

From: [VERNON SCHRAG](#)
To: [Zahn, Janice](#); [Parker, Camron](#); [Harvey, Nancy](#); [parkboard](#)
Subject: ASHWOOD PARKS BOARD COMMENTS 3-30-2021 MEETING Fwd: RE: FYI RE: AMBASSADORS FOR TREES IN BELLEVUE
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 10:43:50 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Ashwood Park - 2018 Parks Board Rvw.pdf](#)

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Dear Councilmember Zahn & Parks Board leaders:

Attached Photos (2) of Ashwood Parking Lot development, compared to Park itself, clarifies concerns about priorities and funding for making Ashwood accessible and useable by the Public.

When can we start discussing this Ashwood matter in an attempt to get it done?

Lush Parking Lot! Pathetic Park Grounds! You get the point. Let's move this up in priority to finish Bellevue's ancient, outdated Ashwood Park Master Plan.

And a Question for you: Why was shrubbery planted in Ashwood's Parking Lot in 2017 all torn out and removed in 2021? Take a look for yourselves. What's going on?

Fiscal responsibility or wasting taxpayer \$\$\$? **Ask the Parks Board please.**

Whatever came of Bellevue's "Keep Ashwood Park Green" citizen requests??

Who's in charge at Parks Department? Thanks.

Vernon Dwight Schrag

Downtown Bellevue Resident

Ashwood Park Neighborhood

On 03/06/2021 11:06 AM VERNON SCHRAG <dwights30@comcast.net> wrote:

Dear Councilmember Zahn:

Inputs to the Parks Board and yourself for consideration 3-9-2021. Thank you.

Contrary to what Rachel Wells (Community Development) suggests, our neighborhood residents has been openly and often requesting action for over 8 years now. Every Councilmember was included in discussions.

.... Nothing happens.

Serious consideration should be given to improve Ashwood accessibility, health and safety in our most dense and growing Downtown neighborhood. Senior citizens have virtually no access to Ashwood Park.

No other Parks in Bellevue have this same problem. None.

Place at Top Priority please.

Sincerely, Vernon Dwight Schrag

Ashwood Park Neighborhood

----- Original Message -----

From: VERNON SCHRAG <dwights30@comcast.net>

To: cameron parker <cparker@bellevuewa.gov>,

"parkboard@bellevuewa.gov" <parkboard@bellevuewa.gov>

Date: 03/06/2021 9:28 AM

Subject: PARKS BOARD COMMENTS 3-9-2021 MEETING Fwd:

RE: FYI RE: AMBASSADORS FOR TREES IN BELLEVUE

Dear Parks Board Members & Councilmember liaison: Good morning!

See message from Rachel Wells below. Yet again we get MORE excuses about ASHWOOD PARK delays for completing essential Master Plan update, over 25 years old/ancient history and inadequate for moving forward. Delays have major-ongoing impacts for Livability in our rapidly growing Downtown core; and inability for dense residential population use.

1. Lack of access by elderly and handicapped people living nearby in 5 different retirement centers.
2. No sidewalks or walking trails for exercise by the community.
3. No restrooms for park users.
4. No benches for seating by park users.
5. No play areas for children to enjoy the park.
6. No trees for simple shade in heaviest summertime use.
7. Not SAFE for access by the typical residential or visitor use.
8. Poor drainage, bacterial growth in sump areas; and health risks.

You get the point. It seems irresponsible and wrongful to keep delaying this vitally important work in such a dense residential community. Let's get it done.

Thank you. Vernon Dwight Schrag
Downtown Bellevue resident

----- Original Message -----

From: "Wells, Rachel" <RWells@bellevuewa.gov>

To: VERNON SCHRAG <dwights30@comcast.net>

Cc: "Parker, Camron" <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>

Date: 02/05/2021 12:01 PM

Subject: RE: FYI RE: AMBASSADORS FOR TREES
IN BELLEVUE

Hello Mr. Schrag,

My response was intended to give you an overview on the questions you asked. If you are interested in learning more about how projects, city departments, internal city processes work, and budgets are managed, we offer a program called Bellevue Essentials that takes an in-depth

look at those subjects: <https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/neighborhoods/classes-and-events/bellevue-essentials>

As we have said, the City Manager's Office has put this project on hold due to vacant positions and the city budget. Budget cuts were significant this year and can be reviewed [here](#). The yearly budget determines how much funding Parks gets and thus, how many projects can be done in a year. If you would like to advocate for this project, you and other concerned residents should voice your opinion during the next budget comment period or other project prioritization outreach efforts.

There are many parks in Bellevue that need that same upgrades you mentioned that Ashwood Park does. Updating all of these Parks' spaces will take time. We appreciate your passion for this park and also hope this project can move forward.

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>

Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:27 AM
To: Wells, Rachel <RWells@bellevuewa.gov>
Cc: Parker, Camron <CParker@bellevuewa.gov>; parkboard <parkboard@bellevuewa.gov>
Subject: FYI RE: AMBASSADORS FOR TREES IN BELLEVUE

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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

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
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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