



DATE: September 6, 2022

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

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SUBJECT: 2022 Neighborhood Walks

The 2022 Neighborhood Walks were all scheduled as in-person events, for the first time since the 2019 walks, while still providing masks and following Seattle-King County Health Covid guidelines.

For the sixth year, at the direction of the City Manager, the walks allowed for informal two-way conversations between the public and City leadership in resident neighborhoods. The walks were well-attended, allowing the City Manager and directors from all departments to interact with residents. Specific concerns shared by residents are being addressed by the appropriate departments.

This year's Neighborhood Walks were held in the following neighborhoods:

- Eastgate Neighborhood Area, starting from Newport Way Library area with 25 residents,
- Wilburton Neighborhood Area, starting at Wilburton Hill Park with 28 residents,
- Bridle Trails Neighborhood Area, starting at Cherry Crest Mini Park with 45 residents, and
- Lake Hills Neighborhood Area, starting at Evergreen Park with 48 residents.

There were common concerns that were repeated during each walk, including changing neighborhood character (e.g. new, large-scale single family homes); increasing homelessness; the need for human services; multimodal transportation planning and safety; protection of the natural environment, including tree removal; and public safety and police services.

Additionally, residents also shared some local topics of interest, including desire of residents for a neighborhood park in the Eastgate area and how to collaborate with Parks staff; request to preserve the current use of Wilburton Hill Park; traffic volumes in the Wilburton neighborhood during commute hours and school pickup times; the new overlay surface on a Bridle Trails street; gratitude for openness and connections with Bridle Trails neighbors; policing responsibility and impacts of EastLink light rail to the Bridle Trails neighborhood; a new vehicle provided to the Fire Department to battle

wildfires; the City's comprehensive plan update; questions about Lake Hills roundabouts; 148th Avenue median landscaping; and the removal of typical and lower cost homes in Lake Hills.

During each walk, residents expressed gratitude for their neighbors, and for City staff and Bellevue City Council visiting with them in their neighborhood.

The 2022 Neighborhood Walks continued the series which began in 2017, providing an informal setting for residents and staff to discuss neighborhood character and assets, as well as concerns that are unique to each neighborhood. The objectives of Neighborhood Walks are to build trust through two-way communication and strengthen constructive dialogue between residents and City leadership.