



# Bellevue Planning Commission

October 13, 2021

## PLANNING COMMISSION STUDY SESSION ITEM

### **SUBJECT**

Study Session and informational briefing on Parks & Open Space System Plan (Parks Plan).

### **STAFF CONTACT(S)**

Ryan Walker, Senior Planner, 452-4280

*Parks and Community Services Department*

### **POLICY ISSUES**

Parks & Community Services is updating one of its long-range policy planning documents, the Parks & Open Space System Plan (Parks Plan). The Parks Plan provides policy and guidance 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. The Parks Plan is one of the documents that implements the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space element of the Comprehensive Plan. The current Parks Plan was adopted in 2016 and is on a six-year schedule for renewal and adoption by the City Council.

### **DIRECTION NEEDED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

#### **ACTION**

☐

#### **DIRECTION**

☐

#### **INFORMATION ONLY**

☒

The input of the Planning Commission will be helpful in determining what changes we need to make to the plan to keep it future-focused and relevant considering the changing needs of the community today. It's also an opportunity to align the Parks Plan with existing policy, including the Comprehensive Plan. As evidenced in the Comprehensive Plan Vision and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element, the idea of Bellevue as a 'City in a Park' remains a strongly held community value. Beyond that, the parks and open space system plays an important role in achieving many Comprehensive Plan goals in other Elements including Transportation (trails), Environment (tree canopy and streams), Urban Design (place making), Neighborhoods (gathering spaces), Human Services (non-profit provider facilities), Economic Development (quality of life factors) and many others.

At the Planning Commission meeting staff will briefly introduce the Parks Plan and offer an opportunity for discussion. In addition to questions of your own, please consider the following:

- Personally, how do you use the park, trail, and open space system today? What type of recreation facilities and features would you like to see more of in the future?
- In general terms, how can the Parks & Open Space System Plan support the work and goals of the Planning Commission and the Comprehensive Plan?

The Parks Plan is prepared by the Parks and Community Services Department and ultimately recommended to City Council by the Parks and Community Services Board. Feedback from boards and commissions is for informational purposes only; however, it is critical in ensuring that policy aligns

across city documents and that we hear from a diversity of voices throughout the process. Input is also received from park users that live, work, and play in the city, as well as from many other stakeholder groups. Community feedback, in combination with community profile trends, level-of-service goals (namely walkable access), and other factors, inform the development of capital project objectives. These objectives are then used in development of the department's CIP.

Additional information, including the 2016 Parks Plan, and opportunities to engage further in the update process can be found at the following web page [www.bellevuewa.gov/park-plan.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/park-plan.htm). One opportunity to engage is a forthcoming survey that will be open to all Bellevue park users.

Planning Commissioners are encouraged to share your thoughts through the survey and also contact staff with any questions or thoughts directly at [rwalker@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:rwalker@bellevuewa.gov) or (425) 452-4280.