DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR
11511 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 90012
BELLEVUE, WA 98009-9012

DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

PROPONENT: Bellevue Parks & Community Services Department

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL: City-wide

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Non-project SEPA review of an update of the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan - 2010

FILE NUMBERS: 09-134019-XO

The Environmental Coordinator of the City of Bellevue has determined that this proposal does not have a probable significant adverse impact upon the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C). This decision was made after the Bellevue Environmental Coordinator reviewed the completed environmental checklist and information filed with the Land Use Division of the Development Services Department. This information is available to the public on request.

☐ There is no comment period for this DNS. There is a 14-day appeal period. Only persons who submitted written comments before the DNS was issued may appeal the decision. A written appeal must be filed in the City Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. on _____.

☒ This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. There is no further comment period on the DNS. There is a 14-day appeal period. Only persons who submitted written comments before the DNS was issued may appeal the decision. A written appeal must be filed in the City Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on April 29, 2010.

☐ This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and is subject to a 14-day comment period from the date below. Comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. on _____. This DNS is also subject to appeal. A written appeal must be filed in the City Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on _____.

This DNS may be withdrawn at any time if the proposal is modified so that it is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts; if there is significant new information indicating, or on, a proposals probable significant adverse environmental impacts (unless a non-exempt license has been issued if the proposal is a private project): or if the DNS was procured by misrepresentation or lack of material disclosure.

Environmental Coordinator

04/15/2010
Date

OTHERS TO RECEIVE THIS DOCUMENT:
State Department of Fish and Wildlife
State Department of Ecology,
Army Corps of Engineers
Attorney General
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

City of Bellevue
Development Services Department
Environmental Review and State Environmental Policy Act
Threshold Determination

Proposal Name:	**Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan - 2010**
Proposal Address:	City of Bellevue – City-wide
Proposal Description:	Non-project SEPA review of an update of the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan - 2010.
File Number:	09-134019-XO
Applicant:	Bellevue Parks and Community Services Department Cameron Parker
Planner:	Sally Nichols, Associate Planner
Decisions Included:	SEPA Threshold Determination
State Environmental Policy Act Threshold Determination:	**Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)**

Michael Paine, Environmental Coordinator
Development Services Department

Application Date:	November 19, 2009
Application Publication Date:	December 24, 2009
Decision Publication Date:	April 15, 2010
Project Appeal Deadline:	April 29, 2010 (14 days)

For information on how to appeal a proposal, visit the Permit Center at City Hall or call (425) 452-6864. Comments on State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determinations can be made with or without appealing the proposal within the noted comment period for a SEPA Determination. Appeal of the Decision must be received in the City Clerk's Office by 5 PM on the date noted for appeal of the decision.

I. PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Parks & Community Services Department is the single largest land owner and manager in Bellevue, with 2,480 acres of property. Of this amount, approximately 800 acres are in developed park sites. The remaining 1,680 acres are in natural areas comprised of forests, steep slopes, wetlands and meadows. The Parks Department also manages 46 acres of farmland and 120 acres of street tree and arterial landscapes within the City's developed right-of-ways.

The Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan – 2010 (referred to in this document as the Plan) is intended to provide the long-term vision for acquisition, development and management of the City's parks and open space system. Any future park development projects should be consistent with the recommendations contained in the plan. The Plan is on a six-year schedule for renewal and adoption by the City Council. The current Plan was last updated in 2003 and this updated plan is scheduled to be presented to the State of Washington in June of 2010.

Another reason for the adoption of an updated Plan at this time is the fact that the Parks Department is preparing for re-accreditation in 2010 by the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) organization. The updated Plan will be instrumental in laying out the future of the City of Bellevue Parks and Open Space system; a requirement of the accreditation process. In addition, an update of the Plan is required by the state Growth Management Act and the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The RCO have given the City millions of dollars in grants over the past several years.

The updated Plan will focus on a number of areas, including open space, greenways, wildlife corridors and trails, parks and open space for urban areas, park facilities, active recreation facilities, waterfront access, coordination with other planning initiatives (e.g., Bel-Red subarea and the Downtown Implementation Plan) levy implementation, regional partnerships, historic resources and maintenance and renovations.

Lastly, this updated Plan is necessary to address the changing population dynamics within the City of Bellevue. Among the changes anticipated over the next decade, the following have a large impact on the Parks and Open Space System:

- Bellevue's growth in population will come predominantly in the form of higher density housing located in places such as downtown Bellevue and in the redeveloping Bel-Red corridor.
- The average age of Bellevue's resident population will increase as baby boomers make older adults a larger percentage of the overall population.
- Bellevue's overall racial and ethnic make-up will continue to diversify.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD

The environmental summary consists of analysis based on the following documents and studies in the environmental record or, if noted, incorporated by reference.

- Environmental Checklist and Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions, prepared by Cameron Parker with the City of Bellevue Parks Department on Dec. 31, 2009. Reviewed and annotated by Sally Nichols on March 26, 2009. (See Attachment X)
- Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan, September, 2003 (in project file)
- Open Space, Parks & Recreation, Final EIS (FEIS), October 9, 1987 (in project file)
- Open Space, Parks & Recreation, Draft EIS (DEIS), June 15, 1987 (in project file)
- Open Space, Parks & Recreation Plan, Draft Summary, August 1986 (in project file)
- Environmental Best Management Practices & Design Standards Manual - 2006, City of Bellevue, Parks and Community Services Department.

III. PROPOSAL TIMELINE AND SUBSEQUENT PHASING

A. Planning History

1. Community Involvement

From August to December, 2009, the Parks Department has used many different techniques and forums to collect feedback and opinions for Bellevue parks users on how the park and trail systems are currently used and what priorities should be given in the future for development. These include:

- A statistically valid random sample survey of Bellevue residents with responses received from almost 700 households;
- An open web-survey completed by approximately 1,250 park users;
- 21 presentations to the City Council, City Boards and Commissions, the East Bellevue Community Council, parks user groups and local neighborhood organizations, reaching approximately 170 individuals.
- A regularly updated project blog, accessed by an estimated 800 unique visitors;
- A public hearing hosted by the Parks & Community Services Board on January 12, 2010, that garnered verbal testimony from 8 individuals and written comments submitted for the hearing by 15 individuals; and
- Project updates and comment opportunities provided by the Parks & Community Services e-newsletter (16,100 subscribers), the Neighborhood Outreach Office's Neighborhood News (800 subscribers), the City's presence on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, and local newspapers (print and online) and Eastside-focused blogs.

In general terms, the community reported a high level of satisfaction with the park and trail systems as a whole. There is an even balance between people's preferences for continuing to acquire park and open space land and developing existing park properties. Trails, playgrounds, open unstructured areas, waterfront parks and sports fields are the most frequently used types of facilities and these same five categories were in the top tier of projects types given a high priority for future development.

2. Level of Service

In the past, Parks & Community Services has set its level of services standards based on the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), where service was based upon providing a set number of park acres and park facilities per thousand in population. The 2003 Parks & Open Space Plan was based on this standard.

This new 2010 Plan, Parks & Community Services has shifted away from this approach based on direction from the State of Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). As a result, the level of service is now based upon statistically valid local public opinion and park and trail service area (or accessibility) standards. For this 2010 Plan, the City of Bellevue has selected the following three levels of service measures:

- Individual Active Participation – measured by the percentage of population that participates in one or more active outdoor activities. Results differed between geographic areas, with the lowest park, trail and recreation program usage within Central Bellevue.
- Public Satisfaction – measured by the percent of population satisfied with the condition of existing park and recreation facilities. According to a survey conducted in 2008, overall satisfaction with the park system is very high.
- Service Area – measured by the percent of households within 1/3 mile of a park or trail access point. As a result of this analysis, the following subareas of the City were identified to have significant gaps in walkable access to parks and trails:

* Bel-Red
* Bridle Trails
* Crossroads
* Downtown
* Factoria
* Newport Hills
* North Bellevue
* Northeast Bellevue

B. Subsequent Actions

The Plan identifies a list of recommended capital projects to address the open space and recreation needs of the community. The Plan itself does not trigger development or instigate specific capital projects. Capital project priorities are established when funding is approved for specific capital projects by the City Council. Currently the City Capital Improvement Program Budget (2009-2015) is reviewed and approved for a seven year period with updates every two years. One current capital project funding resource is a 20 year, Park and Open Space Levy passed by the voters in November of 2008. The projects included in this levy will drive the short-term implementation schedule for park and open space preservation and development. The levy partially funds eleven of the 62 recommended capital projects in the 2010 Plan. These projects will be completed in the near term, within 1-15 years. The 51 remaining projects will be prioritized through the CIP Budget process and may or may not be funded by the Council in the future.

1. Describe near term (1-15 years to completion) projects

Providing capital project descriptions with potential impacts and potential mitigation depends on the extent to which a project has been defined. A project such as *Adding a Neighborhood Park in the Bridle Trails Subarea* will involve property acquisition followed by a public outreach master planning process to determine the extent to which the acquired property will be developed. Projects involving continued development or phasing of an existing park will have undergone a public outreach master planning process, and completed a non-project level SEPA review of the conceptual park plan. All park development projects will trigger non-project and/or project level SEPA review and determination as well as adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations.

Project recommendations are organized and discussed in the Plan by Focus Areas. Focus areas identify general project and development principles. Capital project recommendations typically address multiple principles or Focus Areas. Both the Focus Areas and project recommendations have generally remained consistent since the 1987 edition of the Plan, although over time they have been generalized or modified to reflect development phasing or meet contemporary needs of the community. Within each Focus Area, the 2010 Plan will identify capital projects based on a 20-year timeframe.

Focus Areas are discussed in detail in the Plan. Briefly, the seven Focus Areas are:

- ***Open Space Greenways, wildlife corridors and trails:*** Acquire and protect open space to establish a network of greenways throughout the community. Greenways can function to meet passive and active recreation needs of the community, protect wildlife and critical habitat areas, and provide linkages between parks and commercial or residential neighborhoods.
- ***Park facilities***: Provide neighborhood and community parks within walking distance of Bellevue residents through acquisition, development, or redevelopment.

- ***Active Recreation Facilities:*** Site community centers and active recreation facilities throughout the community to provide needed indoor and outdoor recreation spaces and activities of interest to a wide spectrum of diverse users.
- ***Waterfront Access:*** Acquire and develop additional publicly-owned waterfront property to allow greater shoreline access for all Bellevue residents.
- ***Parks & Open Space Serving Urban Densities:*** Unique challenges are faced in designing and providing a park system to serve the urban densities of Downtown Bellevue, and in the future, a redeveloped Bel-Red neighborhood. For this reason, parks, open space, trail and active recreation facility needs are grouped together for the Downtown and Bel-Red Subareas.
- ***Partnerships:*** Engage partners in the public, private and non-profit sectors to provide recreation and community service needs for Bellevue residents. Provide increased access to regional park and recreation facilities surrounding the city as an added benefit to Bellevue park users.
- **Historic, Cultural, and Art Resources:** Protect and interpret Bellevue's cultural history as well as provide space and outlet for artistic expression.

2. <u>Identified Projects</u>

Thirteen projects at eleven park sites that have been funded and are anticipated to be completed in the short term (1-15 years). Project descriptions and SEPA permitting references (if available) are the following:

i. South Bellevue/Coal Creek Park Greenway Trail improvements Project

Improve forest conditions and stabilize slope to reduce erosion in the Coal Creek Natural Area, and create hiking and walking trails throughout the City. Projects will be reviewed and permitted, including project level SEPA as the specific improvement projects are defined. Projects were identified and reviewed as part of the Ped-Bike Plan, Ordinance 5861, Comprehensive Plan Update 2007 – 123138 AC

ii. Add a Neighborhood Park to the Bridle Trails Subarea Project

This project will provide an underserved subarea with a neighborhood park. The project is undefined at this time but will include acquisition of property, master planning followed by phased development to the extent that funding allows. Potentially all Focus Area principles could be addressed with the exceptions of providing waterfront access and parks & open space serving urban densities.

iii. Bellevue Airfield Park phased development Project

This project will provide the initial phase of development of a new 27 acre Community Park. The Park will include sportfields, trails, wildlife habitat enhancement, restrooms, picnic areas and playgrounds. All Focus Area principles will be addressed with the exception of providing water front access, and parks & open space serving urban densities. Master Planning for this new park is in process, a SEPA (Non-project) 2010 permit number will be available shortly.

iv-vi. Bellevue Botanical Gardens phased development Projects

Three projects include design and development of two gardens, the Ravine Garden, and the Wetland Sun Terraced Garden, as well as the design, construction documents and permitting of a new visitor center. These projects will expand opportunities for visitors to experience botanical displays and educational experiences. All Focus Area principles will be addressed with the exception of providing water front access, active recreation, and parks & open space serving urban densities. Projects will be fully reviewed and permitted (including project level SEPA) when designed. Projects have been reviewed from a non-project SEPA perspective

based on the Community Park Master Plans and updates:

- Wilburton Hill Community Park and Botanical Garden, (EIS)1987-87-004768-LE
- Updated Botanical Garden Master Plan, SEPA (Non-Project) 2008-08-114999-LM

vii. Lewis Creek Park phased development Project

This project develops a group picnic area which will include a covered picnic shelter, restrooms, parking and expanded trail connections within this 56 acre park. This project addresses the Focus Area principle of providing park facilities. The project will be fully reviewed and permitted (including project level SEPA) when it is designed. This project has been reviewed from a non-project SEPA perspective based on the Park Master Plan, 2000-235368-LM

viii. Surrey Downs Community Park first phase of development Project

This first phase of park development will provide sportfields, trails, restrooms, picnic and playgrounds. All Focus Area principles could be addressed with the exception of providing water front access. When the project is designed it will be reviewed and permitted (including project level SEPA). This project has been reviewed from a non-project SEPA perspective based on the Park Master Plan, 2008-116082-LM.

ix-x. Synthetic Field Surfaces (Wilburton and Newport) Projects

Synthetic surface will be installed to improve safety and address the active recreation Focus Area by expanding seasonal play capacity at existing Wilburton Hill and Newport Hills Park sportfields. Design and permitting for the sportfield surface replacement projects has begun, SEPA review references are:

- Wilburton Hill Park, 2009-113810-XD
- Newport Park, 2009-12747-XD

xi. Lake Sammamish Waterfront Project

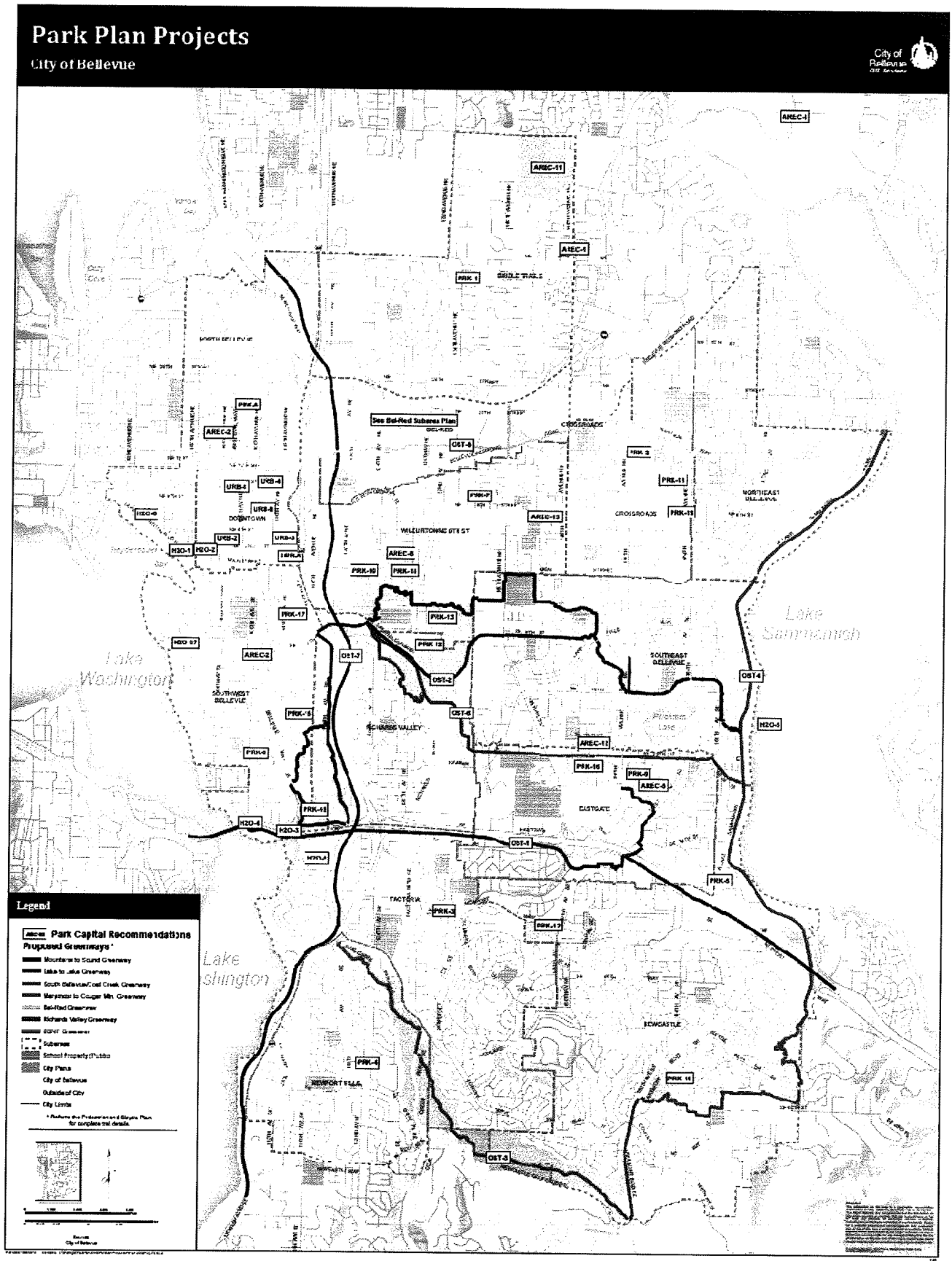
This project will provide an underserved subarea with a neighborhood park, park facilities, as well as provide water access. Although the property has been acquired, the degree to which the park will be developed has yet to be determined. When the public outreach master planning process and park development concepts are established, a non-project SEPA review will be preformed prior to Council Adoption of the Master Plan.

xii. Downtown Park phased development Project

This project provides for the next phase of construction in Downtown Park - completion of the circle around the waterfall and reflecting pond. This project addresses the Focus Area principle of providing park facilities. This project will be fully reviewed and permitted including project level SEPA when it is designed. The Downtown Park, including this project is included in the Park Master Plan adopted by Council in the 1980's and updated in 1997.

xiii. Youth Performing Arts Center Project

This project provides for a larger, improved theater facility that will help meet the needs of the City's youth performing arts programs at Crossroads Community Center. All Focus Area principles will be addressed with the exception of providing open space greenways, wildlife corridors and trails, active recreation facilities, and waterfront access. When the project has been designed, it will be reviewed and permitted (including project level SEPA).


