City of Bellevue

Parks & Community Services Department

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 8, 2008

To: Bellevue City Council

From: Merle Keeney, Parks & Community Services Board Chair

Subject: Outreach Process and Recommendation for Potential Parks Voter Initiative

Background

Bellevue City Council asked the Parks & Community Services Board to conduct a public outreach process this fall to help determine community support for a potential parks voter initiative. As you know, Bellevue voters have approved seven parks ballot measures since the City was incorporated in 1953, with the most recent measure being the 1988 park bond. Unless a new ballot measure is approved by voters, city property taxes will not include voter-approved funding to expand the parks system for the first time in over 50 years.

Public Outreach

Based on Council direction, the Parks & Community Services Board conducted a community feedback process through the following activities:

1. Attended community gatherings, including the Robinswood Sportsfield Grand Opening (October 6), Kelsey Creek Farm Fair (October 13), and a Network on Aging meeting. Overall, board members discussed ideas for a potential voter initiative with over 200 individuals during these three events.
2. Conducted a Public Hearing at the November 7 Board meeting. Notice of the public hearing was published in the official City newspaper and all major partnership groups were notified of the opportunity to comment. Ultimately, thirteen individuals/ organizations participated: SPLASH, Bellevue Youth Theater Foundation, Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, Bellevue Senior Advisory Council, Bridle Trails Park Foundation, Surrey Downs Community Club, and representatives from several local sportsfield user groups.
3. A survey instrument/comment card was distributed at the various community gatherings and was available on the City's web site. The on-line survey was available for a two month period (October 16 to December 14, 2007), and was prominently located on the home page of the City website. The internet survey provided a valuable way to gather community input, with 332 individuals completing the on-line survey.

Combined, 558 surveys/comment cards were completed which are summarized in the attached report. While we are pleased with the overall response rate, it should be noted that this was not a random sample survey that can be interpreted to statistically represent the opinions of the entire community. Respondents were either intercepted at one of the community events or volunteered to complete the on-line survey. Despite these limitations, however, it should be noted that the results closely matched prior research findings for visitation rates (question 2), overall satisfaction (question 3), and funding preferences (question 4).

Key Findings:

- **Overall Support.** Residents support Bellevue Parks & Community Services, and recognize the value parks and programs contribute to the quality of life in Bellevue. Overall, 94% of residents rated the overall quality of parks as "good or better" and 93% indicated that they were "likely or very likely" to support additional tax measures for parks.
- **Need for Additional Investment.** Residents understood the need to continue investing in the park system and we did not hear opposition to additional voter-approved property tax measures. Overall, the concept of replacing the expiring 1988 park bond was very popular. Our approach did not specifically address overall fiscal tolerance or preferred funding mechanisms (ie. bond vs. levy), and we recommend staff and Council conduct additional research on these issues.
- **Priorities for Additional Funding.** The survey indicates the highest support for the following project areas: protect water quality in Bellevue's lakes and streams, preserve natural areas and open space, make sure new parks have same level of maintenance as existing parks, and complete existing parks. While development projects such as new neighborhood/community parks, sportsfield improvements, and indoor athletic facilities did not test as high, all project categories were considered "very or somewhat" important by the majority of residents. Again, it should be noted that these results are very consistent with prior research findings even though we did not conduct a statistically valid survey.
- **Citizen Comments**. The survey also provided an opportunity to provide open-ended comments on the future of the park system. While most comments related to general park acquisition and development, several themes emerged: the need for additional aquatic facilities, sportsfield improvements including all-weather surfaces, open space preservation and environmental stewardship, trails and mobility improvements, downtown park development, and indoor tennis courts. An unedited list of all survey comments is included in the attached report.

Recommendation

The Parks & Community Services Board recommends that City Council and staff continue to plan for a voter initiative in 2008. We understand that Council will discuss this issue early this year, including the key issues of project mix, funding mechanism, and election timing. We encourage City Council to make these important policy decisions as soon as practical so the City can continue the public information and outreach process. Several individuals encouraged the City to provide information to the community as early in the process as possible, and the Parks & Community Services Board is prepared to play an active role in support of this effort.

The Parks & Community Services Board also acknowledges that the list of potential acquisition and development projects significantly exceeds funding that could come from a voter initiative alone. Given the relatively short period of time before a fall election and the inherent difficulty obtaining majority or supermajority approval, the key challenge is to develop a package that can be supported by the broader community. We encourage Council to consider the information obtained through this public outreach process and any supplemental research findings when developing this final package.

Feel free to contact me or members of the board if you have additional questions about this report or our community outreach effort. The board is excited about the prospect of continuing the history of successful parks voter initiatives in Bellevue, and is ready to support Council throughout this process.

Attachment:

1. Topline Survey Results and Comments
2. November 7 Public Hearing Minutes

Attachment 1

Final Park Board Survey Results
Future Parks in Bellevue? Tell us what you think!
Dec-2007

1. Are you a Bellevue resident?

Yes	419	75.1%
No	139	24.9%
Total	558	100.0%

Survey Source:	Resident	%	Non-Res	%	Total	%
Internet	274	82.5%	58	17.5%	332	59.5%
Kelsey Farm Fair	115	59.9%	77	40.1%	192	34.4%
Robinswood Opening	21	91.3%	2	8.7%	23	4.1%
Network on Aging	9	81.8%	2	18.2%	11	2.0%
Total	419	75.1%	139	24.9%	558	100.0%

2. How often do you visit a Bellevue park or park facility?

	Resident	%	Non-Res	%	Total	%
Almost every day	87	20.8%	9	6.5%	96	17.2%
Several times a week	123	29.4%	28	20.1%	151	27.1%
Several times a month	153	36.5%	32	23.0%	185	33.2%
Several times a year	53	12.6%	60	43.2%	113	20.3%
Almost never/Never	3	0.7%	10	7.2%	13	2.3%
Total	419	100.0%	139	100.0%	558	100.0%

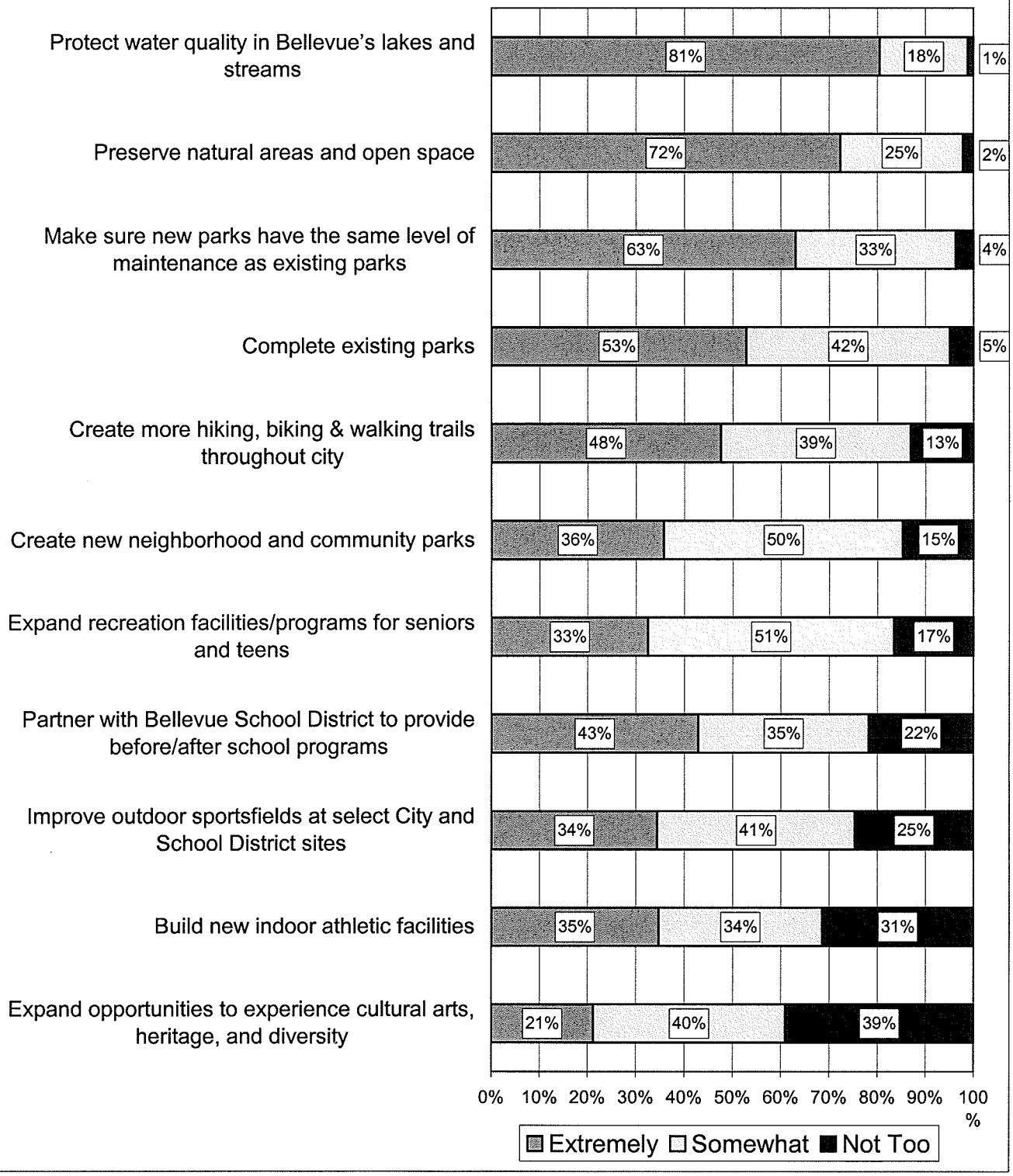
3. How do you rate the overall quality of parks in Bellevue?

