

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: September 14, 2021

TO: Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Ryan Walker, Senior Planner
Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: Parks & Open Space System Plan Update 2022
For information and discussion – no Board action required

The Parks & Open Space System Plan is one of the long-range policy planning documents for the Parks & Community Services Department. The current plan was last updated in 2016 and is on a six-year schedule for renewal and adoption by the City Council. The POSSP guides staff and the Board when making recommendations to the City Council on the acquisition, development and management of parks and open space citywide. It is also a foundational tool in developing the department's Capital Investment Program, used by the City during budget processes to set priorities for projects that preserve, enhance, or expand Bellevue's park and open space system.

At the July 2021 meeting, the Board heard context on the purpose and content for the plan as well as the project timeline. The meeting also featured discussion related to trends in community demographics, level-of-service, and the vision and objectives established for the parks and open space system in other strategic planning documents. During the discussion, the Board provided insight on important elements to consider during the plan update including equity in access and availability of parkland, partnerships that will help expand opportunities, challenges in providing park facilities in urban locations, and continuing to build on walkability and trail linkages throughout the city.

Discussion will continue at the September Board meeting as a public hearing is part of the agenda. The meeting will include (1) a brief presentation to provide plan background and public engagement updates, (2) the public hearing (Attachment 1), (3) an overview of related planning and policy in Bellevue, and (4) an opportunity for the Board to discuss and provide feedback.

The 2016 plan along with additional information of the POSSP update is available online at: <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/park-plan.htm> If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact me at (425) 452-4280 or rwalker@bellevuewa.gov.