Park Plan Projects
City of Bellevue
City of Bellevue
Legend
Park Capital Recommendations
Proposed Greenways*
Mountains to Sound Greenway
Lake to Lake Greenway
South Bellevue/Coal Creek Greenway
Kelsey Creek Greenway
Bel-Red Greenway
Richards Valley Greenway
Eastrail
Subareas
School Property (Public)
City Parks
City of Bellevue
Outside of City
City Limits
* Refer to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan for complete trail details.
Lake Washington
Lake Sammamish
See Bel-Red Subarea Plan
DOWNTOWN
CROSSROADS
NORTHEAST BELLEVUE
SOUTHEAST BELLEVUE
SOUTHWEST BELLEVUE
RICHARDS VALLEY
EASTGATE
FACTORIA
NEWCASTLE
NEWPORT HILLS

2010 Park Open Space System Plan - Draft
Capital Project List (20 Year)

2/2/2010

Project #	Project Name	Unmapped / Citywide	Bel-Red	Bridle Trails	Crossroads	Downtown	Eastgate	Factoria	Newcastle	Newport Hills	North Bellevue	Northeast Bellevue	Richards Valley	Southeast Bellevue	Southwest Bellevue	Wilburton	Outside City
Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails																	
OST-1	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections						x	x	x						x		
OST-2	Lake to Lake Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections												x	x	x	x	
OST-3	South Bellevue / Coal Creek Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections							x	x	x							
OST-4	Marymoor to Cougar Mountain Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections								x			x		x			
OST-5	Bel-Red Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections		x		x						x	x					
OST-6	Richards Valley Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections						x						x				
OST-7	Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BSNF) Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections		x					x			x		x			x	
OST-8	Greenway Connections/Extensions: Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPA)	x															
OST-9	Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan implementation (See Ped & Bike Plan)	x															
Park Facilities																	
PRK-1	Add Neighborhood Park: Bridle Trails Subarea			x													
PRK-2	Add Neighborhood Park: Crossroads Subarea				x												
PRK-3	Add Neighborhood Park: Factoria Subarea							x									
PRK-4	Add Neighborhood Park: Newport Hills Subarea									x							
PRK-5	Improve Un-developed Sites: Eastgate/Newcastle Subarea (Norelius/Sunrise Property)						x		x								
PRK-6	Improve Un-developed Sites: North Bellevue Subarea (Chapin Property)										x						
PRK-7	Improve Un-developed Sites: Wilburton Subarea (Glendale Property)															x	
PRK-8	Redevelop Enatai Neighborhood Park														x		
PRK-9	Continue Phased Development: Airfield Park						x										
PRK-10	Continue Phased Development: Bellevue Botanical Garden															x	
PRK-11	Continue Phased Development: Crossroads Park				x												
PRK-12	Continue Phased Development: Eastgate Park						x										
PRK-13	Continue Phased Development: Kelsey Creek Park												x			x	
PRK-14	Continue Phased Development: Lewis Creek Park picnic area and trails								x								
PRK-15	Continue Phased Development: Mercer Slough Natural Area							x					x		x		
PRK-16	Continue Phased Development: Robinswood Park						x							x			
PRK-17	Continue Phased Development: Surrey Downs Park														x		
PRK-18	Continue Phased Development: Wilburton Hill Park															x	
Active Recreation Facilities																	
AREC-1	North Bellevue Community Center Addition			x													
AREC-2	Community Center serving North/Southwest Bellevue										x				x		
AREC-3	Sportsfields: Synthetic Field Surfaces	x															
AREC-4	Sportsfields: Two lighted ball fields at Marymoor Park																x
AREC-5	Sportsfields: Lighted sportsfields at Airfield Park						x										
AREC-6	Sportsfields: Lighted fields at selected community and school sites	x															
AREC-7	Sportsfields: Improve school sportsfields	x															
AREC-8	Sportsfields: Ballfield at Wilburton Hill Park															x	

2010 Park Open Space System Plan - Draft
Capital Project List (20 Year)

2/2/2010

Project #	Project Name	Unmapped / Citywide	Bel-Red	Bridle Trails	Crossroads	Downtown	Eastgate	Factoria	Newcastle	Newport Hills	North Bellevue	Northeast Bellevue	Richards Valley	Southeast Bellevue	Southwest Bellevue	Wilburton	Outside City
AREC-9	Off-leash Dog Areas Improvements and Additions	X															
AREC-10	Alternative Sports Facilities for Diverse Recreation Preferences	X															
AREC-11	Golf Course Improvements			X													
AREC-12	Tennis Center Improvements						X										
AREC-13	Aquatic Center Improvements															X	
Waterfront Access																	
H2O-1	Meydenbauer Bay Park										X						
H2O-2	Meydenbauer Bay Park to Downtown Park Connection										X						
H2O-3	Connect Enatai Beach Park to Mercer Slough Natural Area														X		
H2O-4	Complete Enatai Beach Park Phased Development														X		
H2O-5	SE 40th Boat Launch Addition							X									
H2O-6	Lake Sammamish Waterfront													X			
H2O-7	Chism Beach Redevelopment														X		
H2O-8	Clyde Beach Redevelopment										X						
H2O-9	Additions to existing waterfront parks	X															
Parks & Open Space Serving Urban Densities																	
URB-1	Downtown Subarea: Add NW Neighborhood Park					X											
URB-2	Downtown Subarea: Downtown Park					X											
URB-3	Downtown Subarea: Add SE Neighborhood Park (NE 2nd corner properties)					X											
URB-4	Downtown Subarea: Ashwood Park					X											
URB-5	Downtown Subarea: Main Street Linear Buffer Greenway					X											
URB-6	Downtown Subarea: Add Community Center					X											
URB-7	Bel-Red Subarea: Open space and Off-Street Trail Development (See Bel-Red Subarea Plan)	X	X														
URB-8	Bel-Red Subarea: Multi-purpose Trail Development (See Bel-Red Subarea Plan)	X	X														
URB-9	Bel-Red Subarea: Park System Acquisition and Development (See Bel-Red Subarea Plan)	X	X														
Partnerships																	
PTNR-1	Elementary, Middle and High School Site Improvements	X															
PTNR-2	Partner with Other City departments to Create Parks	X															
PTNR-3	Partner with other Public Agencies to Create Parks, including but not limited to Bellevue School District, Cascade Water Alliance, Sound Transit, Washington State, King County and Bellevue College	X															
PTNR-4	Aquatic Facility	X															
PTNR-5	Ice Rink	X															
PTNR-6	Historic Building Preservation	X															
PTNR-7	Cultural Arts Center	X															
PTNR-8	Youth Performing Arts Center	X			X												

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

The environmental review suggests no probability of significant adverse environmental impacts occurring because of this proposal. Therefore, issuance of a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) is the appropriate threshold determination under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements.

The driving purpose for updating the 2003 Parks and Open Space System Plan was to bring the goals, objectives and recommendations within the Plan into alignment with current local, state and federal planning policies and laws. The 2010 edition of the Plan will support and align with local, state, and federal laws and/or requirements for the protection of environment.

Secondly, the Parks & Open Space System Plan is a long-term planning document for the acquisition and development of the City's parks and open space system. Adverse impacts that are less than significant are usually subject to City Codes or Standards intended to mitigate those impacts.

However, as stated throughout this report, the implementation of the Parks and Open Space System Plan contains uncertainty surrounding the sequencing and timing of identified projects. Some of the factors which will affect priorities and implementation include:

- Parks & Open Space System Plan consistency
- City Council priorities
- Maintenance and operations impacts
- Citizen input
- Special funding available
- Capital Investment Program funding and alternative funding sources
- Neighborhood impacts
- Suitability of the site
- Geographic distribution
- Economic impact
- Urgency (without immediate actions, will a specific opportunity be lost)

To address this uncertainty and ensure that subsequent development is consistent with the Plan, individual projects will be reviewed for SEPA compliance at the time of Master Planning and/or submittal of development applications as detailed in WAC 197-11-060 5.

Anticipated Impacts and Mitigating Regulations:

The following attempts to address some of the anticipated cumulative impacts for the projects identified in the Plan:

1. Earth

The parks and open space system encompasses a diverse range of land configurations and ecological environments. It is the strategy of Parks & Community Services to bring key tracts of land into public ownership in order to preserve and connect sensitive areas via a series of greenways, wildlife corridors and trails. The environmental benefits include habitat protection, stormwater biofiltration, and flood control, stream, wetland and steep slope preservation.

When future development projects identified in the 2010 Plan occur in areas within the Shoreline and/or Critical Areas overlay districts, they will each be reviewed for compliance with the Land Use Codes and the City's Critical Areas Overlay District performance standards - Land Use Code (LUC) 20.25E and 20.25H. Through application of the City's development standards and adherence to the Parks & Community Services Department's Environmental Best Management Practices & Design Standards, it is expected that any adverse environmental impacts will be mitigated.

In addition, the City of Bellevue's rules and regulations that govern temporary erosion and sedimentation control, geotechnical evaluation of earth work and development in geologic hazard areas and construction best management practices will be enforced for all development activities identified in the 2010 Plan. These rules are enumerated in the Clearing and Grading chapter of the Bellevue City Code (BCC) Chapter 23.76. The enforcement of these rules and the use of the Parks & Community Services Department Environmental Best Management Practices and Design Standards for operations and maintenance will mitigate for any potential significant adverse impacts.

Acreage of site(s):
In general, project impacts will range from less than an acre for trail and neighborhood park type projects to larger multiple acre parks. The table below provides total acres of the park resources listed. In most cases, the actual development projects will be smaller trail, development or re-development that will occur within larger park sites.

Sites: Capital Project Recommendations (Near Term)	**Acre(s)**
South Bellevue / **Coal Creek Park** Greenway Trail improvements Project	447
Add Neighborhood Park to the **Bridle Trails Subarea** Project	Unknown
Bellevue Airfield Park phased development Project	27.5
Bellevue Botanical Gardens (**Wilburton Park**) phased development Project	105.5
Lewis Creek Park phased development Project	56
Surrey Downs Park first phase of development Project	11.5
Synthetic Field Surfaces (**Wilburton Park**) Projects	105.5
Synthetic Field Surfaces (**Newport Park**) Projects	4.5
Lake Sammamish properties Waterfront Project	0.77
Downtown Park phased development Project	21.5
Youth Performing Arts Center (**Crossroads Park**) Project	34.5

2. Air and Water

One mission of the Parks & Community Services Department is to preserve and restore critical and open space areas for environmental quality and wildlife habitat. This environmental stewardship responsibility is reflected in the goals and objectives of the Parks and Open Space System Plan. Discharges in the water system and release of toxic or hazardous substances are not anticipated with any project by the adherence to existing stormwater codes, City codes and regulations, and the use of the City's Environmental Best Management Practices & Design Standards.

Construction Activity: Temporary emissions to the air and production of noise will generally be limited to construction activities. Implementation of future Parks projects outlined in the 2010 Plan has the potential to create short term impacts on air quality from dust and exhaust from construction vehicles and practices. Construction activities are regulated by the Bellevue City Code and Construction Code. For example, construction-related dust suppression is a requirement of BCC 23.76, Clearing and Grading Code. There will also be additional exhaust from the additional vehicles of additional park users.

All thirteen projects identified in Section III.B above include construction activities, from the development of trails and restrooms to the new youth theater. Park buildings can range from community and art centers, picnic shelters, concession stands to restrooms. No buildings are anticipated to be included at the South Bellevue/Coal Creek Park Greenway Trail improvements

Project, Synthetic Field Surfaces (Wilburton and Newport) Projects, or Downtown Park phased development Project. Depending on the outcome of the public outreach master planning process community buildings may be identified in the adopted master plan of the new neighborhood park in the Bridle Trails Subarea, however highly unlikely to be included in first phase of development (unless a partnership emerges). Although not designed yet, small park structures such as picnic shelters, storage and public restrooms are anticipated at Bellevue Airfield Park phased development Project, Lewis Creek Park phased development Project and Lake Sammamish Waterfront Project. Currently in the design process, the Bellevue Botanical Gardens phased development Project includes a new visitor center anticipated to be approximately 7,000 SF and the Crossroads Youth Performing Arts Center Project estimated at approximately 12,000 SF are dependent on partnerships to fund the construction of the buildings.

Parks & Community Services will seek to use sustainable development and "green building design" wherever feasible. These building practices have the benefit of reducing energy and material consumption, protecting of ecosystems and improving indoor air quality for occupants.

Natural Resource/Energy Usage: The Parks & Open Space System Plan will not result in significant depletion of energy or natural resources. However, future parks and facilities, such as community centers, security or sportfield lighting, will consume natural resources and energy during construction and long-term operation and maintenance.

Waterfront Development/Access: A focus area of the Parks & Open Space System Plan is increasing public access to Bellevue's waterfront. This objective includes increasing the ecological function of publicly owned shoreline areas. All proposed actions will comply with federal, state and City regulations in place at the time of development. The only project that is anticipated for the near-term is the Lake Sammamish Waterfront Project. The Meydenbauer Bay Park has been master planned but no funding has been secured for this project. Therefore, it is not on the anticipated project list in Section III.B above.

3. Plants and Animals

One mission of the Parks & Community Services Department is to preserve and restore critical and open space areas for environmental quality and wildlife habitat. This environmental stewardship responsibility is reflected in the goals and objectives of the Parks and Open Space System Plan.

The parks and open space system encompasses a diverse range of land configurations and ecological environments. When future development projects identified in the 2010 Plan occur in areas within the Shoreline and/or Critical Areas overlay districts, they will each be reviewed for compliance with the Land Use Codes and the City's Critical Areas Overlay District performance standards (LUC 20.25H). Through application of the City's development standards and adherence to the Parks & Community Services Department's Environmental Best Management Practices & Design Standards, it is expected that any adverse environmental impacts will be mitigated and habitats for plants and animals will be improved.

4. Transportation

Recommended capital projects in the *Parks & Open Space System Plan* will have an impact on the transportation system within the City. Impacts will vary depending on project location and recreational use of the site. The range of impacts will include projects that result in overall improvement of transportation conditions (such as increasing pedestrian and non-motorized trail connectivity) to projects that require significant mitigation to accommodate increases in vehicular and non-motorized trips generated by the park or open space facility (such as a new large-scale park development with a city-wide service area). Construction of frontage improvements will also

be required from the individual projects depending on the requirements identified in the adopted City of Bellevue Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. This aspect must be included as a part of the planning and design of each project.

The City of Bellevue does not have an adopted standard trip generation rate for park use. The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Trip Generation Manual, 8th Addition contains trip generation rates for a use titled "City Park" (Land Use: 411). This uses is described in the Manual as follows, "The city parks surveyed vary widely as to location, type and number of facilities. Seasonal use of the individual sites differs widely as a result of the varying facilities and local conditions, such as weather. For example, some of the sites are used primarily for boating or swimming; others are used for softball games." The sites surveyed for the current edition of the manual were located primarily in California and were surveyed in the 1970s. Under these conditions, the manual reports a range of trip generation rates between 1.04 – 8.00 per acre. However, individual projects will have different trip generation as per the elements of the improvements. The trips generated from the proposed facilities of the individual projects will be analyzed for each project and the traffic impacts for each project will be studied.

Specific transportation impacts are evaluated on a project level when capital projects in the Parks & Open Space System Plan are funded. Several near-term projects that are funded for implementation have traffic impact assessments that have been or are currently being reviewed under SEPA. Examples include greenway trail projects, the Bellevue Botanical Garden, Lewis Creek Community Park, Surrey Downs Community Park. These SEPA determinations are available for review. Recommended capital projects that have yet to be analyzed will undergo a public outreach process to develop a conceptual plan. The plans will take into account the specific location of the property and the program of park and recreational uses appropriate for the site. A non-project SEPA is performed on every master plan prior to the City Council's adoption of the plan. At the point in time when the project can be implemented, all projects are designed per the adopted master plan, then reviewed and permitted with a project level SEPA review completed prior to development. Mitigation measures for transportation impacts could include providing non-motorized trail linkages within new development projects to maximize use of the existing sidewalk and trail system and/or providing an appropriate level of permanent parking including potential overflow areas within parks that exhibit large fluctuations in demand. Depending upon the scale of the project, improvements to the street and sidewalk system in the vicinity of the project may be necessary to mitigate increased trip generation.

V. PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT

Application Date: November 19, 2009
Public Notice (500 feet): December 24, 2009
Minimum Comment Period: January 7, 2010 (14 days)

The Notice of Application for this project was published in the City of Bellevue Weekly Permit Bulletin on December 24, 2009. It was mailed to appropriate state agencies and City officials. By the time of this writing (past the official minimum comment period), no comments were received. Note the extensive community performed by the Parks & Community Services Department in order to draft this 2010 Plan. Community involvement efforts are outlined in Section III.A.1 of this report.

VI. CONCLUSION AND DETERMINATION

For the proposed non-project action, environmental review indicates no probability of significant adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, issuance of a Determination of Non-Significance

pursuant to WAC 197-11-340 and Bellevue City Code 22.02.034 is appropriate.

Other adverse impacts that are less than significant may be mitigated pursuant to Bellevue City Code 222.02.140, RCW 43.21C.060 and WAC 197-11-660.

VII. MITIGATION MEASURES

The requirements for environmental mitigation have been adequately addressed in the development regulations and comprehensive plans adopted under Chapter 36.70A RCW and in other applicable local, state or federal laws or rules, as provided by RCW 43.21C.240 and WAC 197-11-158.

Attachments:

- Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan 2010
- Environmental Checklist and Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions, prepared by Cameron Parker with the City of Bellevue Parks Department on Dec. 31, 2009. Reviewed and annotated by Sally Nichols on March 26, 2009
- 20-Year Capital Project List and Map

Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan 2010

Draft DRAFT

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TRANS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This section will be added after the draft plan is reviewed by the Parks & Community Services Board.

INTRODUCTION

In 1888, John Muir saw Bellevue in a way that few others had ever seen and in a way that is impossible today. Muir was a celebrated naturalist, whose detailed and emotion-filled written descriptions of the American West painted a picture of natural wonder so compelling that he is credited as one of the driving forces behind the creation of this county's National Parks system.

In a published collection of essays and travelogues entitled, Steep Trails, Muir describes how from his home in Yosemite, California, he ventured north by ship up the Pacific Coast, through the Straights of San Juan de Fuca and into Puget Sound. Landing in Seattle, he visited several point in East King County, including Snoqualmie Falls, on his way to climb Mount Rainier.

With a party of eight, Muir reached the summit on a beautifully clear day with views of Washington Territory in all directions. Muir later wrote, "We remained on the summit nearly two hours, looking about us at the vast maplike views, comprehending hundreds of miles of the Cascade Range, with their black interminable forests and white volcanic cones in glorious array reaching far into Oregon; the Sound region also, and the great plains of eastern Washington, hazy and vague in the distance." Included in this view, was a large patch of rolling forest, directly east of Seattle, bounded by two large lakes.

This was Bellevue as John Muir saw it, 122 years ago. The tiny settlements around Meydenbauer Bay and Beaux Arts Village were perhaps not even visible, and if so, certainly dwarfed by the huge expanse of untouched forests, lakes and streams. Yet, sensing this area's future, Muir noted that "[Washington Territory] is already rich in busy workers, who work hard, though not always wisely, hacking, burning, blasting their way deeper into the wilderness, beneath the sky and beneath the ground. The wedges of development are being driven hard, and none of the obstacles of defenses of nature can long withstand the onset of this immeasurable industry."

Since that time and in keeping with Muir's assessment, exponential growth has led to a vastly different environment. According to a study commissioned by the City in 2008, Bellevue's once dominant tree canopy has diminished to 36% of the city's land area. Treeless open space constitutes 16% of the city's land area and impervious surfaces (any type of surface that does not allow water to travel to the ground below, primarily streets and rooftops) have spread to cover 46% of the city. Within just the next few years, the balance will tip and the majority of Bellevue will be either paved or otherwise built upon.

What conclusion should be drawn?

Three elements of sustainability – environmental, economic, social health

Move to more recent history – run through APA Parks Forum benefits of parks and sprinkle in Carson, Leopold, Olmstead, NRPA history. End with current Louv arguments

Public Participation Process

Since September 2009, many avenues have been used to collect feedback and opinions from Bellevue parks users on how the park and trail systems are currently used and what priorities should be given in the future for development. These include:

- a statistically valid random sample survey of Bellevue residents with responses received from almost 700 households;
- an open web-survey completed by approximately 1,250 park users;
- 21 presentations to City boards and commissions, parks user groups and local neighborhood organizations, reaching approximately 170 individuals;
- A regularly updated project blog, accessed by an estimated 800 unique visitors;
- A public hearing hosted by the Parks & Community Services Board in January 2010 that garnered verbal testimony from 8 individuals and written comments submitted for the hearing by 15 individuals; and
- Project updates and comment opportunities provided by the Parks & Community Services e-newsletter (16,100 subscribers), the Neighborhood Outreach Office's Neighborhood News (800 subscribers), through the City's presence on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter and local newspapers (print and online) and Eastside-focused blogs.

Challenge to the Community

Within the time span of 100 years, Bellevue has transformed from a time when natural resources were limitless. Now we, as a community, are faced with the fact that 46% of the land within Bellevue's borders is covered by buildings and pavement...

Cameron ?'s

Been before EBCC yet ?
Even if has, should do one more courtesy mtg since "requested" my Michelly aka Shelly

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

Like most municipalities in Washington, Bellevue has an adopted Comprehensive Plan. As quoted from the plan's Introduction, the Comprehensive Plan "is a broad statement of community goals and policies that direct the orderly and coordinated physical development of a city into the future. A comprehensive plan anticipates change and provides specific guidance for future legislative and administration actions. It reflects the results of citizen involvement, technical analysis, and the judgment of decision makers." From this document, the following vision for Bellevue has been adopted.

Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement

This vision for our community preserves the best qualities of Bellevue today and directs us toward our city's future. To achieve balance in the city's development, the Plan is guided by the following **Vision** which must be viewed as a whole without pursuing one part to the exclusion of the others.

Bellevue is one of the outstanding cities in the United States. It is:

A "City in a Park"
A dedicated steward of environmental quality, where key natural features are preserved and restored
A model of superior urban design and "people places"
A community of diverse and vibrant neighborhoods
A city that meets the housing needs of all citizens
A regional economic center with a strong and diverse economy
A city with a great Downtown—viable, livable, and memorable
The Eastside's transportation hub, offering an array of mobility choices
The center of arts and culture for the Eastside
A community that cares for people and families in need
A safe and secure community
A city served by outstanding facilities and services
A leader in meeting regional challenges
An active and engaged community

The Parks & Open Space System Plan acts as a functional plan to the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan. It takes the broad vision and goals presented in the Comprehensive Plan and outlines the role of Parks & Community Services in meeting those goals that related to the parks and open space system. In reading through the list above, it is clear that parks, environmental quality and community health are highly prized by Bellevue residents.

Demographic Profile

The City of Bellevue is the fifth largest city in Washington. Bellevue's 2009 resident population of 120,600. Bellevue's estimated daytime population is 205,900, which considers the daily influx of workers, students and other visitors (such as retail shoppers).

The following details regarding Bellevue's demographic composition are based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2006-2008 American Community Survey.

Households

- There were an estimated 51,023 households in Bellevue in 2009, with an average of 2.35 persons per household, down from 2.37 in 2000 and 2.43 in 1990. The most common household types in 2006-2008 were single person households (30%) and married couples without children (28%).
- The percentage of households with children was lower in Bellevue (29%) than on the Eastside in general (32%) and in King County as a whole (30%), but is still higher than in Seattle (20%)

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

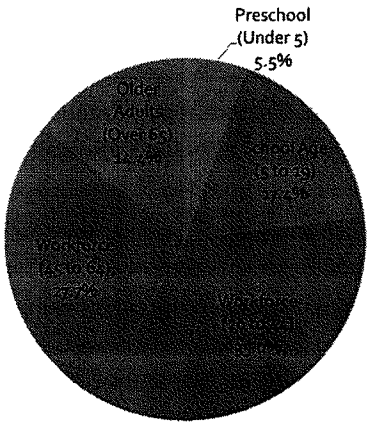
- Bellevue's racial and ethnic diversity are growing rapidly. Nearly 35% of Bellevue's residents identified themselves as either a race other than White or Hispanic during 2006-2008 compared to 28% in 2000. Bellevue had a higher percentage of non-white or Hispanic residents than Redmond (32%), Kirkland (20%), Seattle (32%) and King County as a whole (21%).
- The racial/ethnic make-up of Bellevue is 65.1% White, 23.2% Asian, 5.2% Hispanic, 1.9% Black, 3.6% two or more races, 0.6% some other race, 0.2% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 0.2% American Indian and Alaskan Native.
- According to the Bellevue School District, in 2008, 50% of their elementary students were white.

