

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Choices for People with Disabilities Plan

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Parks & Community Services

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**INFORMATION
ONLY**

Overview of Parks & Community Services' "Choices for People with Disabilities" plan, which provides an outline of recreational choices available for people with disabilities, as well as describes the department's inclusion process that supports those living with disabilities to participate in programs of their choosing.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

At the June 10 Extended Study Session, Parks & Community Services will present an overview of the department's "Choices for People with Disabilities" plan, recently updated in 2018. The plan provides an outline of recreational choices available for people with disabilities, as well as describing the department's inclusion process that supports those living with disabilities to participate in programs of their choosing.

Bellevue's recreation programs, parks, trails, and playgrounds are widely used by people with disabilities. We are committed to working with people who have disabilities, their families, and caregivers to help ensure they have physical and program access.

The Parks Department began providing adaptive recreation in the early 1970's for adults with intellectual disabilities. In the 1980's the City expanded services at the Highland Community Center and established the center as a specialized recreation facility providing recreation programs for people with disabilities. During the 1990's the City broadened the program choices and began to provide adaptive recreation programs in other facilities.

Each year, more individuals with disabilities choose to participate in adaptive and general recreation programs. We are committed to providing modifications for participants to support successful inclusion. The Inclusion Plan assists City staff when providing access and support to individuals with disabilities by identifying strategies that support integration of individuals with disabilities into facilities, programs, activities, and services. It requires and involves the support of all divisions within the Department, each of which has an important role in supporting the inclusion of people with disabilities into the community.

Program opportunities are available to all Bellevue residents living with disabilities. Requests for modifications are made through the Department's on-line registration system or by phone. Scholarships are available for residents in need. Programs are publicized via the Department's Connections program

brochure, e-newsletter, and other marketing methods.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Service delivery of programs and access for individuals with disabilities has been guided by Federal and State laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Parks & Community Services' "Choices for People with Disabilities" plan furthers City Council's Achieving Human Potential strategic target area in its Vision plan as well as the following Comprehensive Plan Goals & Policies:

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Element

PA-18: Provide a variety of services and programs accessible to all throughout the city with special emphasis on serving those with limited opportunities including low-income households, youth, individuals with disabilities and older adults.

Human Services Element

HS-9: Improve access to services throughout the community by removing physical and systemic barriers and empowering individuals to overcome other barriers that may exist.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with implementing this plan.

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

N/A

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

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