	Resident	%	Non-Res	%	Total	%
Excellent	218	52.3%	62	44.6%	280	50.4%
Good	174	41.7%	75	54.0%	249	44.8%
Fair	24	5.8%	1	0.7%	25	4.5%
Poor	1	0.2%	1	0.7%	2	0.4%
Total	417	100.0%	139	100.0%	556	100.0%

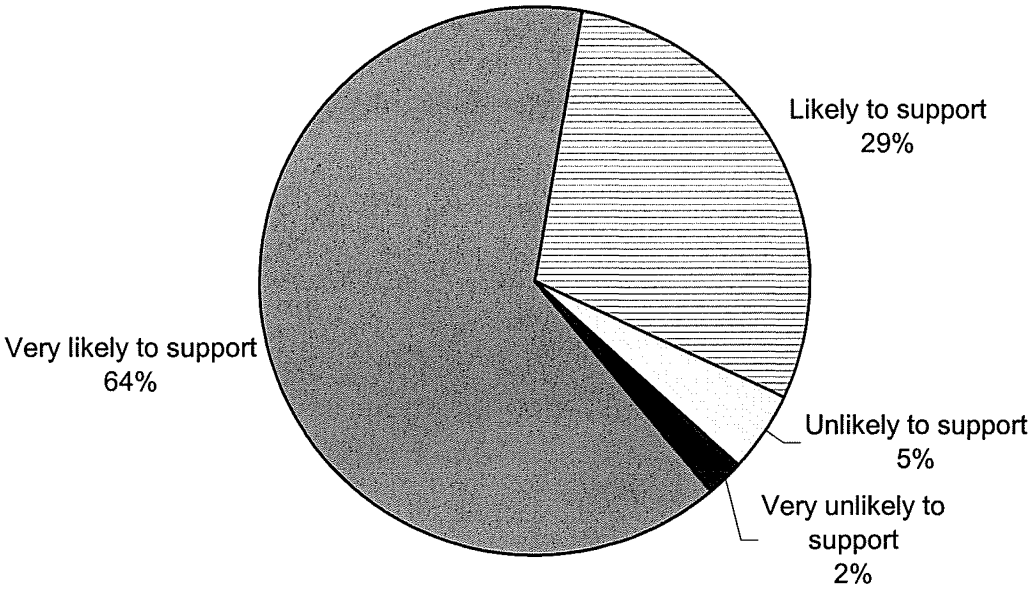
Q5. Would you be inclined to support a property tax measure for additional park acquisition and development?

	Resident	%	Non-Res	%	Total	%
Very likely to support	258	63.9%	54	45.0%	312	59.5%
Likely to support	118	29.2%	54	45.0%	172	32.8%
Unlikely to support	19	4.7%	5	4.2%	24	4.6%
Very unlikely to support	9	2.2%	7	5.8%	16	3.1%
Total	404	100.0%	120	100.0%	524	100.0%

Q4. If funding was available, what are your priorities for additional park improvements? (Residents Only N=416)



Q5. Would you be inclined to support a property tax measure for additional park acquisition and development?
Bellevue Residents Only N=404



Final Park Board Survey Results
Future Parks in Bellevue? Tell us what you think!
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#	Comment
1	further development of the Bellevue Botanical Garden
2	A city without great parks is a lake without water!
3	Always support parks
4	At a time when open space for recreation is decreasing and parental supervision a requirement (freaks & sexual predators) it's imperative families have park & recreation sites. Children can't just run outside to play with neighborhood kids in the vacant lots anymore. Play is now supervised. Without parks & open spaces kids will find other (unproductive/vandalous) wasy to vent their energies.
5	Bellevue is really growing and having more gathering spaces for the elderly, families and kids to enjoy outdoor spaces can only improve life for everyone as congestion occurs all around us.Also, having more indoor gym facilities and fields to use will be a tremendous asset for the community.
6	Bellevue parks are the best the Eastside.
7	Bellevue probably has the best municipal park system in the region. As one who works in Bellevue but does not live here, I hope the citizens give their unreserved support to this jewel in your crown.
8	Benches!
9	Continue the excellent program created by city of Bellevue.
10	Create public access to Lake Sammamish; create safe pedestrian/bicycle connections between existing parks, buid another pool for recreation etc.
11	Develop buildings/new facilities within "green" directions to give the public an example and change their minds.
12	do not develop parks in an artificial way - keep them natural, with trees and some grass open space
13	Dog Parks, Sidewalks and safe walkways to parks and city buildings
14	Drop in fees for classes would be really helpful
15	Eliminating parking for 1 weekend event is redicules. They are pubilc roads and parking should be treated as such. Just enforce parking laws and stop punishing good people for 20 neighbour. (parks)
16	Facilities where children can gather, whether for sports or other activities.
17	Great job keep it up.
18	I believe we have been doing well with our parks and we need to keep growing as community park needs grow. And to continue to maintain our parks at the level they have been maintained. We have many good programs at our various parks for our citizens. $50 per year would be a good level to aim at to retain our parks and programs
19	I don't vote in Bellevue
20	I have supported every Bond issue for Parks since I moved here over 40 years ago. Our parks are a key factor in the high quality of life that exists in Bellevue. Let's continue to care for what we have and add to the System on a regular basis.
21	I received the link to this survey from someone who asked that we "suggest that they build the tennis courts (and an indoor pool) at the existing play field/park on Lakemont Blvd. across from the fire station". I want to say that I DO NOT want this to happen as I feel it's important to have this large open space for residents to be creative in their activities... I love driving by and seeing people playing frisbee, tossing the football, families playing baseball, etc. There aren't enough areas that provide open grassy areas for these type of activities... please keep it open!

