

BELVED *corridor project*

Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Selected Excerpts Related to Sustainability

Comprehensive Plan Introduction

DISCUSSION

Challenges for Tomorrow

Maintaining a quality, sustainable urban environment [is one of the] critical community challenges which this Comprehensive Plan should address as Bellevue continues to evolve over the next twenty years.

Bellevue's strong commitment to environmental stewardship will be tested as the city absorbs more growth impacts. The challenge is to maintain the balance between growth and environmental protection, while dealing with such external developments as recent changes in environmental regulations.

Achieving Mobility Through Reduced Dependence on Single-Occupant Vehicles

...High Capacity Transit, whether dedicated busway or light rail, also provides a major opportunity for increased mobility. The challenge will be to ensure these investments are accomplished in a way that maximizes their contribution to mobility and to the city's land use vision.)

Meeting the Challenges for Tomorrow – Bellevue 2025

Ideal future assuming the goals and policies of the Comp Plan are successfully realized

A dedicated steward of environmental quality, where key natural features are preserved and restored

Bellevue takes the lead in promoting a quality, sustainable urban environment.

Growth is occurring without harm to environmentally sensitive land and water resources. Many wetlands, riparian corridors and shorelines are protected in their natural state; others are being restored....more salmon are found in local creeks and streams...The urban forest is recovering, and in many parts of Bellevue the tree canopy is increasing. These gains have been achieved through a combination of city programs, incentives, education, and regulations.

The Eastside's transportation hub, offering an array of mobility choices

The city's transportation system is based on moving people and goods rather than moving cars. Auto dependency has been reduced by convenient and workable alternatives, including connections to the High Capacity Transit system...



Environmental Element

GOALS

To integrate the natural and developed environments to create a sustainable urban habitat with clean air and water, habitat for fish and wildlife, and comfortable and secure places for people to live and work.

To promote a sustainable urban environment by weighing environmental concerns in all decision-making processes.

To provide fish and wildlife habitat of sufficient diversity and abundance to sustain existing indigenous wildlife populations.

To meet federal, state, regional, and local air quality standards through coordinated, long-term strategies that address the many contributors to air pollution.

DISCUSSION

[Concept of sustainability]...the city seeks a healthy, sustainable urban environment, one in which the community meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Three-pronged strategy: Through regulations, programs and incentives, the city encourages the preservation, restoration, and improvement of the natural environment. **This three-pronged strategy is the foundation of Bellevue's approach to environmental stewardship.** Over time, this strategy is expected to produce incremental and cumulative improvements...and promote sustainable ecosystems to the extent practical within urban constraints....

POLICIES

EN-1. Consider the immediate and long-range environmental impacts of policy and regulatory decisions....

EN-4. Encourage the **wise use of renewable natural resources** and **conserve nonrenewable** natural resources.

EN-7. Promote growth management strategies that protect air, water, land, and energy resources consistent with Bellevue's role in the regional plan to contain an Urban Center.

EN-17. Establish land use regulations that **limit the amount of impervious surface** area in new development and redevelopment city-wide.

EN-23. Explore opportunities for **public acquisition and management of key critical areas**....

EN-27. Implement the citywide use of **low impact development** techniques and **green building practices**....

EN-32. Retain existing open surface water systems in a natural state and restore conditions that have become degraded.

EN-41. Preserve and maintain fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas and wetlands in a natural state and restore similar areas that have become degraded.

EN-63. Require and **provide incentives for the opening of piped stream segments** during redevelopment....**where cost of restoration is not disproportionate** to the community and environmental benefit.

Land Use Element

GOALS

To develop and maintain a land use pattern that:

- Protects natural systems and helps realize the vision of a “City in a Park”...
- Supports and is supported by a variety of mobility options ...
- Makes efficient use of urban land.

