

From: VERNON SCHRAG <dwights30@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 5:05 PM
To: Wells, Rachel <RWells@bellevuewa.gov>
Cc: Parker, Camron <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>; parkboard <parkboard@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: AMBASSADORS FOR TREES IN BELLEVUE

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Greetings for 2021 re: **Tree planting initiatives**, Neighborhood News 2021.

How can I arrange for 20 or 30 trees to be planted in the Downtown Ashwood Park?? Two years ago one tiny little tree was planted in the far NE corner; and was/is the **ONLY TREE in the entire City Park. Weird!**. I encouraged one little tree be planted in honor of "Arbor Day".

City Parks Department refuses to plant trees but that is foolishness. Then last month many, many mature trees were cut down and destroyed on NE 12th Street at **McCormick Park, next to Ashwood Park. What is going on around here?? Who's doing this and why??**

300 Trees Organization is working with Bellevue schools, churches, and shared housing complexes to increase tree canopy. The group coordinates with the City of Bellevue's Environmental Stewardship Initiative to help the city reach its goal of 40% tree canopy coverage by the year 2050.

"We are hoping to host some great events this fall where members of the community can help distribute and plant trees." If you are interested in volunteering or supporting 300 Trees programs in other ways, please visit the website?? How can I help??

Thanks,

Dwight Schrag

Ashwood Park Downtown Neighborhood

On 02/03/2021 10:00 AM Wells, Rachel <rwells@bellevuewa.gov> wrote:

Hello Mr. Schrag,

Thank you for your email. I am including the status of Ashwood Park, information about the project at McCormick Park, and ways you can get further involved with tree projects in Bellevue.

Ashwood Park

While Ashwood Park likely will be selected for tree planting after its master plan update, it can't support new trees right now. As you know, the project is on-hold given budget cuts and the vacancies of key positions in Parks and other city departments involved. The City Manager's Office has delayed the Ashwood Park master plan update and no date has been set to restart work. It doesn't make sense to plant trees before the master plan update because they will need to be removed if they are planted in the wrong places. Additionally, Ashwood Park doesn't have any irrigation to support newly planted trees, which need frequent watering to survive.

McCormick Park

The Transportation Department is working in the right-of-way along NE 12th Street to construct a new 12-foot wide multipurpose path to replace the existing 5-foot wide concrete sidewalk. In addition to the new trail, the project will be installing a new wider planter strip with landscaping and irrigation, upgrade ADA (American Disabilities Act) ramps and make enhancement to the landscaping and irrigation along the southside of McCormick Park. Additional project information can be found on the City's website at:

<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/transportation/projects/neighborhood-projects/ne-12th-street>

300 Trees and volunteer opportunities.

300 Trees and the City of Bellevue work to support each other to increase canopy around the city. These are projects like encouraging residents to plant trees, increasing public knowledge about trees, and coordination between multiple agencies in finding the right place to plant trees and ensuring that there is a maintenance plan to care for them. 300 Trees does not plant trees on city property but are currently working with area schools to increase canopy and nature-related education.

If you are interested in volunteering, there are several tree-related opportunities:

1. 300 Trees has an open call for volunteers. They will be holding a tree giveaway for Bellevue residents in March and may need volunteers to help with that or other upcoming events:
<https://300trees.org/home/volunteer/>

2. If you're interested in increasing your knowledge and/or public understanding of trees, consider becoming a volunteer [Neighborhood Tree Ambassador](#). Applications for the 2021 cohort will open this week and is planned to be virtual for the time being.
3. We will likely have additional volunteer events or programs later in the year. Please check back with 300 Trees, Community Development, and Parks for possible opportunities.

Best,



Rachel Wells

She/her/hers or they/them/theirs

Americorps Urban Forestry Specialist /// Community Deveopment /// City of Bellevue

rwells@bellevuewa.gov /// 425.452.7241 /// bellevuewa.gov/trees

From: VERNON SCHRAG <dwights30@comcast.net>

Thanks Rachel: Your facts may be incomplete and incorrect or both.

FYI Park Plans (Master Plans) are developed by professional landscape-design/development architects, contractors who specialize in this type of design. You can set up a contract and they do the work. This is done for every Park in Bellevue. But not Ashwood.

Bellevue Parks Board uses this ridiculous **"We-can't-do-it-excuse" every year since 2012 that wrongfully asserts no one is available to make any progress in Ashwood Park.**

.... So no tree's or landscaping or walking paths for disabled or elderly citizens or children either.

No bathrooms, play areas or anything else gets done in Ashwood, our most densely populated, highest-growth and investment zone Downtown area of the entire City of Bellevue. ... And no resources? **What about Downtown Livability Commitments? Who's in charge of this debacle anyway?**

FYI - the **Ashwood Parking Lot**_got set up with irrigation systems, walkways, trees, shrubs and porta-potties three or four years ago. Why not finish the job? Good grief. The **Ashwood Pocket-Park**_got completely landscaped and renovated with new sprinkler systems, trees, grass and shrubs but no one can use it since it's a tiny little space with one or two benches to sit on. Why is that?

Sincerely,

Dwight Schrag

Downtown Ashwood Neighborhood