



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 12, 2008
To: Planning Commission
From: Merle Keeney, Parks & Community Services Board Chair
Subject: Bel-Red Draft Subarea Plan

At our February 12, 2008 meeting, the Parks & Community Services Board recommended support of the draft Bel-Red Subarea Plan dated January 8, 2008, including support of the vision, goals, and general policies. The Board focused its review and support of the **Parks and Open Space** section of the draft plan, but also supports the following portions of the Plan that are consistent with the General Policy direction of the Bel-Red Parks & Open Space System endorsed by the Board at our December 13, 2008 meeting:

- The **Urban Design** section that encourages place-making and a dynamic public realm (S-BR-C3) and an outstanding street environment (S-BR-C12a-d);
- The **Environment** section that embraces the concept of restoring 50 to 100 feet in width of natural streamside vegetation that incorporates a public trail network, and promotes the rehabilitation of streams through a combination of public investments and private development incentives (S-BR-D1), encourages natural drainage practices in public and private projects (S- BR-D3), and provides for development incentives to achieve stream corridor and open space objectives (S-BR-D8);
- The **Arts and Culture** section that encourages the development of an arts/cultural district near 136th Place NE (S-BR-G2);
- The **Transportation** section that supports the development of an interconnected, non-motorized, multi-use trail system throughout the Subarea (S-BR-H13), the development of multiple access points to the BNSF trail (S-BR-H14), and the provision of grade-separated road crossings where feasible (S-BR-H15). Also, the development of NE 16th as a major multi-use pedestrian and bicycle trail that incorporates significant urban open spaces and environmentally-sensitive design features (S-BR-H5); and
- The **Implementation** section that promotes the implementation of the Subarea Plan through the combination of development regulations and incentives, capital investments, and other public and private strategies.

We believe that the plan, if fully implemented, will provide an outstanding park and open space system for residents, employees, and visitors to the Bel-Red area, and will support Bellevue's reputation as a City-in-a Park. We appreciate the ability to help shape the future of Bel-Red, and look forward to continued involvement as the implementation process continues.

Cc: Paul Inghram