

About Bellevue

This chapter provides information about the City of Bellevue, its form of government, management structure, location, population, and business climate. This information will aid the reader in understanding Bellevue's service programs and means of providing these services. Budgetary values have more complete meaning when placed in this context.

A. Form of Government and Organization

The City of Bellevue is a noncharter optional code city. It was incorporated as a third class city on April 1, 1953. On June 1, 1970, however, Bellevue elected to become an optional code city and be governed under the provisions of the Optional Municipal Code of the Revised Code of Washington. Optional code city status increases the City's operating authority by extending to it the powers of all four city classifications which exist in Washington law.

From its incorporation, Bellevue has maintained a Council-City Manager form of government. The City Manager is appointed by the Council as the chief executive officer of the City and is responsible to the Council for the proper administration of all City affairs. Councilmembers are elected at large by Bellevue voters, and each serves a four-year term. They are part-time officials who exercise the legislative power of the City and determine City policy. Bellevue has a seven-member Council, one of whom is elected by his or her fellow members to serve as Mayor for two years. The Mayor serves as Chairperson of the Council, makes appointments to Council committees, and presides over weekly Council meetings. The Mayor has an equal vote with other Councilmembers.

The offices of City Clerk, City Treasurer, and Chief of Police are subordinate positions required by State statute. They are established by the Council and appointed by the City Manager. The City Clerk is responsible for keeping public records and the City Treasurer is responsible for the receipt, disbursement, and custody of public monies. Though the City Clerk position, by statute, can include the duties of Treasurer, the City of Bellevue has established both positions, with the City Treasurer being defined as the Finance Director. All officers and/or department directors of the City are appointed by the City Manager.

On the following pages several different organization and responsibility charts are presented. These charts illustrate the City's management organization from different perspectives.

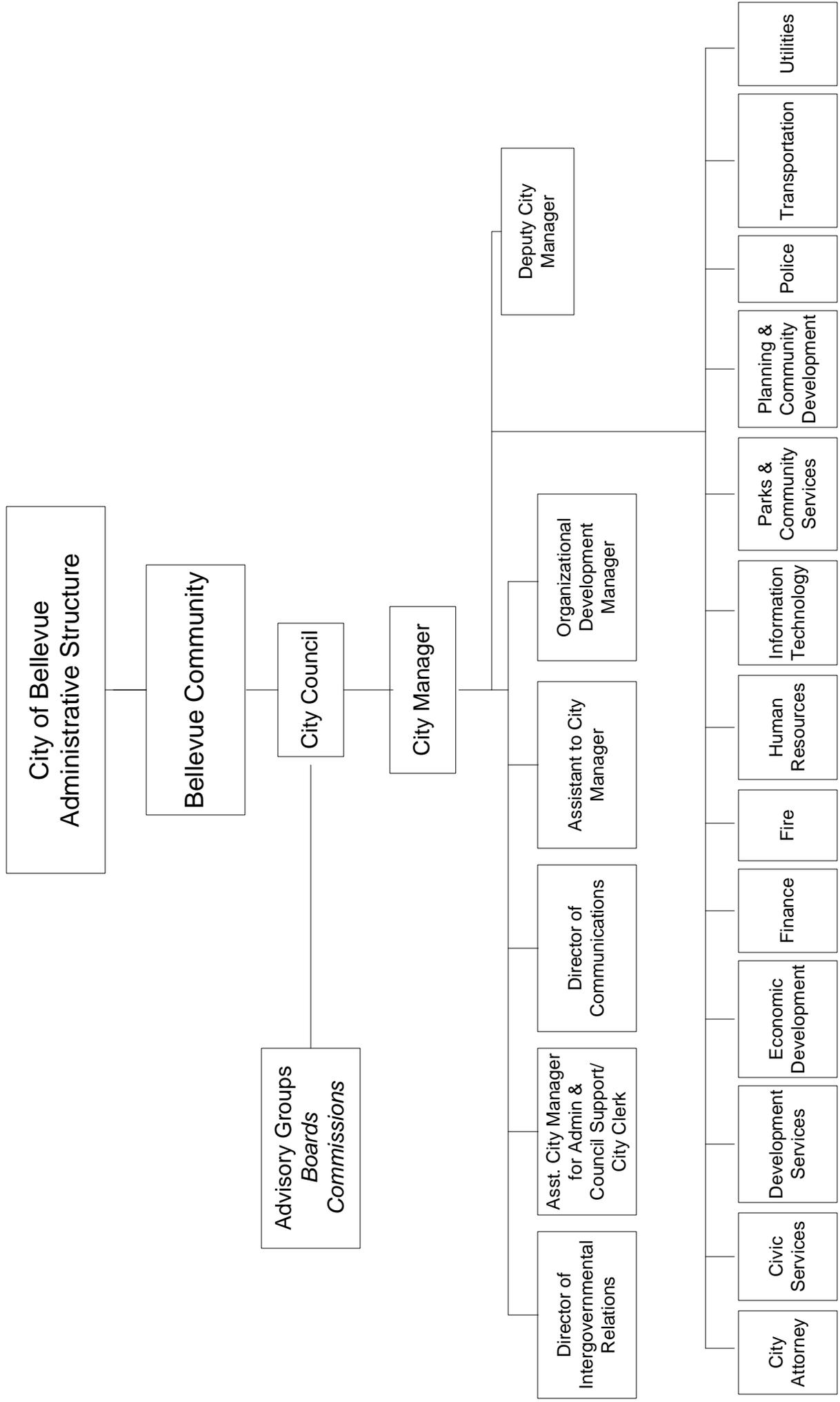
Figure 2-1 presents an organization chart that shows the reporting relationships that currently exist.

