

Updates to Marijuana Legislation

BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL

MAY 2, 2016

Tonight's Discussion & Direction:

- Review state legislation combining medical and recreational marijuana sales.
- Provide staff direction on possible amendments to Bellevue City Code responding to new legislation.
- Review status of current regulations.
- Provide direction on any suggested changes

Policy questions:

- Should the City allow or ban medical marijuana cooperatives in single family residences?
- Should the City allow or ban marijuana research as a permitted use?
- Should the City consider adding civil penalties, abatement authority, for illegally growing or processing medical marijuana in a housing unit?

Policy questions:

- Should the City allow or ban medical marijuana cooperatives in single family residences?
 - Collective gardens: City prohibited in residential neighborhoods
 - Cooperatives: Four patients, max 60 plants, must grow in-home

Policy questions:

- Should the City allow or ban marijuana research as a permitted use?
 - All research uses must be approved by the Life Sciences Discovery Fund
 - Uses can produce, process, possess marijuana for limited research purposes
 - Licensed researcher may partner with the University of Washington or Washing State University
 - Marijuana grown by a licensed research use can only be sold to another research use

Policy questions:

- Should the City consider adding civil penalties, abatement authority, for illegally growing or processing medical marijuana in a housing unit?
 - In addition to criminal penalties and enforcement
 - Would provide an additional enforcement tool

Current Recreational Marijuana in Bellevue:

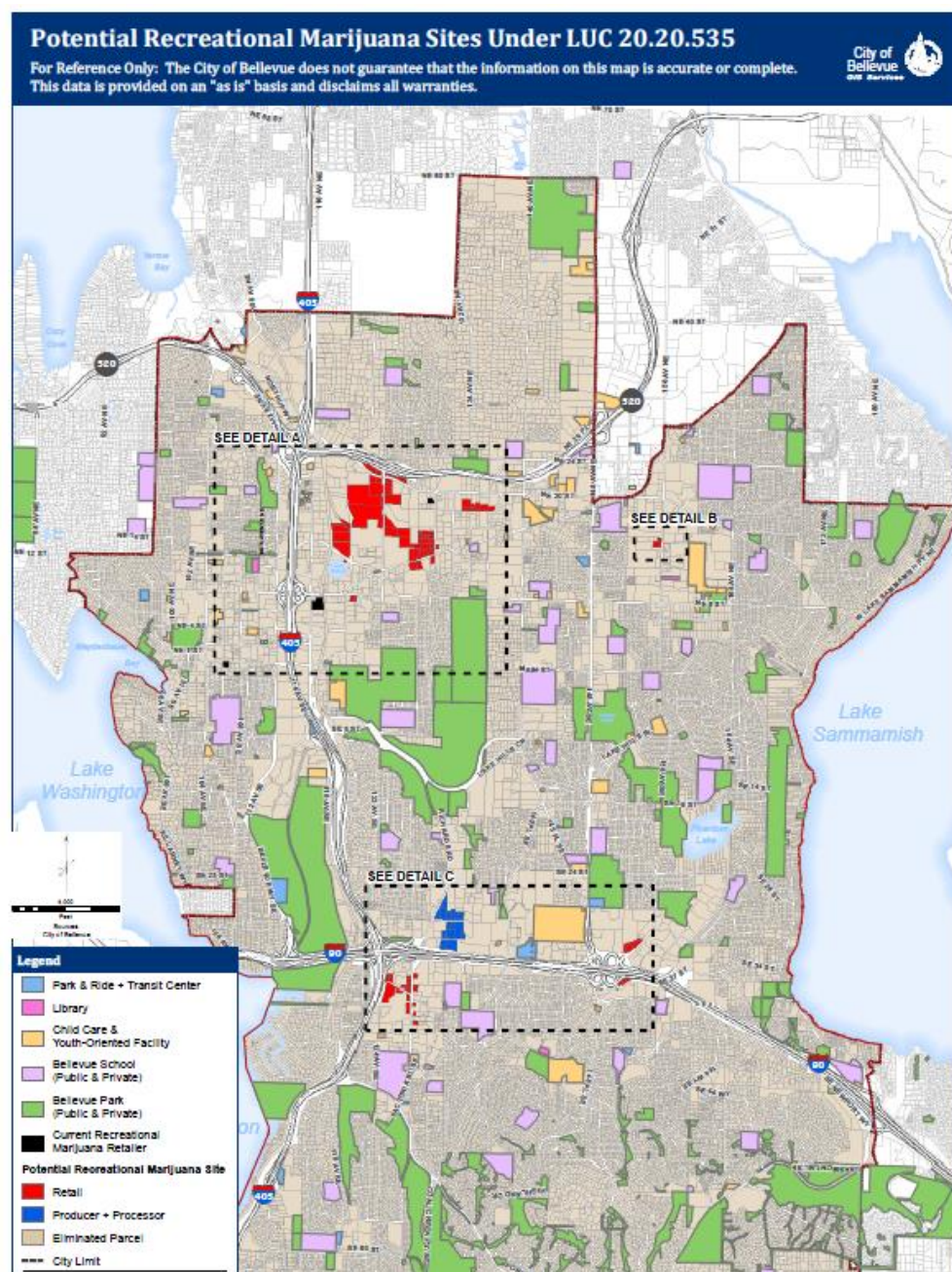
- Four retail marijuana licenses initially allocated to Bellevue
- Three retail outlets and three producer/processors are currently in operation
- In 2015 the State Legislature combined medical marijuana and retail outlets
- LCB allocated four additional retail licenses to Bellevue for a total of eight
- In 2016, the City has received applications for two new retail stores; Factoria and Eastgate
- The City has received additional notices from the LCB regarding potential stores locating in Bellevue.
- All applicants propose retail and medical sales