POLICIES

LU-1. Support a diverse community in an open and natural setting comprised of strong residential communities composed of stable neighborhoods with a variety of housing types and densities; a vibrant, robust Downtown which serves as an urban center; other employment and commercial areas; and distinctive community and neighborhood retail districts. **Implement land use strategies by balancing community and neighborhood values, the neighborhood’s quality of life, the natural environment, and the economy.**

LU-2. Support the state Growth Management Act by developing and implementing a land use vision that is consistent with the GMA goals, the regional Vision 2020, and the King County Countywide Planning Policies.

LU-13. Reduce the regional consumption of undeveloped land by facilitating redevelopment of existing developed land when appropriate.

LU-16. Promote a variety of techniques to preserve open space and key natural features, such as sensitive site planning, conservation easements, and open space taxation.

LU-18. Adopt and maintain policies, codes, and land use patterns that promote walking in order to increase public health.

Housing Element

POLICIES

POLICY HO-2. Promote quality, community-friendly multifamily development, through features such as enhanced open space and pedestrian connectivity.

Transportation Element

GOALS

To maintain and enhance mobility for residents and businesses through the creation and maintenance of a balanced system of transportation alternatives that:

- Provides a wide range of travel choices;
- Supports the land use vision of the city....
- Reduces the overall dependency on automobiles throughout the city.

POLICIES

TR-5. Work with other jurisdictions to achieve a **jobs/housing balance that makes it possible for people to live closer to where they work.**

TR-7. Locate new community facilities near major transit routes and in areas convenient to pedestrians and bicyclists.

TR-8. Incorporate transit-supportive and pedestrian-friendly design features in new development through the development review process.

TR-14. Require new development to incorporate physical features designed to promote use of alternatives to single-occupant vehicles....

TR-59. Provide regional leadership for Sound Transit Phase 2 planning efforts.

TR-70. Promote transit use and achieve land use objectives through transit system planning that includes consideration of:

1. Land uses that support transit, including mixed use and night-time activities;
2. Transit-oriented development opportunities with the private and public sectors;
3. A safe and accessible pedestrian environment, with restrictions on auto access;
4. Integrating multiple access modes, including buses, carpools and vanpools, bicycles and pedestrians;
5. Urban design and community character that support and facilitate transit use; and
6. Protecting nearby neighborhoods from undesirable impacts.

TR-75. Strengthen Bellevue's role as the Eastside urban center through provision of high levels of HCT service.

TR-94. Support multi-modal transportation solutions...

Parks, Open Space and Recreation Element

GOALS

To obtain land for park use that provides open space and facilities to meet the short and long term needs of the community. ...

To protect and preserve open spaces that are ecologically significant sensitive areas; serve as buffers between uses and link open space; and provide trails, wildlife corridors, and greenways....

POLICIES

PA-1. Establish a coordinated and connected system of open space and greenways throughout the city....

PA-3. Obtain land throughout the community to meet present and future open space needs.

PA-6. Obtain, for preservation, natural areas that are sensitive to urbanization or represent a valuable natural and aesthetic resource to the community.

PA-13. Develop pedestrian and bicycle linkages between neighborhoods and major natural areas, recreation facilities, and education centers.

Utilities Element

POLICIES

UT-14. Promote the recycling of solid waste...

UT-22. Participate in regional watershed based efforts with the goals of achieving local watershed health and addressing Endangered Species Act issues....

UT-23. Manage the storm and surface water system in Bellevue to maintain a hydrologic balance in order to prevent property damage, protect water quality, provide for the safety and enjoyment of citizens, and preserve and enhance habitat and sensitive areas.

UT-29. Promote conservation and the wise and efficient use of the public water supply

Economic Development Element

GOALS

...Pursue a strong local economy consistent with a sustainable natural environment and a high quality of life...

POLICIES

ED-17. Recognize the economic development benefits of city and private sector investments in urban amenities like arts and culture, open space and recreational facilities, and high quality urban design. Strengthen the city's assets in these areas as an explicit component of the city's economic development strategy.