Economic Well-Being

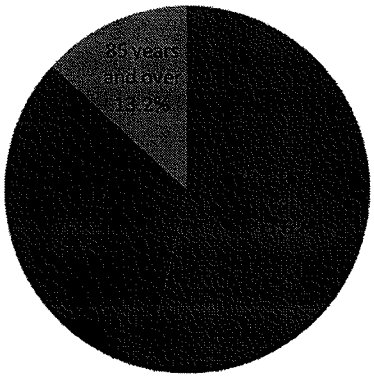
- Bellevue's median household income during 2006-2008 ($81,184) was the 13th highest of Washington's large places. Bellevue also had the 11th highest family income ($99,852) and the 5th highest percentage of families with incomes of 200K or more (15.8%).
- Bellevue had the 6th highest percentage of residents (59%) with a bachelor's degree or higher of Washington's large places and nearly 58% of Bellevue residents were employed in management, professional, or related occupations.

Older Adults

- Bellevue's median age was 40.0 during 2006-2008, up from 38.2 in 2000 and 35.4 in 1990. Older adults (65 years and older) comprised 14.4% of Bellevue's population in 2006-2008 compared to 13.4% in 2000 and 11% in 1990. Nationally, older adults between the ages of 65 and 85 are projected to grow at a compound average annual rate of over 3% a year for the next 15 years. In comparison, those between the ages of 25 and 44 are expected to grow at an annual rate of less than 1%.
- Currently older adults ages 65 to 74 comprise the majority of Bellevue's older adult population, followed by older adults ages 75 to 84.



Age distribution of Bellevue's population

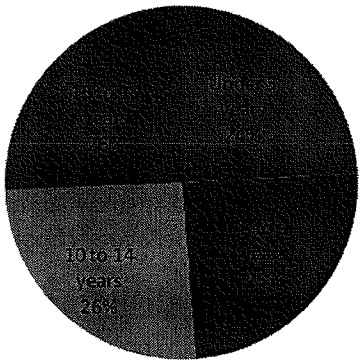


Age distribution of Bellevue's Older Adult (65 +) population

Youth

The proportion of children in Bellevue has remained relatively stable since 1990. Preschool children made up 5.9% of Bellevue's population in 1990, 5.6% in 2000 and 5.5% (+/-0.6%) in 2006-2008. School age children made up 17.5% of Bellevue's population in 1990, 17.5% in 2000 and 17.4% (+/-) in 2006-2008. According to the Bellevue School District, between 1999 and 2009, school enrollment increased by 2,241 students or 14.8%, from 15,070 students in 1999 to 17,311 in 2009.

Currently children there are similar proportions of children ages 0 to5, 5 to 10, 10 to 15 and 15 to 19.



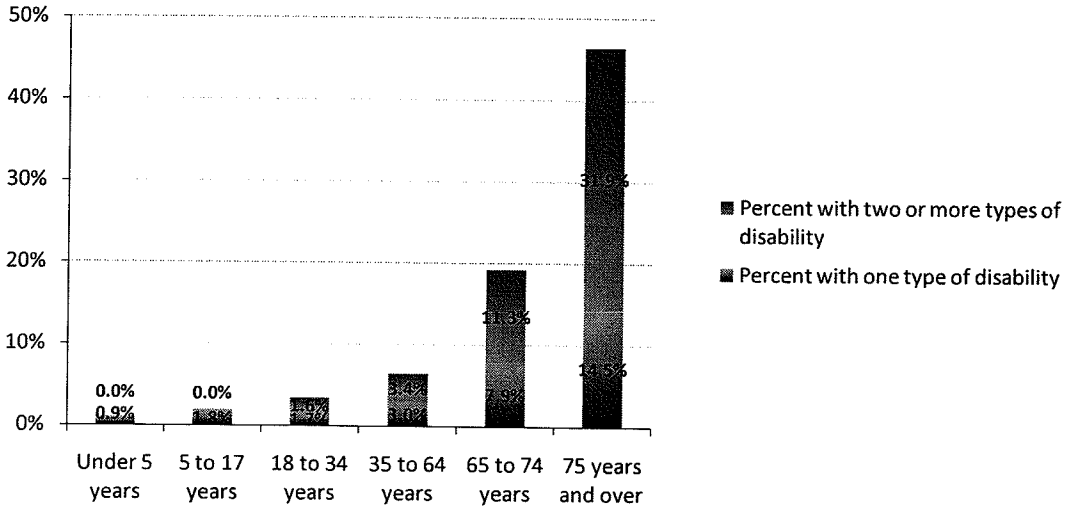
Age distribution of Bellevue's Children

Individuals with Disabilities

According to the 2008 American Community Survey an estimated 8.8% (+/-1.6%) of Bellevue's population had a disability in 2008. Almost 46% of adults age 75 and over had one or more disabilities, compared to less than four percent of the population under age 35. Ambulatory and independent living difficulties were the most common forms of disabilities.

Disability Type	Percent of population
Hearing difficulty	2.4%
Vision difficulty	1.4%
Cognitive difficulty	3.7%
Ambulatory difficulty	5.5%
Self-care difficulty	2.9%
Independent living difficulty	4.3%

Percentages of Bellevue's Population that had disabilities in 2008 by type of disability.



Bellevue's population with a disability by age category in 2008.

Natural Resource Characteristics

Bellevue's natural systems of forests, wetlands, and riparian corridors help define our City and make it unique. Four major stream systems - Kelsey Creek (which includes Mercer Slough, Lake Bellevue, Kelsey Creek, Larsen Lake, Phantom Lake, West Tributary, Valley Creek, and Richards Creek), Coal Creek, Vasa Creek, and Lewis Creek - carry surface water to either Lake Washington or Lake Sammamish. These stream systems contribute to the wide plant and animal diversity existing in many of our larger wetland systems, such as the Mercer Slough and the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

Bellevue's urban forest stretches from the shores of Lakes Washington and Sammamish to the top of Cougar Mountain. The city includes 14 miles of waterfront between the two major lakes, which establishes it as a waterfront community and creates interest in water-related recreation activities.

The City's topographic variations result in spectacular views of mountains, water, and urban areas. It is not surprising that Bellevue residents have placed a high priority on retaining open space and natural areas. It is one of the many reasons they choose to live here.

Public stewardship of these natural systems is a key element in the park system plan, and many of these important systems are owned by Parks & Community Services. While we have a wealth of natural resources in the City, many of these areas are privately owned. As the population of Bellevue continues to grow, remaining environmentally critical areas will come under increasing development pressure. We must continue to acquire key pieces of environmentally critical areas and wildlife corridors.

The City's role in protecting and enhancing these natural systems has become increasingly important as the City complies with federal and state environmental regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act requirements for protecting Chinook salmon and bull trout, the state Shoreline Master Program and the Growth Management Act (GMA) Best Available Science requirement to protect critical area's functions and values.

Forest and Wetland Resources

The Bellevue area is dominated by vegetation characteristics of both forest and wetland environments. Except for the Downtown Subarea, most areas of the City contain some natural systems. These natural systems provide important wildlife habitat, as well as providing opportunities for aesthetic, recreational, and educational activities.

A number of year-round and intermittent streams and groundwater drainage systems contribute to the City's native wetland habitat. Wetland functions include flood water attenuation, stream base flow maintenance and groundwater support, water quality improvement, erosion and shoreline protection, wildlife habitat, and opportunities for passive recreation, education, and open space.

Wildlife Habitat

As stewards of Bellevue's public open spaces, it is the Parks Department's responsibility to identify and preserve areas that provide food and habitat and travel/migration corridors needed to maintain the wildlife within our region. Wildlife habitat types in Bellevue include the following general categories: riparian/wetland habitats, lowland forest and steep slopes, herbaceous wetland and open water, and agriculture, pasture, mixed and urban environments. Studies by the state, King County, and the City's inventory provide a baseline that has enabled the development of an effective wildlife habitat policy for Bellevue. Inherent in this policy is the recognition of our responsibility to protect and enhance publicly-owned habitat areas and important existing wildlife corridors.

The City of Bellevue's Critical Areas Ordinance has established policies which will help protect habitat functions and values. Although continued private development to accommodate growth will have a cumulative adverse impact on wildlife, the City will play an increasingly important role in protecting wildlife habitats and corridors by enhancing and preserving land currently in public ownership and looking for opportunities to acquire private parcels containing key habitat or corridor areas.

Shoreline Resources

Bellevue's shorelines are valuable recreational and aesthetic resources. Bellevue's city limits include 14 miles (73,995 linear feet) of shoreline along Lakes Washington and Sammamish. However, total shoreline in public ownership is approximately 10%. The majority of the publicly-owned shoreline is on Lake Washington. There is one small undeveloped site on Lake Sammamish. As a waterfront community, there is a high level of interest in water-related recreational activities. Bellevue shorelines are the focus for swimming, fishing, boating, sunbathing, and picnicking. The shoreline area also provides intangible benefits such as aesthetic enjoyment, ecological interest, historic and cultural enrichment, and spiritual renewal. The City is strongly committed to providing additional waterfront access opportunities to the citizens in Bellevue.

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

The City of Bellevue has established the Parks & Community Services Department to provide Bellevue's resident and workforce population with access to parks, open space, recreation and community services as well as protect and enhance Bellevue's natural environment.

Departmental Mission &Vision

This mandate is summarized by the mission statement for Parks & Community Services:

> ***To build a healthy community through an integrated system of exceptional parks, open space, recreation, cultural and human services.***

Building a healthy community is a broad and complex mission that is shared with others. Within the context of the larger community, the role of Parks & Community Services focuses on parks, recreation, cultural arts, adult probation and human services.

Fulfilling the Vision: Goals and Objectives

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, as amended through February 17, 2009 includes the following goals:

- To obtain land for park use that provides open space and facilities to meet the short and long term needs of the community.
- To protect and preserve open spaces that are ecologically significant sensitive areas; serve as buffers between uses and link open space; and provide trails, wildlife corridors, and greenways.
- To cooperate with other jurisdictions, public agencies, and the private sector to provide open space and recreation facilities.
- To develop, operate, and maintain parkland and cultural and recreation facilities in a manner that is responsive to the site and the needs of the community.
- To modify existing parks and recreation facilities as needed to ensure safety, accessibility, and optimum use of resources.
- To provide a variety of community services and programs that are creative, preventative, proactive, and respond to the needs of Bellevue residents.
- To provide and promote partnerships to offer a variety of community services and programs that enhance the quality of life for Bellevue residents.

The Parks & Open Space System Plan supports Comprehensive Plan goals from several other elements. A sampling include:

Urban Design Element

- To create an attractive, lively and gracious city for people.
- To promote an image of quality and distinction in the harmonious blending of the natural and built environments.
- To create and develop public and semi-public spaces that attract people.
- To develop a functional and aesthetically pleasing downtown.
- To encourage and support the arts as a vital part of community life.
- To soften the visual impact of the automobile on the city.

Shoreline Management Program Element

- To protect, preserve and enhance the natural resources and amenities of the city's shorelines for use and enjoyment by present and future generations
- To encourage and increase water-related recreational activities for the public on the city's shorelines when appropriate and consistent with the public interest.

Human Services Element

- To create a community in which all members have the ability to meet their basic physical, economic and social needs and the opportunity to enhance their quality of life.

Environmental Element

- To integrate the natural and developed environments to create a sustainable urban habitat with clean air and water, habitat for fish and wildlife and comfortable and secure places for people to live and work.

Department Philosophy

In support of the goals above, four key concepts describe the philosophy for Parks & Community Services to meet its mission.

Balanced Stewardship

Bellevue's parks and open space system provides important functions for both people and wildlife. The park system should balance development of parks and active recreation facilities with preservation of cultural heritage, scarce agricultural lands and environmentally critical areas for wildlife habitat and corridors. Wildlife corridors must be maintained to provide necessary connections for animal movement among remaining habitat areas. Forest management and other environmental programs help preserve and enhance our natural resources for the benefit of wildlife and future generations of park users.

Visual Environment

In the Pacific Northwest, our cultural heritage is linked to our natural resources – the mountains, streams, lakes, and forests that define our region. Views of mountains, water, and undisturbed forests and wetlands are highly valued by Bellevue residents. Retention and restoration of this natural beauty are major components of the community's mandate for the park system.

Bellevue's park system should be safe and well managed in order to preserve and enhance the City's beauty and provide visual relief from the impacts of urban living. Street trees, flowers, lawns, forests and water provide a pleasant visual setting that contributes to our community's health, well-being and quality of life. The term "City in a Park" exemplifies the Bellevue experience of urban living surrounded by large natural open space areas. This environment gives Bellevue a competitive advantage in attracting corporations to locate in the city. A high quality of life and access to outdoor recreation opportunities are key factors in contemporary business siting decisions.

Future

Bellevue's park system should serve the present users while also focusing on future needs. A well-developed vision for long-term needs will ensure recreational opportunities and open space protection for future generations. Acquiring land for preservation or future development to meet increased recreational needs should be a high priority. A well-planned parks and open space system will be achieved by projecting population growth and determining expected use patterns.

Opportunity

Bellevue's park system should serve all sectors of our population, providing a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities. Special consideration should be given to youth, older adults, individuals with disabilities, households with low incomes and others with special needs. As our population becomes more culturally and ethnically diverse, opportunities should be sought to provide services that better serve these populations. Also, trends and preferences in recreation change. Therefore, Parks & Community Services should proactively assess new recreational trends and provide appropriate facilities when warranted by demand.

Decision and Design Factors

Additional detail is helpful to see how the mission, goals and philosophies of Parks & Community Services shape how decisions are made on a day to day basis on issues related to expanding, developing, maintaining and promoting use of the parks and open space system.

Acquisition & Development

Land acquisition is highly dependent on availability and affordability. Because of increasing development pressures on remaining vacant land, suitable and affordable land will be evaluated for acqusition when available. Surveys of Bellevue residents, including the latest survey completed in September 2009, consistently indicate that Bellevue citizens place equal priority on both acquiring and preserving open space and on developing new parks and recreation facilities.

Land is acquired and held in public ownership to ensure it is available for future park use when development and maintenance funding exist. When development is feasible and appropriate, a Master Plan for the park facility is prepared with community input. At the time of application for the development of the park facility, the project is reviewed for compliance with relevant City, state, and federal regulations. For example, parking and traffic impacts are factors that will be evaluated as part of this development review process. Where full development of newly acquired property is not appropriate or possible in the near term, minimum access, such as trails, should be provided if possible.

Priority will be placed on acquiring land adjacent to existing parkland, along shorelines, environmentally sensitive land, or linkages that provide connections between parks and open space areas. Priority will also be given to increasing park access for a neighborhoods that are less served than others.

Environmental Stewardship and Education

Promoting healthy natural systems requires acquiring and preserving key parcels of different habitat types so that wildlife have adequate and appropriate areas to feed, live, breed, and migrate. Habitat areas must be large enough to accommodate a variety of species. In addition, to avoid isolating habitat areas, wildlife corridor connections must be acquired and preserved to allow safe and easy movement between these key parcels. Protecting these natural systems in an urbanized area requires both a robust publicly-owned open space system as well as enforcement of environmental regulations to protect environmentally critical areas that are privately owned.

Protecting and managing natural areas is complemented by provision of environmental education programming for all ages. Educating the public about the importance of our natural systems helps them understand the benefits these systems provide. The public endorses environmental preservation when connections between the environment and quality of life are fully understood.

Partnership Opportunities

Partnerships with schools, businesses, developers, non-profit organizations, and neighborhood groups have played an important role in providing our current parks and open space system. These relationships must be continued and expanded to maximize the public investments and provide new and relevant programs and recreational opportunities to Bellevue residents.

Regional Coordination

Many recreational opportunities are most efficiently provided on a regional or sub-regional basis. King County, Redmond, Kirkland, Renton, Newcastle, and Issaquah are key to a successful Eastside coordination effort. Working together with neighboring jurisdictions will help to identify each jurisdiction's role and responsibility in contributing to regional needs, provide a greater variety of park and recreation services, avoid duplication, and promote distribution of facilities.

Designing for Multiple Uses

To the greatest extent possible, decisions to develop new parks or redevelop aging parks must consider providing for multiple uses by multiple user groups. This approach seeks to maximize the benefits available to users of a particular park. Mercer Slough Natural Area is an excellent example of parkland serving multiple functions. It offers trails for pedestrians and bicyclists and waterways for canoes and kayaks. The wetlands and waterways of Mercer Slough provide habitat for more than 160 different species of wildlife, including heron, beaver, and salmon. A sense of Bellevue's historical and cultural heritage is preserved at the historic Winters House and through the continuing agricultural practices of farming blueberries in the park. In addition, the Pacific Science Center offers environmental education programs at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center. Added to this, the Slough provides immense benefits in the amount of stormwater detention, water quality filtering and carbon emission capture and storage.

Regular Public Involvement

Citizen participation is imperative in providing a responsive, effective, and high-quality park system. Bellevue's parks and open space system is being developed on behalf of the community. Therefore, citizen involvement throughout the planning and programming decision process ensures the community's needs and values are reflected in the City's park system.

Volunteers are another important component in public involvement. Not only do they help provide needed services efficiently and cost effectively, but they also represent a strong commitment toward community ownership of park resources. The City's volunteers contribute nearly 25,000 annual hours helping enhance Park Department lands, facilities, and programs.

Security & Safety

Bellevue's park system should provide a sense of security, safety, and well-being for its users. Anticipating these issues and designing and programming parks accordingly can help avoid or limit unwanted activity. Signage and regulations publicize guidelines for acceptable behavior and let users know appropriate times and ways to use parklands and facilities. Park Rangers patrolling parks during high-use periods are effective in regulating unwanted activities and making park spaces safer. Regular maintenance and appropriate planting enhance visibility into parkland from public rights-of-way, which increases the overall sense of security and safety.

Proper maintenance, renovation, and replacement of parks and park equipment prevents and corrects hazardous conditions, thereby protecting the public as well as reducing liability to the City.

Community Services & Programs

Parks & Community Services offers a variety of recreation and community service programs with an emphasis on serving special populations and low- and moderate-income individuals and families. Targeted population groups include individuals with disabilities, older adults and children, youth and teens. Programs provide educational, social, and recreational opportunities that help to build healthy productive lives for all of Bellevue's citizens. These community services and programs are discussed in the Recreation Program Plan, which is a companion document to the Parks and Open Space System Plan.

In summary, to meet the community's Parks, Open Space, and Recreation goals, the city is dedicated to:

- Steward a coordinated system of public open spaces that preserves the city's natural character, sustains its urban forest resources, and protects its natural systems, wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors as a legacy for future generations;
- Obtain the land necessary to provide a broad range of recreation opportunities throughout the community;
- Connect parks, neighborhoods, schools, and activity areas together through a coordinated system of trails and open spaces;
- Provide access for all of Bellevue's residents to a variety of park facilities including waterfront, play areas, sportsfields, and recreation centers;

- Offer a variety of recreation, athletic, art, social, learning, and environmental education programs;
- Define and enhance neighborhood character by using open space as visual relief to separate and buffer between uses;
- Offer services and programs to all ages and segments of society that provide positive alternatives for building healthy and productive lives; and
- Collaborate with other agencies, both public and private, to efficiently meet the community's needs for parks, recreation, cultural opportunities, and open space.

Inventory and Program Statistics

As of January 1, 2010, Bellevue's parks system includes 74 developed park sites covering 562 acres. Within these parks are 92 buildings totaling 337,000 square feet, 26 ballfields and 10 soccer (or multi-use) fields. Four community centers serve different geographic areas of the city and specialize in providing services to specific population groups.

Bellevue's open space system includes 1,800 acres of forests and natural areas and 60 acres of privately-owned, but publicly-managed and accessible Native Growth Protection Areas. The open space system includes over 70 miles of multi-use trails, 10,000 street trees maintained along 140 acres of streetscapes. Included within the open space system are three community farms and 100 community garden plots (P-patches). Four visitor centers provide community outreach and environmental education programming.

Through the Recreation Division, the parks system is used to provide opportunities for sports, visual and performing arts, special community events, after-school and summer day camps and life-long learning skills. These programs lead to over 700,000 interactions with program participants annually. Finally, through the departments Human Services Division, funding partnerships are maintained with 39 non-profit agencies to support 72 different programs serving the needs of low- and moderate-income Bellevue residents.

<Insert map of parks system>

Use of the Parks & Open Space System

In September 2009, a random sample survey was conducted of Bellevue residents asking a series of questions about their use of the parks system, their priorities for future park system development and questions about their fitness habitats and recreation preferences. When asked if they had visited a Bellevue park or trail facility in the past year, 94% of respondents reported using one or more facilities at least twice in the past year. The median number of facilities used is five.

