



City of Bellevue

# Bellevue Botanical Garden

Parks & Community Services

James Gagliardi | Bellevue Botanical Garden Director

November 20, 2024

# Bellevue Botanical Garden Mission

Bellevue Botanical Garden displays the best plants and gardening practices for healthy, beautiful Northwest gardens.

Visitors are encouraged to participate in Garden volunteerism, events and programs that are engaging, educational and inspiring.



# Quick Facts

- Opened in **1992**
- **53** Acres
- **12** Thematic gardens
- **Free** admission
- Open from dawn to dusk **every day** of the year



# A Partnership with the Community

- **Bellevue Botanical Garden Society** \*Primary Partner
- Bellevue Utilities (COB)
- East Lake Washington District of Garden Clubs
- Eastside Fuchsia Society
- Hardy Fern Foundation
- Master Gardener Foundation of King County
- Northwestern Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society
- Northwest Perennial Alliance
- Puget Sound Dahlia Association
- Washington Native Plant Society



BELLEVUE BOTANICAL  
GARDEN

# Shared Responsibility and Staffing

## City of Bellevue

5 FTE

5 Part-time

3 Hourly

Director, Grounds

Supervisor, Gardeners,  
Curator, Volunteer Coord.,  
and Rental Coord

\*FTE Curator

## Bellevue Botanical Garden Society

6 FTE

10 Part-time

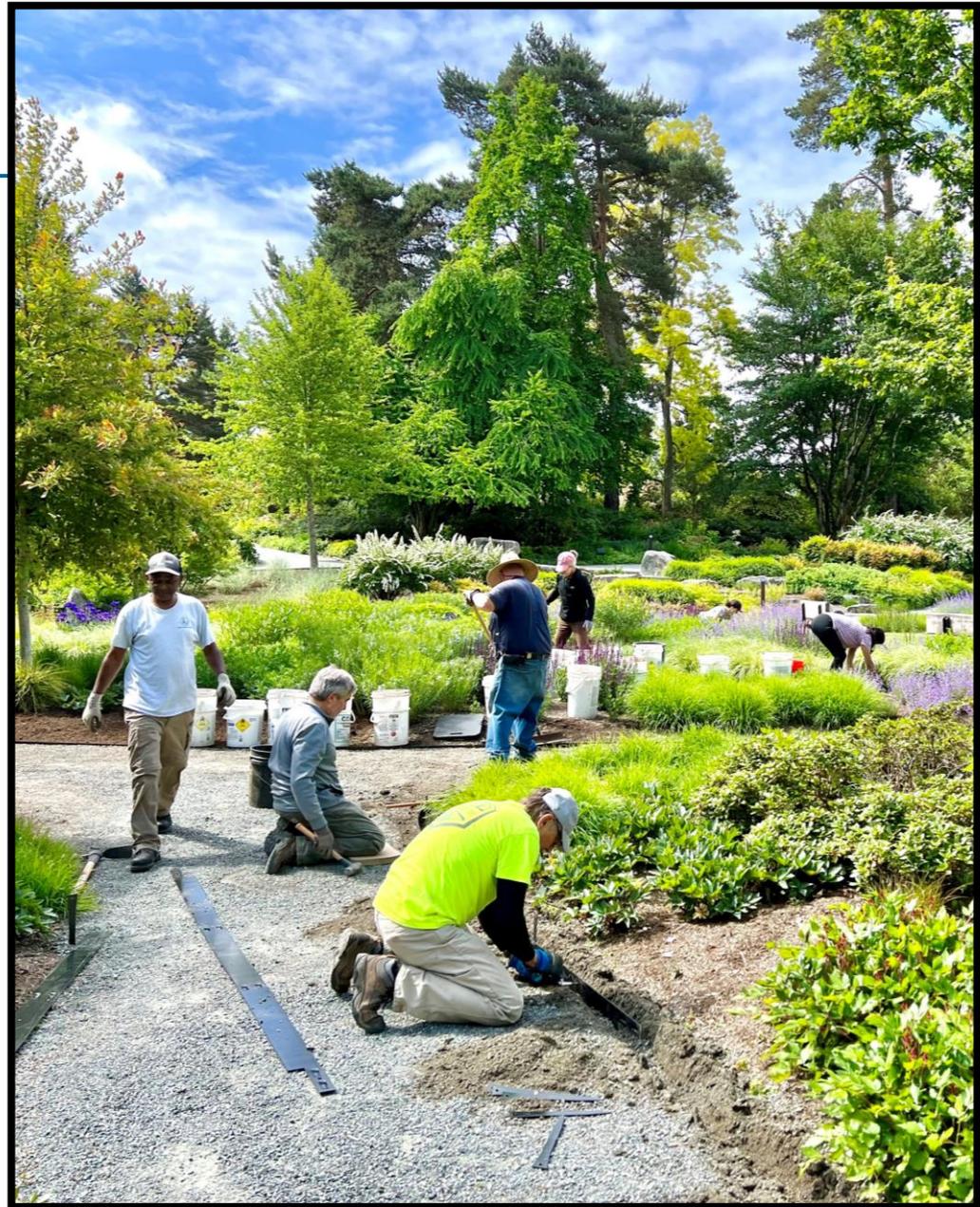
14 Hourly

Director, Communications,  
Membership and Dev., Trillium  
Store, Youth Education, Adult  
Education, Events

\*FTE Visitor Services

# Volunteerism

300+ volunteers  
contributed  
15,000+ hours  
so far in 2024

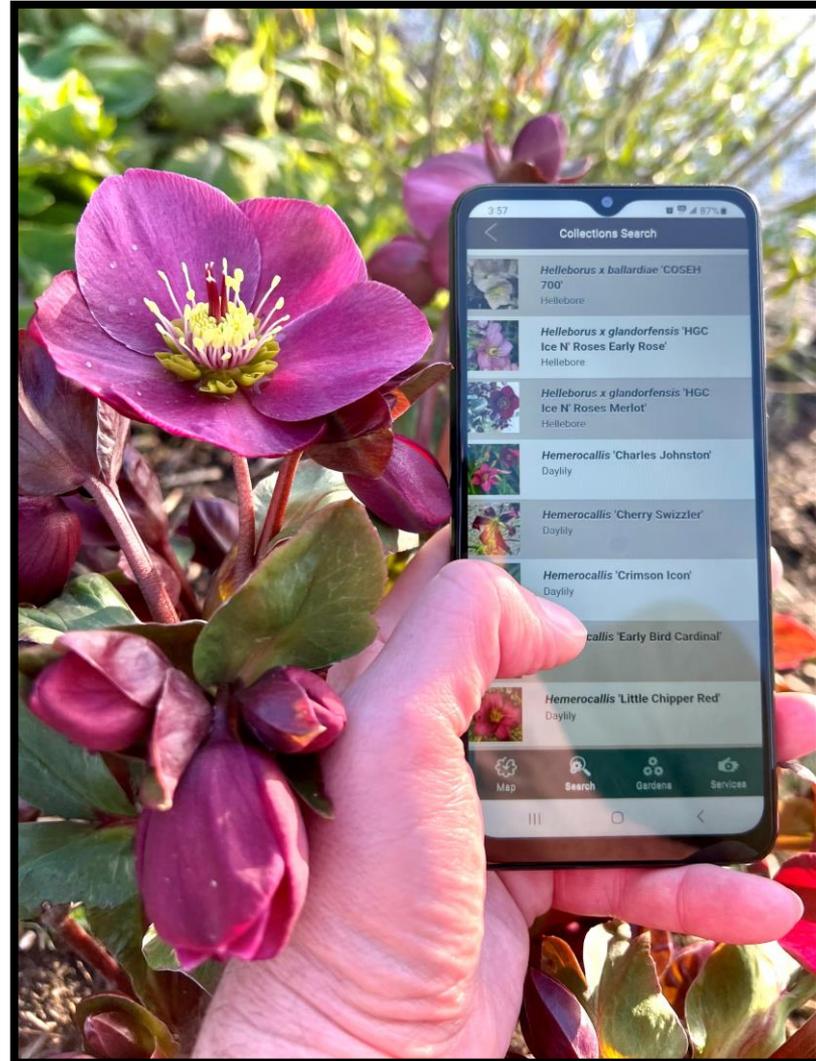
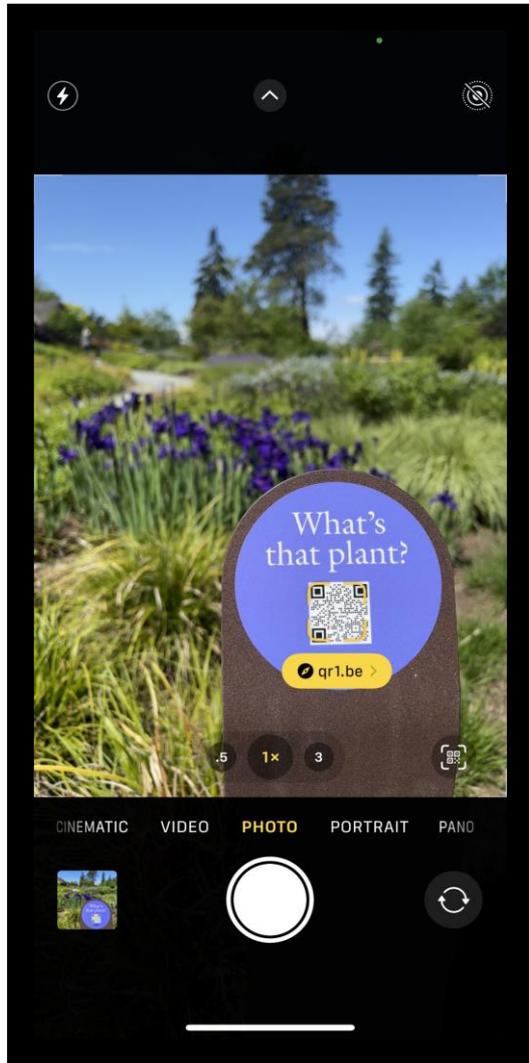


