



Choices Plan Access to Bellevue Facilities, Parks and Programs

**Parks & Community Services
Park Board February 9, 2021**

History

- 1970's City of Bellevue began providing adaptive recreation activities for individuals with disabilities
- 1980's Highland Community Center
- 1990's Adaptive programs at Highland and other City facilities
- 2000's Inclusion services in addition to adaptive programs

Choices Plan

- ❖ Break down barriers for participation (inclusion)
- ❖ Access to parks, facilities, playgrounds
- ❖ Increase staff awareness and knowledge

Choices for People With Disabilities



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

How was the plan developed?

◆ Information Gathering

- User groups
- Service providers
- Best practices - plans of other organizations
- Legal requirements (specifically ADA requirements)

Who is the plan for?

- ❖ Individuals with disabilities
- ❖ Parents/Guardians
- ❖ Community recreation providers
- ❖ Recreation professionals
- ❖ Elected officials/boards and commissions



Goals for our Department

1. Ensure people with disabilities have access to facilities, city parks and programs.

- ❖ Develop and maintain accessible, barrier-free facilities, parks, and programs.
- ❖ Facilitate the growth of a continuum of recreation opportunities, programs, and services for residents with disabilities.
- ❖ Make information available indicating accessible parks, programs, and services.

Goals

2. Expand recreation opportunities

- ❖ Ensure reasonable modifications are provided that support inclusion at facilities and in programs.
- ❖ Develop inclusion opportunities at other recreation sites.
- ❖ Provide information and referral to other providers.
- ❖ Develop skill-based programs.
- ❖ Expand locations for adaptive recreation classes and programs

Goals

3.Improve Parks & Community Services' staff knowledge and awareness toward serving residents with disabilities.

- ❖ Improve staff qualifications and training opportunities regarding inclusion, adaptive recreation, and knowledge of persons with disabilities.
- ❖ Work with the ADA administrator to develop and implement training opportunities for all paid staff, volunteer staff, and contractors who focus on the following areas:
 - ❖ Disability awareness
 - ❖ Barriers to accessibility
 - ❖ Assessing participant needs/providing reasonable modifications
 - ❖ Benefits of inclusion
 - ❖ Purpose of adaptive recreation programs
 - ❖ Provide training as requested for outside organizations including YMCA and Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue.

Goals

4. Develop and implement strategies that expand awareness and knowledge of program and service opportunities for residents with disabilities

- ❖ Develop an outreach plan that focuses on connecting to our diverse community and invites citizens with disabilities to participate in all Bellevue Parks & Community Services Department services, facilities, and programs.
- ❖ Establish and support current and future partnerships and collaborations with area agencies and organizations to ensure a continuum of programming for persons with disabilities.
- ❖ Maintain the City of Bellevue's adaptive recreation web page providing resources concerning disabilities.

Goals

5. Expand programming to better serve individuals with a variety of disabilities

- ❖ Provide recreation programs for targeted disability groups who are currently not being served
- ❖ Build community connections using social media, resource fairs, focus groups, and community events.

Adaptive Recreation

- ❖ Builds skills needed to transition to an inclusive program
- ❖ Allows an individual to participate in an activity with others of similar ability
- ❖ Provides an introductory choice for learning new recreation activities

Adaptive Recreation Participation



COB Adaptive Recreation Sites:

