

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: November 9, 2021

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Pam Fehrman, Planning & Development Manager
Ken Kroeger, Project Manager
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Aquatic Center Feasibility Study Update
For information and discussion – no action required

SUMMARY

At your meeting on November 9th, we will provide a summary of the Recommended Concept Plans, preferred site and provide an opportunity for Park Board questions and discussion.

BACKGROUND

On Monday, October 18, the City Council reviewed and provided direction on the Aquatic Center Feasibility Study Update and directed next incremental steps towards evaluating the potential development of a new aquatic facility in Bellevue. Links to the Council's video of the discussion, agenda items, presentation, and a summary of the key points of discussion were forwarded to the board and remain available on the City's website.

The Council approved the continued working relationship with *SplashForward* (SF), noting that public-private partnerships are critical to the future success of the Aquatic Center project. The Council directed Parks to develop a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SF to memorialize the partnership. The MOU will establish pathways to assess fundraising potential and support the City's future efforts securing public funds for the construction of the new facility. SF is committed to conducting a fundraising effort, with the initial efforts to be focused on a fundraising feasibility report and marketing & fundraising plan.

The Council unanimously endorsed the *Recommended Concept Plan* for a 130,000 sq ft facility. Key program elements include a 50-meter pool with movable bulkheads, separate deep-water tank, therapy/wellness pool, a lesson/program pool, and leisure pool amenities. Dry side spaces are included to support both the aquatic programming and community use including, but not limited to: fitness spaces, community use rooms, lockers, lobby, spectator seating; storage, concessions, staff offices, maintenance space, and other flexible use spaces.

Bellevue Airfield Park was identified as the preferred site, as it has the space needed to accommodate a comprehensive aquatics facility (10 – 11 acres). A site on the Bellevue College campus had been considered, but after further discussions with the College, that site is no longer a viable option.

NEXT STEPS

Work is underway on a fundraising agreement with Splash*Forward*. As the preferred site, Bellevue Airfield Park will need to be re-master planned. The existing 2012 Council adopted Master Plan (Attachment 1) does not include an aquatic facility. Initial master plan work will begin with architectural and engineering contracting to support public outreach, design, and environmental permitting. Staff looks forward to working with the community and Park Board to update the Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan and associated environmental permitting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan