

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: May 9, 2023

To: John Stokes, City Councilmember, Parks & Community Services Board Liaison
and Bellevue City Council members

From: David Hamilton, Chair
Parks & Community Services Board

RE: First Quarter 2023 Report and Communication

As the Parks & Community Services Board launched into 2023, the focus has been to advance city priority projects and ensure that Bellevue's existing and future parks are well integrated into regional systems and new neighborhoods in redeveloping areas. To summarize the work, exciting things are coming and coming soon!

In February, the board concluded an extensive public engagement process at the council's direction to update the master plan for Bellevue Airfield Park as a potential location the proposed new aquatics center. The process was an excellent opportunity to address issues and needs expressed citywide in the 2022 Parks & Open Space System Plan and to hear from the neighborhoods adjacent to the park to understand how the space is currently used. As with every planning and site design process, the board considered both complementary and competing interests and recommended to the City Council a balanced design that preserves much of the existing character of the property while accommodating community needs including aquatics and dedicated pickleball courts. The board is pleased that the council validated the work with unanimous direction to advance the recommended design to the environmental review stage.

During the first quarter, the Board was engaged and asked to provide feedback on the planning and implementation of the Eastrail regional trail that extends seven miles through the city, north to south. The partnership between the City and King County Parks has thus far been a success with elements of the trail being developed, including the recently installed overcrossing at NE 8th Street. The board reviewed and provided comments on the wayfinding system design that King County Parks is developing to graphically knit together the entire Eastrail facility as it extends between cities across the county.

The board also provided feedback to the Community Development Department as it continues to develop planning and policy for the Grand Connection and the redevelopment of Wilburton's commercial area. While Eastrail will be a significant feature of the park system for this new neighborhood, it cannot stand alone. New neighborhood-serving parks spaces are needed throughout the Wilburton commercial area to serve new residents.

Thank you for your continued support of the board and its work. If you have any questions, please contact me anytime at dhamilton@bellevuewa.gov.