The facilities used by the greatest number of adult respondents are: open areas for unstructured play or picnicking (75%); trails through forests, wetlands or other natural areas (74%); community beaches (69%); and parks with display gardens (66%). The park facilities that attract the fewest number of

residents are designated off-leash areas (23%), swimming pools (28%), and indoor sports facilities or fitness centers (44%). The facilities used by the greatest number of children under 18 are: community beaches, waterfront parks or boat launches (88%); playgrounds (86%); open areas for unstructured play or picnicking (85%); and trails through forests, wetlands or other natural areas (81%). Displayed by these statistics is a correlation between the number of facilities available to the public and the use of those facilities. For example, Bellevue's extensive local trail system is readily available and easily accessible to many residents. Similarly, Bellevue has a significant number of parks, geographically distributed offering open areas for unstructured recreation. It is not surprising that these types of park facilities are used by the highest percentage of residents. On the other end of the spectrum, Bellevue's park system includes one off-leash dog area and one publicly-owned pool. Since these types of facilities are not easily accessible, they are used by a smaller percentage of residents. It is possible that usage would become more widespread if more of facilities were made available.

When asked how they use the facilities, respondents most commonly said they use them to enjoy or experience nature and open spaces (72%), to spend time with family and friends (70%), to relax (69%), and to exercise (66%). Most respondents (78%) said they use the parks and facilities mostly as an individual or for family activities, 7% use them mostly as part of an organized sports league or recreation group and 14% use them for both purposes.

Most respondents (69%) say they exercise for an hour or more each week including 11% that usually exercise at least three hours a week. Respondents split into three groups with respect to preferred exercise setting. Three in ten respondents (29%) usually exercise indoors, 34% exercise more often in an outdoor environment and 36% divide their time between indoor and outdoor exercise.

Capital Project Undertaken since 2003

The Parks & Open Space Plan includes a 20-year vision for future acquisition and capital project priorities. The pace of change is rapid in Bellevue, so the 20-year list is revisited every six years to determine if new information warrants a course correction. The first step in that process is to review the progress made to achieve the goals set forth in the prior edition of the Park & Open Space System Plan (2003). The following identifies the significant projects completed, by focus area, since adopting that Plan.

Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors & Trails

- Acquired the 446.8-acre Coal Creek Natural Area from King County and completed a series of trail and trailhead improvements, and replaced several key pedestrian bridges;
- Added 24.8 acres (three properties) to the Richards Valley Greenway, including additions to the Wilburton Hill/Bellevue Botanical Gardens, and completed trail connections and forest enhancement plantings.
- Completed stream improvements along the West Tributary of Kelsey Creek through Kelsey Creek Park to reduce flooding and improve fish habitat.
- Completed forest and habitat restoration and trail improvements at Lewis Creek and Weowna Parks.

- Completed work along the Lake Hills Greenbelt, including habitat restoration along the Larsen Lake shoreline, boardwalk construction along 156th Ave SE, and reconstruction of the Lake Hills Farmstand and trailhead.

- Acquired a 10.7-acre addition to Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park and constructed a loop trail and trail connections to the park.

- Completed the Forest Drive Corridor Enhancement project, including landscape plantings, trail head and gateway construction.

Park Facilities

- Acquired the 10.5-acre surplus school property adjacent to the airfield/landfill site to create a 27-acre community park, and nearing completion of a park Master Plan.

- Acquired the 11.4-acre Surrey Downs site from King County and completed a park Master Plan.

- Completed phase 1 development of the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, the City's first LEED-certified building (gold).

- Completed phase 1 development of Lewis Creek Community Park, including athletic fields, visitor center, parking, play area, and extensive trail system.

- Developed Meadow Wood neighborhood park.

- Adopted a Master Plan Update for the Bellevue Botanical Garden to guide the growth and development of this park into the future.

- Constructed the City's first water play area at Crossroads Park, leveraging funds from grants and significant donations from the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club.

Active Recreation Facilities

- Constructed the 34,000 square foot South Bellevue Community Center, a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue.

- Completed a 5,000 square foot addition to the Crossroads Community Center.

- Completed plans that will lead to the development of a new Youth Theatre at Crossroads Community Park.

- Completed a comprehensive Aquatic Facility Study that evaluated market conditions, capital and operating costs, location, and financing options for several facility models ranging from a local outdoor recreational facility to a major indoor regional center.

- Constructed a small skate park at Lakemont Park, a skate bowl at Crossroads Community Park and a lighted skatepark at Highland Community Park.

- Completed several athletic field improvements, including construction of a combination baseball/soccer field at Highland Middle School, and synthetic turf conversions for two soccer fields at Robinswood Park and one at Wilburton Hill Park. Two little league fields and a soccer field overlay were included as part of the Lewis Creek Park development.

Waterfront Access

- Acquired the final two residential properties that complete the Meydenbauer Bay Park vision, connecting Meydenbauer Beach Park to the marina and creating a regionally-significant waterfront park. The City also acquired the adjacent 1.5-acre Bayview parcel that will connect the Meydenbauer Bay properties to downtown Bellevue. A park Master Plan is nearing completion that will guide development of this property.

- Acquired a 0.4-acre addition to the existing lakefront parcel along Lake Sammamish.

Urban Parks & Recreation

- Adopted long-range plans for the redevelopment of the Bel-Red Corridor, including significant park, open space and trail corridors throughout the area.

- Acquired the 8.5-acre "Safeway" property along the West Tributary of Kelsey Creek as a future transportation, trail and open space opportunity.

- Completed development of Ashwood Plaza in cooperation with the adjacent developer, who acquired the underground rights to the parcel to construct underground parking, in return for sharing in the cost to develop the public plaza.

Operational Facilities

- Constructed a new Bellefields Maintenance facility, a 3,200 square foot facility and storage yard that houses the main field operations for the Natural Resource Division.

- Constructed a satellite maintenance facility in the lower level of the visitor center at Lewis Creek Park.

- Relocated the Structural Maintenance section of Resource Management to the Bellevue Service Center.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The prior chapters have set a foundation by describing the City's adopted goals and objectives for the parks system and describing the scope, range and function of the parks and open space system as it exists at this time. Building from this foundation, attention now turns to the focal point of the Parks & Open Space System Plan, the discussion of future needs and priorities. To begin, the City's estimation of future population growth trends will be described. Following that, results of quantitative analysis of the level of service provided by the parks and open space system with goals for improving the level of service over time. Finally, a series of property acquisition and capital project recommendations will be provided, grouped in related sections.

Future Population Trends

Bellevue's 2009 population of 120,600 is expected to grow to 138,500 by 2020 and to 148,400 by 2030. Add workforce numbers.

Growth Trends

- Bellevue grew at a compound average annual rate of 1.05% from 2000 to 2009 compared to 2.37% in the 1990s. The growth rate is expected to slow slightly to 0.99% from 2009 to 2030.
- While half of Bellevue's population growth in the 1990s was due to annexations, only 25% was added from annexations from 2000 to 2009.
- Population forecasts for 2030 anticipate almost half of the City's growth to occur within Downtown Bellevue, another third to occur within the Bel-Red corridor, and the rest distributed fairly evenly throughout the remaining subareas.
- The Downtown subarea is projected to experience a 150% increase, growing from 5,500 to 14,000 by 2020. The second biggest population increase is expected in the Bel-Red subarea, which could increase from 280 to 5,600 by 2020.
- Over 2,200 housing units are expected to be annexed into the city in the near future from the Eastgate Subarea.

Population Density

Bellevue's population density citywide is currently 3,786 people per square mile. Downtown Bellevue is projected to reach 21,800 people per square mile by 2020 and 29,500 people per square mile by 2030.

Level of Service Analysis

Other services provided by the City of Bellevue, such as transportation and utilities are able to quantify performance through counts, calculation and future-oriented modeling of discreet variable like vehicle trips and water flow rates. The extensive scope and variety of services provided by Parks & Community Services makes quantification and performance measurement extraordinarily difficult. The City of Bellevue is not alone in this matter. Nationally accepted standards for calculating the level of service of

a parks system do not exist. Those standards that have been proposed often fail as being too simplistic to provide useful information or on the other end of the spectrum, overly complicated and difficult to manage.

In 1983, a set of standards and guidelines were published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) that were based upon providing a set number of park acres and park facilities per thousand in population. Permutations of these standards were developed since that time, yet none have been formally adopted for use by the NRPA. Instead, NRPA places significant importance on setting national standards for park and recreation agencies through an accreditation process administered by an arm of the NRPA, the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies. Seeing the wholistic value in accreditation, the City of Bellevue has aimed its strategic planning and evaluation efforts in the same direction. Bellevue Parks & Community Services applied for and was granted accredited status by CAPRA in 2005 and is preparing for re-accreditation in 2010.

As to level of service standards, communities have been left to use any system that is perceived to be of value to that community. Bellevue used an acres per thousand system in the 1987, 1993 and 2003 editions of the Parks & Open Space Plans.

Another significant factor to consider in the level of service debate is the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). This plan is maintained by the State of Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The SCORP is a requirement for the State to receive federal funds designated for parks and recreation activities. Since municipalities across the state apply to RCO for both state-originated and federal-originated funding, local governments must also have in place long-range plans that align with the statewide goals contained in the SCORP.

Washington State adopted a new SCORP in June 2008. Within that document, RCO proposed that all State agencies and local governments shift away from levels of service calculated by acres per thousand residents to a system based upon statistically valid local public opinion and park and trail service area (or accessibility) standards. For the 2010 edition of the Parks & Open Space Plan, the City of Bellevue has selected three level of service measures proposed in the SCORP. Making slight modifications to the wording to better address the Bellevue population, they are:

- **Individual Active Participation** – measured by the percentage of population that participates in one or more active outdoor activities
- **Public Satisfaction** – measured by the percent of population satisfied with the condition of existing park and recreation facilities
- **Service Area** – measured by the percent of households within 1/3 mile of a park or trail access point.

Individual Active Participation

The September 2009 random sample survey of Bellevue residents found that overall, 65.5% of Bellevue residents used a park facility in the past twelve months to exercise outdoors or engage in outdoor sports. Since this was the first year this question was asked, it is not possible to provide trend data to

show if this level of participation has changed over time. Thus, the 65.5% response will be set as a benchmark for comparison in future surveys. It is also not known how this percentage compares to other jurisdictions. If other cities in the state also begin to track this performance measure in order to align with the State's SCORP plan, more comparison data may be available in the future. However, in general, 65.5% can be interpreted as a positive response rate for the population as a whole, with room for improvement in the future.

Areas of improvement become more apparent when analyzing how different population groups answered the same question. For example, there is a statistically reliable difference in the results this question garnered in different geographic areas of Bellevue. The highest percentage was West Bellevue <insert map> at 75%. South Bellevue and East Bellevue reported percentages similar to the city overall. Residents of Central Bellevue however show a marked decrease with 53% of residents reporting using a park in the past twelve months to exercise and engage in sports. This is an indication that Parks & Community Services should look specifically at the provision of parks, trails and recreation programming offered in Central Bellevue to determine if there is a way to increase resident's use of the parks system for active outdoor activities.

Public Satisfaction

Every year, the City of Bellevue fields a statistically valid survey of Bellevue residents to measure a key set of performance metrics related to all city services. These data points have been tracked by the City for many years. Public satisfaction with the park system is one of those metrics. Results from the last survey, conducted in 2008 find that:

- 86% of residents are satisfied, either very or somewhat, with parks and recreation in Bellevue
- 94% indicate the appearance of Bellevue's public parks and facilities is excellent or good
- 82% feel Bellevue's public parks and facilities are safe

Add historical data from Rich's prior surveys

Service Area

Parks and Community Services took a two-fold approach to this level of service measurement. To start, a question was asked in the September 2009 parks survey of Bellevue residents. The question asked if residents felt that they had access to a park, trail entrance or facility within a 10-minute walk of their home. Overall, 86% of residents responded in the affirmative.

Again for this question, there were differences based on geography. For this question, residents of Central Bellevue and South Bellevue reported lower levels of access, with 73% and 82% respectively.

To seek an answer to this question in another way, resident's walkable access to park and trails was mapped using the City of Bellevue's Geographic Information System (GIS). For this analysis, a point was placed on a map at every point of entry for a park, trail and school. The GIS program then used the Bellevue street network to "walk" one-third of a mile down the streets in every direction for each access point. This created a walkable access buffer, that when combined, shows at a general level, the degree

to which Bellevue households are within walking distance to a park, trail or school. For this analysis, school sites are considered a public recreation amenity. This is because the City of Bellevue maintains a partnership with the Bellevue School District to provide outdoor (and some indoor) facilities to Bellevue residents when school is not in session. While school yards add significant opportunities for neighborhood park access, they are not as fully accessible as a City of Bellevue park, since the school district does limit access during the school year.

Insert maps for results of analysis

Based on this analysis, the following subareas are identified as having significant gaps in walkable access to park and trails:

- **Bel-Red** – an emerging area of need as residential population increases over time through redevelopment
- **Bridle Trails** – although in close proximity to Bridle Trails State Park and Bellevue Golf Course, general park facilities offering unstructured open space and playground areas are lacking. Also, trails systems in this subarea are often informal with no easement protecting public access. So, while these serve the neighborhood to some degree, they do not fully integrate with the City's overall trail network.
- **Crossroads** – this subarea's needs include pockets of neighborhoods without walkable access to parks along with higher population density that many other subareas
- **Downtown** – although the areas of walkable access seem smaller than in other subareas, the extraordinarily higher population density creates significant gaps in the Northwest and Southeast quadrants of downtown.
- **Factoria** – a disconnected street network leaves many households outside walkable access to parks. The higher density of workforce population and in the future additional residential population will strain existing park and trail capacity over time.
- **Newport Hills** – park and trail facilities are extremely limited, displaying a need for new neighborhood-scale park facilities and improved access to the South Bellevue Greenway and trail system.
- **North Bellevue** – The Southwest and Northeast portions of this subarea may be served by new park facilities in the neighboring subareas. The western edge and center of the subarea will be better served when the publicly-owned Chapin property is planned and developed into a neighborhood park.
- **Northeast Bellevue** (south portion) – potentially able to be served by additional park facilities added to the Crossroads subarea or enhanced trail connections, the southern end of this subarea in on a steep grade and may only be adequately served by a small future neighborhood-scale park directly within the neighborhood.

Specific projects designed to increase walkable access to parks and trails within these subareas and throughout the city are described in more detail in the following section.

Focus Areas

The Parks & Open Space Plan identifies seven major focus areas where Parks & Community Services proposes to focus attention in order to meet the park, open space and recreation needs of the community. These Focus Areas have generally remained consistent since the 1987 edition of the plan, although over time they have been re-structured and modified to meet contemporary needs.

- **Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails:** Acquiring and protecting open space to establish a network of greenways throughout the community. These greenways function to meet passive and active recreation needs of the community, protect wildlife and critical habitat areas, and provide linkages between parks and commercial or residential neighborhoods.

- **Parks and Open Space for Urban Areas:** Unique challenges are faced in designing and providing a park system to serve the urban densities of Downtown Bellevue, and in the future, a redeveloped Bel-Red neighborhood. For this reason, parks, open space, trail and active recreation facility needs are grouped together for the Downtown and Bel-Red Subareas.

- **Park Facilities:** Providing walkable access to neighborhood and community parks through acquisition, development, or redevelopment.

- **Active Recreation Facilities:** Siting community centers and active recreation facilities throughout the community to provide needed indoor and outdoor recreation spaces and activities of interest to a wide spectrum of diverse users.

- **Waterfront Access:** Acquiring and developing additional publicly-owned waterfront property to meet community interest.

- **Partnership Opportunities:** Increasingly, Parks & Community Services relies on community partners in the public, private and non-profit sectors to provide recreation and community service needs for Bellevue residents. Further, Bellevue is positioned to provide increased access to regional park and recreation facilities surrounding the city as an added benefit to Bellevue park users.

- **Historic, Cultural, and Art Resources:** A key function of the parks system is to protect and interpret Bellevue's cultural history as well as provide space and outlet for artistic expression. This section does not include a set of specific capital project recommendations. It lays a policy foundation for how cultural history and art expression should be incorporated existing and future parks and facilities.

Specific capital recommendations are included under each focus area where appropriate. All recommendations are grouped together and mapped for a comprehensive view in the following chapter.

Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails

Bellevue is fortunate to have a wide variety of lakes, streams, wetlands, and forests located within its boundaries. Preserving these environmentally sensitive areas remains vital as development pressure remains strong. The City of Bellevue uses a two-pronged strategy to protect environmentally sensitive areas. In ????, the City enacted a Critical Areas Ordinance, protecting privately-owned sensitive lands and habitat through regulatory measures. In addition, Parks & Community Services strategy has been and will continue to be bring key tracts of land into public ownership in order to preserve and connect sensitive areas via a series of greenways, wildlife corridors, and trails. The benefits of these strategies include:

- Native plant and wildlife habitat protection, including fish spawning habitat.
- Stream corridor, wetland, and forested slope preservation.
- Stormwater biofiltration for improved water quality.
- Natural flood control and improved air quality.
- Land use buffer and contrast to urban environment.
- Outdoor classrooms for environmental education.
- Providing park and open space linkages for people and wildlife.
- Hiking, canoeing, bird watching, and other forms of recreation.
- Places of tranquility for personal reflection, inspiration, and other forms of passive recreation.

The importance of open space and trails to the Bellevue community is notable. Surveys of Bellevue residents and park users in 2009 confirm that acquiring and preserving open space and continuing to develop the city's trail system remain the community's highest priority. Similar results were found in a prior survey completed in 2001.

Environmental Imperative

"The environment" has seemed to capture the public's attention more so now than in many generations. The word "green" has taken on new meanings that have exploded beyond a simple color description. Social acceptance is measured by how "green" a person can become. Children are taught songs about how to properly reduce, reuse and recycle. Yet, in an odd paradox, while society has become increasingly aware of environmental protection, and placed a high priority on it, individuals are less likely to venture out to experience the natural environment than in any previous generation. This is well documented in the book Last Child in the Woods, by Richard Louv, in which he argues that children, in particular are well educated about nature, but fundamentally disconnected from experiencing it. This disconnection is a probable cause for decreased mental and physical health in American society.

Bellevue's natural areas, wildlife corridors, trails and greenways are part of the solution to both environmental degradation and public health. Tree masses absorb carbon dioxide, emit oxygen, reduce erosion, moderate temperatures, protect wildlife, and provide aesthetic relief. Wetlands filter pollutants, absorb surface water runoff, help maintain stream base flows and groundwater replenishment, and provide a rich biological habitat. Riparian corridors, which include the stream channel and the streamside vegetation, provide flood water attenuation, groundwater replenishment,

water quality filtering, and fish and wildlife habitat. The abundance of trails, which are easily accessed from residential neighborhoods provides an low barrier way for individuals to get outside and benefit from all that our natural environment has to offer in terms of physical activity and mental well-being.

The City's agricultural areas, such as the Lake Hills Greenbelt and Mercer Slough, preserve important food growing capacity.

As a growing urban center, Bellevue must provide a balance between urban development and preserving or enhancing environmental quality. The following programs acknowledge the importance of preserving important open space and wildlife habitat areas, providing connections, and encouraging public education and awareness of our natural systems.

Preserving Open Space

Bellevue's open spaces are an integral part of the City. Open space areas include ecologically sensitive and/or unique natural areas, greenways, wildlife corridors, historical agricultural lands, and publicly owned native growth protection areas (NGPAs). Dispersed throughout the City are a variety of these open space areas that add to the "City in a Park" image. Well-distributed and connected greenways and open spaces provide in important linkages for habitat and people, bring beauty closer to everyone, and maximize opportunities for enjoying the environment.

When combined with King County and Bellevue School District-owned properties, there are approximately 2,950 acres of public park, school, and open space land in Bellevue. Much of this land is open space located in a few large areas, such as Mercer Slough, Wilburton Hill, Lakemont Park, Coal Creek Park, Kelsey Creek Park, and the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

Historically, open space was a privately managed commodity subject to the uncertainty of the market place. We are now recognizing that the protection of diminishing open space is a public responsibility. However, certain privately owned lands play an important role in the parks and open space plan. They work in tandem with public lands to enhance the City's overall open space system. Golf courses, for example, contribute to the feeling of open space by providing visitors with an aesthetically pleasing visual experience. Privately owned greenbelts and native growth protection areas (NGPAs) play an equally important role in providing open space. They protect critical areas and habitat while enhancing the visual setting of the built environment.

Where possible, it is the City's responsibility to classify and regulate native growth protection areas as permanent open spaces. Some trails through these spaces should be built to provide limited public access while still preserving the area for other purposes, such as wildlife habitat. In 2000, the City Council approved and funded the concept of acquiring and managing privately owned NGPAs. From 2000 to 2002, over 26 acres of NGPAs have been protected, thus ensuring that their environmental functions and values are maintained or restored, while also providing public access opportunities.

Greenways

Greenways have historically provided a natural contrast to urban density. They combine the natural functions and separations provided by a greenbelt with the linear and connected orientation of a

parkway. By connecting different sites via boulevards, trails, and natural areas, parklands become more usable, accessible by walking or biking, and visible on a day to day basis. The various parks and open spaces throughout the city become a system, achieving a sense of integration and completeness.

The Lake-to-Lake Trail System and Greenway is an excellent example of this concept. Originating at public parks on the east and west sides of Bellevue, a system of signed trails and sidewalks extend across the city by linking a series of parks, schools, commercial areas and natural areas with a unifying string.

A key function of greenways in Bellevue is to link major regional parks and open spaces. Bellevue benefits from extensive acreage of state, regional, and subregional parkland and open space on the Eastside. To make full use of these resources, a series of greenways are planned that increase Bellevuer resident's ability to reach and enjoy regional facilities that include the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway, Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Lake Sammamish State Park, Marymoor Park and Bridle Trails State Park. These parks, in turn, either are or will be connected via trails and corridors to significantly larger state, county, and federal lands between the Cascade Mountains and Puget Sound. Bellevue parks, such as Mercer Slough Nature Park, Kelsey Creek Farm, and the Downtown Park, also serve as regional facilities which are, or will be, connected into the overall greenways network for the Eastside region.

Trail System

Trails play an important role in open space, especially in large parks, greenways, and wildlife corridors. Trails, which can also function as greenways, are often the sole means of connecting parklands and open space. They provide pedestrians and other non-motorized users shorter and safer connections between various neighborhoods and open space.

Major east-west and north-south non-motorized routes traversing the City have been designated and are considered top priorities in completing trail systems. The Lake-to-Lake Trail provides Bellevue's primary east-west non-motorized trail connection linking Lake Sammamish with Lake Washington. Other future east-west trail connections run from the Kirkland's Houghton neighborhood to Marymoor Park and from Newcastle to Coal Creek Parks. A proposed trail along West Lake Sammamish Parkway will provide a major north-south link for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles from the Lakemont area to Marymoor Park. Additionally, trails constructed along the power line and pipeline corridors and the railroad right-of-way would also provide north-south connections.

In addition to the major cross-City trail connections, construction and signage of trails within neighborhood areas creates a trail network connecting the neighborhood to the parks and open space systems within close proximity to people living in the area. These localized trail systems provide connection opportunities allowing people to explore their immediate neighborhood area. They encourage interaction and a sense of community within these areas.

Street Trees and Arterial Landscaping

Street trees and arterial landscaping are valuable assets and an essential part of the City's urban forest. The trees and plants filter air pollutants, produce oxygen, buffer noise, provide separation between pedestrians and vehicles, furnish beauty and provide shade. Street trees add scale to the built

environment and help soften effects of urbanization. Arterial "greening" identifies streets and highways as part of the overall open space system.

The Parks Department's Street Trees and Arterial Landscaping Program establishes a variety of landscapes along the City's street system. This program provides pleasant canopied boulevards and lush green arterial roads. Working with the Transportation Department, the Parks Department's program has resulted in over 110 acres of landscaping adjacent to arterials and boulevards These landscaped boulevards and arterial roads, such as 148th Avenue, enrich the visual experience to motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists using these roadways.

Freeway landscaping should also be included as part of our open space concept. "Greening" the freeways can be easily achieved through revegetation. Interstate-90, Interstate-405, and State Route-520 are the major gateways that form the first impression of Bellevue. Landscaping along our freeways can be a reminder of the beauty of our natural environment and offer the motorist a "taste" of the "City in a Park." The exploration of partnership opportunities with the State Department of Transportation, as well as with private businesses, should be a Parks Department goal to provide and maintain landscaping in and adjacent to the State and City rights of way.

Environmental Stewardship

The pristine natural conditions that existed in our region only 150 years ago have been radically altered by development. Bellevue's remaining natural areas are carefully managed to provide long-term environmental, recreational, and social benefits. Just as important as working to connect the large open spaces in Bellevue, the stewardship programs must view activities on an ecosystem-wide basis, acknowledging the interconnectedness and interrelationships in nature.

The Parks Department's Forest Management Program provides a systematic process to manage the forest ecosystem. Starting with a site inventory and analysis, staff develops a natural resource management and enhancement plan to improve degraded forest conditions resulting from past logging and land use practices and current development activities. Where necessary, trees and vegetation are removed and replaced to create a viable natural ecosystem. With over 100 species of wildlife utilizing tree snags for nesting, breeding, food sources, and refuge, snag creation is also part of our Forest Management Program. The goal of the Forest Management Program is to re-establish natural ecosystems which will sustain wildlife, as well as provide a visual amenity for the community.

The Parks Department's enhancement projects have also increased wildlife habitat and diversity through the creation of wetland ponds, such as those at Mercer Slough and Lake Hills Greenbelt, and improved water quality and reduced erosion through stream restoration projects, such as Phantom Creek through Weowna Park.

Environmental Education

Environmental education is an important component to a successful parks and open space system. Educating the public about the importance of our natural systems helps them understand the benefits provided by these systems. The public endorses environmental preservation when connections between the environment and quality of life are fully understood.

The Parks Department provides numerous opportunities for environmental education which give park visitors the understanding and insight into the natural world. Proper interpretation of our natural resources creates a sense of wonder and instills a sense of responsibility and ownership to protect and manage the resources wisely. Examples of environmental education and interpretation programs include the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, the Ranger Station Backyard Wildlife Habitat Gardens, Washington State University Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden, Earth Day/Arbor Day celebrations and tree planting, Stewardship Saturdays, and Natural Resource Week. The City's volunteer programs contribute nearly 25,000 annual hours helping enhance Parks Department lands. In addition to formal environmental education programs, use of the City's trails and open space systems provide the public with informal environmental education opportunities as they experience these natural systems.

Capital Project Recommendations

The 2009 Pedestrian & Bicycle Transportation Plan is the primary resource for trail policies, standards, projects, implementation, and financing strategies. This plan provides the framework for building a safe non-motorized transportation system to schools, parks, shopping areas, and places of employment. The following list of projects align with the Ped-Bike Plan and are considered to be a high priority for Parks & Community Services:

Opportunity:	Acquire*	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Greenway Connections/Extensions Between large open spaces and regional systems Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPA) Lewis Creek Greenway Kelsey Creek Greenway Richards Valley	X	X	X
Lake-to-Lake Trail Connections Richards Valley Mercer Slough to Kelsey Creek Park Lake Hills Greenbelt	X	X	
Coal Creek Natural Area and Greenway	X		
North-south power line and pipeline corridors	X	X	
Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan implementation	X	X	
Regional Open Space and Trail Connections Cougar Mountain Regional Connections Houghton-to-Marymoor Regional Greenway – Bridle Crest Trail BNSF corridor connections Mountains to Sound Greenway trail	X	X	

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

Park Facilities

The heart and soul of Bellevue's parks system are the neighborhood-scale and community-scale parks that dot the city from one end to the other. Each has their own distinct character and set of features that add both economic and social value to the neighborhoods in which they are located. These parks are responsible for Bellevue's image as a City in a Park and are responsible for the enviable quality of life that Bellevue residents enjoy.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood sites are designed to meet active and passive recreation needs of their immediate neighborhood. Neighborhood parks are intended mainly as walk-to or bike-to facilities; therefore, they either have no or very limited off-street parking facilities. In general, these parks should not create parking or traffic impacts to the neighborhoods in which they are located.

Neighborhood parks should be sited and developed based on their accessibility and visibility. In some instances, neighborhood sites may be acquired, developed, or maintained in partnership with a school district, a community association, or business. In other instances, it is appropriate to require neighborhood sites or facilities in conjunction with private development, such as a subdivision or planned unit development.

Community Parks

Community park are of a scale suitable to contain a variety of larger recreational spaces, incorporating features such as environmentally sensitive and open space areas, a combination of structured and unstructured recreational activities, trail systems, and indoor facilities for gym space, classrooms, or swimming pools. They may also include features typical to a neighborhood parks, such as a playground or open green space for picnicking or unstructured recreation

Each community park site, due to size, configuration, location, and natural features, will dictate appropriate recreational activities. For instance, the Mercer Slough Nature Park and the Lake Hills Greenbelt are comprised mainly of wetlands. Therefore, these parks focus on habitat protection, education opportunities, and passive recreation use. On the other hand, Newcastle Beach Park contains a large expanse of Lake Washington waterfront. This park is developed around recreation opportunities unique to a waterfront location. The Downtown Park provides respite from the activities of busy urban life, and uses there are passive and unstructured. And, Robinswood Park contains a mix of natural characteristics and facilities that make it suitable for a wide range of both active and passive uses.

Add survey information.

Geographic Distribution and Subarea Need

A primary goal of the Parks & Open Space System Plan is to create a geographically dispersed system of park and recreation facilities that are within walking distance of all Bellevue residents. Neighborhood parks and trails are the primarily tool used to reach this goal. Geographic distribution is less of a priority for community parks since they are designed to serve the city as a whole. Siting of community parks is more dependent upon the availability of large contiguous parcels of land and the protection of sensitive areas.

Increasing the number of neighborhood parks was identified in the 1993 Parks & Open Space System Plan as the community's highest priority and Parks & Community Services responded by increasing the inventory of neighborhood parks across the city. Success at addressing this need is shown by the community priority for neighborhood parks dropping to lower levels in subsequent surveys. In 2001, neighborhood sites were the second highest priority and in 2009, typical neighborhood park elements of playgrounds, open unstructured green spaces and plazas and sports fields remained in the top tier of priorities, but placed behind open space preservation, trails and increased waterfront access.

The need to acquire and develop neighborhood facilities remains. However, because of the past emphasis on neighborhood facilities, the City can now target its efforts on selected subareas that continue to reflect level of service deficits as measured by community surveys and service area analysis.

As described more fully in the Level of Service chapter, each park and trail and school yard access point was mapped including a 1/3 mile walking distance buffer from each point. This analysis displays areas of the city where residents do not have walkable access to a park, trail or school. Based on this analysis, six of the 14 subareas continue to show deficits in neighborhood level of service standards. The Factoria, North Bellevue and Newport Hills Subareas show deficiencies in meeting neighborhood park service *area* standards, meaning that large portions of these subareas are geographically isolated and not well served with neighborhood facilities.

Deficits in the North Bellevue and Wilburton Subareas can be offset by developing existing sites. The remaining subareas will require the acquisition and development of strategically located neighborhood sites to serve the neighborhoods. The City must aggressively seek opportunities to provide additional neighborhood sites and facilities in these subareas.

In addition, the development review process can support the needs for new neighborhood parks in residential and urban areas. Development regulations allow for site dedication and development in locations where growth is creating additional demands for park-related facilities. In some cases, the inclusion of private recreational facilities within a development may help offset the need for nearby neighborhood facilities.

Acquisition

For neighborhood parks, acquisition priorities will focus primarily in the subareas determined to be underserved by level of service measures. For community parks, Parks & Community Services will focus on continuing to seek out well-sited large tracts of land for new community parks as well as acquiring available land adjacent to existing community parks where appropriate. For example, the acquisition of large open space parcels contiguous to Kelsey Creek Park and the Mercer Slough Nature Park expanded these parks' capacity for passive recreation, wetland stewardship, preservation of wildlife habitat, and education. A strong commitment was also made to acquire land adjacent to the Downtown Park, as envisioned in the original Master Plan.

Development and Redevelopment

In addition to land acquisitions to meet park facility needs, attention will continue to be given to developing existing sites. Priority should be given to completing development of existing parks listed in

the table below. These parks are needed to satisfy current demands for both passive and active recreation uses.

Capital Project Recommendations

Continued acquisition and development of neighborhood and community park facilities should occur based on opportunity and level of service standards. Major park facility initiatives include:

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Add neighborhood parks in underserved subareas Bridle Trails Crossroads Subarea Factoria Subarea Newport Hills Subarea	X	X	
Develop existing un-developed properties including, but not limited to: Eastgate/Newcastle Subarea (Norelius/Sunrise Property) North Bellevue (Chapin Property) Wilburton (Glendale Property)		X	
Enatai Neighborhood Park redevelopment			X
Add to or continue phased development of existing community parks, including but not limited to: Airfield Park Bellevue Botanical Garden Crossroads Park Eastgate Park Kelsey Creek Park Lewis Creek Park picnic area and trails Mercer Slough Natural Area Eastgate Park Robinswood Park Surrey Downs Park Wilburton Hill Park	X	X	
*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.			

Active Recreation Facilities

The elements of the parks system that provide natural areas, waterfront access, gardens and trails are a valued resource available to anyone of any age, race or culture. To complement and further expand Parks & Community Services' mission to build a healthy community, the City provides a network of indoor and outdoor active recreation facilities that can be programmed for specific sports or recreational interests of Bellevue residents. Active recreation facilities include indoor recreation buildings (such as community centers or the tennis center) and outdoor active or structured recreation facilities (such as sportsfields or off-leash dog areas). These facilities cater to existing users preferences

for sports and physical activity and provide an opportunity to learn or experience a new form of recreation in a safe learning environment.

The unique challenge in providing relevant active recreation opportunities for Bellevue residents and park users is the ever changing face of the Bellevue community. Parks & Community Services has goals for providing culturally competent services to all Bellevue residents. These goals are outlined in a separate document entitled the Recreation Program Plan. Specifically, the City has focused on providing a base level of recreation services to all residents layered with a specific focus on youth, older adults, and individuals with disabilities. These three population groups were identified as areas of focus because each have a unique culture and set of needs that are often not fully addressed by private sector recreation providers.

An additional area of focus lies with meeting the recreation needs of an ethnically diverse population. Bellevue is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in Washington State. Adequately serving Bellevue residents is a challenging considering the wide range of cultural recreation preferences. Yet, there is a great opportunity for Parks & Community Services to provide community gathering spaces, facilities and programs wherein individuals from a variety of ethnic backgrounds can be exposed to sports or recreation activities they may not have otherwise discovered.

This section specifically focuses on three discussion topics: community centers, sportsfields and facilities serving diverse populations.

Community Centers & Community Buildings

Quantifying the need for active recreation facilities, and community centers in general, is a difficult task. Much in the same way as the location and design of future parks are decided, a series of factors are weighted in determining the need for additional community centers to serve Bellevue residents. These include geographic distribution of existing facilities, the population distribution and density of Bellevue residents, available land or facilities, cost, citizen input and the level of use of existing facilities. However, a very simple measure that can be used as a rule of thumb is a standardized ratio that call for one multi-use community recreation center for every 25,000 residents, equitably distributed throughout the City.

Using this simplified measure, based on a 2009 population of 120,600, the City's current demand is nearing five community centers. At present, Bellevue operates four community centers, including Crossroads, North Bellevue, Highland and South Bellevue Community Centers. A strong senior program is provided at the North Bellevue Community Center, and programs for the disabled are included at the Highland Center. Crossroads Community Center does not specialize in a specific population, but serves the most ethnically diverse spectrum of users. South Bellevue includes a strong partnership with the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club and provides a range of fitness-related facilities and activities.

Considering the geographic distribution of existing community centers and future population growth areas, a fifth community center is recommended to serve the Downtown Subarea (refer to the Urban Parks System section of more detailed discussion). By 2030, the city's population is forecast to grow in size to 148,400, in which case planning for a sixth community may be needed within the long-term range

of this plan. For geographic distribution, a new center within North Bellevue or Southwest Bellevue Subareas may be studied.

Bellevue's existing community centers range in size from 15,000 to 20,000 square feet, but in some cases lack certain spaces that would make these full-service community centers. In particular, the North Bellevue facility lacks a gymnasium, the addition of which is recommended for that facility to reach its full potential for serving the community.

In addition to building and operating multi-use community center, there are other methods used by Parks & Community Services to bring indoor recreation opportunities to park users. These approaches include:

- Providing limited and more specialized programs in smaller City-owned community buildings with a broader geographic distribution. For example, the Northwest Art Center offers important opportunities to the arts community. Environmental education programs are available at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, the Lewis Creek Visitor Center and Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station. Meeting rooms are provided at the Lake Hills Clubhouse and Robinswood House. Historical interpretation programs are present at Winters House. The City should continue to explore opportunities to satisfy specialized, potentially short-term needs with a smaller scale approach.

- Continued and expanded partnership with the Bellevue School District. Schools are very important centers of community activities. Past partnerships have yielded important community facilities, such as the second gym at Tyee Middle School, the performing arts facility at Ivanhoe, and the use of many school gyms for sports activities. The City must continue to expand partnerships with the School District, including adult education, cultural activities, and human service needs.

- Partnerships with other service providers. The City has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club (Ground Zero Teen Center and South Bellevue Community Center), Pacific Science Center (Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center), Jubilee REACH Center, Bellevue Botanical Garden Society and many other organizations to provide community programs and facilities that otherwise might not exist without the support of these agencies. It will be critical to expand these partnerships and explore new partners, including private enterprise, to provide additional services to the community.

Sportsfields

Several issues influence the level of user demand on the City's inventory of sportsfields. While youth programs have priority for field time, adult participation in organized sports is strong, with softball and soccer being the most popular. The popularity of women's sports has increased, not only at the high school level, but at all age levels. Also, the increased popularity of highly competitive "select" teams have placed greater demand for more and higher quality fields. Finally, increased participation and interest has emerged in non-traditional sports such as lacrosse, rugby, and cricket. The Bellevue Boys Lacrosse Club reports adding one new lacrosse team (approximately 25 players) for children and youth ever year. Demands are not only placed on game-quality fields, but also on places to practice.

In working with the user groups and reviewing participation trends, Parks & Community Services expects that the demand for soccer fields (designed to also accommodate rugby, football, cricket and lacrosse) will continue to grow. The growth in baseball and softball is expected to moderate or be flat.

Parks & Community Services is completing an update to the 1996 analysis in partnership with the sportsfield users. The updated Sportsfield Analysis Report is a separate document that includes recommendations on how to continue meeting the community-wide demand for sportsfields throughout Bellevue. Recommendations will not only provide for the addition of fields, but also to expand the use of existing fields. Many of these recommendations have been incorporated into the Park Plan as short-term and long-term recommendations.

As the availability of land continues to diminish, it will become increasingly important to make optimum use of the existing field inventory. The ability of the City to add new fields is extremely limited. Therefore, adding synthetic turf in place of existing natural turf is a high priority. Synthetic turf increases the capacity of a field to serve users twelve months per year.

Facilities serving Diverse Populations

Within the past ten years, Parks & Community Services has made a programmatic shift in terms of how and where services are provided that are age-specific. Prior editions of this plan have recommended specific facilities designed to serve older adults and specific facilities to serve youth and teens. The shift is now to continue and expand services for specific age groups, but not necessarily in one discreet location. Focus groups and discussions with Bellevue residents representing these age groups support this shift, in large part because of transportation barriers that are experienced by both age groups.

In order to accomplish this goal, space must be made available within existing community centers and other community buildings for programs such as a specific fitness classes that can be effectively offered at multiple locations throughout the city as opposed to being offered only at one specific site.

There is also a need for unique facilities that may have a smaller base of users, but with numbers sufficient to justify one or more facilities to serve users city-wide. These facilities can be provided in one of two ways. Some facilities can justify charging a fee for the service as a way to either limit and schedule use or support the operating expenses of that facility. Example of these include golf courses, or indoor pools or tennis centers. Other facilities do not require scheduled access to operate efficiently or may be one element of a multi-use facility. Examples of such facilities include skate parks, designated off-leash dog areas, open areas used for new or non-traditional sports or games, cultural arts programs, and others. Parks & Community Services will continue to survey park users and track community demographics in order to learn of and provide a wide-range of alternative sport and recreation programs and facilities to competently meet the diverse needs of all Bellevue residents.

Capital Project Recommendations

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
North Bellevue Community Center addition		X	X
Alternative Sports Facilities serving diverse populations		X	X
Community Center serving North or Southwest Bellevue Subarea		X	

Sportsfields Synthetic field surfaces Two lighted ball fields at Marymoor Park Lighted sportsfields at Airfield Park Lighted fields at selected community and school sites Improve school sportsfields One ballfield at Wilburton Hill Park		X	X
Off-leash dog areas		X	X
Enterprise Fund Improvements Golf Courses Tennis Center Aquatic Center			X
*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.			

Urban Parks Systems

In a high-density urban environment, green spaces provide a soft and human-scaled contrast to the hard edges and large-scale of the urban landscape. Interspersed among office buildings and retail areas, parks and open spaces intensify the feeling of a "City in a Park" and are an important amenity necessary to attract those considering to moving to or siting their business in the area. Parks, plazas, green spaces, broad sidewalks, seating areas, mid-block corridors, artwork, and seasonal color enhance the richness and variety of the built environment and define downtown as a "people place."

In the 2003 edition of this plan, this section was entitled the Downtown District Focus Area. Since that time, the City of Bellevue completed a planning process that will allow for significant redevelopment in the Bel-Red Subarea that will alter the urban character in that portion of the city from primarily low-density light industrial and retail land uses to a high density residential and job center. It was necessary then to broaden the scope of this section to consider the unique park and open space needs of both Downtown Bellevue and the Bel-Red Subarea. Parks designed for urban areas differ substantially from those designed to serve lower density single family neighborhoods. As such, the unique challenges of developing an urban park system are described in this section, focusing first on Downtown, then on Bel-Red, and finally on issues that equally affect both areas.

Downtown Bellevue

The Downtown Subarea is the City's financial and business hub, and the area where the majority of new residential and employment growth is occurring and will continue to occur well into the future. Downtown represents less than two percent of Bellevue's land area, but will accommodate exponentially higher percentages of Bellevue workforce and resident populations. Maintaining a livable urban environment while accommodating significant new growth depends on creating a parks and open space system that responds to the unique needs of this community.

Meeting the Downtown Subarea's parks, open space, and recreation needs requires a different approach than used elsewhere in the City. Limited land availability with its resulting high costs

precludes opportunities that exist in other subareas and requires a distinct treatment for open space needs and solutions.

In order to study Downtown's urban context and increasing population, the Parks Department conducted a Downtown Needs Assessment in 2002 as part of the City's overall Downtown Implementation Plan initiative. The report identified emerging themes and developed recommendations addressing urban trail system connections, parks and open space areas, active recreation opportunities, a community center, and meeting human services needs. The findings of this report remain relevant today. In total, the City owns just over 25 acres of parkland and open space in the Downtown Subarea.

