



DATE: July 15, 2013

TO: Chair Tebelius and Members of the Planning Commission

FROM: Camron Parker, Senior Planner
Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Update – Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element

The July 24, 2013, study session continues the Comprehensive Plan update process and will build on the overview of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element provided to the Commission at your June 12, 2013, meeting. The July 24 study session will include:

- An introduction to the Parks & Open Space System Plan and the Recreation Program Plan functional plans that implement Comprehensive Plan policies
- A description of the changes that have taken place since 2004 within the parks and open space system as well as the recreation and community services environment
- The outreach process for gathering input from the Parks & Community Services Board and other stakeholders on the existing Element policies

BACKGROUND

The goals in the Parks, Open Space and Recreation Element reflect the Vision for our community as a “City in a Park.” These goals include:

- Acquiring, developing and maintaining the city’s park system
- Acquiring and preserving natural open space and habitat
- Providing facilities that are responsive to community needs
- Offering a wide variety of education, recreation, and social opportunities for all members of the community

The policies in this Element are aligned with two functional plans, the Parks & Open Space System Plan and the Recreation Program Plan. These documents add detail and direction to the Comprehensive Plan policies. They also facilitate partnerships and funding opportunities that leverage our local investment in parks and recreation.

Parks & Community Services Functional Plans

The Parks & Open Space System Plan is the primary tool used to guide the long-term growth and development of Bellevue’s parks and open space system. The core of the plan is a set of 20-year capital project recommendations. These long-term recommendations are reviewed and updated approximately every six years. Funding to implement the long-term recommendations within the plan is determined through the Capital Investment Program budgeting process. Maps of the

current parks system and of the 20-year parks projects are attached. The full plan can be reviewed at this web page:

<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/park-plan.htm>.

The Recreation Program Plan defines the City's role in implementing a vision for recreation. This vision is of a healthy community where all residents participate in a range of recreation activities of their own choosing, and which are offered by multiple public and private organizations. Participating in recreation activities makes residents physically and mentally healthier and better connected to their neighbors and community.

The City of Bellevue is a trusted community resource for accessible and health-focused programs. These programs are designed to promote efficient use of city facilities and be well coordinated with other public and private recreation service providers. Within the overall recreation market, the City places special emphasis on meeting the needs of youth, older adults, persons with disabilities and those with limited opportunities for recreation.

Major Changes Since 2004

Much has occurred to change the landscape of parks, open space and recreation in Bellevue since the last Comprehensive Plan update. Examples of these changes include:

- An updated Parks & Open Space System Plan adopted in 2010, including a change to the City's level of service methodology for parks and open space
- The acquisition of Coal Creek Natural Area in 2008, adding 450 acres of land and 4.5 miles of trails to the city's inventory
- The 2009 adoption of the BelRed Subarea Plan and associated parks, trails and open space envisioned to support redevelopment
- The City's support of the Eastside Pathways collective impact campaign through which families, providers, schools and cities unite around common goals, measurements, and strategies to maximize each child's opportunity for a productive, fulfilling life.

Stakeholder Review of Element Policies

In addition to the overall public involvement and outreach campaigns currently underway for the Comprehensive Plan update, staff will facilitate additional outreach focused on the Parks, Open Space and Recreation Element.

This will include outreach to department staff, the Parks & Community Services Board and committees that advise the Parks & Community Services department, such as the Bellevue Network on Aging and the Youth Link Board. Input and feedback from these groups will be added to overall community outreach and provided to the Planning Commission when specific edits to the policies in this Element are discussed.

If you have any questions about the Parks, Open Space and Recreation Element, please contact Camron Parker at cparker@bellevuewa.gov or (425) 452-2032.

