



City of Bellevue

Well K.E.P.T. Program

Natural Resource Division

Geoff Bradley | Natural Resource Manager

Curtis Kukal | Park Ranger

Parks & Community Services

February 10, 2020



Direction Needed from Council

Information only; no direction required.

AGENDA



Natural Resource Division



Well K.E.P.T Program



Program Overview

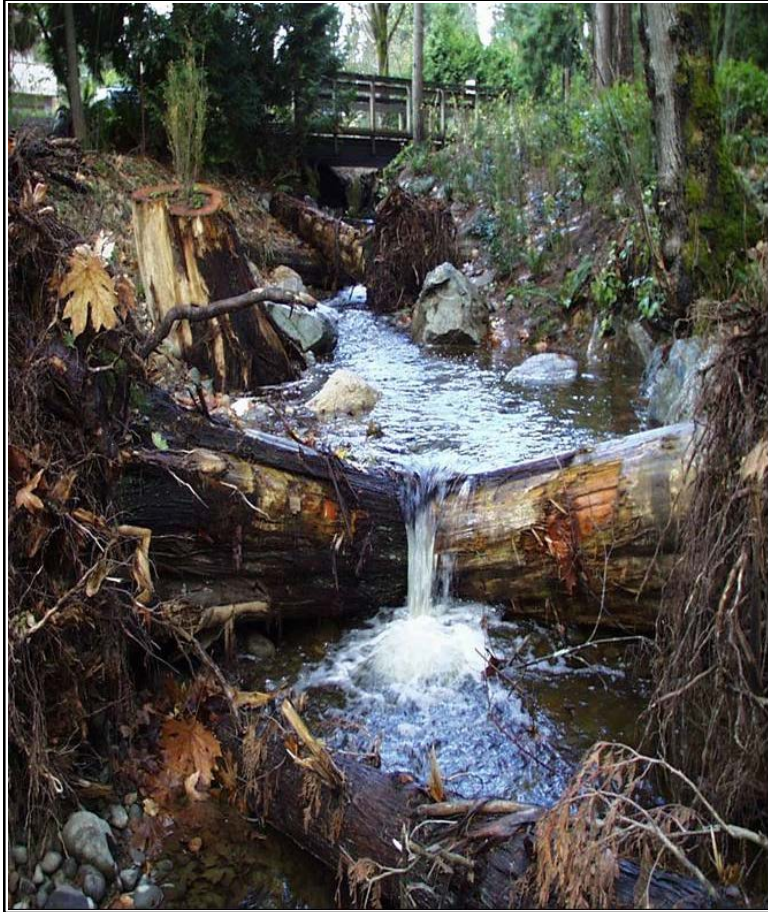


Program Mission and Goals



Education Workshops and Projects

Background – Natural Resource Division



- Forest Management Program
- Trails and Greenway Program
- Street Tree and Arterial Landscape Program
- Water Conservation and Irrigation Program
- Nature Parks and Visitor Center Program
 - *Environmental Education*
 - *Community Farms and Gardens*
 - *Volunteer Coordination*
 - *Park Rangers*
 - *Well K.E.P.T*



Well K.E.P.T Program

Program Overview

- K.E.P.T. is an acronym for **K**ids **E**nvironmental **P**roject **T**raining
- Parks program since 1987
- Paid summer internship for local area students (age 14-18)
- No previous experience required
- Incorporates environmental education with park resource management activities
- Crew = 10 youth/2 supervisors
- Priority given to Bellevue residents



Program Mission

Provide youth employment opportunities in the field of park resource management focusing on job skills and career development training to build strong self-esteem, good work habits, and sound environmental ethics.



Program Goals



- Provide Opportunities for Youth Employment
- Provide Job Skills and Career Development Training
- Increase Understanding and Appreciation of Urban Natural System Functions
- Instill Sound Environmental Ethics
- Promote Workforce Diversity and Teamwork Approach
- Provide Efficient and Effective Service Delivery

Education Workshops

- Native & Invasive Plant ID
- Urban Forestry
- Wildlife Science
- Trail and Greenways
- Wetland and Aquatic Ecology
- Resumes & Cover Letters
- Interviewing Skills
- Personal Finance
- Diversity, Inclusion & Cultural Competency



Project Examples



- **Hiking Trails**
 - New Construction and Renovation
 - Grading, Surfacing, and Drainage
- **Forest Management**
 - Integrated Weed Management
 - Native Plant Installations
- **Special Projects**
 - Blueberry Farm Maintenance
 - Park Infrastructure Improvements

2019 Project Accomplishments

- **Kelsey Creek Park** - removed 4,680 sf of jewelweed, bindweed, and English ivy.
- **Lake Hills Greenbelt** - removed 2,300 sf of bindweed, Himalayan blackberry, Evergreen blackberry, jewelweed, and thistle.
- **Wilburton Hill Park** - removed 3,600 sf of Himalayan blackberry and English ivy and planted 200 native plants.
- **Lewis Creek Park** - removed 7,223 sf of Himalayan blackberry and bindweed.
- **Coal Creek Natural Area** - renovated 5,649 linear feet of natural area trail.
- **City-Wide Trails** - completed routine maintenance on 34,302 linear feet of trails.

Program Outcomes

- Responsive Government
- Improved Mobility
- Healthy & Sustainable Environment
- Safe Community
- Innovative, Vibrant, and Caring Community
- Quality Neighborhoods



Direction Needed from Council

Information only; no direction required.