Downtown: Southwest Quadrant

The Downtown Park, at seventeen acres, is the cornerstone of the downtown open space system. It provides interesting, attractive, and safe places for active and passive recreation uses. The park's large open space areas provide a prime location for special events throughout the year. Completion of the Downtown Park, per the updated 1997 Master Plan, is an important goal identified in the Downtown Needs Assessment and in this Plan. In addition, creating a more prominent visual park presence on Bellevue Way is critical to enhance Bellevue's "City in a Park" image on this key downtown arterial.

Visual and physical connections from the Downtown Park to Meydenbauer Bay will provide vital links between the Downtown and Meydenbauer Bay Parks. Because of the downtown's close proximity to the Bay, connecting these two amenities enhances the uniqueness of this environment and provides additional recreational, retail, and tourism opportunities.

Also, preserving and creating view opportunities of Mt. Rainier and Meydenbauer Bay remain important goals of the Plan. View corridors allow people to visually expand their horizons and place their immediate surroundings within a greater geographic context. The downtown experience is enriched because of the ability to view dramatic natural features which have made our region famous.

Downtown: Northeast Quadrant

The three acre Ashwood Park is currently maintained with a large grass area, small children's ball field, and a parking lot used jointly by the King County Regional Library and park users. The current Master Plan includes a community center with affordable housing and passive parkland. The Northeast Quadrant has undergone significant development since the Ashwood Park master plan was complete. Now that the character of the neighborhood is better understood, the current Master Plan should be updated to reflect a contemporary vision for the park. For example, if and when the library is expanded, the City should explore a partnership with the Library Board to consider a joint library expansion, community center and parking expansion at this location. Future planning for the park should include the plaza south of the library and to the Ashwood Plaza site at the northeast corner of N. E. 10th Street and 110th Avenue N. E.

Northwest and Southeast Quadrants

The downtown open space system proposal includes a minimum of 2-1/2 to 3 acres of parkland in addition to linear transitions and corner parks in the Downtown Subarea's northwest and southeast

quadrants. Although the context and form of these urban parks will differ from the more traditional suburban neighborhood parks, at least half of each site is proposed to be passive, green open space. These green open spaces will offer respite from a highly urban environment by providing neighborhood gathering space and areas for informal recreational opportunities. The remaining space is expected to provide more formalized hardscape areas, including plazas, water features, gardens, seating areas, and walking paths. These major open spaces, connected by urban trail systems, will intensify Bellevue's "City in a Park" experience.

A system of coordinated and connected open spaces downtown will require commitment from both public and private sectors. Public-private partnerships will also be critical to meet the recreation needs of the people who live and work in the Downtown Subarea. Because most of downtown will remain privately owned, it is critical that developers incorporate exciting and inviting public access spaces into their projects. Through the City's Land Use Code downtown developers can achieve greater development potential when including amenities that benefit the pedestrian experience and add to usable open space. These amenities can include arcades, plazas, active recreation areas, public art, and landscaped green spaces. Signage identifying these amenities as public spaces and providing directional information is critical to ensure the public realizes these spaces are available for their use.

Downtown residential development should include indoor and outdoor spaces that address recreation needs unique to that residential community (e.g., court games, unstructured play spaces, and seating areas). Since the majority of new residential development is projected to occur in the Downtown Subarea, this issue becomes increasingly important in meeting these downtown residents' recreation needs.

Bel-Red Subarea

In 2005, the Bellevue City Council appointed a steering committee to consider how the City might plan for a massive redevelopment of the Bel-Red Subarea. In general, this area include 900 acres north of Bel-Red Road, south of State Route 520 and east of Interstate 405. The result of this process was a new Subarea Plan and Land Use Code that allow the area to transition from low-density light industrial land uses, to a high density residential and employment center. According to the Subarea Plan, the goal of for provision of parks and open space for this area is "to create a robust, aesthetically beautiful, and functional parks and open space system that serves the needs of Bel-Red and the broader community, and that connects with and complements the larger Bellevue parks and open space system."

Highland Park and Community Center are the only significant publicly owned park and recreation resource in the subarea. An extensive new system of neighborhood and community parks, restored natural areas and trail systems are envisioned. This is captured on a map developed for the Subarea Plan and duplicated in this Plan. In order to build this system, the City created incentives within the Land Use Code to encourage private developer support in the acquisition and creation of the system. In addition, the City will also need to invest funds aimed in the near future at assembling and acquiring parcels of land that will be redeveloped into park, open space and trails, at a time with new residential and office space development occurs.

Active Recreation Opportunities

Active recreation opportunities interspersed throughout Downtown and Bel-Red urban areas are important elements in creating a sense of excitement and vitality. The Park & Open Space System Plan recommends an urban trail system, connecting destination points, that will contain pockets of activity for both residents and employees. Interspersing active recreation nodes throughout urban areas connected by pedestrian linkages creates opportunities for entertainment and participation. Providing sport courts, such as tennis and basketball, play equipment, as well as alternative sports such as climbing walls and skate parks, will not only serve the participants, but will provide entertainment for the casual passerby.

Urban Trail System Connections

Respondents to the 2002 Downtown Needs Assessment survey identified space for walking and running trails as the highest rated priority. Both Downtown and Bel-Red Subareas have potential for providing aesthetically pleasing and functional pedestrian linkages, which will encourage people to explore both the public and private spaces located within walking distance from where they live and work.

The City has set standards for its own transportation infrastructure project and provides incentives to private developers to invest in non-motorized transportation amenities. These provide the public with inviting, attractive and functional pedestrian and bicycle-friendly environments. Examples include dedicated off-street pedestrian and bicycle facilities, small street-side plazas, fountains, seating areas, landscaping and public art.

In Downtown, the Major Pedestrian Corridor is located between Bellevue Way and 110th Avenue N. E., along the N. E. 6th Street right of way. When complete, it will add a significant component to the downtown's open space system and provide an east/west pedestrian spine through the center of downtown. In addition, there are a number of mid-block pedestrian connections designated to "break up" the downtown's superblocks. These mid-block connections will provide a safer and more human scale to the downtown and provide more pedestrian-friendly features such as landscaping, benches, artwork, and fountains in an environment that encourages lingering. A similar plan has been designed for the larger Bel-Red Subarea that envisions a network of urban trail connections allowing pedestrians and bicycle users to navigate easily within the area and connect to other trail systems within the city.

Pedestrian-friendly corridor opportunities include:

- Pedestrian-biased major north-south trails where possible along 106th Avenue N. E., 108th Avenue N. E. (the geographic ridge in downtown), 110th Avenue N. E. and along the 15th/16th corridor in Bel-Red.
- Connecting the Lake-to-Lake Trail to Lake Washington along Main Street or 2nd Avenue N. E. to complete a major component of our urban trail system.
- Connecting the trail system to key destinations, such as Bellevue Square, Bellevue Art Museum, Meydenbauer Convention Center, Meydenbauer Bay, restaurants, the King County Regional Library, and major parks.

- Connecting existing City trail systems to a new regional trail developed within the BNSF rail corridor.

The urban trail system should integrate recreation nodes and urban plazas. Opportunities abound to create a vibrant and changing environment of both indoor and outdoor routes that enhance the pedestrian experience regardless of the weather.

Arterial and Freeway Gateways

The design of urban gateways, when viewed from the freeway and neighboring arterials, spotlights the quality of the streetscape that will be found within Downtown and a redeveloped Bel-Red area. These gateways deserve special design consideration to ensure a visually pleasing entrance that entices people to enter and explore these urban areas. The gateways can incorporate architectural elements, a variety of vegetation, water features, decorative paving, and interpretative or directional signage. Landscaped medians, similar to those used on Bellevue Way and N. E. 4th Street, also identify key locations such as the west terminus of the Pedestrian Corridor and the Downtown Park, and benefit pedestrians at major mid-block crossings.

Capital Project Recommendations

The following projects are recommended to create an attractive urban environment that will boost the City's ability to attract new residents and businesses to Downtown Bellevue and the Bel-Red Subarea.

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Downtown Subarea NW & SE neighborhood parks Downtown Park NE 2nd Pocket Park transfers (from Transportation) and expansion Ashwood Park Main Street Linear Buffer Greenway Community center serving Downtown	X	X	X
Bel-Red Subarea Open space and off-street trail development Multi-purpose trail development Park acquisition and development Trail connections to local and regional facilities such as BNSF corridor	X	X	

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

Waterfront Access

Bellevue is bounded on the west by Lake Washington and on the east by Lake Sammamish. In addition, Phantom and Larsen Lakes are located within the City limits. However, for many in Bellevue, the lakes and shorelines are an unseen resource. Because of urban development, topography, and the almost continuous private ownership of the shoreline, the general public has limited visual and physical access to these lakes.

Of the 14 miles of shoreline along Lakes Washington and Sammamish, approximately 10 percent or slightly over 1.4 miles is in public ownership, with most located on Lake Washington. This ratio public to privately owned waterfront is not sufficient to meet the Bellevue resident demand. When surveyed in 2001, waterfront park acquisition and development was listed as the third highest priority of survey respondents. When the question was repeated in 2009, it moved to the second highest priority. In order to address this demand, Parks & Community Services will continue to place a high priority on acquisition and development of additional waterfront while at the same time, optimizing the use of existing shoreline parks.

The City has made a substantial commitment over the past two decades to increase its public presence along the waterfront. Of late, the focus has largely centered around acquisition of property in support of the Meydenbauer Bay Park concept. During the life of this plan, the focus will shift at that site from acquisition to development of the site. Other focus areas for waterfront acquisition are the Enatai to Mercer Slough connection and increasing public access along Lake Sammamish. In addition to creating new access opportunities, renovation and redevelopment is necessary at Chism and Clyde Beach Parks in order to make the best use of those existing public resources.

Meydenbauer Bay

Meydenbauer Bay is a major focus for increasing Bellevue's access to the waterfront. The ultimate goal is to connect this waterfront parcel to the Downtown's commercial and residential areas and the Downtown Park and to create a regionally significant park and waterfront destination. Achieving this goal will create a regionally significant waterfront destination.

Developing Meydenbauer Bay Park and connecting it to the Downtown is Bellevue's singular opportunity to identity itself as a waterfront city. The bay provides both a destination point and an opportunity to recognize the bay's historical significance in the city's development. Parks & Community Services's 2002 Downtown Needs Assessment and the Downtown Implementation Plan acknowledged the significance of visually and physically connecting the Downtown to Meydenbauer Bay. Connecting Downtown to Meydenbauer Bay as part of the Lake-to-Lake Trail system would provide convenient access to unequaled waterfront amenities. Clearly signed pedestrian paths could link Downtown and nearby neighborhoods with the Bay.

Lake Sammamish

Waterfront acquisition opportunities on Lake Sammamish are limited. Much of the shoreline is steep and not suitable for public access. Where possible, acquisition priorities should focus on less steep areas to the north and south. A new park site on Lake Sammamish should accommodate swimming, picnicking, and support facilities. One undeveloped site on Lake Sammamish has been acquired for future development. A developed park on Lake Sammamish could also serve as a destination point for the eastern end of Bellevue's Lake-to-Lake Trail system.

Vasa Park, a privately owned waterfront park within Bellevue, has 515 lineal feet of Lake Sammamish waterfront access and is usable to the public for an entrance fee. Partnerships with the property

owners should be explored to ensure the park remains available for public use. The City should pursue future public ownership of Vasa Park if the opportunity arises.

Enatai to Mercer Slough

Enatai Beach offers a rare opportunity to combine boating and water-oriented activities with Mercer Slough's wetland and passive recreation activities. Both areas are highly visible and have excellent freeway access. Providing a physical and functional connection between these two popular water-oriented sites would be a significant benefit to Bellevue's residents.

Development Opportunities

Enatai Beach Park and the S. E. 40th Street boat launch are key access points on Lake Washington, especially for boating enthusiasts. Additional boat launching facilities are very limited on Lake Washington, with one lane available in Kirkland, one on Mercer Island, and eight at Renton's Gene Coulon Park. Currently, kayaks and canoes can be rented from the boathouse at Enatai Beach Park. Developing the next phase of Enatai Beach Park will provide non-motorized boat launching opportunities and should be considered a high priority. The S. E. 40th Street boat launch is Bellevue's primary motorized boat launch facility. Parking capacity should be further expanded to accommodate overflow occurring during peak boating use, which will require additional acquisition. The Sweyolocken boat launch in Mercer Slough Nature Park currently allows for the launch of both motorized boats for use in Lake Washington and non-motorized boats for use in Mercer Slough.

Although Chism Beach is developed and open to the public, only about half of the existing waterfront is readily accessible. Redevelopment of this park is needed to better utilize this valuable asset. Additionally, renovation and redevelopment of Clyde Beach Park offers opportunities to restore shoreline conditions to a more natural state while creating enhanced public access and recreation opportunities.

Acquisition Considerations

Continued acquisition of waterfront property is challenging due to cost and limited opportunities. Acquisition will take time and depend on opportunity. Resources must be available to acquire key waterfront properties when they become available. Creative acquisition strategies, such as lease-backs, renting, and life estates, have been used to acquire some of the waterfront land assembled to date. The continued use of these less-than-fee techniques will be critical as the City continues to acquire these properties. More aggressive pursuit of grants and other outside revenue sources will also be needed.

A combination of acquisition strategies, streetscape improvements, and development incentives should be explored to achieve the connection between Meydenbauer Bay and the Downtown Park.

Capital Project Recommendations

Major waterfront initiatives include:

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Meydenbauer Bay Park		X	
Meydenbauer Bay Park to Downtown Park connection	X	X	

Connect Enatai Beach Park to Mercer Slough Natural Area	X		
Complete phased development of Enatai Beach Park		X	
SE 40th Boat Launch Addition	X	X	
Lake Sammamish waterfront	X	X	
Chism Beach redevelopment			X
Clyde Beach Redevelopment			X
Additions to existing waterfront parks	X		

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

Partnerships

Increasing service demand and decreasing funding capabilities means the City of Bellevue must seek innovative ways to maintain existing parks and facilities and to increase recreation opportunities. Developing partnerships with other public agencies, the school districts, and private for-profit and non-profit organizations will help meet increased demands for service. In addition, partnerships enable Parks & Community Services to serve a broader clientele, offer new services, and provide existing services more effectively than could be provided individually.

By definition, partnerships must be a collaborative relationship between two or more organizations with similar missions that pool their resources and work together to deliver mutually beneficial services. Some existing City partners include: the Bellevue School District, Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, Pacific Science Center, Boys and Girls Club, Jubilee REACH Center, Eastside Heritage Center, Youth Eastside Services, Master Gardeners of King County, and A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH). Many more partnership possibilities exist which could help enrich and expand park, recreation and community services for Bellevue residents.

Regional and Subregional Parks and Facilities

One challenge in providing park and recreation facilities in East King County is the fact that there are fifteen different municipalities, most of which operate independent park and open space systems. Yet, residents of the Eastside will use any park or any city that meets their specific need. A problem arises in the case of a large scale or highly specialized recreation facility that is designed to serve a population that is greater than any one city. These types of facilities include competitive aquatic facilities, ice skating rinks, sports stadiums, outdoor sports complexes, and regional trail systems. In order to provide these facilities to their residents, Eastside jurisdictions must work together in partnership with each other and in some cases with for-profit or non-profit organizations to assemble the resources needed to develop and operate such facilities. The City of Bellevue is committed to working through partnership to develop additional regional or subregional facilities where demand exists.

School Districts

The School District properties are important components of Bellevue's open space system. Using school sites to supplement City recreational facilities is needed to satisfy community demand for active indoor and outdoor recreation space. The Bellevue School District operates 29 schools both within or adjacent

to the City; Issaquah School District operates 2 schools within the City limits; and the Renton School District has an elementary school immediately adjacent to Bellevue's city limits. In addition, other public schools such as Bellevue College and private school within Bellevue can offer partnership opportunities for Bellevue.

Elementary schools sites, usually eight to ten acres in size, are suitable for passive and/or unorganized activities and youth athletics. They can incorporate many uses typical of a neighborhood park. The middle schools sites, usually about 20 acres in size, have indoor and outdoor sports facilities. The high school sites, averaging 35 to 40 acres in size, have tennis courts, sportsfields, tracks, and multiple gyms for competition and recreation. Middle and high school facilities and sites are important resources that help meet the increasing demand for indoor gym and recreation space and for outdoor playing fields.

The City currently uses school sportsfields, gymnasiums, and indoor recreation and classroom space to supplement its active recreation and sports facility programs. Middle and high school facilities are particularly important because they have both indoor gym and recreation space and outdoor playing fields. The Bellevue School District and the City have a partnership agreement for renovating existing school sportsfields. The City is able to schedule these fields for use when school is not in session or the fields are not required for school sports events. This partnership has greatly improved the community's access to these important recreation amenities.

The Bellevue School District is currently within a long-term school renovation, upgrade, and reconstruction program funded by multi-million dollar capital improvement bonds passed in 2002 and 2007. This is an excellent opportunity to re-evaluate school sites and facilities as public resources suitable for meeting greater community and neighborhood needs.

As the community demographics change over time, the need for school facilities will also change. The Bellevue School District has a policy that gives local municipalities first right of refusal to purchase surplus school lands. In the event school properties are surplused, top priority should be given to acquiring them for park-related purposes. Many of Bellevue's existing parks have been developed from surplus school property. When evaluating the appropriateness of acquiring a surplused school site, the City considers the property characteristics and particular needs of the area in which the site is located. The criteria are applied in the following order:

- Distribution: Priority is given to sites in areas showing deficits in available parks or open space, or if deficits would be created if these public properties were sold.
- Adjacency: Priority is given to sites that are adjacent to existing parks, because they represent opportunities to expand or increase available recreational space.
- Existing facilities: Priority is given to sites with existing recreational facilities such as gyms, ballfields, tracks, and playgrounds.

Private For-Profit and Non-Profit Partnerships

In addition to Parks & Community Services' traditional partnerships with the Bellevue School District and other public agencies, the department has become more innovative in exploring other partnership opportunities that benefit Bellevue residents. Many examples can be given of partnerships with local

non-profit organizations that provide recreation opportunities or community services to Bellevue residents. Crossroads Park is home to two facilities serving children and youth at Kindering Center and Youth Eastside Services. Recently, the City has established multiple partnerships with Jubilee REACH Center, a non-profit utilizing a old school district facility to provide a wide range of human services and programs for children, youth, teens and families in the Lake Hills neighborhood. As an emergency response initiative, an agreement with a non-profit agency has been established to offer an overnight shelter for homeless individuals during times of severe weather. All of these examples are instances where non-profits are able to make use of Parks & Community Services facilities and vice versa.

Due to real estate values and commercial lease rates, the city of Bellevue is a challenging place for non-profit agencies to find or afford the space needed to offer their programs. Similarly, the Parks & Community Services experiences space constraints that limit the full range of programs and services that could be offered if space was available. Using partnerships to create the highest and best use of existing public and non-profit facilities and collaborating to secure more space within the community is an important part of making needed recreation and community services available to Bellevue residents.

Another type of partnership witnessed in many park systems across the country are non-profit organizations established to benefit a specific park or program. These are commonly referred to as "Friends of" organizations. The King County Library System has established a "Friends of" network for individuals interested in supporting their local library. These types of organizations have not been established in significant number for Bellevue's parks system however. A few examples exist and more are emerging. One example is the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, which raises funds for and assists in the operation of the Botanical Garden. Another example is the Eastside Heritage Center, which has long supported the historical interpretation of landmarks within managed within the parks system. More recently the Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation was established to assist in fundraising for a new youth performing arts facility. In part because of the foundation's advocacy for this facility, the 2008 Parks and Natural Areas Levy included the performing arts center are a project to be funded. Addition partnerships.

Establishing partnerships with private for-profit corporations is another avenue to leverage and expand the impact of existing public investment in parks, open space, recreation and community services. In these cases, opportunities can be developed for grants or other forms of financial investment geared to fit with the mission or purpose of the private enterprise. Establishing these partnerships can help create connections within the local business community.

One project that could benefit from partnership with an existing non-profit agency, a new "Friends of" organization, or even a for-profit partner is the establishment of a Cultural Arts Center in Bellevue. This project was first recommended in the 1993 Cultural Diversity Task Force Report and Community Action Plan. The concept was to provide a facility that would facilitate education and dialogue among ethnically and socially diverse communities within Bellevue. In 2010, Bellevue is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in Washington State. This diversity presents unparalleled opportunities for community enrichment and economic development. An example of these opportunities is the Crossroads Bellevue shopping center, which has incorporated into their business model a strategy to

capitalize on the ethnic diversity within the Crossroads neighborhood by offering a wide variety of ethnic food vendors, shops and cultural arts programming within one common location.

Capital Project Recommendations

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Elementary, Middle and High school site improvements			X
Partner with other City departments to create parks		X	
Partner with other public agencies to create parks, including but not limited to: Bellevue School District, Cascade Water Alliance, Sound Transit, Puget Sound Energy, Seattle Public Utilities, Washington State, King County and Bellevue College	X	X	
Aquatic Facility	X	X	
Ice Rink	X	X	
Historic Building Preservation			X
Cultural Arts Center	X	X	
Youth Performing Arts Center		X	

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

Historic, Cultural and Art Resources

The city of Bellevue's historic buildings and cultural heritage are the community's legacy from the past. Preserving that history is a gift to the future. Parks and Community Services recognizes the importance of preserving and commemorating its past through historical sites that are located within the parks and open space system.

