

## CAPITAL FACILITIES ELEMENT SUMMARY

### CAPITAL FACILITIES VISION FOR 2035

BELLEVUE HAS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY FACILITIES THAT SERVE THE NEEDS OF A GROWING AND CHANGING CITY.

***Bellevue has adequate financial resources to build and maintain the parks, streets, and other community facilities to address the community's growth and evolving needs. These facilities address multiple objectives, such as creating new open space and enhancing neighborhood character, even as they meet basic functional requirements.***

### MAJOR THEMES & DRIVERS

The essential goal of the Capital Facilities Element is to ensure that needed public facilities are available to respond to community needs and anticipated growth. The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires cities to include an inventory of public facilities and a plan for at least six years for needed facilities. It also requires cities to tie land use and capital facilities planning together and to reassess the land use element if funding for new facilities falls short of meeting needs. For Bellevue, which has a number of individual facility plans (e.g. Water System Plan), the Capital Facilities Element works as a reference helping tie together multiple plans and ensure they support the city's anticipated growth and vision.

Bellevue matures its current facilities continue to age. Maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure will be of increased importance in Bellevue's future. The Capital Facilities Element is focused on coordinated and financial planning for the provision of public infrastructure over the long-term to ensure that facilities are provided and replaced to meet community needs.

### SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

**Replacement of aging facilities.** New policy CF-X1 recognizes and supports planning for the renewal or replacement of aging capital facilities as they approach their service life, to maintain target service levels and would use the CIP to fund asset replacement cost effectively.

**Clearer Recognition of System Plans.** The City documents detailed system planning, including asset management, long-term need and replacement planning, and system inventories in system-specific functional plans, such as water, waste water and stormwater plans. New policy CF-X2 specifically points to these facility system plans as the location for detailed information and as the tool to plan for the long-range facility needs for individual city services consistent with the GMA requirement to plan for public facilities.

**Essential Public Facilities.** In addition to planning for public facilities, the Capital Facilities Element contains the City's policy direction on Essential Public Facilities. Essential Public Facilities, also known as EPFs, are those facilities that are typically difficult to site, such as airports, correctional facilities, or solid waste handling facilities. Cities (and counties) are required to have criteria for the siting of EPFs and, while conditions can be imposed on EPFs to mitigate their impacts, cities cannot outright ban EPFs.

Changes to Countywide Planning Policies recognize that EPFs are now well addressed by county and city policies and regulations consistent with state law. Since when state requirements were first enacted, Bellevue has adopted EPF siting criteria into the Land Use Code. Changes to the policies (CF-13-19) are consistent with no longer needing to include detailed siting criteria that is duplicative of the code, while continuing to support a consistent overall framework for an interjurisdictional approach and the mitigation of environmental, compatibility, public safety or other impacts of the essential public facility.

## **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- Any questions about what is recommended for change?
- Any additional information needed on this topic?
- Direction on specific changes/refinements to the draft policies?