22	I would like to compliment Bellevue on their wonderful park system. Our out of town friends have always commented on the number of parks that are here.
23	I would like to see more playgrounds and more free presentations/programs/activities for kids in the parks.
24	If any park is run like Hayworth park is run, the enjoyment will be lost.
25	If the city partners with BSD in improving facilities then they must be available for public use during non-school hours, and not behind locked gates.
26	I'm always sorry to see the Kelsey Creek Beaver evicted. If we are serious about restoring streams why can't we find a place for the Beaver?
27	I'm not sure where this would fit in above, but the city needs another golf driving range in the south end. I would have indicated "extremely important" for whatever category that fell into above. And I would be very likely to support a propety tax if I new it was for a driving range.
28	Indoor play space $shelter
29	Keep everythin VERY GREEN lots of plants.keep nature around us we arent the only things that live Here!!!Thank YOU!!!
30	Keep up good work
31	Kelsey Creek is a treasure
32	Kelsey Creek is an awesome park.
33	Kesley Creek is the gem of Bellevue Parks Dept.
34	Kyak launch, outdoor pool
35	Lets keep Bellevue the "City in the park" I am very proud to live here in downtown.
36	Love the farm. Get more high school kid involvement in presentation.
37	More bathroomas at parks...people go in the trees at many parks because of lack of bathrooms--its just nasty.
38	More community gathering places would be nice
39	More fences around the children play areas. Kirkland has a few.
40	More open spaces for fields
41	More teen entertainment (nothing for 11-15yrs.)
42	Most city parks receive no significant use - additional or expanded parks would add nothing worthwhile. Organized athletics (schools, little league, etc) should provide their own facilities or share in the cost to the park department to build and provide facilities. The city's participation in art and cultural events should be limited to providing space in parks at no cost to the city. In other words get back to basics - Parks should provide safe, pleasant areas people can use for recreation or relaxation. Anything else caters to narrow interests and activities that should provide for themselves and not at city expense.
43	Need more fenced in & protected areas so kids are safe!
44	Officially adopt "city in a park" as Bellevue's statement of identity. Utilize a park bond to purchase and develop new properties for parks and open space. Fund park maintenance via city budget. In re: 4d, 4h, and 4k, I feel that schools have an equal responsibility to provide sports and teen facilities and programs. The city should enter into a long range master planning process with bellevue schools to provide policy, project needs, provide facilities and programming, and share expenses. I want an established policy and plan to direct all future city expenses in this matter.
45	On the items that I put "Not too important" or "somewhat important", I mean "not too important" or "somewhat important" to me...I'm not suggesting that I think they should not be considered.
46	Parking today was horrible - Neighborhood must be opened - Too bad for residents for a couple days
47	Partnerships with other organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Club at South Bellevue Community Center, are very valuable to the city and its residents.
48	Provide more parking for special events either at sites or at satellite places with shuttles.

49	Small,lightly wooded parks in residential areas are important assets to a community. They should be located on streets where all ages can safely walk,ride bikes,skateboard,etc.They should provide good visibility from all sides and amenities like swimming pools,sandboxes,tables and benches
50	Strong, positive PR and support if park bond is set for 2008. Don't let the bond fail!!!
51	Thank you for sharing great parks with local communities. We really like Kelsey and Wilburton Hill park.
52	The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue's Board publicly supported the prior Parks Bond initiative and would do so again. Parks and community spaces are more important to our growing community than ever!
53	The parks are an enormous part of what makes Bellevue special. Keep up the excellent work you do.
54	The parks are great
55	The present North Bellevue Community Center that is used almost exclusivelly by older adults is not adequate and its location is on the Redmond border. This was recognized in the last bond issue. With the change in demographics, we are seeing older adults moving to the city center. A new community center is needed that would attract our senior citizens in the city center. We have the example at the Northshore Senior Center in Bothell of the type of facility that will attract older adults. The new community center on the south end did not attract the seniors who were in the YMCA building.
56	This years fair isexcellent.
57	Today we found a loss child. When asked about a security/safety center not one of your staff could answer the question.
58	Underground parking, green roofs for park buildings, open natural streams
59	WE have wonderful play equipment for young children, six adn under, but little for older kids, 7-12. This age child needs interesting, challenging physical play, things to climb, things to swing on, things to lift and throw, places they can skate or skateboard, things that test and improve balance. And, with the outdoor weather being so bad lately, indoor play space for older kids activities is essential.
60	We love the park system
61	A dog park in the Eastgate area would be nice considering the loss along 160th of the Boeing field.
62	Allow an off-leash area in the space off 156th (the old Boeing landfill/air strip).
63	I would like to see a dog park built in Bellevue.
64	There are a LOT Of people in Bellevue with dogs, and Robinswood isn't a very clean or safe park. It would be great to see a designated area that rivals Marymoor for Bellevue residents.
65	Please place the completion of the downtown park high on your priority list. This park is the "jewel" of Bellevue and probably the most used.
66	Would like to see creation of small parks in the downtown area to provide space and lunch gathering places inbetween new towers within each of the superblocks.
67	Community center serving downtown
68	complete the down town park
69	Given the higher density in the downtown core, we really only have one park (downtown park) and it is becoming overtaxed. There is no point in going to a park if it is standing room only. We need more parks in the downtown core.
70	I find it interesting that the DIPCAC process, heavily attended by landowners and developers, did not identify or PROVIDE FOR the obvious need for new trails, open space, churches, community centers, utilities facilities, parks, etc., INSIDE the Downtown core, but now want to tax the residents for the accompanying needs of the thousands of new residents that will come from the increased zoning in the Downtown core. Try asking the developers (benefiting from the upzone) to pay more of the cost of providing these services....

71	I think the city should use the recent increases in tax revenue from business development downtown and high rises in home property values (ouch!!!) to fund parks and recreation activities and development. Use the taxes I'm already paying which have gone up a lot over the last 4 years.
72	Keep Surrey Park a neighborhood park. No big buildings or Boys and Girls Club.
73	Need community center downtown
74	Need park in surry downtown for kids
75	Please completely implement the Study Group plans for Meydenbauer--my neighborhood park. It is a fantastic opportunity to increase access to the water front for everyone that definitely should NOT be missed!
76	Preserve whatever green space remains in downtown Bellevue. Downtown Park does not realistically serve the the entire downtown area, and certainly not the northern end. With so much high density residential development going on in that area, there needs to be some consideration given to green space to serve these residences. The small very park by the library is not enough.
77	The beggest problem facing the new Bellevue park i\s increased boat traffic and no speed bouys in the area. Transit moorage will cause even more wake and noise and degrade the quiet nature of this residential neighborhood bay and serve no purpose for the Bellevue residents that pay for it.
78	The Bellevue park system is wonderful. I don't want additional tax levys to expand the already extensive system. Downtown park expansion (ie. waterfront access) should be paid by downtown expansion dollars - not residential neighborhoods.
79	The downtown park needs a stage w/amphitheatre for outdoor public assemblies. Some Bellevue parks should have facilities like the Seattle BathHouse buildings provide for hands on arts and craftsmanship work.
80	we need a community center downtown
81	You have let the developers take over, much too fast. Now that they've wrecked downtown, they are starting on Old Bellevue. The grand plans you have for the Meydenbaur thing is outrageous. It will bring even more traffic and more homeless people, and walkers who don't know where they ae going. The local condos and apartments are obviously in your way and that of the greedy developers.
82	As a member of a local historical society, I am always encouraged when the CoB makes an effort to preserve culture and heritage. Please continue to provide interpretive trails, such as those at Mercer Slough, which describe the historical significance of parklands. On a more personal note, I am anxious to reduce my "carbon footprint," and I support wholeheartedly the maintenance and creation of hiking, biking, and walking trails in the city.
83	Heritage should be addressed if every park reflecting the local neighborhood's history.
84	I would like to see the City work to designate the fantastic historic buildings at our parks (Kelsey Creek house, Sharp Cabin, Shorts House, Winters House, etc.) as landmarks.
85	More heritage interpretation would be great, more days for the fraiser cabin, more interpreation of heritage in downtown and waterfront area would be nice
86	Most Parks sites are historical areas that need to be interpreted (some already have interpretation). Some have historical buildings that need to continued to be preserved. The historical story or photos of the any new park site should be apart of the plan.
87	The parks system provides an opportunity to expand upon Bellevue's historic preservation and interpretation efforts, connecting the community to its past and providing an invaluable cultural resource.
88	1. Create ongoing volunteer program for residents living near parks (or anyone else) to watch parks, report violations/damage to parks, work on parks. 2. Enforce dog leash & scoop requirements
89	Focus on maintenance and preservation