Parks & Community Services also provides opportunities for citizens to enjoy contemporary cultural and arts resources. Many parks and facilities provide cultural events and arts programs. For example, public art is displayed in some City parks and buildings through a partnership with the Planning & Community Development Department's Arts Program. Both interpretation of Bellevue's history and offering opportunities to experience cultural arts are important components of building a healthy community.

Historic and Cultural Resources

The 1992 Bellevue Historic and Cultural Resources Survey (updated in July 1997) provides the basis for understanding the area's architectural and cultural heritage. The survey documents Bellevue's inventory of historic buildings, structures, and objects as it existed at the time. The survey identified, described, and evaluated the significance of surviving structures representing the different phases of Bellevue's history.

Parks & Community Services maintains a stewardship responsibility for a number of these historical and cultural properties, which are within the parks system. The Parks Department-owned historic properties include:

- Hans Miller Homestead at Robinswood Park

- Highland Community Center
- Winters House, Sullivan House and the Overlake Blueberry Farm within Mercer Slough Nature Park
- Twin Valley Barns in Kelsey Creek Park
- Whaling Building at Meydenbauer Bay
- Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm in the Lake Hills Greenbelt
- Cal and Harriet Shorts House in the Bellevue Botanical Garden Park.
- McDowell/Paxton House adjacent to the Bellevue Botanical Garden

Several historic buildings, including the Fraser Cabin in Kelsey Creek Park and the Danieli/Matsuoka Cabin in the Lake Hills Greenbelt, were relocated to park sites when the cabins were threatened with demolition. Unfortunately, relocating historic structures often eliminates their historical context. However, much of the property adjacent to the original sites of these structures had been dramatically altered, and the City determined it was more important to preserve a piece of history by relocating the structures rather than allowing them to be demolished.

Add survey stat on cmty priority for hst pres. Highlighting the historic character of elements within the parks system is an effective way to encourage park visits and physical activity. For example, organized hikes through Coal Creek are arranged with a guide that can point out historical evidence of coal mining in the region. Similarly, the Heritage Loop Trail within Mercer Slough Natural Area leads visitors around a trail with markers and interpretation signage describing the history of agriculture within the Mercer Slough. The Winter House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places anchors the loop trail. Through a partnership with the Eastside Heritage Center, ongoing exhibits and special events highlight the history of the house, its farm and life in early Bellevue. The city's agricultural heritage can also be experienced at Kelsey Creek Farm and within the Lake Hills Greenbelt. Preserving the last vestiges of our agricultural heritage in these parks provides opportunities for public education and hands-on farming experience.

While Parks & Community Services embraces its role in preserving and interpreting a portion of the city's historic and cultural resources, funding limitations requires sharing the financial responsibility of maintaining and preserving these sites with other public and private partners. Through partnerships, the City can provide opportunities for local historical societies to utilize existing historical structures and sites for interpretation and educational purposes or work with these groups to explore grant opportunities for the purpose of historical education and interpretation, as well as acquisition or restoration of historical properties.

Visual and Performing Art Resources

Bellevue's collection of outdoor sculptures, fountains, objects, and paintings acts as a museum without walls, without fees, and without viewing restrictions. It is accessible to everyone every day. This collection enriches the community's quality of life, provides a sense of place, and adds interest and vitality to the landscape. In addition to static displays of visual art, parks provide a backdrop for structure or unstructured performing arts.

In recent years, the need for the parks system to accommodate performing arts has heightened. The popularity and positive outcomes of the Bellevue Youth Theatre program have prompted a local group to form a foundation for the purpose of raising funds to construct a new indoor performing arts facility, designed for youth programs, but flexible enough for multiple uses. Adding indoor performance space is supported by the City's Cultural Compass Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2004. In addition to indoor space, public opinion gathered for the updated to this plan noted a need for existing and newly designed parks to include space designed to accommodate performing arts outdoors. Features could include amphitheathers, band shells or outdoor stages. These features could be used for special events and professional performing arts presentations or used anytime by anyone visiting the park who feel compelled to take to the stage (with or without spectators).

Parks and Community Services maintains a strong partnership with the City's Arts Program to create opportunities for Bellevue residents and workforce to experience visual and performing arts. The purpose of the Arts Program is as follows:

"The City of Bellevue accepts a responsibility for expanding the public experience with visual arts. Such works of art create a more visually pleasing, humane environment, and add to the overall beautification and cultural climate of the City of Bellevue and the quality of life of its citizens. Artists capable of creating art for public places must be encouraged and Bellevue's standing as a leader in public art enhanced."

The parks system is often the repository for some of the public art purchased by this program. As caretakers for these resources, the Department works cooperatively with the Public Art Program staff and Bellevue Arts Commission to ensure that artwork is acquired and sited appropriately in the parks system. The Parks Department will continue being an active partner with other public and private organizations involved in expanding the City's arts and cultural opportunities.

Capital Project Recommendations

The ultimate plan for Bellevue's park system is to create an interconnected web of parks and open spaces all within easy access of residential and commercial neighborhoods so that Bellevue remains a "City in a Park" for generations to come. This goal will be accomplished by appropriately balancing the city's investments among priorities of acquiring park and open space land, renovating and redeveloping existing parks, and developing new parks. Equally important is attracting new investment in the parks and open space system through partnerships and funding relationships with other public and private institutions.

This chapter groups all of the capital project recommendations from the focus areas and provides maps showing the approximate location of each (if known). These recommendations for include capital improvements for acquisition, development, and redevelopment projects. Investment necessary to fund renovation of existing parks and facilities is discussed in general terms in the following chapter and more specifically in the Renovation and Refurbishment Plan, under separate cover.

Implementing the recommendations contained in this Plan will depend on both opportunity and funding availability. As competing demands escalate for increasingly limited City resource dollars, creative solutions are needed to fund park-related projects. It is clear that completion of the City's park system will take time, and will need a sound and realistic financial strategy. This is discussed in more detail in the chapter entitled Financing Capital Projects.

Prioritization Criteria – Acquisition, Development & Redevelopment

Part of the City's Capital Investment Program Plan includes project prioritization criteria which are used by Parks & Community Services to evaluate the sequencing of acquisition, development, and redevelopment initiatives. Projects recommended in this plan will be implemented according to the following criteria:

- Parks & Open Space System Plan consistency. Is the project consistent with the mission, vision, goals, objectives, standards, and recommendations of this plan?
- City Council priority. Does the project respond to a City Council priority or an adopted plan or ordinance?
- Maintenance and operations impacts. What are the maintenance and operations impacts of this project and are there opportunities for partnerships? Will the project create a revenue stream sufficient to support itself?
- Citizen input. Is the project a Parks & Community Services Board priority or is it supported by another board or commission, advocacy group, through public surveys, the Neighborhood Enhancement Program, Neighborhood Liaison feedback, or other public input?
- Multiple benefits. Does the project serve multiple user groups or respond to recommendations in numerous plans?
- Special funding available. Does this project have the potential for special funding?

- Affordability. Is alternative funding available to match with the CIP funding? What is the benefit/cost analysis?
- Neighborhood impacts. Would the project have positive benefits to the surrounding neighborhood, and does the community support this project?
- Suitability of site. Are the proposed site's natural systems, topography, and neighboring land uses suitable for the project?
- Geographic distribution. Will the project help meet the distribution standards of parks and park facilities throughout the City?
- Economic impact. Would this project have a favorable economic impact to Bellevue?
- Urgency. Is the acquisition a distinct opportunity that will be lost?

Capital Project Recommendations

Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails

The majority of acreage within the overall parks system is open space. Protecting these spaces and providing a well-maintained and interconnected trail network is a hallmark of the parks system. The following projects continue the work of connecting and expanding open space and trails.

Opportunity:	Acquire*	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Greenway Connections/Extensions Between large open spaces and regional systems Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPA) Lewis Creek Greenway Kelsey Creek Greenway Richards Valley	X	X	X
Lake-to-Lake Trail Connections Richards Valley Mercer Slough to Kelsey Creek Park Lake Hills Greenbelt	X	X	
Coal Creek Natural Area and Greenway	X		
North-south power line and pipeline corridors	X	X	
Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan implementation	X	X	
Regional Open Space and Trail Connections Cougar Mountain Regional Connections Houghton-to-Marymoor Regional Greenway – Bridle Crest Trail BNSF corridor connections Mountains to Sound Greenway trail	X	X	

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

Park Facilities

Everyone needs a place to play. These projects advance a goal to bring green space within walking distance for all Bellevue households. They also propose additions or enhancements to existing parks to increase the variety of recreational opportunities for city residents.

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Add neighborhood parks in underserved subareas Bridle Trails Crossroads Subarea Factoria Subarea Newport Hills Subarea	X	X	
Develop existing un-developed properties including, but not limited to: Eastgate/Newcastle Subarea (Norelius/Sunrise Property) North Bellevue (Chapin Property) Wilburton (Glendale Property)		X	
Enatai Neighborhood Park redevelopment			X
Add to or continue phased development of existing community parks, including but not limited to: Airfield Park Bellevue Botanical Garden Crossroads Park Eastgate Park Kelsey Creek Park Lewis Creek Park picnic area and trails Mercer Slough Natural Area Eastgate Park Robinswood Park Surrey Downs Park Wilburton Hill Park	X	X	

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

Active Recreation Facilities

The following projects increase indoor and outdoor opportunities for active or structured sport and recreation.

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
North Bellevue Community Center addition		X	X
Off-leash dog areas		X	
Alternative Sports Facilities supporting recreation preferences of a diverse population		X	X
Community Center serving West Bellevue	X	X	
Sportsfields Synthetic field surfaces Two lighted ball fields at Marymoor Park		X	X

Lighted sportsfields at Airfield Park Lighted fields at selected community and school sites Improve school sportsfields One ballfield at Wilburton Hill Park			

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

Waterfront Access

When surveyed, Bellevue residents consistently support increasing public access to the city's shorelines. The following projects will provide water-oriented recreational opportunity for all Bellevue residents while at the same time creating opportunities to restore and improve the ecological function of the shoreline.

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Meydenbauer Bay Park		X	
Meydenbauer Bay Park to Downtown Park connection	X	X	
Connect Enatai Beach Park to Mercer Slough Natural Area	X		
Complete phased development of Enatai Beach Park		X	
SE 40th Boat Launch Addition	X	X	
Lake Sammamish waterfront	X	X	
Chism Beach redevelopment			X
Clyde Beach Redevelopment			X
Additions to existing waterfront parks	X		

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

Parks & Open Space Serving Urban Densities

The majority of Bellevue's residential growth over the next twenty years will be focused in the high density subareas of Downtown and Bel-Red. The park system required to serve these subareas differs in scale and function from other areas of the city. The following projects will provide needed green space for these urban areas and provide all Bellevue residents with a new and unique urban park experience.

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Downtown Subarea NW & SE neighborhood parks Downtown Park NE 2nd Pocket Park transfers (from Transportation) and expansion Ashwood Park Main Street Linear Buffer Greenway Community center serving Downtown	X	X	X
Bel-Red Subarea Open space and off-street trail development Multi-purpose trail development	X	X	

Park acquisition and development Trail connections to regional facilities such as BNSF corridor			

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

Partnerships

The City maintains a partnership with the Bellevue School District that allows expanded community access to the district's geographically dispersed network of school properties along with increased quality and condition standards of the fields and playgrounds. While partnerships can play an important role in any project recommended in this plan, the follow set of projects may require significant partnership arrangements in order to be implemented.

Opportunity:	Acquire	Develop	Enhance/ Preserve
Elementary, Middle and High school site improvements			X
Partner with other City departments to create parks		X	
Partner with other public agencies to create parks, including but not limited to: Bellevue School District, Cascade Water Alliance, Sound Transit, Puget Sound Energy, Seattle Public Utilities, Washington State, King County and Bellevue College	X	X	
Aquatic Facility	X	X	
Ice Rink	X	X	
Historic Building Preservation			X
Cultural Arts Center	X	X	
Youth Performing Arts Center		X	

*The Acquire category includes purchase of land as well as obtaining easements or other use agreements for public access to property not owned by the City of Bellevue. In some cases, acquisition may not be necessary for project implementation if an existing park facility can accommodate the project.

Maps by subarea

Maps by subarea will be added after the draft capital recommendations are reviewed by the Parks & Community Services Board.

RENOVATION, MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY

Parks & Community Services manages over 2,042 acres of park and open space property and 265,000 square feet of building space citywide. Included in this inventory are 78 developed parks, 48 playgrounds, 98 miles of trails, 42 athletic fields, 2 golf courses, 2 swimming pools, 7,000 street trees, and over 1,200 acres of open space. These parks and facilities are carefully managed and maintained to ensure they are safe and enjoyable places for the public. A combination of sound management policies, ongoing maintenance, and periodic renovation of grounds and structures is needed to protect public resources and ensure long-term functioning of the park system. This commitment to a properly maintained and safe park system is expected by Bellevue citizens and remains a high priority of the City.

Park Management and Maintenance

To deliver efficient services, Parks & Community Services' maintenance program includes:

- A Resource Management Information System that monitors service levels, schedules, and fiscal data;
- Necessary equipment to maintain efficiency and economical service delivery;
- Active pursuit of grants and alternative funding for renovation, energy conservation, and other projects to maximize and leverage budgeted funding;
- Ongoing staff training to ensure the highest level of maintenance and efficiency;
- Using a mix of in-house part-time and full-time staff, public and private partnerships, contract workers, and volunteers when responding to specific workload demands throughout the system to ensure all maintenance and renovation needs can be met in a timely manner;
- Coordination of park and open space maintenance schedules with park programming to reduce conflicts between park programming needs and necessary maintenance; and
- Customer feedback through surveys to ensure needs and concerns are met and acceptable performance measures are achieved.

The main park maintenance facilities for personnel, vehicles, and equipment are located in the Crossroads area on N. E. 8th Street at the Bellevue Service Center at the junction of I-405 and SR-520. Small satellite facilities accommodating additional equipment and storage are located at several parks throughout the City, including Hidden Valley Park, Eastgate yard (near Tyee Middle School), the City nursery site, Bellefields yard and Lewis Creek Park.

A 2003 space study analysis concluded that approximately 155,000 square feet of space (roughly 3-1/2 acres) is necessary to meet the Parks Department's operational needs. The Resource Management Division needs approximately 3 acres to house personnel, materials, equipment, and vehicles, while the

Natural Resources Division requires about ½ acre. Because the current Crossroads facility contains approximately 2 acres of functional space, additional space is needed.

In the near term, minor improvements to existing facilities and use of the Bellevue Service Center are needed to provide sufficient space and optimize the efficiency of the current operational facilities. Long-term needs, however, may require acquisition of additional space and facilities to ensure that the City can efficiently provide clean, safe, attractive, and functional parks and recreational facilities.

Park Renovation

Parks & Community Services maintains a Renovation and Refurbishment Plan (Renovation Plan) that covers non-routine renovation and repair of our existing park system. The scope of this work is continually increasing. New parks and facilities are continually added to the system. Older parks are more labor intensive due to their age and condition. The range and frequency of park use, as evidenced by the increase in scheduled activities, continues to expand. In addition, limiting liability and providing physical accessibility improvements are increasingly important maintenance and operation concerns. Therefore, renovation must remain a high priority in order to optimize the use of park facilities and to protect the community's assets. Bellevue citizens are accustomed to the park system's high standards, and renovation will play a major role in continuing to meet this expectation.

The Department's Renovation Plan, an annually updated six-year plan, identifies and prioritizes renovation needs throughout the system. The renovation program goal is to systematically refurbish and renovate existing park structures and grounds to maintain the safety, integrity and function of our park system. Over the next seven years, the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) projects annual expenditures averaging nearly $2 million. The Renovation Plan identifies non-routine major maintenance work items that are beyond the scope of the Department's normal maintenance and operating budget. Projects range in cost from $5,000 to $100,000, including, but not limited to:

- Remodel and replace building infrastructure elements;
- Repair and replace pavement, playgrounds, signage, fencing, and lighting;
- Improve irrigation and drainage systems;
- Implement landscaping and forest restoration projects; and
- Update facilities to meet building codes.

In addition, the Renovation Plan establishes an implementation strategy to handle risk management issues, correct high maintenance areas, and allow for an ongoing preventative maintenance program. It is important to point out that the Renovation Plan does not deal with the overall character of parks or facilities, which occurs through the redevelopment and master planning process.

Renovation projects are prioritized utilizing the following criteria:

- Safety or liability concerns,
- Structural deficiencies,
- Overall park and facility appearance as it relates to visitor enjoyment,

- Function as it pertains to user needs, and
- Natural resources conservation.

The Parks Department CIP typically funds new park development and redevelopment. Regularly scheduled park system maintenance service is typically covered in the Department's operating budget. However, the Renovation Plan fills the void between the CIP programs and the operating budget by covering non-routine renovation and repair projects to fix the existing system. Therefore, the Renovation Plan serves as the keystone of our service delivery system and must continue to be funded at least at current levels to meet the needs of the system.

The Role of Liability and Security

Preventing and correcting hazardous conditions are major considerations of our park maintenance and renovation programs. It is a given that parks, playgrounds, and buildings are expected to be kept in good repair. The issue of liability is very important and affects all aspects of our operation. However, this is balanced by the department mission, which is to build a healthy community by encouraging physical activity and active recreation. Park users can be assured that they are using safe and well maintained equipment when they recreate in Bellevue park.

Park security is a related topic. It is important for the City to provide parks and open spaces that protect personal safety and prevent abuse to park property. Parks & Community Services maintains a comprehensive safety and security plan based on these key elements:

- Park Rangers who staff park visitor centers, provide park coverage through fall, winter, and spring, provide patrol and park lockup, serve as guides and naturalists, identify maintenance problems and assist with special events and volunteer activities.
- Lifeguards to monitor swimming areas and ensure a safe environment.
- Close cooperation with Bellevue Police to regularly patrol parks at all times of the year.
- Park maintenance crews who report unsafe conditions and point out potential security issues.
- "Block Watch" programs using neighbors as the "eyes and ears" for park security.

Serving the Community during Emergencies

Emergency preparedness is another area where the Parks & Community Services plays an important role. As key partners in the City's Emergency Operations Plan, department personnel and facilities, including community centers and other public buildings, have been and will continue to be used in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. All community centers are constructed and equipped to act as emergency shelters. This service is hopefully rarely used, but when necessary, can provide life-saving benefits to the Bellevue community.

FINANCING STRATEGIES FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

This section will be added by the end of January 2010.

Sally Nichols April 6, 2010

City of Bellevue Submittal Requirements	27a

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

If you need assistance in completing the checklist or have any questions regarding the environmental review process, please visit or call the Permit Center (425-452-6864) between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday (Wednesday, 10 to 4). Our TTY number is 425-452-4636.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Property Owner: City of Bellevue

Proponent: Parks & Community Services Department

Contact Person: Camron Parker, Senior Planner
(If different from the owner. All questions and correspondence will be directed to the individual listed.)

Address: Parks & Community Services
City of Bellevue
450 110th Ave. NE
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Phone: (452) 452-2032

Proposal Title: *Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan - 2010*

Proposal Location: N/A – City-wide Plan Update

PLEASE ATTACH AN 8 'W' X 11"" VICINITY MAP THAT ACCURATELY LOCATES THE PROPOSAL SITE.
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

Give an accurate, brief description of the proposal's scope and nature:

1. **General description:**
   This project involves updating the City of Bellevue's *Parks & Open Space System Plan*. This planning exercise is conducted approximately every six years. The Plan contains the long-term vision for expansion and maintenance of the City's parks and open space system. All future park development projects should be consistent with the recommendations of the plan. However, the plan itself does not trigger or instigate specific development projects. As such, most of the project specific questions in this checklist will have a "Not Applicable" response.

   Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis will be provided in those SEPA checklists. ✓

2. **Acreage of site:** ✓
   N/A – City-wide Plan Update.
3. **Number of dwelling units/buildings to be demolished:** ✓
   N/A – City-wide Plan Update.
4. **Number of dwelling units/buildings to be constructed:** ✓
   N/A – City-wide Plan Update.
5. **Square footage of buildings to be demolished:**
   N/A – City-wide Plan Update.
6. **Square footage of buildings to be constructed:**
   N/A – City-wide Plan Update.

13 projects identified for next 1-15 years. Chosen because they are funded. See attached project list from DRAFT Plan & Map

to be determined via project-specific plans &/or master plans

SN

7. **Quantity of earth movement (in cubic yards):**
   N/A – City-wide Plan Update.
8. **Proposed land use:**
   N/A – City-wide Plan Update.
9. **Design features, including building height, number of stories and proposed exterior materials:**
   N/A – City-wide Plan Update.
10. **Other**
    N/A – City-wide Plan Update.

Estimated date of completion of the proposal or timing of phasing: ✓
The *Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan* serves to inform future park acquisition, development, and redevelopment. The plan is updated approximately every six years and includes a rolling 20-year vision for acquisition and capital development projects.

Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
Yes, this edition of the *Parks & Open Space System Plan* provides recommendations for future park and open space acquisition, development, and redevelopment for the years 2010 to 2030.

List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. ✓
- Preliminary SEPA application for the *Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan - 2010*
- Environmental Checklist for the *Bellevue Parks & Open Space System – 2010*
- *Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan,* September 2003
- *Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan,* September 2003 - DNS issued May 8, 2003 (LM 03-107984)
- *Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan,* September 1993
- *Open Space, Parks & Recreation Plan,* Final EIS (FEIS), October 9,1987
- *Open Space, Parks & Recreation Plan,* Draft EIS (DEIS), June 15,1987
- *Open Space, Parks & Recreation Plan,* Draft Summary, August 1986
- BMP Manual 2008 ✓

Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. List dates applied for and file numbers, if known.
Yes – Any park related applications currently pending are consistent with the 2003 approved *Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan*. Projects included in the update are consistent with the previous plan.

