



DATE: September 10, 2020

TO: Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Services Program Manager
Community Development Department

SUBJECT: Environmental Stewardship Plan update
Information and discussion, no Board action requested

OVERVIEW

This presentation will provide an overview of the process and goals of the update to the Environmental Stewardship Plan, the City of Bellevue's sustainability plan, and seek input from the Parks & Community Services Board on the draft actions in the plan related to parks.

Staff were originally scheduled to present to the Parks & Community Services Board on January 14, 2020, to provide an overview of the process and goals for updating the Environmental Stewardship Plan. The January 14 meeting was cancelled due to snow, and subsequent presentations were cancelled due to restrictions on public meetings related to the Washington State Stay Home, Stay Healthy Act.

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) formally began in 2007 with a mission to implement continuous change, learning, and innovation in practices that drive the organization and the larger Bellevue community toward achieving the ESI vision. Over the last five years, the ESI's work has been guided by the 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan. This plan contains 57 actions related to greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water, mobility and land use, ecosystems and open space, and materials management and waste, addressing our municipal operations and the community as a whole.

Council's 2018-2020 Vision Priorities include Priority #11 related to the ESI. It states: "Review the progress of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and analyze additional steps that the City may wish to take to achieve its environmental goals (e.g., tree canopy)." The 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan is being updated in response to Priority #11, and the new plan is referred to as the Environmental Stewardship Plan.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PLAN UPDATE

At the January 14, 2020 Parks & Community Services Board meeting, staff were scheduled to present on the background, timeline, and approach for updating the Environmental Stewardship Plan, along with an overview of the progress to date on relevant goals and targets. The memo for the January 14 presentation includes a discussion of the background and context for the plan, along with the recommended goals and targets. For more information, go to: [January 14, 2020 Parks & Community Services Board Agenda and Minutes.](#)

COUNCIL DIRECTION FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

At the November 12th Council presentation, Council provided direction for staff to engage with boards and commissions for input on strategies and actions to achieve the goals in the plan. No formal action is needed from the boards and commissions during this process. However, some of the goals, targets, or strategies in the Environmental Stewardship Plan will influence recommendations in existing plans that board and commissions may have purview over, for example the Parks & Open Space System Plan.

APPROACH

On November 13, 2018, staff presented to the Council the scope and approach for updating the 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan, along with the main focus areas for the plan. These include: climate change; energy; materials management and waste; mobility and land use; and natural systems.

The following steps outline the City's approach to the update:

Phase 1: (complete)

- Review progress with the ESI Strategic Plan Progress report
- Review the city's environmental goals and update as appropriate (May 20, 2019 Council presentation). See Attachment A, for a summary of the recommended goals and targets.
- Develop targets for each goal (November 12, 2019 Council presentation)

Phase 2: (current phase)

- Analyze best practices and additional actions for consideration in an updated Environmental Stewardship Plan
- Engage with Boards and Commissions for input on possible strategies and actions related to their purview
- Engage with residents, businesses, and key stakeholders on possible actions for the plan

Phase 3:

- Develop a draft Environmental Stewardship Plan for public comment
- Finalize Environmental Stewardship Plan for adoption by the Council



Recommended Goals and Targets

After reviewing progress to date, the next step in the planning process was to review existing environmental stewardship goals and recommend updates as appropriate. The complete recommendations for both the short and long-term goals and targets can be found in Attachment A. A snapshot of the relevant goals and targets for climate and natural systems is provided below, and the complementary goals for mobility and land use, energy, and waste are outlined in Attachment A.

Climate Change:

- **Goal:** Reduce Bellevue's greenhouse gas emissions and prepare and adapt to ongoing climate change impacts.
- **Target:** Reduce Bellevue's communitywide greenhouse gas emissions **80%** by 2050, compared to a 2011 baseline.

Natural Systems:

- **Goal:** Improve and preserve the integrity and health of Bellevue's natural systems and ensure all of Bellevue's residents have access to Bellevue's abundant natural resources.
- **Targets:**
 - Achieve a **40%** citywide tree canopy by 2050.
 - Ensure that **100%** of Bellevue's residents live within 1/3 of a mile to a park, open space, or trail by 2050.
 - Preserve and maintain the health of Bellevue's streams¹.

Process for Developing Actions

In collaboration with the consulting team supporting the update of the Environmental Stewardship Plan, city staff and the consultants developed a master list of potential actions for the plan for each of the five focus areas (Mobility & Land Use, Climate Change, Energy, Natural Systems, and Waste) for both city operational actions and communitywide strategies. This master list of actions was developed by examining existing policies, programs, and plans along with best practices from around the U.S. and the region, along with input from city staff experts.

The consultant team subsequently performed a multi-criteria analysis of the actions, to evaluate the impact, benefits, costs, and equity outcomes. This shorter list was then reviewed and discussed during a city staff workshop in December 2019, which included approximately 50 city staff from a range of departments. The core team of staff and consultants used this input from the staff workshops to develop a list of actions for Phase 2 public outreach and engagement, which is described below.

¹ Stream health target will be developed as part of the Watershed Management Plan, led by Utilities.



Proposed Actions to Achieve Goals

Staff have selected a subset of the draft actions for Parks & Community Services Board review, which serve to further the implementation of environmental and parks policies in the Comprehensive Plan and which impact or address natural systems in parks. These actions are outlined in detail in Attachment A, and include:

Climate Change:

- Sustainable District
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Environmental Equity assessment

Natural Systems:

- Public property tree planting
- Multiple environmental benefits for open space preservation
- Funding strategy to achieve parks and open space goals
- Plan for walkable access to parks

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Staff performed two rounds of public outreach and engagement as part of the plan development, in the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020. The initial round of engagement was designed to gather input from residents and stakeholders on the level of ambition and vision for the plan, and the second round of input was geared towards gathering input on the level of support for potential actions. Residents were generally supportive of the actions outlined in Attachment A, and a common theme in the feedback was a desire for the City to expand and accelerate implementation. Respondents were asked to select their top five actions, and the top selections included: Single-Use Plastics Ban, Transportation Master Plan, Tree Preservation Code, Home Energy Retrofit program, and Integrated Site Design and Selection.

DISCUSSION FOR PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Staff request input from the Parks & Community Services Board on the draft list of actions which relate to parks, in Attachment A.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will review and address feedback from the Parks & Community Services Board and other boards and commissions and will aim to release a draft Environmental Stewardship Plan at the end of September. Staff will summarize input from the Parks & Community Services Board and other boards and commissions and include that in the transmittal of the draft plan to Council later in 2020.



ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment A: Draft Actions for Parks Review
2. Attachment B: Environmental Stewardship Plan Update Phase 2 Outreach Summary

REFERENCE MATERIALS

- A. [Recommended Goals and Targets Report](#)
- B. [Environmental Stewardship Plan update Phase 1 Outreach Summary](#)
- C. [2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan](#)
- D. [ESI Strategic Plan Progress Report](#)