90	I read that Bellevue currently has about 100 parks, so I think that park funds & efforts should go to maintaining, improving & protecting what the city currently has acquired. I think there are several city parks that have been ignored in the rush to acquire more property, specifically the Meydenbauer Bay park area. Why not do more with what the city has now such as at Chism Park & the old Meydenbauer Bay park instead of spending lots more money to acquire residential property & remove it from tax rolls.
91	Leave suggestion boxes at city parks for people can let you know about safety hazards or improvements that are needed or let you know what is great about the park.
92	Need to maintain existing parks before investing in new ones. Need to keep long term boat moorage at meydenbauer
93	Over the years Bellevue hascreated a wonderful system of trais and Parks. The Lake Hills greenbelt trail and Cha family produce stans are a wonderful spring and summer amenity. The Larsen Lake blueberry fields have been much improved since the Park Dept. has taken over maintenance from the private company that managed it several years ago. Great job! One thing I would like to see improved is the trailside kiosks that have had their posters removed. When will they be replaced? One other concern about maintenance appropriations I have is the lack of attention to preserving the equestrian overlay access trails to the Bridle Trails State park. About ten years ago you had some staff tiome dedicated to communication on this. It would seem that now would be an appropriat time to reopen community discussions on this point with the equestrian community. Open dialogue would go a long way toward accomplishing preservation of both the equestrian amenity and accomodating the community needs for other types of trails. I would be happy to participate in any such discussion. Jane Paige
94	Parks are extremely important and used frequently by my family and friends. However, some parks are not maintained properly, i.e. paving of tennis courts and portable toilets. Also, many parks that are highly used do not even have restroom facilities. Please consider these needs. Thank you.
95	Please continue to add restrooms to parks that only have portable toilets. Very impressed by the Robinswood soccer fields. Nice, nice job!
96	Please replace play ground equipment of Kelsey Creek park. They are too old and not enough for kids to play.
97	Upkeep is important
98	Volunteer clean up crews are great ideas.
99	We recently moved here from CA and feel the high quality of the parks is a big part of the high quality of family life here. One thing that would be nice is if more organic fertilizers and such could be used. The kids are running and playing on the grass and that's a lot of exposure to dangerous chemicals.
100	Year round open restrooms
101	Consider adjacent homes in park developments.
102	Cummisioner's waterway park (148th & Bel-Red) is basically useless. Cost money & maintain-we need new neighborhood park for that area of neighbors
103	Do not over develope existing or new neighborhood parks with things like restrooms, which are expensive to maintain. This is more appropriate for the larger community wide type parks.
104	Go to the Neighborhoods and develop support early and get residents to vision what an excellent Parks and Recreation District/Department can look like. Keep explaning the social,economic,communit benefits of investing in our Parks and Open Spaces. Conservation and Green best work practices need to be practices within our Parks and Natural Resourec Department too. Walk the Talk!!!
105	Neighborhood parks need to be maintained and not changed. People who live surrounding a park deserve to have the integrity of their homes and neighborhoods maintained.

106	Our Community (Horizon Heights) borders on Lattawood Park, one of the newer additions to the City's Park system. the park has had a very positive impact on the quality of life in the neighborhood.
107	Pocket parks are important, especelly in the high density areas
108	Two Parks plans (1993 and 2003) have identified Newport Hills as deficient in all parks metrics as efined by the city. Any park initiative must address our neighborhood and other underserved neighborhoods. If purchasing the property for Meydenbauer was so important, than the neighborhoods should be important too. Do not spend our money planning or developing that park until you have purchased propoerties in the underserved neighborhoods. Also the city should look into whether "private parks" at PUDs are appropriate. In our neighborhood this is occuring to "offset pressure" on the few parks we have. This is exclusionary. Some of these properties should have been purchased by the city, under eminent domain laws if necessary, to add to the park system. If they are allowed, they should not be visible to the excluded citizens. What is a parent to say to their child when they ask "can I play at that park?" An example of this can be found at 116th Ave and SE 64th Street.
109	Although a non-Bellevue resident, I volunteer hundreds of hours each year to the Bellevue Parks Department as well as pay non-resident fees for Parks Department services and programs. Presently, athletics, athletics facilities and athletics programs are well funded. A similar level of emphasis needs to be placed on arts programs and other programs that serve other members of the teen/youth community.
110	As a King County voter and a teacher in the Bellevue School District, I would especially like to see programs and facilities designed to support teenagers and their interests through after school and summer programs.
111	If funding is secured, it is most important to develop/improve parks, after school programs and indoor recreation in lower income areas than in middle and upper income areas.
112	Bellevue has a lot of beautiful parks already. However, as the only public tennis facility on the eastside, I would like to see additional courts built at Robinswood Tennis Center. In addition, the parking there is in dire need of improvement.
113	Consider funding for more indoor courts at Robinswood. There is a huge need!
114	I play tennis 3 - 4 times per week at the Robinswood Tennis Center. It appears to be used by young and old - and is always busy. It is one of few public indoor tennis centers in the area and runs wonderful programs for adults and kids. They need more indoor courts to better accomodate residents that want to enjoy tennis year round in an often rainy environment. thanks!
115	IF this would be a continuation of the present tax, I would definitely support. Parks are very important. Parking at Robinswood tennis facility is HORRIBLE. Please do something about this. Many tennis users have to park on the nearby streets. It would help if SUV drivers could learn how to park, but since that is unlikely and would not solve the problem anyway, please create more parking. The space is available, it just has to be opened so the tennis players can use it.
116	More indoor tennis courts at Robinswood facility, or another Bellevue location. Tennis is a sport that serves all age groups for kids to seniors.
117	Please consider building more indoor tennis courts at Robinswood Tennis Center. This is an outstanding facility with a top-notch coaching staff - so outstanding that the demand far exceeds what the facility can support. Building more courts will allow Robinswood to continue in excellence as a hightlight to the Bellevue Parks offerings for Bellevue residents as well as people from all over Seattle and the Eastside.
118	Put in indoor tennis courts at Lewis Creek Park. The closest indoor facility is way over at Robinswood. I think the Lakemont area would benefit from having indoor courts close by.

119	Recently discovering tennis lessons at your Robbinswood Tennis Center, I have been very happy with the quality of lessons, but dissapointed at the availability of courts for practice. I believe the Roibbinswood Tennis Center would better serve the new and veteran tennis players by providing more covered courts for play.
120	The indoor tennis facility at Robinswood is so highly used that we need to expand more indoor courts for players. It is so difficult to get indoor courts during the day in the Fall & Winter, it would be wonderful if Bellevue park plans to increase the number of indoor tennis courts for the residence,after all, this is the rainy Pacific Northwest. Thanks for considering.
121	The Robinswood Tennis Center classes are filled right away, often with wait lists or disappointed people who did not get a class spot. There is need for expansion of this facility or adding another tennis facility in Bellevue to accomodate the large numbers of residents of all ages who play tennis regularly. Adult tennis players in particular are under served, the availability of court time and classes does not come close to meeting the needs of Bellevue residents.
122	We need more indoor tennis courts!! Robinswood tennis center is bursting at the seems - demand for classes and teams is very high! More indoor public courts are desperately needed to keep up with the demand of this ever growing sport.
123	we use the indoor tennis facility at Robsinswood and demand seems very high so would it make sense to build another indoor tennis facility? Also, since you charge to use indoor tennis courts and there is income from lessons, etc.. that should offset the construction/maintenance expense.
124	Vuemont/Lakemont has a new baseball or soccer field (across from the fire station) but there appears to be plenty of room to add a new and much needed indoor tennis and swimming pool facility. Please consider this as it would alleviate the over-crowding at Robinswood.
125	1. I use paved and unpaved trails in the City of Bellevue daily for transportation (walking/biking) and recreation. These facilities should be connected where possible, as they encourage people to walk/bike/use the bus. 2. I support the acquisition and development of parks on Lake Sammamish. It's too bad so many opportunities here were lost long ago.
126	If the BNSF railway right-of-way is purchased by the County, please provide funding to complete a bike trail on it. It is a crucial link for commuters.
127	Increased Bike Trails: Please improve and create more bike trails using innovative approaches to make separate bike trails along the I-90 corridor from 405 to the Issaquah Highlands. Current trails are great in some places. In other places a bike commuter takes their life in their hands to commute in dangerous traffic. (It is so dangerous to cross 148th on a bike.) Any biker will come out much the worse for wear in an encounter with a moving vehicle. Since vehicles emit most of the Green House Gases in the region, making a more bike friendly environment would reduce those gases. Thanks.
128	Make a connecting trail from the Lost Meadow part of the Bellevue Botanical Gardens to Wilburton Park so we can walk our dogs and not have to walk around to the front of the garden.
129	Make W Lk Sammamish Pky safe for walking and biking. Top Priority!
130	Provide walking friendly parks. Bathroom facilites at larger parks w/multiple functions. Replace bark more often.
131	We definitely need more biking trails throughout Bellevue. We would love to bike to work, but it is extremely difficult with the traffic and no bike lanes.
132	We MUST be providing linkages for our City's residents about how these public spaces affect our shared environment beyond the park and residential areas (ex: streams, ponds, lakes and the Sound). Walking and biking are KEY parts of our rapidly-needed transition to sustainable communities that might include shared garden space. That's as important and valid an 'outdoor exercise' as running around or firing up polluting jet skis that our parks currently bend over to accomodate.

