

## **Bellevue Council Interest Statement Storm and Surface Water System Plan**

Bellevue has been actively managing storm and surface water since the formation of the Storm and Surface Water Utility (Utility) in 1974. The City's storm and surface water management program strives to continuously balance the city's dual goals of economic vitality and environmental preservation, recognizing that a key component to the quality of life in Bellevue is that current and future citizens have a desirable natural environment to recreate in, live in, and enjoy.

Bellevue City Council recognizes that storm and surface water management supports many elements of a highly desirable and productive community. Economic development and a stable economy depend on high quality infrastructure such as roads and stormwater conveyance systems that provide reliable access to businesses and homes with minimal risk of flooding. Maintaining high quality streams and lakes also supports Bellevue's quality of life, allowing our community members to recreate in and around our streams and lakes without concerns for their health. Given these economic, transportation, human health, and recreational objectives, Bellevue citizens benefit from a comprehensive stormwater management program whether they live near a stream, lake, wetland, or in an upland area.

### **Principles**

The Council recognizes the important role of the Utilities Department in storm and surface water management across the community. As such, it is the Council's desire that the Utilities Department develop a storm and surface water system plan that will provide a foundation to:

- Support and build on existing capital investment programs and other management actions that reduce flooding, protect surface water quality, and protect fish and wildlife habitat across the city;
- Acknowledge the intertwined nature of the stormwater system as a partnership of public and private facilities that is comprised of both engineered and natural systems;
- Have a self-supporting financial structure that ensures rate stability, regionally competitive fees, inter-generational equity, and minimal debt through responsible fiscal management practices;
- Meet NPDES permit obligations and other regulatory program requirements;
- Strive to meet multiple and sometimes competing community, economic, and environmental objectives;
- Be future focused and continually use industry best practices as they evolve to provide sustainable services to the community for current and future generations;
- Take a leadership role at the state and federal levels to identify and inform strategies to address stormwater issues not under the control or regulation of local governments; and
- Incorporate initiatives to encourage the Storm and Surface Water Utility to continuously improve the aquatic health of our streams, wetlands, and shorelines.