Figure 2-2 presents a functional organization chart showing the principal activities for which each organization is responsible. These functional responsibilities are shown in detail in the department organization charts presented in the departmental chapters of the Budget.

Figure 2-3 lists the current Councilmembers and department directors.

Figure 2-4 presents and describes the array of advisory boards and commissions.

About Bellevue
A. Form of Government and Organization
Figure 2-1: Organizational Chart





About Bellevue
A. Form of Government and Organization
Figure 2-2 Functional Organizational Chart

<p>City Attorney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal support for City Council, all departments, and boards & commissions • Prosecution • Litigation • Risk Management 	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General supervision over the City's financial affairs
<p>City Clerk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council support • City records and documents • Hearing Examiner staffing • Community Council staffing 	<p>City Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City administration • Intergovernmental relations • Media relations • Publications
<p>Human Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel Services, including recruitment, selection • Matters of personnel policy • Compensation and classification • Workforce diversity • Staff training 	<p>Fire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire suppression and rescue services • Fire prevention and education • Emergency medical services • Disaster preparedness • Hazardous materials emergency management
<p>Civic Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Center • Facilities Services • Mechanical and electronic equipment repair 	<p>Development Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development review and permitting • Clearing & grading permitting and inspection • Code enforcement
<p>Parks & Community Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of City parks and recreation programs • Youth Link • Human Services • Human Services Commission staffing • Probation • Park planning and development • Park Board staffing 	<p>Planning and Community Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rezones • Affordable housing • Citywide policy coordination • Comprehensive planning • Community outreach • Planning Commission staffing • Economic and statistical analysis • Community Development functions of CIP • Arts program and Arts Commission staffing
<p>Information Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of City's computer and telecommunications systems • Telephone systems management • Computer applications programming • Geographic Information Systems (GIS) 	<p>Utilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, sewer, storm & surface water, and solid waste utilities • Private utility franchising • Utility billing • Environmental Services Commission staffing • Street maintenance
<p>Police</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing functions • Police-related community programs • Park patrol • Public safety communications center 	<p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation planning, design, construction management, and operation • Transportation Commission staffing
<p>Office of Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the economy • Business development • Redevelopment of small neighborhood centers • Promote tourism & international trade 	