133	Athough i am not a resident, i work in Bellevue (Eastgate). My co-workers and i take great joy in a stroll thorugh parks during lunch and breaks. one plot of land that was the old landfill was purchasaed by the parks i believe. There is construction underway that severly limits our access to the open land that we used to walk through. I imagine that our office building pays property taxes that goes towards these parks. With several thousand more employees coming down this street,it would be nice to have a space larger than Spirit Ridge Park to go to for lunch and strolls.
134	More emphasis on bike paths away from street traffic. Connecting the parks through pathing that does not intersect with automobile routes.
135	As more and more of Bellevue is developed the importance of natural open areas becomes an urgent focus. It is critical to maintain and finish the current parks without developing new ones. Wild areas are an important factor in the health of a city and its inhabitants (human and others!)
136	Please preserve natural areas in the city. The Bellefiels Nature Park is a great example to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life if even for an hour.
137	reclaim waterfront
138	a public park which incorporates the natural environment, i.e ponds, grasses and beach type environment are outstanding. I have worked on the design of parks in west seattle which are successful in that nature and would like to see more in Bellevue. An outdoor pool like kirkland would be ideal.
139	As Bellevue grows and becomes this large city, I think they should consider purchasing open space for a future park/events area in the Bellevue East area between Bell/Red. Rd. and 520.
140	Bellevue can be very proud of its parks and how they preserve the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest. They are lovely and provide an inviting resource for our community. Park as defined by Webster: "A piece of ground in or near a city or town kept for ornament and recreation. An area maintained in its natural state as a public property." Bellevue is fortunate to have a large number of native species within the Meydenbauer Bay and other areas - - let's hold onto them! How many urban areas can boast eagles, cormorants, herons, beaver, otter, muskrat and a salmon spawning stream! "
141	Bellevue needs to create more Parks that are natural in character. Simple, low maintenance open spaces that are open to a variety of passive uses like walking, flying kites, playing frisbee, or playing fetch with a dog. Bellevue has an abundance of "over developed parks" that cater to single user groups and require expensive maintenance. Manicured lawns, intricate landscaping, and sports fields dominated the Bellevue Park system. The only parks that have been spared this fate are wetlands. Acres and acres of such Parks are "off-limits" to citizens who don't participate in one sport or another. If walking trails are included in these parks, they are seldom used because those parks are noisy and crowded when in use, and have the ambience of a prison yard when not in use. Can't we find a way to consolidate sports activities in the many existing fields that are on school grounds and in the sports parks we already have? About one third of Bellevue households own dogs, but less than 2 acres has been provided as a place for those citizens to exercise their dogs. Can't we do better than this? Why can't we have some natural parks which include areas where dogs can be exer
142	Considering the high level of infill development going on in Bellevue; targeting and purchasing future park properties and or connecting existing walking and biking trials should be a high priority.
143	Create a specific list of projects that will be funded in a new parks bond and stick to it. Don't put out a list of 10 "possible" sites (projects), and then only fund 5 with the money. Be clear about what the money will fund. Provide trails and open space with a natural habitat (native, drought tolerant plant species) in the Downtown and in the Bel-Red "rezone". Provide for wildlife (food(berries), shelter, tree canopy) in these areas.
144	Enjoy the natural settings

145	I enjoy birdwatching and would encourage the council to consider different habitats and ecosystems when maintaining and expanding the park system. My favorite parks are Mercer Slough and Juanita Bay. At Mercer Slough I wish there was a map of the trails available at the kiosk to take as you walk. Also consider adequate parking for the park usage. It is unclear to me where to park legally for entry to Mercer Slough from the eastside of the park.
146	It is incredibly important that Bellevue do it's part in addressing climate change. This means leaving as much tree cover in the city, on public AND private land, as possible. Areas of contiguous habitat for wildlife is also extremely important. Not every park has to have active recreation. Do not sacrifice natural areas for more soccer fields!! When I moved to Bellevue as a youngster in 1968, I was awestruck by the feeling of being in the woods even in the city. This is what brings people to Bellevue and keeps them here. Sacrificing neighborhood character and natural areas for short term economic gain is extremely short sighted. I support the efforts you have made in this direction and encourage you to do much more.
147	More natural habitat
148	My priority is to keep natural space to protect our watershed and indigenous species. Bike paths nears streets are fine and some footpaths to allow for birdwatching would be nice. But, please, don't overdevelop. A restroom at Ardmore Park would be nice.
149	Preserve land and open space. That is SO valuable to ALL property in Bellevue and around. PLEASE acquire more land for parks and nature conservation.
150	Preserving natural areas and open space is key to your goal of environmental stewardship. With all the development, this is not the Bellevue we chose to live in decades ago. We are concerned about the possibility of major building construction in the precious parks, such as plans to build a 250-person capacity visitors center at Bellevue Botanical Garden. We would like to see the Parks Department work more closely with other city departments and coordinate with local schools and other public agencies. Item 4k is a great idea. I would also like to see a parks naturalist (or perhaps a cooperative arrangement with local universities) to evaluate wildlife habitat in Bellevue Parks. Please set a goal for increasing the tree canopy in the park system. Parks could lead the way in demonstrating best practices for protecting the environment, from the way parks are maintained (try to eliminate gas-powered blowers and vehicles) to innovative ways to reduce impervious surface. As a first step, recycling bins would be a great way to make your commitment to the environment clear. The entire park system needs to be evaluated as a whole to see how the parks work together. Goals,
151	There are so many undeveloped, wooded areas in Bellevue. I'd like to see these protected from future development and turned into parks. I don't want any growth cut down except for the purpose of cutting minimally invasive biking/walking trails through the areas.
152	50M pool, Shelters by turf fields like Marymoor
153	a larger community pool to be built that will be able to accommodate all the high schools and will have the starting blocks needed for swim team. Also water polo
154	A new aquatics facility needs to be built for many reasons. There are many teams around the area that need and would use the facility year-round. For example, the Newport High School Swim Team practices at Newport Hills Swim and Tennis Club, where they have to practice outside even in the bistering cold, and some have gotten sick. There is limited pool time there, and it's used for a lot of other things. If a new one was built, it could be used for this piurpose and for other activities for people to participate in.
155	A new swimming facility would be great. Bellevue Aquatics is small, out dated and very dirty.
156	A world class city that we live in must have a world class aquatic center for schools, citizens and those employed in Bellevue can enjoy. The city schools and neighborhoods have a tradition of outstanding swimming and waterpolo teams. My children partisipated in these activities at Newport High School, their home pool was on Mercer Island and they practiced at Newport Hills Club outdoors all year long. I'm sure the citizens will financially support a new city owned aquatic center. My Reguards. Mike Molnar
157	Additional aquatics facilities. Additional tennis courts and parking at Robinswood.

