

PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Planning Commission | March 13, 2024

Response ID	Which of these policy moves sound good to you, and what makes you say that?	Are there any policy ideas or considerations you think are missing?	What do you want the Planning Commissioners and the members of other boards and commissions to know as they discuss these policy moves and make their recommendations?
1475686			
1476053		NO PICKLEBALL	NO PICKLEBALL - Governor Pickleball is an idiot.
1476162		Policy for retired elderlies living in downtown Bellevue!!! There are quite a few of us, everything seems to cater to children and families, and I have been suggesting this for sometime and fallen into no responses, I have lived in downtown Bellevue since 1976.	Please consider retired residents living in condos in downtown Bellevue!!!!
1476135	General: Engaging the community is essential. Ashwood Park, downtown, is surrounded by residential housing, residents with dogs, families, many school age children, to seniors, and needs are very diverse. Keep it open and flexible for outdoor activities.		Keep it open space for flexible use from Fourth of July dog walks to former Kerala, India residents doing a beautiful, measured Harvest Dance.
1476377	New policy to help with more trails to increase accessibility	Love the focus on tree canopy	Consider more community gardens
1478533	support development of public gathering to support community	parking	parking
1484514			
1486597	Plan to add lots of new parks and open space sounds great, with an emphasis on sustainability.	Yes, linking the total area of parks and open space to the population, requiring it to rise in concert with the rapid population growth.	This is a very important piece of the quality of life here in Bellevue, and existing parks and recreation facilities are already too crowded.
1488083	Walk or bike to parks- so many in Bellevue let's connect them so kids or n'on-drivers can go from one to another. Why pollute on your way to a green space ? Also like adding ore trees= habitat, oxygen, shade. Need to balance with open space for activities. Crossroads could have lots more trees along edges. Also integrating uses for multigenerational and diverse populations. Bellevue was built for predominantly white baby-boom families, but that's not the demographic anymore. Good to change with the times	Drought resistant landscaping. Watering decorative plant costs city residents and is not best use of increasingly scarce resource	Emails like these are so overwhelming that it almost seems like they are designed for people NOT to participate. Smaller chunks are more manageable for people who work and have family obligations
1488144			

Response ID	Which of these policy moves sound good to you, and what makes you say that?	Are there any policy ideas or considerations you think are missing?	What do you want the Planning Commissioners and the members of other boards and commissions to know as they discuss these policy moves and make their recommendations?
1490751	These all sound good, especially the activation of Eastrail. The aim of an urban park should be to provide a place where people can be outside, whether with nature or other attractions.	I'm not a dog owner but we could use more places for well-behaved dogs. Medina's downtown park does well with this.	There's probably more land dedicated to automobiles than there is to vegetation in Bellevue. We do well with our parks, but we're a city in a parking lot.
1494277	The policy to increase the health of tree canopy on park lands...but you need to go beyond that. You need to increase tree canopy. And you need to protect existing tree canopy from honkin' huge skyscraper shadows. The planned tall buildings west of the Botanical Gardens will cast huge shadows over that public space...and make it look like New York vs. Bellevue.	If your focus is a "city in a park" stop doing back-assward planning where you plan for buildings that will cast shadows/affect existing park space.	Sometimes it seems like you are "playing office" vs. looking at the total cost/total affect of your grand plans. Your plans to ruin Wilburton with tall buildings will snarl traffic. Fire department officials say they don't have the resources to handle fires in tall buildings -- and their budgets/outlooks do not include those expenditures. Your plans to narrow streets don't realistic account that a lot of people do not work in locations where they can take light rail -- or the fixing of unusable installed light rail systems still is a long way out. You seem to be pushing out/away businesses that are needed -- day care, gas stations, car dealers. Hearing the Wilburton Vision team at the Botanical Garden chatting among themselves that "those car dealers gotta go" confirms minds already are made up and you are not going to listen to residents who know issues and potential.
1494442	Update to policies to call out the important ecological function of parks and natural areas in addition to their recreational purposes. Parks serve another role (other than community gathering/programming/recreating) in preserving natural resources and wildlife habitats, protecting clean water and clean air, and providing open space for current city dwellers. The parks department should embrace it's roll in providing education on the value of conservation to the public, connecting children and youth to nature and the outdoors, and coordinating environmental stewardship within the city limits	I would like to see policy ideas on preserving and protecting natural environments (not all parks and open spaces need to be developed ). Considering preservation of land for its aesthetic /passive recreational value and its contribution to the quality of life of the community. Preservation (or restoration!!) of natural areas that have terrain, geological formations, flowers, plants that are unusual, spectacular, historically important, scientifically valuable, or unique, or that represent outstanding or rare examples of native species. Acquire waterfront property for public use and enjoyment.	