# Connecting People with Plants

**3,000** unique varieties of plants in a curated collection



# Technology to Connect to Collections



# Education for All Ages

- **2,700+** students enrolled in free Living Lab Elementary Fieldtrip Program
- **50** adult classes offered by the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society



# Community Venue

Lectures, Workshops,  
& Events

(COB/BBGS, Partners, other non-profits)



# Space

Aaron Education Center

Mission Enriching Events with positive impact on visitor experience



# Best Public Garden

Voted Best  
Public Garden in  
King 5's 2023  
Best NW Escapes



EVENING

## Flower power! Why visiting this east side garden is good for the soul - 2023's BNWE

—

Bellevue Botanical Garden has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors - for free - for more than 30 years. #k5evening

Two men are walking through a garden filled with vibrant pink flowers and green foliage. One man is wearing a dark jacket and the other is wearing a blue shirt and dark pants. The garden is lush and well-maintained, with a path leading through the plants. A logo for K5 is visible in the bottom right corner of the image.

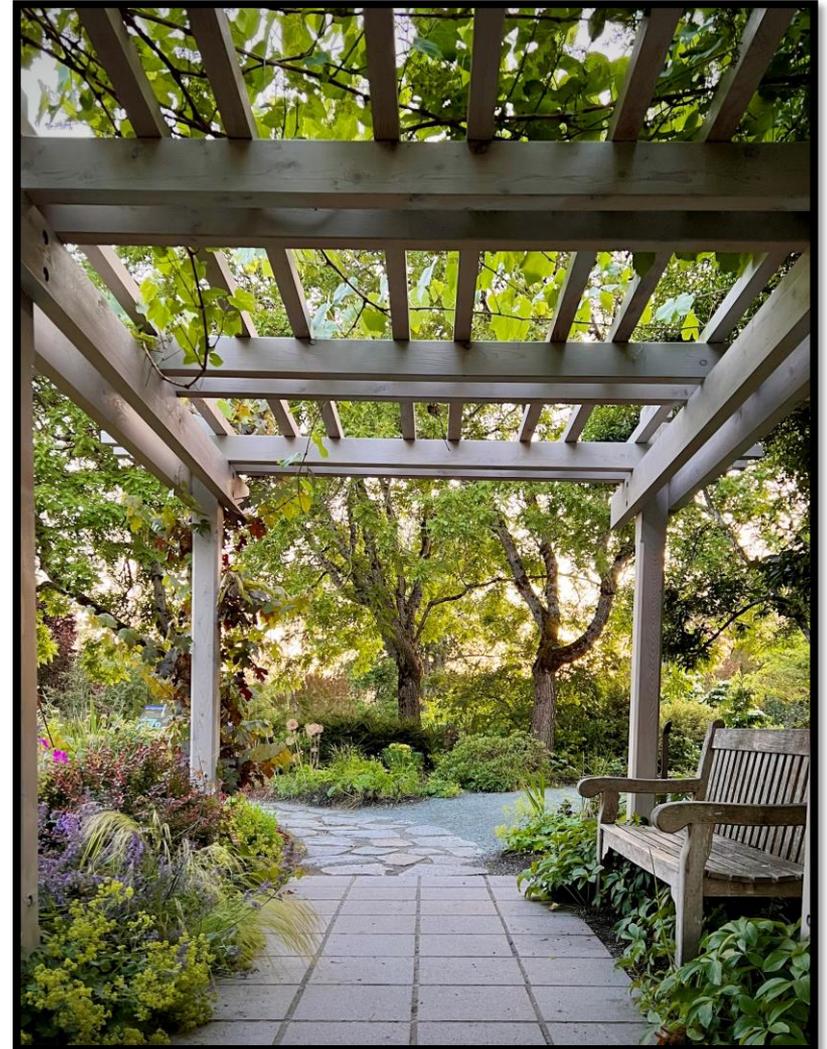
K5

# Visitation

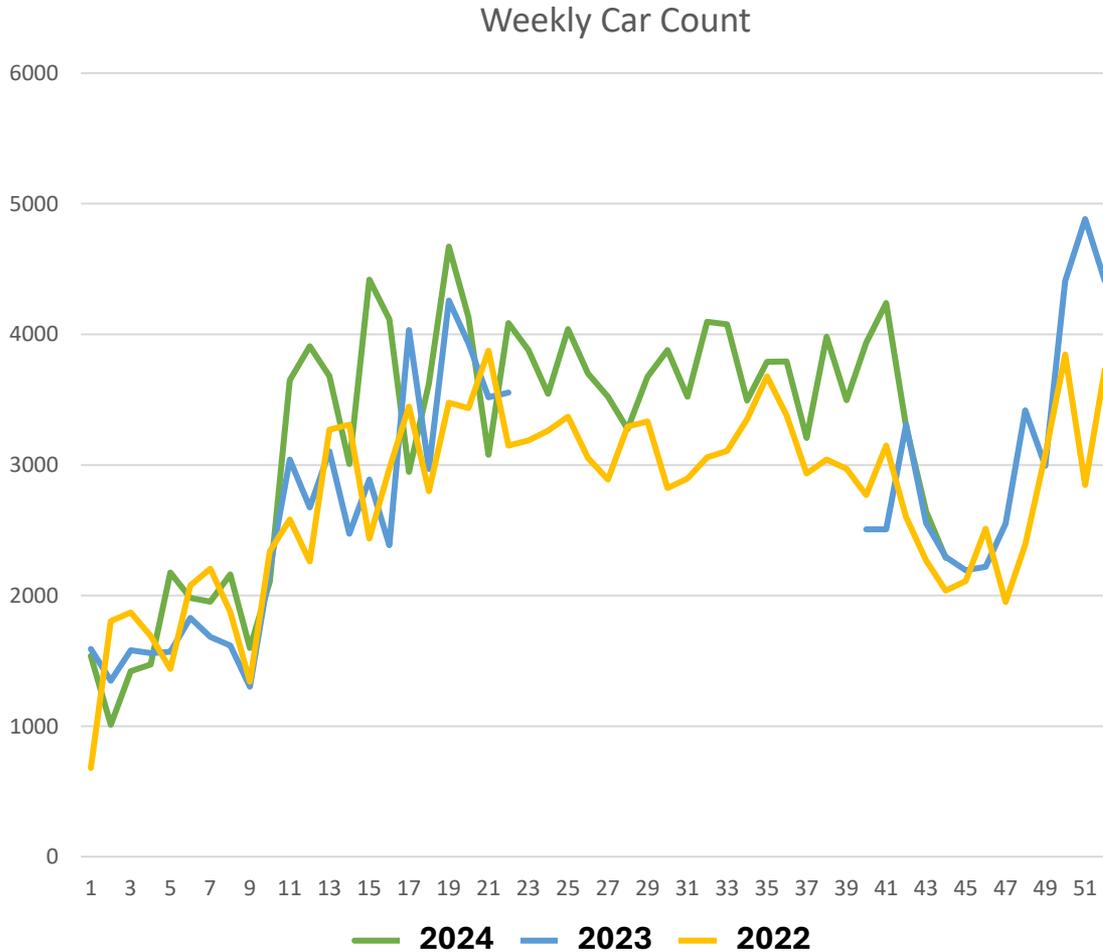
The Bellevue Botanical Garden welcomes over **400,000** visitors each year