158	Am aware that the Bellevue AC is not large enough to accomodate all of the high schools swimming programs. Would like to see city address this by accessing existing pools (renting time etc.) for use or building another facility.
159	Another warm-water indoor swimming pool would get a lot of use and would be much appreciated. We love our parks and we're looking forward to the water-play park at Crossroads. I hope the water will be warm enough for really little kids to enjoy.
160	Bellevue needs an indoor swim facility for the school swim teams to use. It is ridiculous that a city like Bellevue the kids practice outside in the Winter while Renton, Issaquah, Kirkland and even Seattle have indoor pools!
161	Bellevue very much needs a swimming facility that can support swim meets and community swim programs.
162	Build an aquatics facility.
163	Build new indoor swimming pools
164	Build the SPLASH pools. If you build a world class swimming facility, then Bellevue would become a destination place. Just like Water Mania in Richmond BC.
165	First priority should be a new indoor swimming complex. Full size competition pool for high school and summer use, diving pool for competiton and recreation, shallow pool for lessons and exercise class.
166	I am a supporter of the parks system and would change my answer to question two to "nearly every day" if there was a swimming pool added to the system. I am in contact with SPLASH and feel there is a dire need for a natatorium. Please consider all of the wonderful benefits of a pool in Bellevue when thinking about improving the city.
167	I am extremely interested in the City developing an indoor aquatics facility that can be used by the high schools, local club swim teams and water polo teams for practice and competitive events and can also have programs for the general public.
168	I believe a larger swimming facility that can accommodate our high schools is necessary. Right now there is not enough capacity and we cannot have a "home" meet.
169	I feel that for a city as affluent as Bellevue, there should have a first class aquatic facility for both competitions, family and community programs. our current Bellevue aquatic facility is unable to accomplish that. This could ultimately be a destination for many teams and programs thereby enhancing our beautiful city even more and possibly bring additional revenue to our city
170	I own a business in Bellevue, have employees who live in Bellevue & would like to see the Parks system expanded to inclued a pool for the High schools that would be large enough to hold district type meets. There could be use during the day for senior programs.The need for an indoor facility in the community is great & needs to be adressed. Thanks, Bruce Kelly
171	I strongly support a new aquatics center for Bellevue, to help our residents stay healthy and active. Such a facility could leverage private donations, also; I would personally donate to get one built if the city took the lead. My second priority would be improvements to the Bellevue Botanical Garden -- it's a world-class garden that could use a new Visitors Center to match the rest of the site.
172	I would like to see another indoor pool for lap swimming, general recreation, for swim meets & with a component for seniors.
173	I would like to see more public pools. Possibly at local highschools which would also be available to the public.
174	I would really like to see more indoor pools to accomadate swim, dive and water polo teams.
175	In addition, a new aquatic facility would be very beneficial to the community. Local high school swim and water polo teams often have to practice outdoors, in the cold, and in the early morning because no other times are available for them. Also, with no home pool, home meets must be held at an away pool, often late at night, which is an incovenience to everyone. An aquatic facility would also provide a safe, fun, gathering place for people of all ages, from toddlers to teens to seniors. Swimming is a lifelong sport, with many health benefits.

176	King County is dreadfully lacking adequate pool facilities for swim instruction, recreation and high school and club swim teams. Few school districts have pools. Neighborhood pools are old, small and often only open in the summer. We need a pool complex to meet the needs of our community -- of all ages!
177	My suggestion is to partner up with Bellevue School District in determining a location for indoor aquatic pool (similar in size to the one in Federal Way olympic pool) creating an outdoor skate/bike and basketball fields area.
178	My support would be dependent on making sure that the parks plan included funding for new aquatics facilities - to include a 50-meter Olympic competition size pool (along with a host of other amenities).
179	New Pool
180	Our aquatics options are extremely limited - we need funding for a new acquatics complex.
181	Please build the indooor pool facility (SPLASH) as your top priority. Swimming is an excellent sport. Our young high school athletes have to practice in outdoor pools before and after school. This is not healthy for our children but we are discouraging many to continue the wonderful sport of swimming. The Issaquah school district practices indoors. Bellevue should have the same opportunities for their students. Swimming is so GOOD for the body in SO many ways. Please build it soon.
182	Please give us one or more new public swimming facilities. We really need them, for everyone.
183	Please include funding for aquatics in any funding proposal. It is a shame for a rich city like Bellevue not to have a proper place for our teens to practice and compete. Early morning practice and late night meets are common for Bellevue District Schools.
184	Pool
185	Support the SPLASH effort to build an international class aquatic center in Bellevue
186	The area is in serious need of an Olympic sized aquatics center. KCAC is overbooked. The currently available pools are over 25 years old and unsafe. We have lived and competed in areas (Utah, Virginia, Missouri, California, Portland, Canada) where community centers contained multiple pools, a 50 m pool with 8 lanes (single depth), a 25 meter pool (graduated depth), and either a therapeutic pool with ramp and rail, or a 14 ft dive pool for 3 m board and above. Looking at the caliber of swimmers and water polo players in the area (many nationally ranked), it is a tragedy that they practise in such crowded conditions through out the year, many of them outdoors in order to get pool time.
187	The city definitely needs to put in more pools. Bellevue and Newport were third and fourth this year for girls swimming. Indoor pools are a necessary to keeping these programs alive!
188	The city desperately needs more aquatics facilities, both for competative athletic training and recreation. This area lags behind other areas in our state, and the nation, in the existence of quality aquatics facilities.
189	The city needs a competition pool to facilitate meets for our high schools. This is an issue that has to be addressed, our high school teams need to have a local facility to practice at, as well as hold competitions. Using local outdoor pools during the school year is not the answer, yet it is currently the only option for many teams in the area.
190	The city of Bellevue is in desperate need of an indoor pool facility that could service the Bellevue schools and also serve as a training facility for water sports of all kinds and therapy space for all.
191	The city of Bellevue needs to strongly support the Splash org. to build a new Aquatic center here in Bellevue. Practicing in a outside pool during october for high school swim is unacceptable and is a disgrace. Although this may not be your top priority as it seems all Bellevue high schools prctice outdoors for both boys waterpolo and girls swim, i see many boys and girls getting sick when they have to pracice in 50 or 40 degree weather, or in the rain and it is sad that Bellevue isn't taking immediate action.

192	The Eastside is in need of a public aquatic facility that is suitable for year-round recreational and competitive use. High school varsity aquatic teams are currently forced to utilize private community pools that are past the facilities' life expectancies. Children in more affluent neighborhoods have access to high quality private aquatic facilities while those in less affluent neighborhoods do not. Aquatics offer healthy, life-long activities that should be readily available to all segments of the population.
193	The indoor athletic facility should include a pool I'm thinking of a 'destination pool' with water slides, wave pool, running track, weights, lap pool and a warm pool for lessons and therapy... We need to provie indoor fun - the fields are great and well used. So many more people of all ages can use a pool facility all day and evening. thanks Tracy Bury
194	The region needs a competitive swimming facility able to host swim meets and other acquatic activities.
195	There is a notable lack of indoor swimming facilities in Bellevue. The development of a new indoor pool should be a priority as it would fill a need while providing a facility that could be used by people of all ages and economic backgrounds. A pool that meets the needs of seniors, recreational swimmers, families and competitive athletes is long overdue in this area.
196	We are in great need of an Aquatics center. My daughter swims at the High School level and it's ridiculous the pools that we have to use for the meets and for KingCo's, Districts and state. Bellevue needs a facility for our swimmers.
197	we need an aquatic facility!
198	We need another indoor pool! Also, a indoor soccer center would be a great addition (the closest ones are in Woodinville, Tukwila, or Redmond)
199	We need more swimming pools
200	We need to consider a public aquatic center for use by public, and school swim teams. Our High schoolers travel to Juanita and Mercer Island for their home swim meets and practice in private club pools. We have late night meets (starting at 7:45 pm and finishing as late as 10:30 pm), and sometimes early morning practices for our kids (starting at 5:00 am). A new Visitor Center needs to be supported for the Bellevue Botanical Garden. There is an incredible visitor base (not only city, but state, country and international visitors) and volunteer base that supports the garden. It's a place of refuge as well as lively activities for the preschooler through the elderly. More classes in horticulture, lights making and possibly even passive recreation would be, I believe, fully received and filled. Garden d'Lights hosted over 120,000 visitors alone in approx 6 weeks last year. With a new Visitor Center and more parking space, the City could have a new source of continuous revenue with rentals of rooms and/or a lecture hall.
201	We need to support and indoor pool facility for: our schools, all sports, seniors, families with small kids,those that can't afford an expensive club, Health needs for phsical therapy and medical needs of the community. All council members need to support a great indoor pool in Bellevue!!!
202	We would love to see a new indoor pool built
203	Would like to see another more public pools. Out doors for summer indoors for winter. Need more public indoor tennis courts!
204	Add more sports fields.
205	Add sports fields

