility improvements at Kelsey Creek Farm through the *Waterfront and Destination Parks* program. These investments modernize facilities while ensuring all residents can participate fully in park life.

Connecting People to Nature

Bellevue’s natural areas provide respite in a growing city while protecting habitat corridors, supporting ecological restoration, and expanding public access to nature. The 2022 Parks Levy provides funding to acquire land that complements existing facilities and protects natural resources.

Trails are used by 80% of Bellevue residents and are among the most effective ways to bring parks and natural areas within reach. They also connect park infrastructure with broader transportation, mobility, and growth objectives by supporting walking, rolling, bicycling, and connections among neighborhoods, employment centers, schools, transit, and regional destinations. The Board recommends continued funding through the *Trails and Natural Systems* program to strengthen access, connectivity, mobility, and environmental resilience.

Expanding Access to Water

Access to Bellevue’s waterfront is an essential part of its identity, yet only 12% of shoreline is publicly accessible. The Board recommends continued investment through the *Waterfront and Destination Parks* program to expand public access and promote ecological health, including additional phases of Meydenbauer Bay Park, development of the city’s first public beach park on Lake Sammamish, and shoreline restoration at existing parks.

The community’s need for aquatic facilities continues to grow. The Board recommends funding for the new Bellevue Aquatic Center as part of Bellevue Airfield Park – an essential investment in water safety, recreation, equitable access, community health, and growth-related demand.

Connecting Communities with Recreation Facilities and Programs

Recreation builds valuable connections across Bellevue's diverse communities. The *Diversity Advantage Plan* calls for enhanced access to culturally relevant gathering and recreation spaces, while the 2022 Parks Levy enables the City to respond to evolving recreation trends. The Board recommends continued investment in emerging sports, off-leash areas for dogs, and other opportunities that respond to a changing community and strengthen connections.

The Board believes the proposed 2027-2032 Parks & Community Services CIP represents a balanced and forward-looking investment in Bellevue's people, neighborhoods, and quality of life. It responds to community priorities, advances equitable access, strengthens connections among people and places, sustains valued public assets, supports a growing city, and fulfills commitments made to voters.

As the City Council considers adoption of the 2027–2028 budget and 2027–2032 CIP, the Board recommends full support for the proposed Parks & Community Services capital program and these priorities. Continued investment – together with visible delivery of current levy commitments and thoughtful planning for future funding needs – is critical to ensuring Bellevue's parks and recreation system keeps pace with growth and remains within reach for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these recommendations. The Board appreciates the City Council's continued commitment to Bellevue's parks and community services system and looks forward to supporting this work through the budget process and beyond.

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: July 7, 2026

TO: Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Camron Parker, Assistant Director
Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: Annual Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
Board action requested

At your July 15 meeting, the Board will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve until June 2027. Chair Clima will facilitate the election process and continue to run the remainder of the meeting.

Chair and Vice-Chair elections follow direction from [Bellevue City Code 3.62.020](#) regarding membership, appointment, and terms for the Parks & Community Services Board:

A chair, vice-chair and such other officers as the board deems necessary shall be elected annually from its members. The chair shall preside at meetings; the vice-chair shall preside at meetings in the absence of the chair.

The [Parks & Community Services Board's Bylaws](#) (Article II.B) state:

Election of Officers. The Board shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair, and any other officers the Board deems necessary, for a term of one year at their first regular meeting in June of each year, or as soon thereafter as feasible based on seating of newly-appointed members. The election process shall be in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

Since the board's meeting in June was a Special Meeting in a retreat format, the election for board leadership was deferred to the July regular meeting.

Board members are free to nominate and elect the Chair and Vice-Chair officers from any of the board members, assuming the nominated board member accepts the nomination. Also, as always, the Board Chair votes along with other Board members. Remember that a Board member cannot abstain from voting; a failure to vote will be counted in the affirmative ([BCC 3.62.030.D](#)).

Chair and Vice-Chair Roles and Responsibilities

The roles of the chair and vice chair are described in the board's bylaws (linked above). The main responsibilities include:

Serve as the Presiding Officer of Meetings

- The Chair leads board meetings.
- The Vice Chair will lead meetings if the Chair is unable to attend the meeting in person or at all (Article 3, Section A and B)
- The Chair can eject and exclude people from meetings if they cause a disruption (Article 7, Section E 5, 6 and 7)
- The Chair helps run public hearings (Article 7, Section C)
- The Chair can create committees (Article 2, Section C)

Attend Pre-Meeting

- The Chair and Vice Chair collaborate with staff on the agenda (Article 5, Section A)
- About two weeks before the monthly board meeting, the Chair and Vice Chair meet with staff and any presenters during a Board Prep Meeting.
- After the prep-meeting and before the board meeting, staff will create a version of the agenda with notes to help the Presiding Officer facilitate the meetings.

Help Draft Quarterly Memos to Council

- Every three months, staff work with the Chair and Vice Chair to draft the memo to Council that summarizes what the board has done in the past quarter. That memo is then put in a meeting packet so the board can review it and then approve it.

Participate in Presentations to the City Council

- When the board has a recommendation to Council (like a park name or master plan), the Chair or Vice Chair will join Park Staff to help present that recommendation to City Council during their Council Meetings which takes places Tuesday nights at 6 p.m. In preparation, the Chair and/or Vice Chair may attend an additional meeting and review PowerPoint slides and talking points.

Attend Community Meetings

- The Chair, Vice Chair and any board member attend additional community meetings and events within the purview of the Parks & Community Services Board.

Help with Board Member Selection

- City Council Liaisons often ask Chairs to help review applications and interview candidates to fill vacant board seats.

Attend Additional Trainings

- The Chair or Vice Chair may need to attend training about the latest best practices for leading meetings such as discussions about first amendment rights.

Board Election Process

(Summarized from *Robert's Rules of Order*)

Nominations for Chair

- Chair calls for nominations by saying, "Nominations are now in order for the office of Parks & Community Services Board Chairperson."
- Any Boardmember, including the Chair, can nominate another Boardmember.
- A "second" to the nomination is not required.
- The nominated Boardmember may decline or accept the nomination.
- Nominations continue until all Boardmembers who wish to nominate have done so.
- Chair closes nominations by asking, "Are there any further nominations for Parks & Community Services Board Chairperson?" (pause) "If not, nominations are closed."

Voting

- **Candidates are voted on in order of nomination.**
- Chair begins the voting process by saying, "I call for a vote in favor of _____ for Board Chair. The vote may be by a voice vote or roll call vote, whichever is needed to ensure all votes are recorded accurately."
- If the majority votes for the initial candidate, the Chair declares that person elected. If the majority votes no, the Chair declares that candidate not elected and moves on to the next nominee.

Repeat the process for Vice-Chair.

IF YOU ABSTAIN FROM VOTING – YOUR VOTE COUNTS AS "YES":

Per Bellevue City Code, affirmative votes from a majority of members present and voting shall be necessary to carry any proposition, including elections. A member who fails to vote without a valid disqualification is declared to have voted in the affirmative.

IN CASE OF A TIE:

If voting proceeds through all of the nominees and NONE of the nominees receives a majority vote, the Chair may reopen nominations to take any additional nominations. Reopening nominations requires a motion. If no additional nominations are forthcoming, the Chair will call for a revote on the original nominees. If additional nominations are made, they are added to the existing list of nominees.

When repeated balloting is necessary, the names of all nominees are kept on the ballot in the order in which they were originally presented.