## Visitors to Gardens In the USA

2019	120 million Visitors
2022	Back to 120 million (Covid)
2023	130 million
2024	132 million



# Weekly Car Count



**January - October**

**2024: 142,115 cars**

**2022: 120,781 cars**

**(year 143,247)**

**Increase of 21,334**

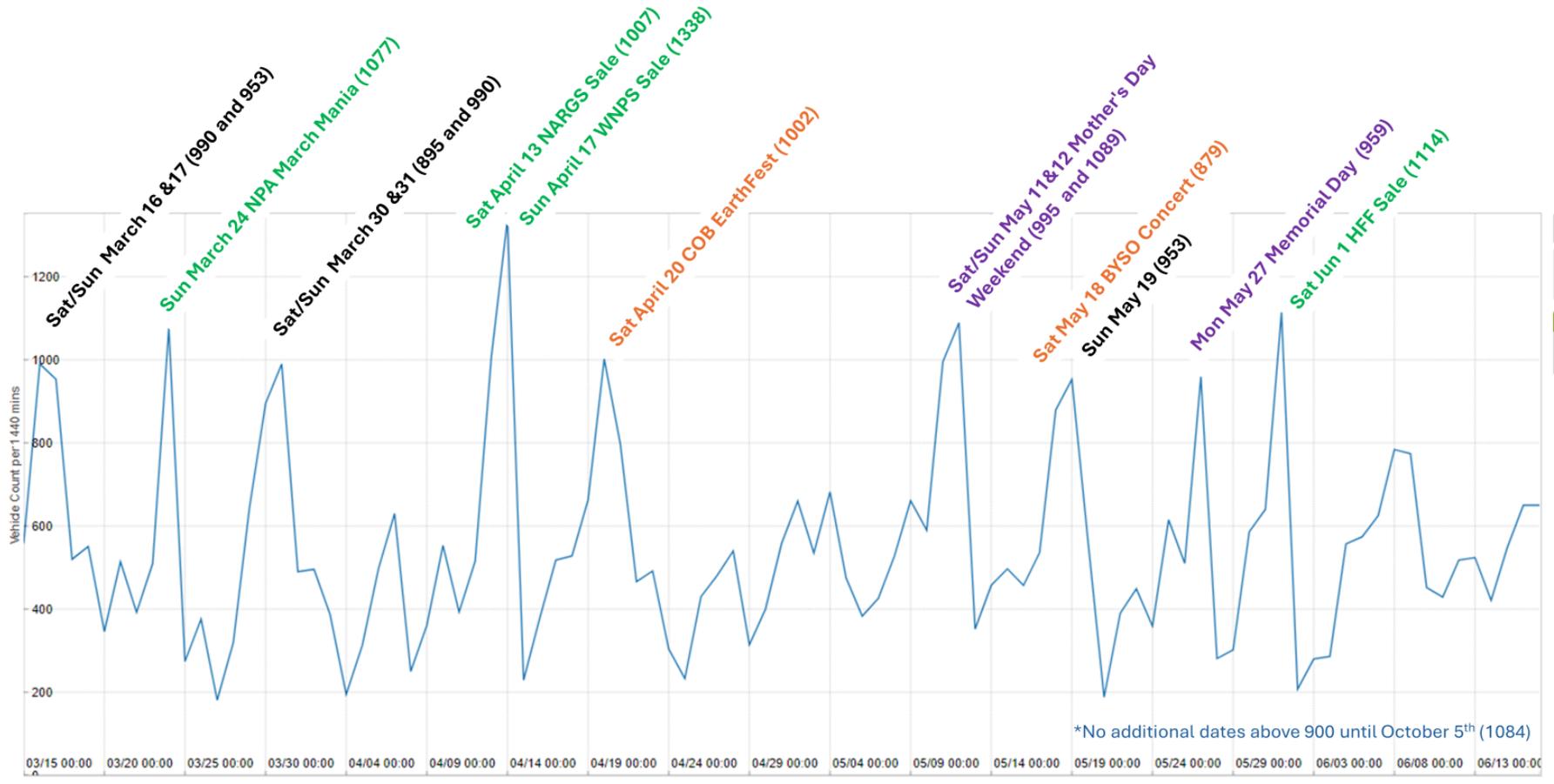
**~18% increase**

**(~65k more visitors)**

(Bellevue hotel revenue is surpassing pre-pandemic levels at \$266 million, which is +19% from last year)

# Daily Car Count

## Daily Car Count March 15 to June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024



# Impact

- #1 Attraction in Bellevue on TripAdvisor

**Top Attractions in Bellevue** Map See all

These rankings are informed by Tripadvisor data—we consider traveler reviews, ratings, number of page views, and user location.