About Bellevue
A. Form of Government and Organization
Figure 2-3 City Officials

Elected City Council

Mayor	Don Davidson
Council	Claudia Balducci
.....	Grant Degginger
.....	John Chelminiak
.....	Conrad Lee
.....	Jennifer Robertson
.....	Kevin Wallace

Appointed Administrative Staff

City Manager	Steve Sarkozy
Deputy City Manager	Brad Miyake
City Attorney	Lori Riordan
Assistant City Manager for City Council and Administrative Support	Myrna Basich
Development Services Director	Mike Brennan
Economic Development Director	Bob Derrick
Civic Services Director	Nora Johnson
Finance Director	Jan Hawn
Fire Chief	Michael Eisner
Human Resources Director	Yvonne Tate
Chief Information Technology Officer	Toni Cramer
Parks & Community Services Director	Patrick Foran
Planning and Community Development Director	Dan Stroh (Acting)
Police Chief	Linda Pillo
Transportation Director	Goran Sparrman
Utilities Director	Dennis Vidmar



About Bellevue
A. Form of Government and Organization
Figure 2-4 Boards and Commissions

Arts Commission

Number of Members: 7

Appointed By: Mayor, Confirmed by City Council

Purpose/Comments: To perform the necessary functions in order that Bellevue may provide leadership in the Arts and to advise the City Council on matters of the Arts.

The Board meets once a month, and staffing is provided by the Planning and Community Development Department.

Bellevue Convention Center Authority Board

Number of Members: 7

Appointed By: City Manager, Confirmed by City Council

Purpose/Comments: To govern the affairs of the Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA) which was established by City Council action on December 4, 1989. All corporate powers of the BCCA are exercised by or under direction of the Board of Directors.

The BCCA Board meets monthly and staffing is provided by the Meydenbauer Center staff.

Building Code Board of Appeals

Number of Members: 7

Appointed By: City Manager

Purpose/Comments: 1) To hear appeals of any order issued by the City related to the Uniform Building and related codes; 2) to determine the suitability of alternative materials or methods of construction; and 3) to make recommendations to the City Council for new legislation related to the City's building codes.

The Board meets when convened to hear appeals filed with the City Building Official, and staffing is provided by the Planning and Community Development Department.



About Bellevue
B. Form of Government and Organization
Figure 2-4 Boards and Commissions (continued)

Civil Service Commission

Number of Members:	5
Appointed By:	City Manager
Purpose/Comments:	<p>1) To provide for, formulate, and hold competitive tests to determine the relative qualifications of persons who seek employment for the position of Police Officer or Firefighter with the City of Bellevue; 2) to provide for promotion on the basis of merit; 3) to give uniformed personnel tenure; and 4) to provide for a commission to investigate, by public hearing, suspensions, demotions, and discharges.</p> <p>The Board meets quarterly and as needed, and staffing is provided by the Human Resources Department.</p>

Disability Board

Number of Members:	5
Appointed By:	Two members appointed by the mayor, one firefighter elected by the City's firefighters, one law enforcement officer elected by the City's law enforcement officers, and one member of the public appointed by the other four members.
Purpose/Comments:	<p>To act upon, approve, or deny firefighters' and law enforcement officers' claims for disability leave/retirement or medical benefits.</p> <p>The Board meets once a month, and staffing is provided by the Risk Management Office.</p>

Environmental Services Commission

Number of Members:	7
Appointed By:	Mayor, Confirmed by City Council
Purpose/Comments:	<p>To act in an advisory capacity to the City Council regarding City Water, Sewer, Storm & Surface Water, and Solid Waste Utility programs. The Commission makes recommendations to the Council as needed regarding short- and long-term planning, rates and rate structures, annual budgets, bond issues, and other policies directly related to utility functions.</p> <p>The Commission meets at least once a month, and staffing is provided by the Utilities Department.</p>