ATTACHMENTS

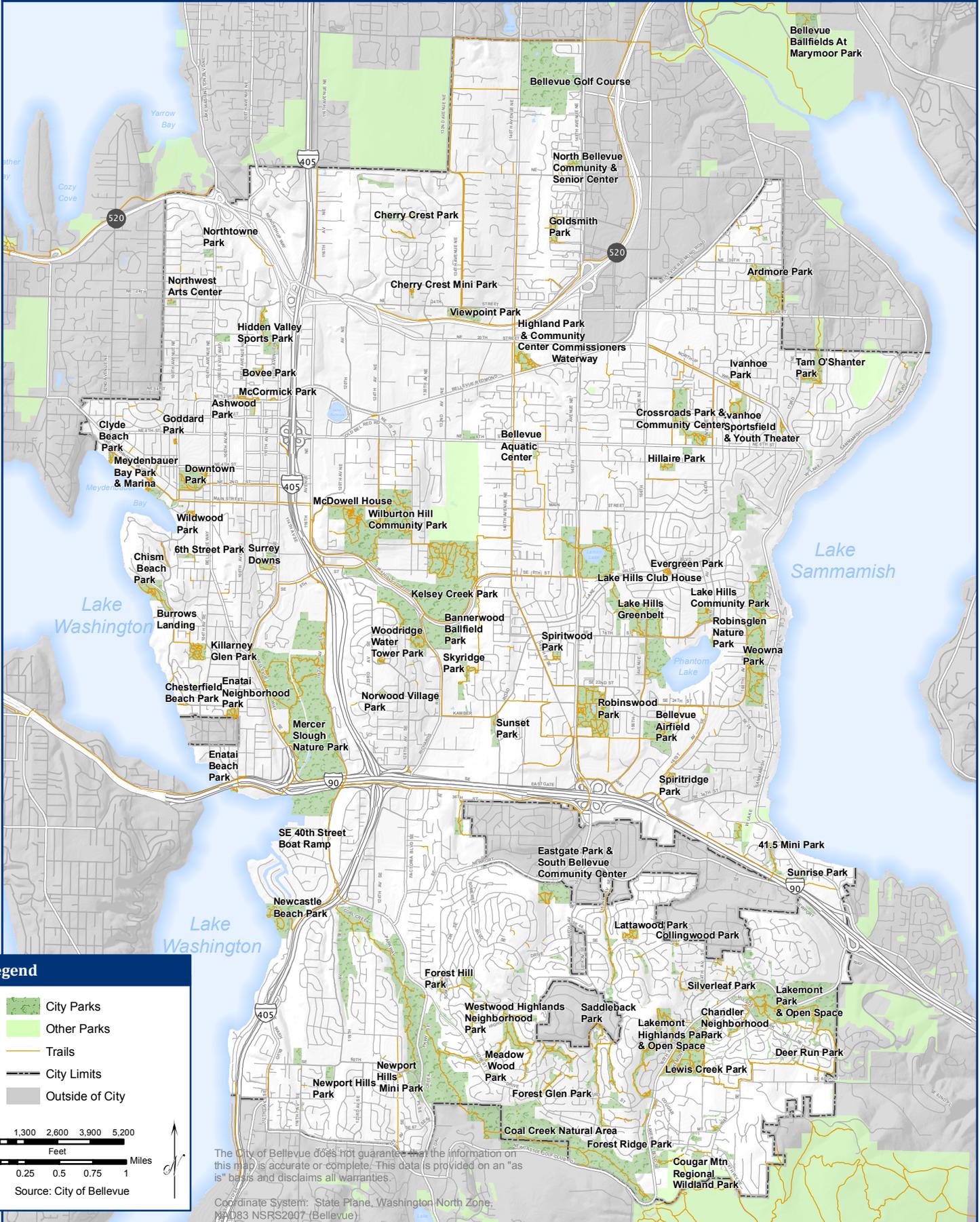
1. Parks system plan map
2. Park plan projects map

Available online:

Parks & Open Space System Plan

<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/park-plan.htm>.

