



The City of Bellevue Parks & Community Services Department manages over 2,500 acres of public land within the City of Bellevue. The mix of environments range from over 800 acres of developed parks including sports fields, beach parks, botanical gardens, formal landscaping and green space for unscheduled activities, to streetscapes, agricultural land, trail systems and natural areas and wetlands.

Our Mission is to contribute to a healthy community through an integrated system of exceptional parks, open spaces, recreational, cultural and human services. This mission is based on the Parks & Community Services Department's philosophy to:

- Protect and preserve environmentally sensitive natural areas;
- Provide connections for an integrated open space system;
- Enhance the City's visual character throughout the park system by perpetuating the "City in a Park" ideal;
- To acquire and develop park facilities to meet the present and future needs of the community, and
- To renovate or modify parks for optimum use of resources.

The goals of the Parks & Community Services Department are to ensure the safety of citizens, protect water quality, provide for recreation, preserve wildlife habitat, buffer land uses, improve landscape conditions, and protect our tax payers' investment in developed parks and facilities. All park designers, planners, managers, crews and contractors are required to:

- Use water efficiently;
- Implement the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM);
- Reduce and reuse landscape waste materials;
- Minimize negative impacts on aquatic environments and soil organisms;
- Design and renovate landscape areas to suit site conditions;
- Restore, create, and protect environmentally rich areas such as wetlands and riparian corridors, and aquatic, wildlife, forest and meadow habitats.

To this end, we have developed Environmental Best Management Practices & Design Standards that define decision-making criteria and explanation of maintenance practices for all elements of our park system. This includes cultural, manual and mechanical maintenance practices as well as an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that guides decisions for pest control.

In addition we have implemented an "Adaptive Management Water Quality Monitoring" program to ensure that our maintenance practices remain effective in protecting water quality. Independent scientists and laboratories are hired to test water at a number of sites in order to determine if our maintenance practices are effectively protecting water quality, and, if necessary, help us implement changes to achieve maximum effectiveness.

Our Best management Practices and information on our water quality monitoring program are available on-line at [http://bellevuewa.gov/Parks Env Best Mgmt Practices.htm](http://bellevuewa.gov/Parks_Env_Best_Mgmt_Practices.htm). If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Justin Wilkinson with our Resource Management Division at 425-452-6855.