Response ID	Which of these policy moves sound good to you, and what makes you say that?	Are there any policy ideas or considerations you think are missing?	What do you want the Planning Commissioners and the members of other boards and commissions to know as they discuss these policy moves and make their recommendations?
1495903	Update to several policies to incorporate equity and consideration of historically underserved populations, including Older Adults, when planning for new parks, programs, and recreational opportunities.	Add Older Adults: Update to several policies to incorporate equity and consideration of historically underserved populations, including Older Adults, when planning for new parks, programs, and recreational opportunities. Seniors are 20% of the population and should be considered their own protected class.	Seniors are 20% of the population and should be considered their own protected class. All CoB planners should put an older adult hat on, then look at their plans again, and seek input from older adults, before plans are finalized.
1497757	Those in the General group - the demographic diversity is likely to continue increasing, and there will likely remain a wide disparity of income in our city. Please ensure parks, rec, and open space are available and nearby to all residents.	What's listed as the "Vision" to me is just a slogan. (That said, I like it as a slogan.) A vision might reflect something like "Provide walkable access to open space, recreation, and parks that accommodates the needs of residents from diverse cultures, age groups, and household incomes in an environmentally sustainable manner." I'm sure staff could wordsmith something like this better than my quick attempt here.	That I appreciate their public service. And that I hope that, in this highly polarized and somewhat post-truth times, that facts and rationality guide their efforts and decisions, and not the incendiary nature of so much traditional and social media echo chambers.
1498250	I'm in agreement or at worst neutral to all of the New policies and the Updated policies.		While I agree with the majority of the policies, I believe the emphasis should be on the policies noted in Sustainability.
1498281		Parking. Restricting vehicles reduces accessibility for folks with mobility issues.	There is nothing here about safety in the park areas and safety for those living near parks.
1498240	All of these policy moves sound good to me. I think having park amenities along a trail such as Cross Kirkland Corridor or Eastside Trail would be helpful to families with young children. I take my toddler for walks on Eastside trail and have often wished there would be a small park just next to the trail at some juncture to better engage him. This can be a way to increase the ability to walk to trails and parks by way of colocation.	Can measures be taken to maintain children's playgrounds in such a way as to minimize the risk of children getting sick from stillwater? For example in Phyllis A. Needy Houghton Park there is a model car that collects rainwater and never gets cleared out. There's a sand pit with toys that are never cleaned up. It's better not to incorporate such attractions. Rather, why not design with the health and safety of the child in mind? Children's parks should have hand washing amenities by default. Increasing the health of tree canopy should also be considered along trails. I once witnessed a large tree branch fall on the grounds next to Eastside Trail and luckily no one was near that area. I'd like to see more botanical gardens in Bellevue. I feel like just one (Bellevue	Rephrase Bellevue as a "City in a Park" to a "City in a Green Park". That means incorporating green cover on vertical and horizontal concrete, living walls and roofs.

Response ID	Which of these policy moves sound good to you, and what makes you say that?	Are there any policy ideas or considerations you think are missing?	What do you want the Planning Commissioners and the members of other boards and commissions to know as they discuss these policy moves and make their recommendations?
		Botanical Garden) is insufficient. Also, another idea is to incorporate green cover along highways where possible or build it in. Mexico City has recycled and vertical gardens on a highway that are automatically irrigated with rainwater to improve air quality.	
1498295	Park planning! It's incredible to see a push to create equitable parks.		New policy to increase the ability to walk, bike, or roll to parks, trails, and open space: Please, please consider the east pocket of Eastgate. We are lumped in with Factoria but we are completely separate neighborhoods. Please consider adding sidewalks on SE Newport Way along with parks, rather than ignore us.
1498414	all of these sound good	Public safety! Addressing crime and proactively preventing crime in parks and open spaces particularly when transit opens locally and also to Seattle	Safety is a number one priority. Space for gathering is paramount. Facility rentals for programs and events and gathering need to be more affordable and accessible. Areas where higher density is contemplated, please consider park acquisition and partnerships to create spaces for people to recreate and connect.
1498568	Increase bike trails More outdoor pickleball facilities- fastest growing sport in America	maintain current marina space- not enough moorage in Bellevue	as above
1498602	None of the. They all sound like communism.	Respect for private property	Our government is lost. I doubt we can reclaim our country, county, city. This is not America anymore. It is a communist dystopia.