About Bellevue
B. Form of Government and Organization
Figure 2-4 Boards and Commissions (continued)

Human Services Commission

Number of Members:	7, plus City staff from the Police and Parks & Community Services Departments appointed as ex officio members by the City Manager
Appointed By:	Mayor, Confirmed by City Council
Purpose/Comments:	To make recommendations to the City Council regarding human services issues such as the community's needs, policy development, and the allocation of local and federal funds. The Commission meets once a month and is staffed by the Parks & Community Services Department.

Liberty Board

Number of Members:	7
Appointed By:	Mayor, Confirmed by City Council
Purpose/Comments:	1) To serve as a liaison between the libraries and the community; and 2) to cooperate with the local, regional, and national trustees associations to participate in library matters. The Board meets once a month, and staffing is provided by the local libraries.

Parks & Community Services Board

Number of Members:	7
Appointed By:	Mayor, Confirmed by City Council
Purpose/Comments:	The Parks & Community Services Board advises the City Council on policies regarding parks and open space issues such as park planning; design and construction; development, redevelopment and renovation; enterprise management; natural resources, land stewardship, and environmental education. The Board also advises the City Council on policies regarding community services issues such as recreation opportunities for a wide range of interests, ages, and abilities; cultural diversity; community centers; Parks & Community Services Department-related special events; and probation services. The Board meets once a month, and staffing is provided by the Parks & Community Services Department.



About Bellevue
B. Form of Government and Organization
Figure 2-4 Boards and Commissions (continued)

Planning Commission

Number of Members:	7
Appointed By:	Mayor, Confirmed by City Council
Purpose/Comments:	To make recommendations to the City Council regarding land use issues such as the City's Comprehensive Plan, Subarea Plans, land use management ordinances, potential annexations, etc. The Commission meets once a week, and staffing is provided by the Planning and Community Development Department.

Transportation Commission

Number of Members:	7
Appointed By:	Mayor, Confirmed by City Council
Purpose/Comments:	To advise the City Council on transportation issues and to make recommendations to the City Council regarding Transportation Facility Plans and related transportation capital investment projects. The Commission meets weekly and is staffed by the Transportation Department.

About Bellevue

B. Location, Population, and Business Climate

B. Location, Population, and Business Climate

A Growing City

Bellevue, the fifth largest city in the state with a population of 122,363 in 2010, is located on the eastern shore of Lake Washington near the population and geographical center of the Puget Sound region. It is just 11 miles from Seattle and 40 miles from Tacoma with the mountains of the Cascades to the east, the Olympics to the west, and Mount Rainier to the south. Bellevue is about three hours north of Portland, Oregon, and two hours south of Vancouver, Canada.

As a thriving regional city encompassing an area of approximately 32.1 square miles, Bellevue is a major and growing employment center within the Puget Sound region.

Bellevue demographics are viewed as particularly favorable for economic growth and make Bellevue well positioned to meet the needs of a dynamic and resilient economy. City planners estimate that the residential population will rise significantly over the next several years, gaining more than 26,000 new residents by the year 2030. In downtown Bellevue alone, the residential population is forecast to grow from 7,000 current residents to 19,000 residents by 2030. Employment within downtown will increase at a rapid pace also with another 40,000 jobs added through 2030. In 2010, two of Bellevue's zip codes fell within the top 25 wealthiest zip codes in the Puget Sound area.

Between 2008 and 2009, Bellevue, like the region as a whole, experienced a loss of jobs. Overall, Bellevue's job base fell by about 5,600 jobs or 3.9%. The largest declines were in the professional, scientific, and technical industries and retail trade, which combined comprised nearly 50 percent of the decline. The information sector in contrast continued to grow in 2009 offsetting some of the job losses. Office vacancy rates in downtown Bellevue were 16.6% in the 4th quarter of 2010 with over 410,000 square feet of office space being desorbed in the last year alone.