- 1. Bellevue Botanical Garden**  
Rating: 4.5 (718 reviews)  
Category: Gardens  
Description: The Bellevue Botanical Garden is an urban refuge, encompassing 53-acres of cultivated gardens, restored woodlands, and natural wetlands. The living collections showcase plants that thrive in the Pacific...  
[See way to experience \(1\)](#)
- 2. Bellevue Square**  
Rating: 4.0 (376 reviews)  
Category: Shopping Malls  
Review by samymalley: A huge range of stores from clothing to Teslas!  
[See ways to experience \(2\)](#)
- 3. Downtown Park**  
Rating: 4.5 (522 reviews)  
Category: Parks  
Review by Mr\_AK\_B2: I used to live across the street from this park. very nice for evening walking with dogs or kids. Very relaxing.  
[See way to experience \(1\)](#)
- 4. Newcastle Beach Park**  
Rating: 4.0 (66 reviews)  
Category: Parks
- 5. Mercer Slough Nature Park**  
Rating: 4.5 (108 reviews)  
Category: Nature & Wildlife Areas
- 6. Kelsey Creek Park & Farm**  
Rating: 4.5 (93 reviews)  
Category: Parks

# Impact

## #4 stop for Bellhop

### 2024 Data:

Pick-Ups: 1,281

Drop-Offs: 1,714

(110K riders and has reduced our carbon output from transportation by 71 metric tons)



# Enhanced Visitor Experience



# Accessibility



Best  
Practices  
for ADA

# Community

## Gibson Ek Big Picture High School Project



# Community

- Senior Socials



# Lost Bird Project

Mission Enriching  
Reason to Visit  
(Temporary)



# Mission Enriching Programing



# Media



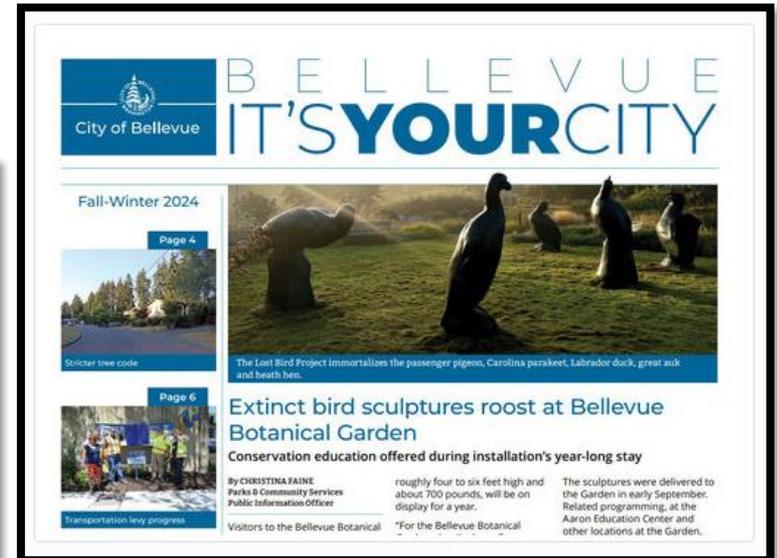
**K5** News Weather Sports VERIFY **K+** NEXT ON K5

← ADVERTISE WITH US EVENING NEW DAY FACING RACE INVESTIGATORS CONTESTS

## Extinct birds memorialized in sculptures at Bellevue Botanical Garden



The Lost Bird Project is a Portland-based artist's attempt to send out a warning call. #k5evening