Response ID	Which of these policy moves sound good to you, and what makes you say that?	Are there any policy ideas or considerations you think are missing?	What do you want the Planning Commissioners and the members of other boards and commissions to know as they discuss these policy moves and make their recommendations?
1498834			
1498875	<p>Update to policies to call out the important ecological function of parks and natural areas in addition to their recreational purposes. - our natural area/parks need support for resilience in the face of climate change. Use more native planting throughout the city!</p> <p>New policy to increase the health of tree canopy on park lands - to include streets, freeways, other public areas, including parks</p>	<p>Increase overall native plantings, native biodiversity across Bellevue.</p> <p>New policy to support acquisition of new parks to increase open green space withing Bellevue - needed as city becomes more dense.</p>	<p>Have overall goal to have more open space, native green space throughout city. Be opportunistic as opportunities arise to acquire more green space, have developers incorporate green space into projects.</p> <p>Be more focused on using PNW native plants, restore to more native plants/setting.</p>
1499260	<p>Upgrading public park(s). The City has a large tract near Bellevue Way (104th Ave NE) and NE 24th. It could be developed for walkers, dogs, picnics, children's recreation, etc. It is a nice area virtually unknown to area inhabitants.</p>		<p>Have a developed procedure for citizen input to the appropriate city agency or department.</p>
1499327	<p>I am very supportive of all the policies that increase our public green spaces and make them accessible to walking, rolling and biking. As Bellevue becomes more crowded, we need the shared green spaces for the renewal that all of us need being close to nature and the equities that come from those spaces being accessible to everyone.</p>	<p>We need to agree that, to the best of our ability, we will protect the canopy we currently have, and recognize that older growth trees are valuable because they are capturing carbon. Maybe homeowners should get an incentive for protecting their big trees.</p>	<p>There are plenty of us in this community who city planners might assume to be resistant to change, but the truth is that many of us accept the realities of climate change and know that we need government leadership to make a livable future, like the one we've all enjoyed, for next generations.</p>
1499495	<p>I support these policies.</p>	<p>The Bellevue Golf Course should be redeveloped into a public park with mixed use condos and an area for businesses like a cafe and restaurant away from the road. This would provide far better public access (and public benefit) for this valuable area of land that already has quite good public transit access.</p>	<p>Consider whether existing city assets that benefit only a few residents (e.g., golf courses) could be repurposed into public spaces / parks with higher-density mixed-use development.</p>

Response ID	Which of these policy moves sound good to you, and what makes you say that?	Are there any policy ideas or considerations you think are missing?	What do you want the Planning Commissioners and the members of other boards and commissions to know as they discuss these policy moves and make their recommendations?
1503733	Calling out “the important ecological function of parks and natural areas...” and not just the recreation uses. Leaving untouched, natural areas within parks and recognizing that some natural/ wild areas should be preserved without recreation is key to supporting other species and human health.	Large vegetation (large shrubs and smaller trees, plants and grasses) that form connected borders & dense areas are needed to encourage birds, butterflies, insects, small mammals adjacent to “improved” spaces. Loss of connected wild spaces has cost Bellevue the wonderful birdsong that once filled the air. How can Parks support more dense spaces for wildlife as opposed to clearing even wooded spaces which destroys habitat?	Take care not to pave too many areas in a rush to provide accessibility. Take care to balance recreation/sport uses with meditative unimproved spaces for the sake of human, wildlife, & ecological health.
1504263	Sustainable stormwater features to support the watershed.		Common sense transition that doesn't financially burden property owners and the middle class.
1504395	Increase in park tree health and green space as well as more parks is important to me.	Natural green spaces and nature trails should be preserved and increased.	Do not give in to development to preserve green spaces.
1504697	The parks in Bellevue - especially The Botanical Garden Make Bellevue a unique and special community. Maintenance of these parks is essential for the health and wellbeing of all residents.		
1506753	The policy that improves the walking access in open space. The policy to support acquisition of more green public spaces.	To make accessible to pedestrians all roads in our neighborhood. Cars are still more important unfortunately. Walking in my neighborhood is dangerous at times of day despite a welcome speed limit of 30 miles an hour. Too many drivers are distracted by their phone when driving and invade too often the tiny little space between the road and the front gardens. I cannot figure out how to access the nearest park(half a mile away) if I don't take my car, because there is no protection for me if I walk there. Is it impossible to build real sidewalks, where cars cannot hit me?	
1506847	Preserving, maintaining, and increasing parks and open spaces is a good thing.		