Despite the recent recession, Bellevue's employment base citywide is expected to grow about 40 percent over the next 20 years, resulting in an increase of more than 53,000 new jobs. Bellevue's current daytime population is over 201,000, and Bellevue ranks second in the state in both retail sales and property values (as measured by assessed valuation). Its location at the crossroads between Microsoft's headquarters, the University of Washington and downtown Seattle strategically positions Bellevue as one of the strongest economic centers in the Puget Sound region. Many residential, retail and office buildings dot the city's horizon. Newly constructed office buildings include Lincoln Square's Office Tower, which is

About Bellevue

B. Location, Population, and Business Climate

entirely occupied by Microsoft and Eddie Bauer, The Bravern and City Center Plaza both of which are occupied by Microsoft, and Tower 333, which is occupied by Expedia.

Several newly constructed residential buildings within downtown Bellevue resulted in the addition of nearly 4,000 units between 2005 and 2010, including the Bravern Signature Residences and Bellevue Towers.

Expanding Economy

Bellevue started as a pastoral market hub for blueberry fields and farms. Founded in 1869 by William Meydenbauer, the rural community did not change much until the first floating bridge crossed Lake Washington in 1940. In the past two decades the City has grown to skyscraper heights and shed its “suburban” status to become a thriving metropolitan center and a “Technology Center” that is home to many of the world’s leading high-tech companies. Bellevue is the metropolitan hub for companies encompassing such sectors as software development, mobile communications, internet and network services, multi and digital media, and financial services. Its prestigious high-rise core provides office space for thousands of professionals. The University of Washington, one of the nation’s largest public research institutions, is also within close proximity.



A diversified mix of industries exists within Bellevue with retail and service sectors being the largest. Department stores such as Nordstrom and Neiman Marcus luxury retail, automobile dealerships, and electronic/computer stores lead the retail sector. The service sector has a high concentration of real estate companies, engineering firms, financial institutions, accounting firms, and computer software companies. Overlake Hospital Medical Center and Group Health Cooperative, two of the region’s major health care providers are located within Bellevue’s medical district just east of downtown.



Bellevue is home to several of the top 50 largest public companies in Washington including PACCAR, a manufacturer of trucks and other heavy equipment; Expedia, an online travel and vacation website; Esterline Technologies, a diversified aerospace company; Coinstar, which operates a nationwide network of coin counting and other electronic services; Drugstore.com, an online retailer of health, beauty, vision and pharmacy products; and InfoSpace, a provider of private label online search services. Many of these same companies make up the top 25 fastest-growing public companies in Washington including: Coinstar, InfoSpace, Esterline Technologies, and Expedia. BSquare, a provider of software and engineering services to smart devices, also falls among the top 25 fastest growing companies.

About Bellevue

B. Location, Population, and Business Climate

Bellevue is also a major trading center that is well-linked to established transportation corridors. Two interstate highways converge at Bellevue: I-90 links the City to the east-west interstate system and I-405 connects Bellevue with the north-south interstate system. Its convention center attracts over a quarter of a million people to the City each year. The Port of Seattle, the seventh largest container port in North America, is less than 20 minutes by interstate highway from downtown Bellevue. The City is also less than one-half hour from the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and several commuter airfields which provide links to other cities in the Pacific Northwest as well as internationally.

Downtown Development

Downtown Bellevue continues to evolve as a vibrant urban center with a diverse mix of retail, residential, office, and cultural uses. Major new tenants are choosing Bellevue as a “destination” location. Many new residential and retail projects have added greatly to street-level pedestrian activity and the attractiveness of Downtown Bellevue as a place to both live and do business. These recent projects include mixed-use buildings with residential units and ground-floor retail space. Over 7,000 people now call Downtown Bellevue home, with another 39,000 plus working downtown.