206	Athletic fields are in great need. Teams with huge waiting lists cannot be released because of a lack of practice fields. My oldest boy's team cannot practice on a full field. The first time that they encounter a full field situation is at a game. This is a great disadvantage. Girls lacrosse is very slow to develop because there are not fields. Mercer Island and Eastside both have very competitive and developed girls lacrosse. Bellevue girls lacrosse does not formally have a team until 7/8. Mercer Island and Eastside both start 3/4. I coached a great boys U9 soccer team this year, but we had only one official practice a week. I requested two but there weren't any field available for a second practice. I would call an informal practice over at the Medina dog park....oooh that was a doggie do disaster! We are supposed to have this very wealthy pop base, but our playing field sure don't show it. We certainly have all of the fancy stores but when we travel to other districts to play and wow their fields are nice. Ours look 4th rate, worn out - from over use and in cohesive compared to theirs.
207	Bellevue has really been lacking the availablity of sports facilities from fields, courts, and pools. The schools have not supported the athletes. With our active students and community, we need to keep up and provide these facilities.
208	Build a large baseball complex like other cities. We could host baseball/softball tournaments and make money on the concessions. More indoor facilities like tennis courts.
209	Given the population growth very little has been done to meet the additional needs for sports fields. There is a real shortage that affects the children participating in sport and curtails involvement. If the citys intent is to limit youth participation in organized sports I think it should be reconsided. Why would a city want to cut back on family participation oriented programs? These help with community values and a general sense of community. Please show your support for cummunity activities and provide more sport fields.
210	I am a board member of Bellevue Youth Soccer and have 3 children that play various sports (soccer, baseball, lacrosse) in Bellevue. The availability and condition of the fields is extremely poor. It is particularily embarassing when clubs from other eastside communities come to our area to play. I feel this should be a TOP priority!
211	I believe one of the most important matters to consider while contemplating new parks or improving existing parks is the fact that Bellevue critically lacks adequate facilities for athletic fields. While parks and open space are great, consideration needs to be made to include athletic/sports fields (or improvement of existing) in any and all future plans. It is truly a tragedy that we do not have adequate facilities in this wonderful City to meet the needs of our own club or school sponsored sports programs, and as a resident I would like to see this become a priority in any planning/upgrading or expanding of our parks system.
212	I don't like the idea of using park space for more soccer fields.
213	I would like the City to support the Bellevue athletic leagues so that they can afford to hire referees and people to set up the fields without charging too much.
214	I would love to see another turf field in Bellevue - namely Newport Hills Park or Wilburton. The use Robinswood is getting is phenomenal and we need another year round facility. In addition, I would love to see all the outdoor tennis courts at Robinswood available for indoor use year round, not just two of them.
215	I would only be interested in supporting the city on this if the city would show better support for little league. Bellevue little leagues pay almost $70,000.00 annually in field fees and my opinion is that we donâ€™t get very much for our money. I think it is time that the city starts showing the community that kids sports programs are important by providing us with more facilities and better city care for the facilities we already own.

216	In these days and times when you can't let your kids go to parks alone one of the only ways to get kids out and about is in organized sports groups such as soccer, baseball, footbal etc. It is importatnt to supply fields and places for these activities. For example, it was unfortunate that the city saw fit to post signs at Kilarney Glen that organized scrimages of kids playing soccer was not allowed. Maintenance at some of the parks and school fields is pretty pathetic and it is embarassing when we play soccer teams from other cities such as Issaquah and Merceer Is. and we have to apologize for the condition of our field when the fields we play on at their schools and parks were so nice. The school district was not interested in trying to fix up Chinook Middle schools field when help has been offered from the Bellevue Youth Soccer Club. We tried to patch it a little ourselves by filling the wholes in the field to make it safer and the district got mad. All it took was a few pickup loads of dirt and an hour of parents time and the play surface was much better. Please work on the
217	Like to see field turf soccer and baseball field at Newport Hills Park. Field turf at Newport High School baseball fields that are being built, but with grass...Missed an opportunity here, but should correct in the future. The amount of use that could be obtained with field turf would help serve the needs of South Bellevue.
218	soccer programs in the area have outgrown the facilities .. more all weather/ turf facilities need to be provided to support the continued growth fo this sport.this should be a priority for bellevue parks as they fall behind other areas in providing for soccer space.. many kids and adults play outside bellevue due to lack of facilities.
219	The questions above relate to the City of Bellvue as a whole. The City needs to recognize that south Bellevue does not have near the sports field infrastructure that other parts of the City have, even though we may have an equal number of residents. For example, within the area of Bellevue bounded on the south by I90 and on the west by I-405 there are at least 12 grass soccer fields and 2 new turf soccer fields (not including high schools). For the area of Bellevue south of I-90 there are only 2 grass soccer fields and one of these is so overused that it is essentially worthless after about October 15th. In addition to targeting new and better fields the City needs to recognize geographic disparities and seek to improve the playing fields in south Bellevue to bring them up to be equivalent with other parts of the City.
220	There simply are not enough quality soccer fields available - would like to see a functional partnership between Park Department and School District to free up fields for soccer both children and adults....
221	We need more athletic fields, especially west of 405 and north of I-90
222	We need more fields - my kids have played soccer, baseball and football at various times, and all the youth sports organizations are all short on fields . . . what can we do?
223	We need more multipurpose artificial turf fields that can be used for soccer/football & baseball. The Robinwood complex is a good start.
224	We need more parks dedicated to sports use, baseball and soccer fields. Turf fields would cut costs in the long run. The level of maintenance for fields used by Little League is pretty low based on what we spend for field use. Very little is done by the parks (maintenance) at the schools for Little League. There are 3 leagues using fields at a total cost of over $70,000 for a 3-4 month period
225	We need more spots fields
226	West Bellevue is lacking in safe sports fields, specifically soccer fields. I support a complex similar to Robinswood in West Bellevue. Perhaps consider a synthetic turf at the Hidden Valley Sports complex that can be multi-use for softball/baseball and soccer, similar to what the City of Seattle has done with many of it's facilities.

Attachment 2

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these minutes on December 13, 2007.

CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday
November 7, 2007
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-108
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Keeney, Vice-Chair Bennett, Boardmembers Aron[1] Henrickson, Karle, Maxim[2]

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Roland

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Jan Beck, Shelley Brittingham, Paul Inghram (PCD), Glenn Kost, Shelley Marelli, Jerry Nissley, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith, Viki Stover

OTHERS PRESENT: Loren Baker, Mick Deal, Marco deSaeSilva, Udell Fresk, Doug Hoople, Larry and Robin James, Larry Karpack, Howard Katz, Dave Plummer, Don Prince, Irene Roberts, Joseph Rosman, Corbin Tudor, Debbie Vaught, Mark Walsen

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Keeney at 6:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Karle to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (5–0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Henrickson to approve the September 29, 2007 Special Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

[1] Departed at 7:14 p.m.
[2] Arrived at 6:06 p.m.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Henrickson to approve the October 9, 2007 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Doug Hoople, 10637 SE 22nd Street, Bellevue

Mr. Hoople expressed concerns with the park at the south end of SE 108th Street. Several years ago Phase 1 of this park was completed. Mr. Hoople would like to know when Phase 2 of the park will commence (a road across the top end of the park with a turn-around).

Chair Keeney asked Mr. Smith to follow-up on Mr. Hoople's request.

Udell Fresk, 11275 NE 37th Place, Bellevue

Ms. Fresk invited boardmembers to the annual Garden d'Lights celebration. She also thanked the Parks Department and boardmembers for their continued support. There are over 350 volunteers that contribute to the celebration each year. Garden d'Lights runs from November 24-December 31, 2007. The event opens at 5:00 p.m. each evening.