Response ID	Which of these policy moves sound good to you, and what makes you say that?	Are there any policy ideas or considerations you think are missing?	What do you want the Planning Commissioners and the members of other boards and commissions to know as they discuss these policy moves and make their recommendations?
1508604	Engaging diverse LGBTQIA+ communities (teens, elderly, BIPOC, vet, physically challenged, neurodiverse, etc) to have a voice at the table.	Sustainability - not only increase the health but the percentage of tree canopy in parks. Waterways and Beaches - protect and improve the quality of water	Include the diverse LGBTQIA+ community in all policy and recommendations. For example, the need for gender neutral bathrooms in public parks and rec areas, having more designated safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ to gather.
1508452		Walking routes and Healthy Streets are important, and may become more appealing as more street trees are added to create a shady canopy.	
1509072	They sound great. How does one define historically underserved and how they have been underserved? Almost every race has been historically underserved. How far back do you want to go? World War II, the slave trade, Russia currently, Israel and Hamas? We cannot go back. You cam treat everyone better, but to give free land back to the Japanese, is this ever going to happen, for example. If you serve one race, how will you serve the others equitably?	Yes, tree canopies in neighborhoods. Total impervious surfaces without cutting down trees and their overall effect on the ecology system, especially temperature changes. Increased impervious surfaces causes increased temperatures even if tree canopies are not removed.	We must offer opportunities for those underserved and honor the suffering of everyone treated in humanely, with disrespect, and ensure they are remembered and not repeat. This equity thing where they are given special treatment, not sure if this is a healthy way to look at them. Do they really want to be isolated as a group who want to be treated as organized charity cases?

**Which policy moves sound good and why?**

- Key element for Bellevue. Good direction!
- Trees & Parks have nice impact of livability and temperature lowering in summer
- Support policy to facilitate more program for family and kids. We need more kids & family programs at parks and open spaces, and establish policy to support more of these programs.
- Leave green spaces (Botanical Garden, Wilburton Hill) unaltered
- Love: 1) Planning to take underserved areas into account, 2) engaging community in planning with parks/programs, 3) Eco-function of parks, natural areas, 4) All three new sustainability policy moves! 5) park planning --> access (multimodal)
- Find funding to complete Eastrail over I-90 & also increase access points for Eastrail trail. Big yes to green roof & rain garden in areas wherever possible. Increase the tree canopy in underserved areas in Bellevue (Bridle trails a lot vs. Factoria less). Update tree code to protect significant trees.
- Inclusive & Universal design -- glad to see this emphasized in several areas. Especially interested in upgrading parks and playgrounds throughout Bellevue.
- Keep these preservation policies & move on the excellent new ones

**Are there any policy ideas missing?**

- Delete the aquatic center from parks plan until a life cycle cost estimate and funding plan has been reviewed by Bellevue voters.
- As Bellevue city orientation in 2044 as international community, we suggest to increase Chinese books and cultural elements in libraries and museums: 1) Chinese book group, 2) Chinese book collection, 3) Asian cultural events.
- New policy to maximize available space and provide multiple programs. I hope this means we can consider moving the Farmers Market to the Downtown Park. I live near the Bellevue Downtown Park and I think it would be a huge boon to our community and local vendors to put the Farmers Market in the Bellevue Downtown Park!!!!  
[images]
- Buy more land now before it gets more expensive into the future. Open spaces are needed now to provide open space health/climate challenges.
- More park planning and community gathering places in Newport Hills area, South Bellevue Center is very difficult with traffic
- Please provide the timeline for the new aquatics project @ Eastgate.

**What do you want Planning Commission to know?**

- Thoughts on connecting arborist type activity to the residential needs for information about their trees. Possibly some volunteers providing time to learn of what to photo of trees for concerns about health of trees and get quick info about them from arborists or even possibly staff. (Costs of arborists for initial contract could be pricey or have problems with arborists connected to tree removal companies).