With completion of the Access Downtown project, the City has largely implemented its 1989 downtown plan. An update of the downtown plan, completed in 2003, identifies new recommendations to support ongoing growth and development through 2020, including transportation, parks, and community character. A major project component of the Downtown Plan underway is the extension of NE 10th Street. This project will ultimately extend NE 10th Street from 112th Ave NE across I-405 & through the Overlake Hospital Medical Center campus to

connect with 116th Ave NE, resulting in improved access to the Overlake Hospital and Group Health Cooperative Medical Centers and reducing pressure on the already busy NE 8th Street crossing of I-405.



About Bellevue

B. Location, Population, and Business Climate

Bellevue Schools and Higher Education

The Bellevue School District is one of the most “high-tech” in the country. Bellevue public schools have computers in every classroom. Many technically oriented courses, such as drafting, are taught exclusively on computers. With a total enrollment of 17,700 students in 2010-11, the Bellevue School District consists of 16 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 5 high schools, and 2 alternative schools. All five Bellevue School District’s large high schools were ranked in the top 1% of high schools in America according to the 2010 assessment and ranking of *America’s Best High Schools* reported by Newsweek Magazine and a similar ranking of the nation’s high schools by U.S. News and World Report.

Bellevue is home to one of the nation’s newest 4-year college, Bellevue College. The National Workforce Center for Emerging Technologies, located on the campus of Bellevue College (BC), focuses on cutting-edge information technology. Bellevue College has a student body of nearly 35,000 total students for the year. Based on information from the 2009 American Community Survey, Bellevue’s adult population is highly educated, with over 63 percent having a bachelor’s degree or higher. This is one of the highest levels in the nation and well above the county-wide average of 46 percent.

A Wired City

Bellevue residents value information technology and are among the nation’s most “connected” citizens. Based on a survey conducted in January 2008, nearly 100% of Bellevue residents have Internet access at home and more than 76% of those surveyed have high-speed access by either a cable modem or DSL. People use the Internet for a variety of daily activities including access to the City of Bellevue’s web page. The 2011 citizen survey revealed that nearly 80% of Bellevue residents are aware of the City’s Internet site. Of these residents, seventy-four percent have used the City’s web site to access information about parks and recreation programs, to pay bills to the city, to get information on garbage and recycling and for other reasons.

Climate

Mild winters and cool summers characterized Bellevue. High temperatures in July average about 75° F (24° C) while low temperatures in winter drop below freezing an average of only 15 days per year. Average rainfall in the region is about 38 inches per year compared to 19.5 inches in San Francisco, 34.5 inches in Chicago, and 40.3 inches in Washington, D.C.

Recreation Opportunities

Bellevue provides residents, visitors, and other stakeholders with a wealth of year-round outdoor recreation and spectacular natural beauty. Sailing, fishing, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, bicycling, golf, and water skiing are all popular activities. The City preserved over 1,700 acres of parks and open space, and nearly 50 miles of trails. It is truly a community for the future.

General Demographics

Bellevue's official 2010 population was 122,363 and is projected to be 148,400 in 2030. As the population has grown over the years, so has the median age and the diversity in Bellevue’s ethnic makeup.

About Bellevue

B. Location, Population, and Business Climate

In 2007-2009, the median age of Bellevue's population was 38.5 years, up from 35.4 in 1990. During this period, residents age 65 or over went from comprising 10.4 percent of the population to making up 14.0 percent of the population.

During this same period Bellevue became more racially and ethnically diverse. In 2010 minorities comprised over 40% of Bellevue's population, up from 14.7% in 1990. Asians alone represented nearly 28 percent of Bellevue's population, the highest share of any city in the state. Bellevue's Hispanic and Latino population also increased rapidly going from 5,827 in 2000 to 8,545 in 2010, an increase of 46.6 percent. In 2007-2009 over 31% of Bellevue's population had been born in a foreign country and over 35% spoke a language other than English at home. Over 84 languages are now spoken by children in Bellevue's public schools.