Parks & Open Space System



Legend

- City Parks
- Other Parks
- Trails
- City Limits
- Outside of City

0 1,300 2,600 3,900 5,200
Feet

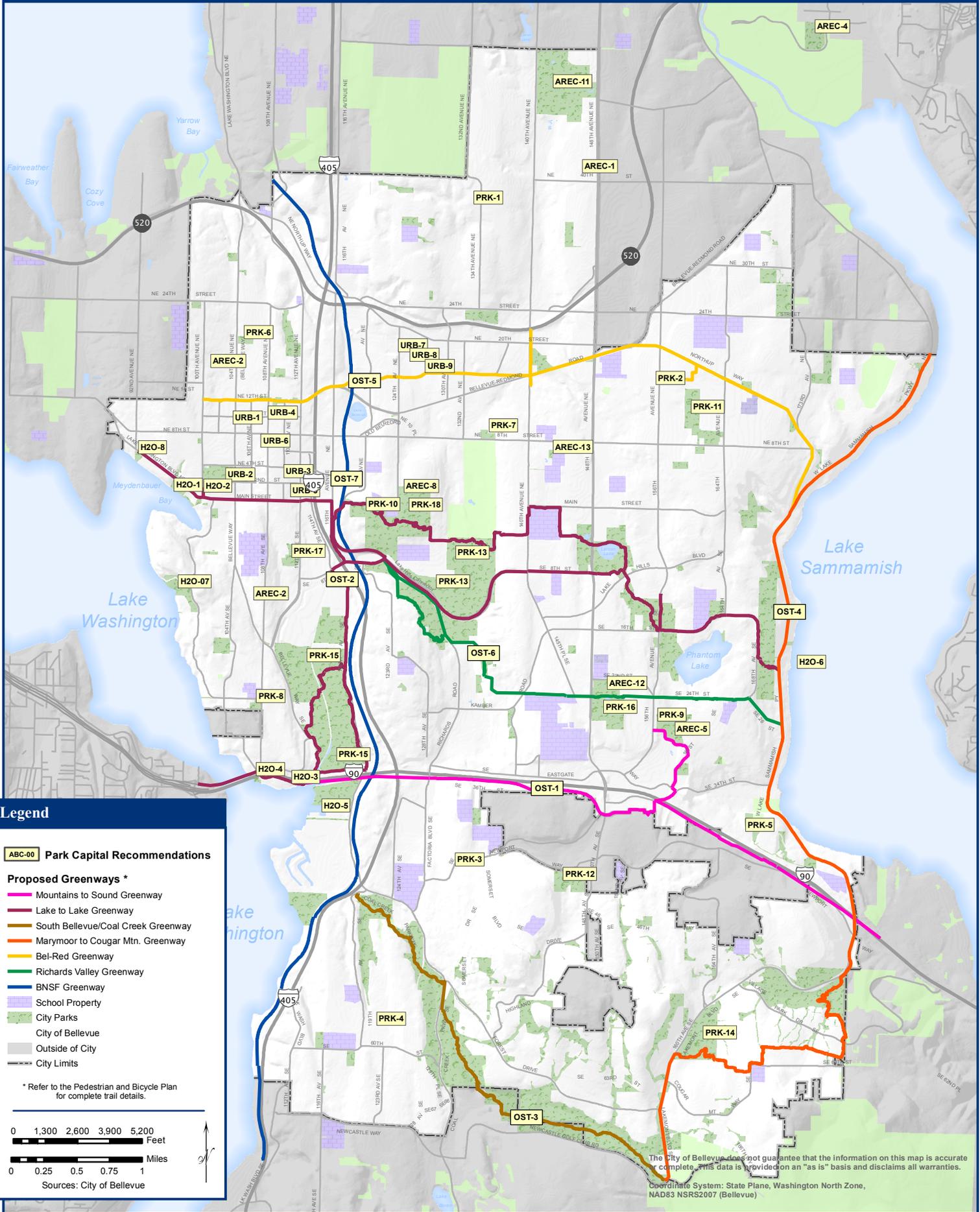
0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1
Miles

Source: City of Bellevue

The City of Bellevue does not guarantee that the information on this map is accurate or complete. This data is provided on an "as is" basis and disclaims all warranties.

Coordinate System: State Plane, Washington North Zone, NAD83 NSRS2007 (Bellevue)

Park Plan Projects



Legend

ABC-00 Park Capital Recommendations

Proposed Greenways *

- Mountains to Sound Greenway
- Lake to Lake Greenway
- South Bellevue/Coal Creek Greenway
- Marymoor to Cougar Mtn. Greenway
- Bel-Red Greenway
- Richards Valley Greenway
- BNSF Greenway
- School Property
- City Parks
- City of Bellevue
- Outside of City
- City Limits

* Refer to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan for complete trail details.

0 1,300 2,600 3,900 5,200 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

Sources: City of Bellevue

The City of Bellevue does not guarantee that the information on this map is accurate or complete. This data is provided on an "as is" basis and disclaims all warranties.

Coordinate System: State Plane, Washington North Zone, NAD83 NSRS2007 (Bellevue)