

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: October 12, 2021

To: Janice Zahn, City Councilmember, Parks & Community Services Board Liaison
and Bellevue City Council members

From: David Hamilton, Chair
Parks & Community Services Board

RE: Third Quarter 2021 Report and Communication

The Parks & Community Services Board is pleased to report on its work during the third quarter of 2021.

The board initiated the update of the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan at its July meeting. This will be an active part of the board's work plan for the remainder of the year. The plan outlines long-term needs in the parks and open space system with a variety of capital project objectives. In future months, the board will update these objectives based on capital projects completed to date, City Council direction as derived from the Council Vision priorities, ongoing public engagement and feedback, and other recently updated city planning documents, such as the Environmental Stewardship Initiative.

To begin the update process, the board reviewed the content of the 2016 plan and studied current demographic, environmental health, and level of service data. These data are available in a series of maps specific to each neighborhood area. Several priority areas were identified during the initial scoping discussion. These include the increasingly challenging goal of providing parks and open space for Bellevue within existing and emerging high-density urban neighborhoods. The board also stressed the importance of incorporating the department's Equity Statement, as expressed in the Parks & Community Services 2020 Strategic Plan.

Work on the Parks & Open Space System Plan continued in September, when the board hosted a public hearing to elicit public feedback on future capital project objectives. Initial feedback from the public supported provision of new or repurposed courts for pickleball play, continued acquisition of park and open space land in Coal Creek, kayak storage facilities, expanding the trail system and preserving tree canopy. In addition to the public hearing, two board members attended a meeting of the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association where the plan update was discussed. Key messages from that event included support for maintaining and enhancing parks and trail connections and ensuring that facilities are accessible for disabled residents. Additional broad engagement with Bellevue residents and park users will continue for the remainder of the year.

The board also reviewed the second round of naming options for the neighborhood park to be constructed in 2022 in the Newport Hills neighborhood. The results of the last public outreach effort were shared, and the board unanimously agreed to recommend the name option with the highest level of support from the most recent neighborhood survey. More detail on the second recommendation will be transmitted to the City Council later this fall. More naming processes are expected in the near future, and the board's discussions of the subject over the past two quarters point to a need for reevaluation of the city's park naming policy and practice.

If you have any questions about the board's work, please contact me anytime at dhamilton@bellevuewa.gov.