

## **CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Resolution adopting the 2022 Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan, which replaces and supersedes the 2016 Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, 452-5377

Ryan Walker, Senior Planner, 452-4280

*Parks & Community Services*

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Resolution adopts the 2022 Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan. The process of updating the existing 2016 Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan was conducted over the past year. This includes updates to plan objectives and narrative based largely on community input, data, and trends in the City. By adopting this Resolution, the existing 2016 Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan is replaced and superseded.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10110

## **BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

The Parks & Open Space System Plan is the primary tool used to guide the long-term growth and development of Bellevue's parks and open space system. The heart of the plan is a set of 20-year capital project objectives. These long-term objectives are reviewed and updated approximately every six years. Funding to implement the long-term recommendations within the plan is determined through the Capital Investment Program budgeting process. The plan, as presented for adoption, is provided in Attachment B. Once adopted, the plan will be formatted for publication with addition of supportive images, charts and tables.

Updating the plan's capital project recommendations involved analysis of five key elements. They include:

- Public input and feedback on current use of the park system and future priorities;
- A review of the current community profile and future demographic trends;
- The level of service provided by the current network of neighborhood parks and trails;
- Progress made completing capital projects since the last update; and
- A review of recent adopted Citywide long-range plans and policy documents that impact park and open space priorities.

From July 2021 to February 2022, many avenues were used to collect feedback and opinions from Bellevue residents and park users on how the park and trail systems are currently used, and what priorities should be given in the future for development. These methods included surveys, presentations to City boards and commissions, outreach to community-based organizations, a public hearing, and public meetings. In general, park users report a high level of satisfaction with the park and trail systems as a whole and Bellevue residents strongly feel that parks have a positive impact on their quality of life.

Residents indicate that trails through natural areas, multi-use trails, community beaches, parks with display gardens, and open areas for unstructured play or picnicking are the most frequently used types of facilities. Overall, residents express strong support for both continuing to acquire park and open space land and developing existing park properties. Improving ecological health, developing smaller parks, preserving historical structures, and providing for under-served populations were specifically identified as the highest funding priorities. Most residents perceive that they are within a 10-minute walk of a park or trail, but interest continues in expanding local connectivity.

The Parks & Community Services Board focused attention on the update process during six meetings between July 2021 and February 2022. At their meeting on February 8, the Board voted unanimously to recommend to Council approval of the 2022 update of the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan. The City Council received a presentation on the plan and provided input at its meeting on March 28. The plan was well received, and final edits were made to the narrative pursuant to Council considerations, along with data updates. No plan objectives were changed since the Study Session review. Further, the objectives in this plan are central to the current discussion on long-term parks funding. Details of the plan objectives have been referenced at several City Council meetings since the Study Session. State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review has been completed and the plan is ready for adoption.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

The Parks & Open Space System Plan is a functional plan of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan. The projects recommended within the plan support goals and policies found within multiple Comprehensive Plan Elements including Parks, Open Space and Recreation, Environment, Utilities, Human Services, Economic Development, other General Elements, as well as the Subarea Plans, Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan, and Environmental Stewardship Plan.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The Parks & Open Space System Plan is a guiding document, and there is no direct fiscal impact in adoption of the plan. Funding to implement the long-term recommendations within the plan is determined through the Capital Investment Program budgeting process.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Resolution adopting the 2022 Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan, which replaces and supersedes the 2016 Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan.
2. Direct staff to modify or revise portions of the Plan and return at a later date for approval.
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Parks & Open Space System Plan 2022  
Proposed Resolution No. 10110

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A