

## CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Bellevue Botanical Garden Society Co-President Cleo Raulerson will present information about the Society's resilience and innovations that led to successes despite challenges resulting from the pandemic.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, 452-5377

Nancy Kartes, Bellevue Botanical Garden Manager, 452-2749

*Parks & Community Services*

## DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

### INFORMATION ONLY

The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society's innovations and resilience in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have led to strong community support and engagement. The Society will share how its staff and volunteers quickly learned to provide high-quality virtual programs and events to engage the community while achieving its mission, and how that led to an increase in membership and donations. The City's partnership with the Society helps ensure that the Garden will continue to thrive as a treasured community resource.

## RECOMMENDATION

N/A

## BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

### **Bellevue Botanical Garden Society**

The Society was founded in 1984 to support the City's efforts to create the Bellevue Botanical Garden. The 1,600-member Society is governed by a volunteer board of directors. Its mission is to perpetuate and further enhance the Garden as a learning resource in partnership with the City of Bellevue.

### **Bellevue Botanical Garden Governance**

The Garden was created in partnership and has operated in the partnership model without interruption since its inception. All major operational and development decisions at the Garden are determined by the Coordinating Committee, with representation from the City and the Society.

### **Bellevue Botanical Garden Partners**

Multiple community organizations partner with the City to support the Garden. While they each contribute in a unique way, their missions align with the Garden's mission, development, and living collections care. These organizations include:

- East Lake Washington District of Garden Clubs
- Eastside Fuchsia Society
- Hardy Fern Foundation
- Master Gardeners of King County
- North American Rock Garden Society

- Northwest Perennial Alliance
- Puget Sound Dahlia Association
- Washington Native Plant Society

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

There is no policy impact, this is an informational briefing only.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this update.

## **OPTIONS**

N/A

## **ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

N/A

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A