

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: October 12, 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 and Community Services Board is in the process of updating the Parks & Open Space System Plan, which 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.

At the September 2021 meeting, the Board received an update on the Parks Plan outreach and process and heard from park users as part of the public hearing. Some of the topics mentioned as part of the public hearing were requests to consider additional pickleball facilities, cricket fields, land acquisition near Coal Creek, non-motorized watercraft storage options, and the need for aquatic facilities. The Board followed with discussion of the public hearing considerations as well as feedback on what is working in the parks and open system and opportunities for improvement. Common discussion elements included:

- Interest in further analysis of sports that may see an increase in users, such as pickleball and cricket, including conversion of underutilized facilities and pilot programs.
- Continued pursuit of expanded facilities for dogs, including off-leash areas.
- Consideration of system impacts of demographics and density trends at the city and neighborhood scales.
- Providing clarity in the plan regarding areas that are lacking parks, such as Factoria.
- Looking at mass transit options and how that impacts parks access options.
- Ensuring that consideration is given to those that we aren't hearing from during outreach.

The bulk of our October meeting will include a retreat-style discussion with emphasis on (a) areas of interest for acquisition or development based on demographics, growth trends, and other factors; (b) capital project objectives, including what has changed and what may be added; and (c) new opportunities since 2016 related to funding, policy, partnerships, or other factors. The objectives are to allow the Board to give additional feedback on the plan update and prepare for draft recommendations to be presented in November. In anticipation of our discussion, attached is the Capital Project Objectives chapter from the 2016 Parks Plan (Attachment 1), as well as the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan Element (Attachment 2) for reference.

The 2016 plan along with additional information on the Parks Plan update is available online at: <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/park-plan.htm>. Included on this page is a link to the Engaging Bellevue platform that offers additional outreach opportunities related to the Parks Plan, including the park user survey. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact me at (425) 452-4280 or rwalker@bellevuewa.gov.