**CITY OF BELLEVUE**  
City of Bellevue **IT'S YOUR CITY**

Fall-Winter 2024

Page 4  
Stricter tree code

Page 6  
Transportation levy progress

### Extinct bird sculptures roost at Bellevue Botanical Garden

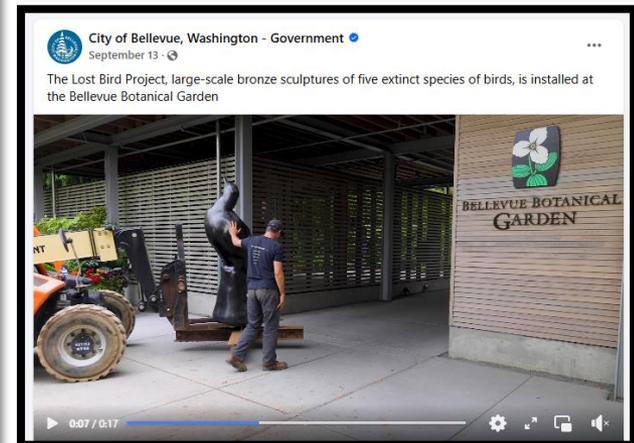
Conservation education offered during installation's year-long stay

By CHRISTINA JAINE  
Parks & Community Services  
Public Information Officer

roughly four to six feet high and about 700 pounds, will be on display for a year.

The sculptures were delivered to the Garden in early September. Related programming, at the Aaron Education Center and other locations at the Garden.

Visitors to the Bellevue Botanical \*For the Bellevue Botanical



**City of Bellevue, Washington - Government**  
September 13 · 🌐

The Lost Bird Project, large-scale bronze sculptures of five extinct species of birds, is installed at the Bellevue Botanical Garden

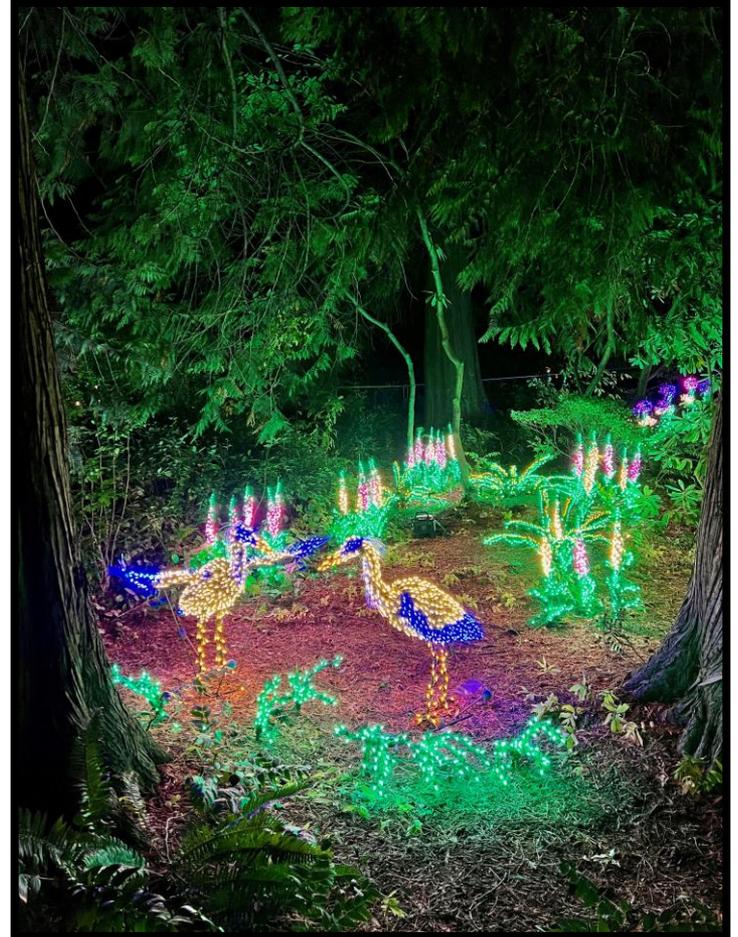


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# Community Events



**Arts in the Garden**  
Last Weekend of Aug



**Garden d'Lights**  
End of Nov through Dec

# Garden d'Lights – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**81,000** attendees in 2023

# Garden d'Lights – Accessibility

**15,000** Community  
Tickets Printed

**Free Entry for Children**  
10 and under

**1<sup>st</sup> Senior Social** 350  
participants in 2023

**Discounted Nights**

**Sensory Night** (new)

**100% ADA Accessible**  
route



Bridges of Promise Visit and Swag Making 2023

# Your Invitation to Visit the Garden



# Your Invitation to Visit the Garden

