



Date: November 9, 2009
To: Planning Commission Members
From: Camron Parker, Senior Planner
Parks & Community Services
Subject: Parks & Open Space System Plan Update

Parks & Community Services is updating one of its long-range policy planning documents, the Parks & Open Space System Plan. The Park Plan acts as a guide for the City on the acquisition, development and management of parks and open space citywide. It is also a foundational tool in developing the department's ongoing Capital Investment Program (CIP). The current plan was last updated in 2003 and is on an approximate six year schedule for renewal and adoption by the City Council.

There are three general tasks associated with the update: (1) collecting community feedback on park use and future development priorities, (2) updating long-range capital project recommendations for acquisition and development of the system, and (3) referencing and aligning plan objectives with other city planning initiatives completed since 2003. Each of these will be addressed in more detail during the presentation.

Collecting community feedback

A statistically valid survey of a random sample of Bellevue residents was fielded this September. The survey focused on residents' level of use of the existing park, trail and open space system and their priorities for future development. Complementing this survey is a shorter web-based survey open to all park users who live, work or go to school in Bellevue and other public outreach measures.

Updating long-range capital recommendations

The 2003 plan has property acquisition and capital recommendations projected to 2022. These recommendations will be updated to 2030 giving consideration to demographic trends, recent project completions, current and future CIP investments expected for parks as well as implementation of the 2008 Parks and Natural Areas Levy.

Incorporating city-wide planning initiatives

A number of planning and policy documents have been adopted since 2003 that impact the goals and objectives of the Park Plan. These include, but are not limited to, the Bel-Red Subarea Plan, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, the Urban Ecosystem (Tree Canopy) Analysis, the Human Services Needs Assessment, and the Cultural Compass.

The complete 2003 Parks & Open Space System Plan is available for review online at: www.bellevuewa.gov/park_plan_update.htm. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact me at (425) 452-2032 or cparker@bellevue.gov.