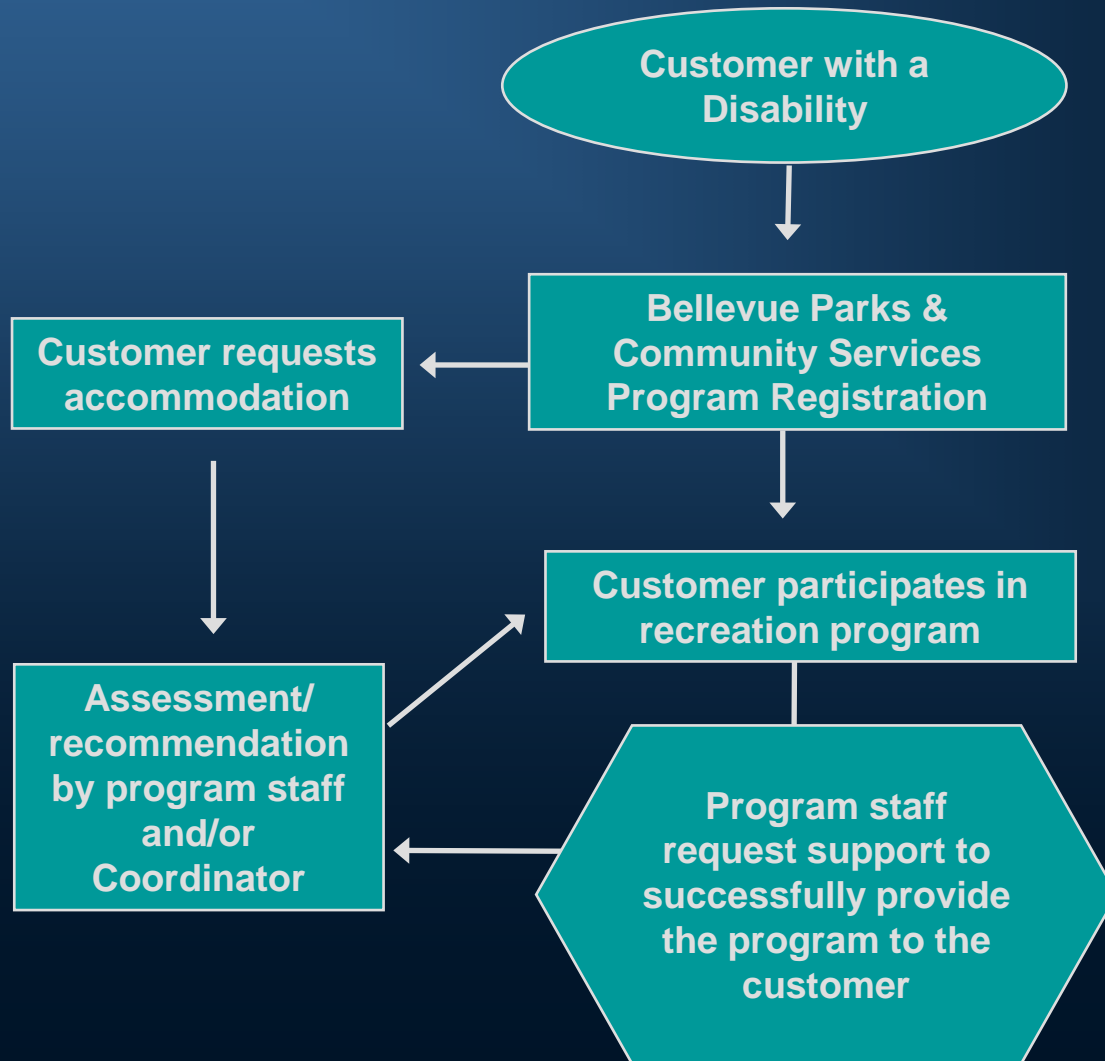
- Highland Community Center
- Northwest Arts Center
- Tennis Center
- Aquatic Center
- BYT



Inclusion

- ❖ Provides the greatest choice of recreation activities and experiences
- ❖ Supports full and active participation of individuals with disabilities in the same community activities as individuals without disabilities
- ❖ Develops community support and encourages attitudinal changes to reflect the right of all people to dignity, self respect, and community involvement

Inclusion Process for City of Bellevue Registered Programs



Modification Examples

Parent Education
Instructor/Staff Training
Program Modifications
Equipment Adaptations
Mobility Assistance
Modeling
Medication Assistance
Supervision

Additional Resources

- ❖ Disability Awareness
- ❖ Disability movement
- ❖ ADA definitions
- ❖ Service Animals
- ❖ Support Groups
- ❖ Organizations

Questions ?