Mr. Nissley explained that the International Northwest Parks & Recreation Association (INPRA) recognizes volunteers and citizens throughout the community that actively participate in the growth of the community. There is a Citizen of the Year award that recognizes a citizen or group of citizens that have made an impact in the community. Mr. Nissley read a nomination for Ms. Fresk that recognized her numerous contributions to the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

On behalf of the Parks & Community Services Department and the INPRA, Mr. Nissley presented Ms. Fresk with the International Northwest Parks & Recreation Association "Citizen of the Year" award and commended her on a job well done.

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

Chair Keeney welcomed all of the public hearing participants and stressed the importance of the public hearing and the voice of community members.

6. BOARD COMMUNICATION:

Vice-Chair Bennett attended the joint commission meeting with the Bel-Red Steering Committee. She also attended the Kelsey Creek Farm Fair.

Boardmembers Karle and Maxim also enjoyed the Kelsey Creek Farm Fair.

Chair Keeney attended the joint Bel-Red Commission Meeting as well as the Kelsey Creek Farm Fair.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

8. CONSENT ITEMS:

None.

9. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Voter Initiative Public Hearing

Chair Keeney reviewed the public hearing process and read the notice published on October 22, 2007 for the hearing.

Mr. Sanner described the Parks & Open Space system for Bellevue Parks & Community Services. He noted the current quality of the Bellevue parks has been nationally recognized. Mr. Sanner called attention to a map of Bellevue parks, which depicted parks that were largely built from voter initiative dollars.

The City of Bellevue has a long history of asking the community for voter initiatives to improve the parks system. In 2002, the City attempted to pass another bond but failed to receive the 60% majority needed at the ballot box. The fiscal impact of the expiring 1988 Park Bond was reviewed by Mr. Sanner.

Mr. Sanner described the various approaches that have occurred over the past few months to gain public comments on the potential voter initiative. The City Council will determine the direction of the voter initiative in early 2008.

Chair Keeney declared the public hearing re the potential parks voter initiative to be open.

Marco de Sae Silva, 2703 – 123rd Ave. SE, Bellevue

Mr. de Sae Silva has been a Bellevue resident for over 16 years. He commended the Parks Department on the quality parks to choose from throughout the city. He named the many parks throughout the City that he enjoys. Mr. de Sae Silva thanked the board and department for making all of the available parks possible. He thinks an estimated $50 for a voter initiative is a very small price to pay for such quality parks and encouraged the board to offer the voter initiative.

Mr. de Sae Silva is also a member of Swimming Pools for Leisure Active Sports and Health (SPLASH) and feels the initiative would support SPLASH's efforts as well.

Loren Baker, 14216 SE 51st Street, Bellevue

Mr. Baker has been a Bellevue resident for 22+ years. On behalf of SPLASH, Mr. Baker feels there is a dire need for an aquatic facility in Bellevue. SPLASH is promoting a regional facility to encompass all ages. Mr. Baker added that part of being a world-class city is to have world-class facilities. SPLASH would be built as a world-class facility. He discussed the lack of regional pools in the area and the need for capital improvements on the existing pools.

Doug Hoople, 10637 SE 22nd Street, Bellevue

Mr. Hoople expressed his approval of a voter initiative. He commended city staff and Parks Boardmembers for a great job of stewardship of the parks. He encouraged the board to consider including the small community parks and outlying parks throughout the city for the initiative. In addition, he encouraged boardmembers to share the initiative information with the Human Services Commission so the Commissioners can assist with the efforts.

Corbin Tudor, 2810 – 109th Ave. SE, Bellevue

Mr. Tudor is a volunteer coach. Although there are great schools, fields, and parks throughout the city, he feels there is much room for improvement. Since today's houses are being built with smaller yards, parks are becoming extremely necessary. Mr. Tudor asked boardmembers to consider improving sports fields for year-round availability within the initiative. He encouraged the voter initiative.

He noted his disappointment when some of the parks were closed to sports activities.

Don Prince, 6021 – 136th Ave. NE, Bellevue

Mr. Prince is President of the Bridle Trails Park Foundation. In addition, he is very active with the Bridle Trails Community Club. Mr. Prince envisions an opportunity for a partnership between the City and the foundation. He discussed the Bridle Trails property acquired, formerly called the Atchison property. He encouraged the city to develop a Kelsey Creek-like property on this acquired property and to partner with the state to develop this property/program. The property discussed needs some capital improvements. Mr. Prince encouraged boardmembers to consider this area in the voter initiative.

Howard Katz, 7 Lake Bellevue Dr. NE, Bellevue

Mr. Katz represents the Bellevue Network on Aging and the Bellevue Senior Advisory Council through the North Bellevue Senior Center. During the previous voter initiative, Mr. Katz worked with a group of seniors that made calls to community members to gain input on the initiative. He encouraged boardmembers to consider separating issues on an initiative noting one idea might be favorable, while the other might fail.

Mr. Katz encouraged boardmembers to consider developing an adult daycare center, like the one in Bothell. He encouraged boardmembers to build a senior facility that focuses on seniors and suggested a subcommittee to identify the needs of seniors. In addition, he stressed the importance of a senior center in Downtown Bellevue.

Debbie Vaught, 15041 NE 144th St., Redmond

Ms. Vaught is currently the Co-President of the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society. The society endorses continued investment in the Garden through a Parks Voter Initiative. The Garden is currently working on updating the Master Plan. Ms. Vaught explained some of the improvements necessary to the BBG. Capital dollars will help the BBG make the necessary improvements.

Ms. Vaught invited boardmembers to a preview party for the Garden d'Lights on Friday, November 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Mick Deal, 3234 Hunts Point Road, Bellevue

Mr. Deal has been a Bellevue resident since 1962. He thanked boardmembers for the recent improvements made to Robinswood Field. Mr. Deal represents the Bellevue Boys Lacrosse Club and coordinates the playing fields. The biggest challenge Mr. Deal faces with this task is finding decent fields. He encouraged field improvements through a voter initiative and suggested working with real estate developers for additional land opportunities.

Robin James, 227 Bellevue Way, #73, Bellevue

Ms. James is a lifetime community member and is a member of the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society. She thinks Bellevue has a favorable track record of wisely spending the community dollars and encourages the voter initiative.

Joseph Rosman, 921 109th Ave. SE, Bellevue

Mr. Rosman is the President of the Surrey Downs Community Club. He reviewed the land-trade that took place for Surrey Downs Park. He added that the SDCC has been meeting with various groups to discuss the future of the park. The SDCC endorses the voter initiative. In addition, he wants to ensure Surrey Downs Park is included in the initiative to make it an outstanding park for the future, while retaining its unique characteristics. To help the city, the SDCC is surveying park users and will share the results of this survey with the board.

Larry Karpack, 4617 – 121st Ave. SE, Bellevue

Mr. Karpack represents the Newport Youth Soccer Club and stressed the necessity of the voter initiative. The Soccer Club has approximately 1,000 members of which 80% are Bellevue residents. Mr. Karpack discussed the low-quality playing fields available and urged the initiative to encompass better playing fields in an evenly distributed geographical area. He added that, as the field quality improves, the Club would be willing to pay higher rental fees.

Mark Walsen, 317 – 109th Ave. SE, Bellevue

Mr. Walsen commended the Bellevue parks system and Youth Theatre. He cited an example of why a neighbor voted against the previous voter initiative in 2002. The reason the neighbor voted against the initiative was because it wasn't clear on what areas would benefit from the initiative. Mr. Walsen suggested letting voters know what projects would be included in the voter initiative.

Irene Roberts, 4037 NE 17th Street, Renton

Former Park Boardmember Ms. Roberts is a Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation Boardmember as well as a Counselor. Ms. Roberts supports the voter initiative and would like the initiative to include a larger youth theatre.

Mick Deal, 3234 Hunts Point Road, Bellevue

Mr. Deal suggested timing for the voter initiative is crucial. He advised boardmembers to watch the economy to determine if the initiative should be brought forth to voters.

Chair Keeney closed the public hearing.

Break

- End of Subject -

Mr. Kost reported that there was a meeting last week for the Bellevue Botanical Garden regarding the Master Plan Update. Through a glitch in the system, there were several entities that were omitted from the invitee list. There will be another community meeting on January 17, 2008.