Data on Marijuana Policing:

- Decline in marijuana arrests of youth since legalization
- Those under 21 are still obtaining marijuana from sources other than retail stores
- Number one problem in Bellevue schools remains alcohol use
- The data indicates that the marijuana retail stores have fewer calls than other retail uses, including uses that sell liquor.
- Per LCB, all three of Bellevue's retail stores passed random checks for compliance including checks for sales of products to minors.

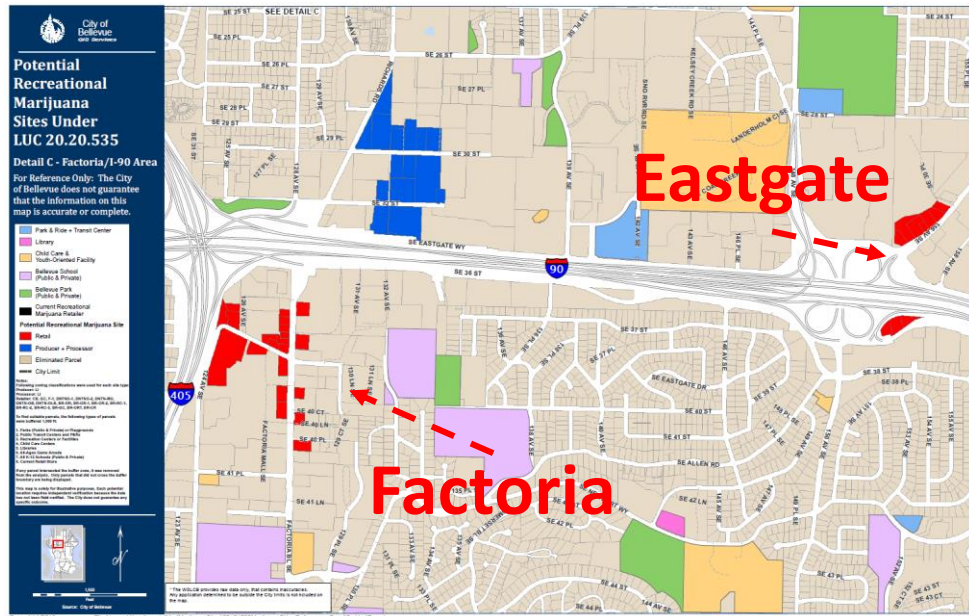
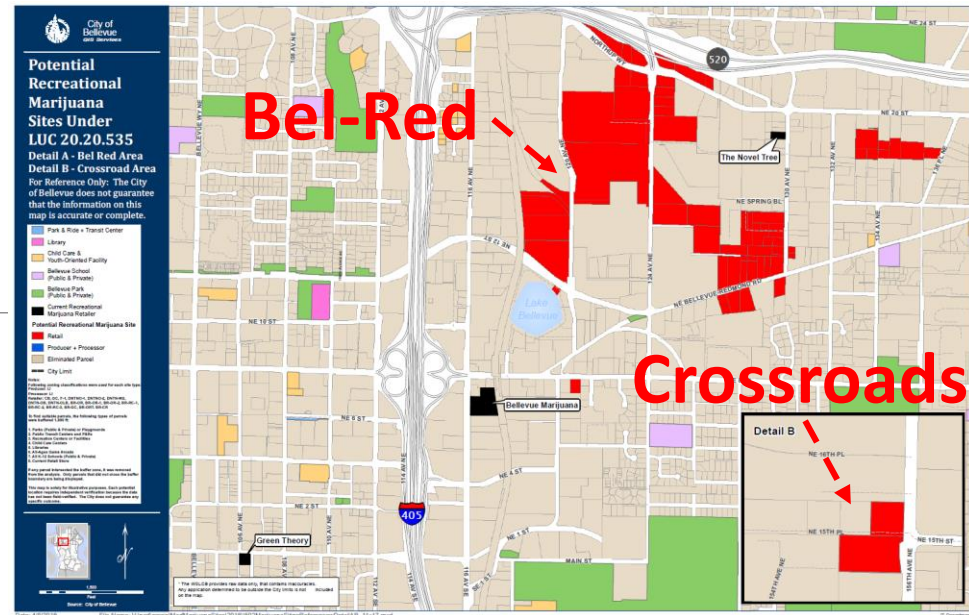
Potential Marijuana Store Locations:

- Stores are currently located in Bel-Red, Downtown, and Wilburton Subareas
- Stores can potentially locate in Crossroads, Factoria, and Eastgate Subareas under current regulations



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Possible Refinements:

- Add separation from residential zones?
- Limit number of stores in subareas?
- Require additional community outreach?
- Increase separation from sensitive sites?
- Monitor and collect data to assess performance of existing regulations?