List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. If permits have been applied for, list application date and file numbers, if known. ✓
1. Parks & Community Services Board recommendation to City Council (expected before March 2010).
2. City Council adoption of the updated *Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan* (expected before May 2010).
3. All Project and Non-project (such as individual park master plans) actions recommended in this plan will be individually subject to relevant permit requirements.

Please provide one or more of the following exhibits, if applicable to your proposal. ✓
(Please check appropriate box(es) for exhibits submitted with your proposal):

☐ Land Use Reclassification (rezone) Map of existing and proposed zoning

☐ Preliminary Plat or Planned Unit Development
Preliminary plat map

☐ Clearing & Grading Permit
Plan of existing and proposed grading
Development plans

☐ Building Permit (or Design Review)
Site plan
Clearing & grading plan

☐ Shoreline Management Permit
Site plan

☒ An outline draft of the 2010 *Parks & Open Space System Plan* is attached along with a reference copy of the 2003 Parks & Open Space System Plan.

A. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site: ☐Flat ☐Rolling ☐Hilly ☐Steep slopes ☐Mountains ☐Other
N/A – City-wide Plan Update. The City's parks and open space system will include properties throughout the City. Site specific topography and soils will vary depending on location within City.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

c. What general types of soil are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, and muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

BCC 23.76 dust suppression BCC 9.18 noise

2. AIR

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e. dust, automobile odors, and industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to the air, if any:
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

3. **WATER**

a. **Surface**

(1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

A variety of surface waters are contained within the park system, including Lakes Washington, Sammamish, Phantom and Larsen Lakes, Mercer Slough, and various streams and wetlands. The Parks & Open Space System Plan includes recommendations for additional acquisition of land adjacent to surface water bodies for the purpose of preservation, restoration and public recreational access.

LUC 20.25H 20.25E (shoreline)

Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

(2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If Yes, please describe and attach available plans.

N/A – City-wide Plan Update

(3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

N/A – City-wide Plan Update

(4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

N/A – City-wide Plan Update

(5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

N/A – City-wide Plan Update

(6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

N/A – City-wide Plan Update

b. **Ground**

(1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description.

N/A – City-wide Plan Update

(2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.) Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

N/A – City-wide Plan Update

c. **Water Runoff (Including storm water)**

(1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

N/A – City-wide Plan Update

erosion control per BCC 23.76 C&G

(2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

N/A – City-wide Plan Update

d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

4. **Plants**

a. **Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:**

- ☐ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- ☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- ☐ shrubs
- ☐ grass
- ☐ ~~pasture~~
- ☐ ~~crop or grain~~
- ☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other
- ☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- ☐ other types of vegetation

all of above

b. **What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

c. **List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

d. **Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

In general, preference is given to the use of native plants throughout the parks system, except for specific areas such as the Bellevue Botanical Gardens. Parks & Community Services maintains a Forest Management Plan. Wetland and riparian corridor enhancement projects throughout the system typically use native plant materials and enhance the wildlife habitat.

SEPA - mission of Parks to enhance habitat one of such Focus Areas is open space greenways & wildlife corridors

5. **Animals**

a. **Check or circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:**

all animal of lowland forests

- ☐ Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
- ☐ Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: squirrels (Douglas & flying), raccoons, possum, coyote, muskrat river otter, mink, longtail weasels, re fox, cougar, mountain beaver
- ☐ Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. **List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.**
A variety of threatened or endangered species are present throughout the city of Bellevue and the parks and open space system.

c. **Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.**
The city of Bellevue is located within the Pacific Flyway, one of the four principal north-south migration routes for birds in North America. The Pacific Flyway encompasses the entire Puget Sound basin. Also smaller migration routes from uplands to stream or lake water sources.

d. **Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

In general, a major goal of the Parks and Open Space System Plan involved preservation and restoration of wildlife and wildlife habitat. Expanding public ownership around critical areas, such as Mercer Slough and Coal Creek Natural Areas, place large, contiguous pieces of prime habitat area in public stewardship as a lasting environmental benefit.

6. **Energy and Natural Resources**

a. **What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy need? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

new bldgs, irrigation

b. **Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

c. **What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of the proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

7. **Environmental Health**

a. **Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

(1) **Describe special emergency services that might be required.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

(2) **Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

BMP Manual 2000

b. **Noise**

(1) **What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example, traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

(2) **What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or long-term basis (for example, traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

BCC 9.18 noise & const. hours

(3) **Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

8. **Land and Shoreline Use**

a. **What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

b. **Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

c. **Describe any structures on the site.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

d. **Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

e. **What is the current zoning classification of the site?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

f. **What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

g. **If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

h. **Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

i. **Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

j. **Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

no residential uses planned

k. **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

no residences displaced in plan

i. **Proposed measures to ensure the proposal are compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

In general, the recommendations within the Parks & Open Space System Plan are subject to and supportive of the City of Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Policies.

9. **Housing**

a. **Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

b. **Approximately how many units, if any. would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

none planned

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts. if any:**
N/A

10. **Aesthetics**

a. **What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update Project specific

b. **What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

11. **Light and Glare**

a. **What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

b. **Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

c. **What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control light or glare impacts, if any:**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

LU6 20.20.522 re: light & glare

12. **Recreation**

a. **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:**
A primary objective of the Parks & Open Space System Plan is to increase recreational opportunities throughout the city of Bellevue.

Focus Areas – incl. Active Recreation, Parks, Trails

13. **Historic and Cultural Preservation**

a. **Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

b. **Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

will be project specific

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

✱ In general, preservation and interpretation of historic or culturally significant sites within the city of Bellevue is an objective of the Parks & Open Space System Plan.

14. Transportation

a. **Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

b. **Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

c. **How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

d. **Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

e. **Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

f. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

g. **Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

increased demand w/ new parks, increased parking needs. On occasional basis due to park usage

15. Public Services

a. **Would the project result in an increased need for the public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

b. **Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.**
Future individual park development projects will involve both non-project and project level SEPA determination and project level adherence to all Federal, State and City permitting and regulations. Site specific environmental impact analysis and mitigation measures will be provided in those SEPA documents.

16. Utilities

a. **Circle utilities currently available at the site:**
☐ electricity, ☐ natural gas, ☐ water, ☐ refuse service, ☐ telephone, ☐ sanitary sewer, ☐ septic system, ☐ other _____.

site by site

b. **Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.**
N/A – City-wide Plan Update

Signature

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature C Commins Parker

Date Submitted 12/31/09

Sally Nichols April 6, 2010

City of Bellevue Submittal Requirements	28

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTION
Continuation of the Environmental Checklist

4/18/02

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment (see Environmental Checklist, B. Environmental Elements). When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms. If you have any questions, please contact the Development Services reviewer in the Permit Center (425-452-6864) between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday (Wednesday, 10 to 4). Our TTY number is 425-452-4636.

1. **How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?** ✓

The Parks & Open Space System Plan is a long-term Parks & Community Services Department planning document for the acquisition and development of the City's parks and open space system. Ultimate implementation of the short- and long-term recommendations could have impacts depending upon the type of development and the sensitivity of the site and adjoining properties. Environmental analysis on a project-specific basis will occur at the time of a particular development proposal. Any development proposal would comply with the relevant regulations in place at the time requiring mitigation of impacts. Temporary vehicle emissions & noise possible during construction.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are: Also const. equipment

One mission of Parks & Community Services is to preserve and restore critical and open space areas for environmental quality and wildlife habitat. This environmental stewardship responsibility is reflected in the goals and objectives of the Parks and Open Space System Plan. Work limited to hours in BCC 9.18 construction dust suppression measures per BCC 23.76

2. **How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?** ✓

Plan Focus Area – Wildlife corridor, Open space greenway

A focus area of the Parks & Open Space System Plan is to preserve and protect critical areas, which will minimize impacts to the plants, animals, and fish in these areas. Maintaining large tracts of open space and vital links between important critical areas will reduce the impacts of urbanization in a broader context by providing necessary habitat and routes for wildlife. Construction typically limited to 1 season. Use Best Management Practices manual - 2006

Specific development proposals will be reviewed for environmental impacts on plants, animals, fish and marine life at the time of project design. Construction projects will have impacts to the plants and animals on the site proposed for development. To the extent possible, impacts will be minimized. BMP Manual (Parks) 2008

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

Construction activities in critical areas will be minimized, and mitigation of any specific development activities will meet applicable Federal, State and City regulations. Seasonal restrictions, noise per BCC 9.18, Erosion control per BCC 23.76

3. **How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?** ✓

The Parks & Open Space System Plan will not result in significant depletion of energy or natural resources. However, future parks and facilities, such as community centers, security or sportfield lighting, will consume natural resources and energy during construction and long-term operation and maintenance. Specific proposals will be analyzed in detail at time of Master Planning and/or development application and impacts mitigated to the extent possible.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy or natural resources are:

SN

Parks and facilities are designed and managed following established City of Bellevue energy conservation goals.

In addition, Parks & Community Services will seek to use sustainable development and "green design" wherever feasible. Buildings and associated development (such as parking lots) cause environmental impacts during construction and through their operation. "Green building" is a loosely defined collection of land use, building design, and construction strategies that reduces these environmental impacts. Benefits of "building green" include: reduced energy and material consumption, protection of ecosystems, and occupant health.

4. **How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection--such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?**

The Parks & Open Space System Plan includes objectives that support preservation of historic and culturally relevant sites and environmentally sensitive areas for wildlife habitat, greenway connectivity, and aesthetics. Project permitted under Critical Areas LUC 20.25H, Shoreline 20.25E

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

Bringing more environmentally sensitive or historic or cultural sites into public ownership will serve to protect such resources and reduce long-term impacts. Adherance to critical area codes and Best Manggant. Practices Manual - 2008

5. **How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?**

A focus area of the Parks & Open Space System Plan is increasing public access to Bellevue's waterfront. This objective includes increasing the ecological function of publicly owned shoreline areas. All proposed actions will comply with federal, state and city regulations in place at the time of development.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

In general, increasing the amount of publicly owned shoreline areas would serve to maintain or improve ecological function of shoreline areas while balancing increased public access to shorelines for recreational purposes. Will be permitted under Shoreline, critical areas, and all applicable land use codes, BMP Manual 2008, (LUC, ind. 20.25E & 20.25H). Also C&G code BCC 23.76 for erosion control

6. **How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?**

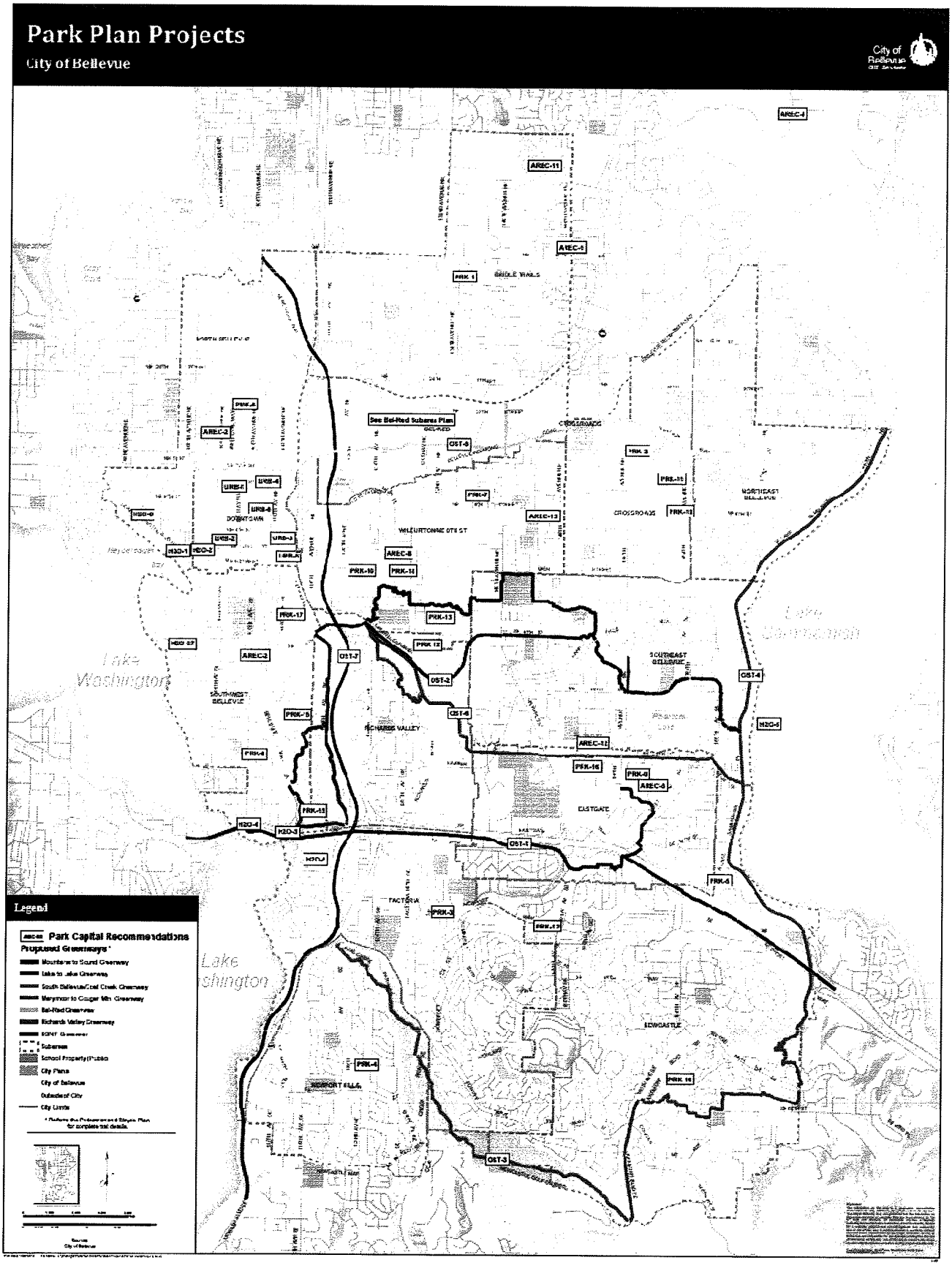
The Parks and Open Space System Plan recommendations include land acquisition and development of various types of parks and facilities to meet the needs of the community. Some of these projects may increase the demand on the transportation system, public services, and utilities. Development would may increase parking areas, roads within facility, public service demand on occasional basis, increased water for plumbing, irrigation may increase demand on utilities

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

At time of specific development proposals, impacts to the transportation system and public services and utilities will be analyzed and mitigated as appropriate in accordance with federal, state and city regulations in place at the time.

7. **Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.**

The driving purpose for updating the 2003 Parks and Open Space System Plan is to bring the goals, objectives and recommendations within the plan into alignment with current local, state and federal planning policies and laws. The 2010 edition of the Plan will support and align with local, state, and federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. When specific short- and long-term recommendations proposed by the Park Plan are proposed for development, project specific impacts will be reviewed for consistency with environmental regulations in effect at that time.


Park Plan Projects
City of Bellevue
City of Bellevue
Legend
Park Capital Recommendations
Proposed Greenways *
Mountains to Sound Greenway
Lake to Lake Greenway
South Bellevue/Coal Creek Greenway
Mercer Slough to Cougar Mtn Greenway
Bel-Red Greenway
Richards Valley Greenway
Subareas
School Property (Public)
City Plans
City of Bellevue
Outside of City
City Limits
Lake Washington
Lake Sammamish
See Bel-Red Subarea Plan
DOWNTOWN
WILBURTON/NE 8TH ST
CROSSROADS
NORTHEAST BELLEVUE
SOUTHEAST BELLEVUE
SOUTHWEST BELLEVUE
RICHARDS VALLEY
EASTGATE
FACTORIA
NEWCASTLE
NEWPORT HILLS
MERCER SLOUGH

2010 Park Open Space System Plan - Draft
Capital Project List (20 Year)

2/2/2010

Project #	Project Name	Unmapped / Citywide	Bel-Red	Bridle Trails	Crossroads	Downtown	Eastgate	Factoria	Newcastle	Newport Hills	North Bellevue	Northeast Bellevue	Richards Valley	Southeast Bellevue	Southwest Bellevue	Wilburton	Outside City
Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails																	
OST-1	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections						x	x	x						x		
OST-2	Lake to Lake Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections												x	x	x	x	
OST-3	South Bellevue / Coal Creek Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections							x	x	x							
OST-4	Marymoor to Cougar Mountain Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections								x			x		x			
OST-5	Bel-Red Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections		x		x						x	x					
OST-6	Richards Valley Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections						x						x				
OST-7	Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BSNF) Greenway Trails: Multi-use Connections		x					x			x		x			x	
OST-8	Greenway Connections/Extensions: Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPA)	x															
OST-9	Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan implementation (See Ped & Bike Plan)	x															
Park Facilities																	
PRK-1	Add Neighborhood Park: Bridle Trails Subarea			x													
PRK-2	Add Neighborhood Park: Crossroads Subarea				x												
PRK-3	Add Neighborhood Park: Factoria Subarea							x									
PRK-4	Add Neighborhood Park: Newport Hills Subarea									x							
PRK-5	Improve Un-developed Sites: Eastgate/Newcastle Subarea (Norellus/Sunrise Property)						x		x								
PRK-6	Improve Un-developed Sites: North Bellevue Subarea (Chapin Property)										x						
PRK-7	Improve Un-developed Sites: Wilburton Subarea (Glendale Property)															x	
PRK-8	Redevelop Enatai Neighborhood Park														x		
PRK-9	Continue Phased Development: Airfield Park						x										
PRK-10	Continue Phased Development: Bellevue Botanical Garden															x	
PRK-11	Continue Phased Development: Crossroads Park				x												
PRK-12	Continue Phased Development: Eastgate Park						x										
PRK-13	Continue Phased Development: Kelsey Creek Park												x			x	
PRK-14	Continue Phased Development: Lewis Creek Park picnic area and trails								x								
PRK-15	Continue Phased Development: Mercer Slough Natural Area							x					x		x		
PRK-16	Continue Phased Development: Robinswood Park						x							x			
PRK-17	Continue Phased Development: Surrey Downs Park														x		
PRK-18	Continue Phased Development: Wilburton Hill Park															x	
Active Recreation Facilities																	
AREC-1	North Bellevue Community Center Addition			x													
AREC-2	Community Center serving North/Southwest Bellevue										x				x		
AREC-3	Sportsfields: Synthetic Field Surfaces	x															
AREC-4	Sportsfields: Two lighted ball fields at Marymoor Park																x
AREC-5	Sportsfields: Lighted sportsfields at Airfield Park						x										
AREC-6	Sportsfields: Lighted fields at selected community and school sites	x															
AREC-7	Sportsfields: Improve school sportsfields	x															
AREC-8	Sportsfields: Ballfield at Wilburton Hill Park															x	

2010 Park Open Space System Plan - Draft
Capital Project List (20 Year)

2/2/2010

Project #	Project Name	Unmapped / Citywide	Bel-Red	Bridle Trails	Crossroads	Downtown	Eastgate	Factoria	Newcastle	Newport Hills	North Bellevue	Northeast Bellevue	Richards Valley	Southeast Bellevue	Southwest Bellevue	Wilburton	Outside City
AREC-9	Off-leash Dog Areas Improvements and Additions	x															
AREC-10	Alternative Sports Facilities for Diverse Recreation Preferences	x															
AREC-11	Golf Course Improvements			x													
AREC-12	Tennis Center Improvements						x										
AREC-13	Aquatic Center Improvements															x	
Waterfront Access																	
H2O-1	Meydenbauer Bay Park										x						
H2O-2	Meydenbauer Bay Park to Downtown Park Connection										x						
H2O-3	Connect Enatai Beach Park to Mercer Slough Natural Area														x		
H2O-4	Complete Enatai Beach Park Phased Development														x		
H2O-5	SE 40th Boat Launch Addition							x									
H2O-6	Lake Sammamish Waterfront													x			
H2O-7	Chism Beach Redevelopment														x		
H2O-8	Clyde Beach Redevelopment										x						
H2O-9	Additions to existing waterfront parks	x															
Parks & Open Space Serving Urban Densities																	
URB-1	Downtown Subarea: Add NW Neighborhood Park					x											
URB-2	Downtown Subarea: Downtown Park					x											
URB-3	Downtown Subarea: Add SE Neighborhood Park (NE 2nd corner properties)					x											
URB-4	Downtown Subarea: Ashwood Park					x											
URB-5	Downtown Subarea: Main Street Linear Buffer Greenway					x											
URB-6	Downtown Subarea: Add Community Center					x											
URB-7	Bel-Red Subarea: Open space and Off-Street Trail Development (See Bel-Red Subarea Plan)	x	x														
URB-8	Bel-Red Subarea: Multi-purpose Trail Development (See Bel-Red Subarea Plan)	x	x														
URB-9	Bel-Red Subarea: Park System Acquisition and Development (See Bel-Red Subarea Plan)	x	x														
Partnerships																	
PTNR-1	Elementary, Middle and High School Site Improvements	x															
PTNR-2	Partner with Other City departments to Create Parks	x															
PTNR-3	Partner with other Public Agencies to Create Parks, Including but not limited to Bellevue School District, Cascade Water Alliance, Sound Transit, Washington State, King County and Bellevue College	x															
PTNR-4	Aquatic Facility	x															
PTNR-5	Ice Rink	x															
PTNR-6	Historic Building Preservation	x															
PTNR-7	Cultural Arts Center	x															
PTNR-8	Youth Performing Arts Center	x			x												