Bellevue's per capita/ income was \$45,406 in 2007-2009, which was significantly higher than King County's per capita income as a whole of \$38,303.

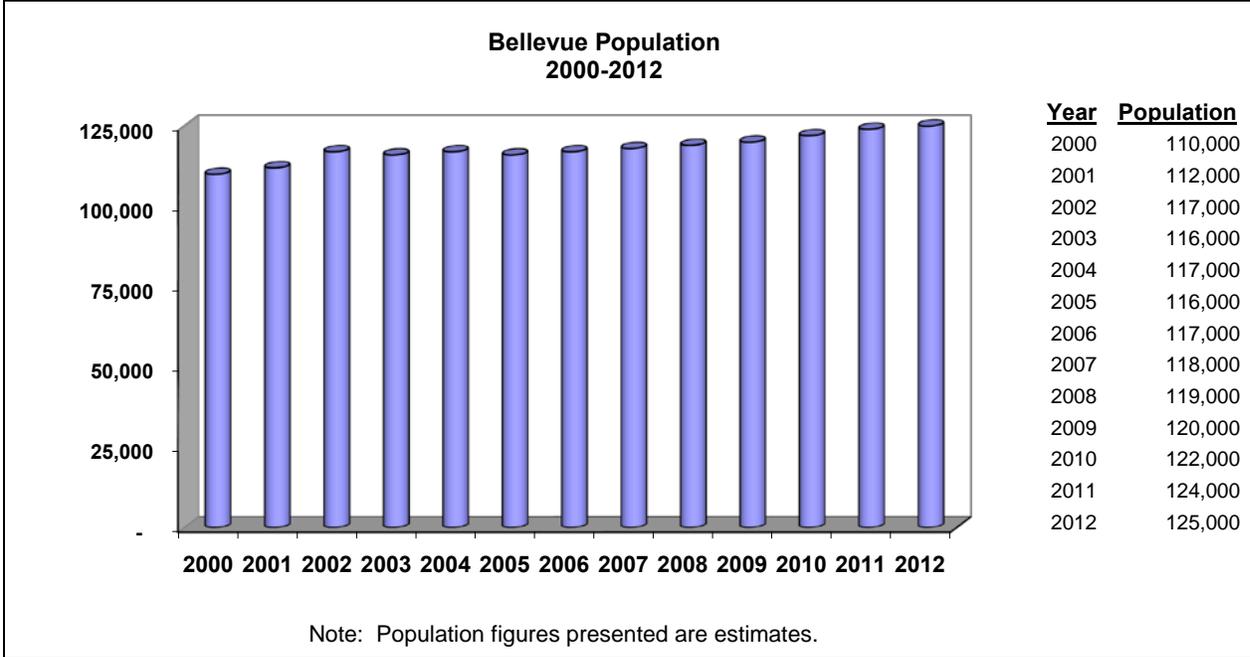


Figure 2-5 displays key demographic trends for Bellevue.



About Bellevue
B. Location, Population, and Business Climate
Figure 2-5 Key Demographic Trends

Key Demographic Trends



Other Key Demographics 2009-2012						
	Actual 2009	Actual 2010	Projected 2011	Projected 2012	Unit Change 2011-2012	% Change 2011-2012
Puget Sound Per Capita Personal Income	\$48,584	\$49,052	\$50,594	\$52,751	\$2,157	4.3%
Puget Sound Unemployment	8.6%	8.8%	8.7%	8.0%	(0.7%)	(8.2%)
Seattle CPI-U	0.6%	0.5%	1.5%	1.7%	0.2%	13.1%
Square Miles	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	-	-
Assessed Value (\$ in billions)	\$37.6	\$34.1	\$32.1	\$34.6	\$2.5	7.8%
Total Budget All City Funds (\$ in millions)	\$723.0	\$685.3	\$666.0	\$679.7	\$13.7	2.1%