

City of Bellevue - Budget One 2013-2019 CIP Plan Proposal

Section 1: Proposal Descriptors

<p>Proposal Title: P-AD-89 Nature Trail Expansion (Levy)</p> <p>Outcome: Healthy and Sustainable Environment</p> <p>Primary Department: Parks & Community Services</p> <p>List Parent/Dependent Proposals: None</p> <p>Previous Proposal Number(s): 100.61NN</p>	<p>Proposal Number: 100.61NA</p> <p>Proposal Type: Existing Service</p> <p>Proposal Status: Funded</p> <p>Attachments: Yes</p> <p>Primary Staff Contact: Glenn Kost</p> <p>Version Tracking: N/A</p>
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Section 2: Executive Summary

This proposal funds new trails and amenities for increased recreation opportunities in Bellevue's Parks and Open Space system. The program will plan, design, permit and build trails and trail linkages in the Lake Hills Greenbelt, Lewis Creek open space system, and Coal Creek Natural Area to connect Bellevue's parks to regional trails and facilities. Access to a well-planned and managed trail system provides a nature experience to help build an urban environment that supports personal health and well-being. This project is funded by the 2008 voter-approved Parks and Natural Areas Levy.

Section 3: Requested Resources

Capital Improvement Project Plan
Fund: 03680 General CIP Fund

CIP Plan Number: P-AD-89 - Parks Levy - Trails and Natural Area								
Expenditure								
	Spending Thru 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Costs	\$1,579,580	\$600,000	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2013-2019 Total	\$1,000,000							
CIP M&O		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supporting Revenue								
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
		\$600,000	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Section 4: Budget Proposal Description

This proposal seeks \$1 million to plan, design, permit and construct trails and trail amenities in several of Bellevue's natural areas, including the Lake Hills Greenbelt, Lewis Creek and Coal Creek Natural Areas. Elements include soft-surface trails, trail connections, bridges, signage, interpretive markers and trailhead facilities. A significant project will be the construction of a key trail linkage under Coal Creek Parkway in conjunction with a major Utilities Department project that will create a continuous, five-mile long, grade-separated trail throughout the length of the Coal Creek Natural Area. Trails will be developed using Best Management Practices including environmentally sensitive trail layout, design and low impact construction techniques.

Nature trails are becoming an increasingly important element of Bellevue's park and open space system. The public has identified trails as a top priority in recent citizen surveys, and heavy use of newly-built walking and jogging paths is evidence of the need for continuing to fill gaps in the trail

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network. According to a recent Washington State Recreation and Conservation (RCO) Survey, the most popular outdoor recreation activities in Washington are walking/hiking, team/individual sports, nature activity, picnicking and playground recreation. A survey conducted for Bellevue's 2010 Park & Open Space System Plan Update yielded similar results, with the top three priorities for recreational development being nature trails, waterfront access and picnic areas. The preservation of open space and development of nature trails was a key element in the voter-approved 2008 Parks & Natural Areas Levy.

Section 5: Responsiveness to Request for Results

A. Factors/Purchasing strategies addressed by this proposal - for the PRIMARY outcome:

Protecting and conserving a healthy natural environment is a deeply held value for Bellevue as a community. In a survey taken for the 2010 Parks & Open Space System Plan Update, 76% of Bellevue residents said the City should improve the health and ecological function of its natural areas, 74% reported using trails, wetlands and natural areas at least twice in the past year and 72% reported that they use parks "to enjoy nature and open space." The community values natural experiences, and values a community that protects the environment and provides experiences for citizens to enjoy nature. Developing trails in natural areas responds to these values, as they allow people to experience nature, which helps promote healthy behaviors and encourages personal responsibility for one's own physical and mental well-being. Providing access to the natural environment enables citizens to appreciate first-hand its aesthetic values and the wildlife that it supports.

Trails developed using Best Management Practices will reduce access to social paths that cause erosion and stream sedimentation, and contribute to degraded water quality.

B. Citywide Purchasing Strategies and Factors/Purchasing strategies addressed by this proposal - for the OTHER outcome(s):

Quality Neighborhoods: the provision of nature trails and trail connections helps to create a sense of community, preserves and enhances neighborhood character, provides safe gathering places and encourages the neighborhood's use of outdoor spaces. Well-linked trails provide convenient access to neighborhood schools, parks and businesses.

Innovative, Vibrant & Caring Communities: Nature trails offer increased opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors. They encourage access to outdoor spaces for people to gather, interact, and recreate; and respond to the needs of the growing population and diminishing natural areas in the community.

Improved Mobility. A well-planned and well-linked trail system increases community mobility, provides convenient access to destinations and offers alternative travel options.

C. Partnerships and Collaboration proposed:

A collaboration with the Transportation and Utilities Departments has facilitated the planning and future development of the critical trail link under Coal Creek Parkway.

D. Activities in this proposal that support the work of other proposals, or save costs that would otherwise have to be expended:

Volunteer labor, including the use of the City's Well-KEPT program, will reduce the cost of trail development. The City has a history of working with volunteer groups, including Jubilee Reach, the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Coalition, Eagle Scout Troops and others to develop trails throughout the community.