

General Information About Bellevue

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

A. FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZATION

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

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

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

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

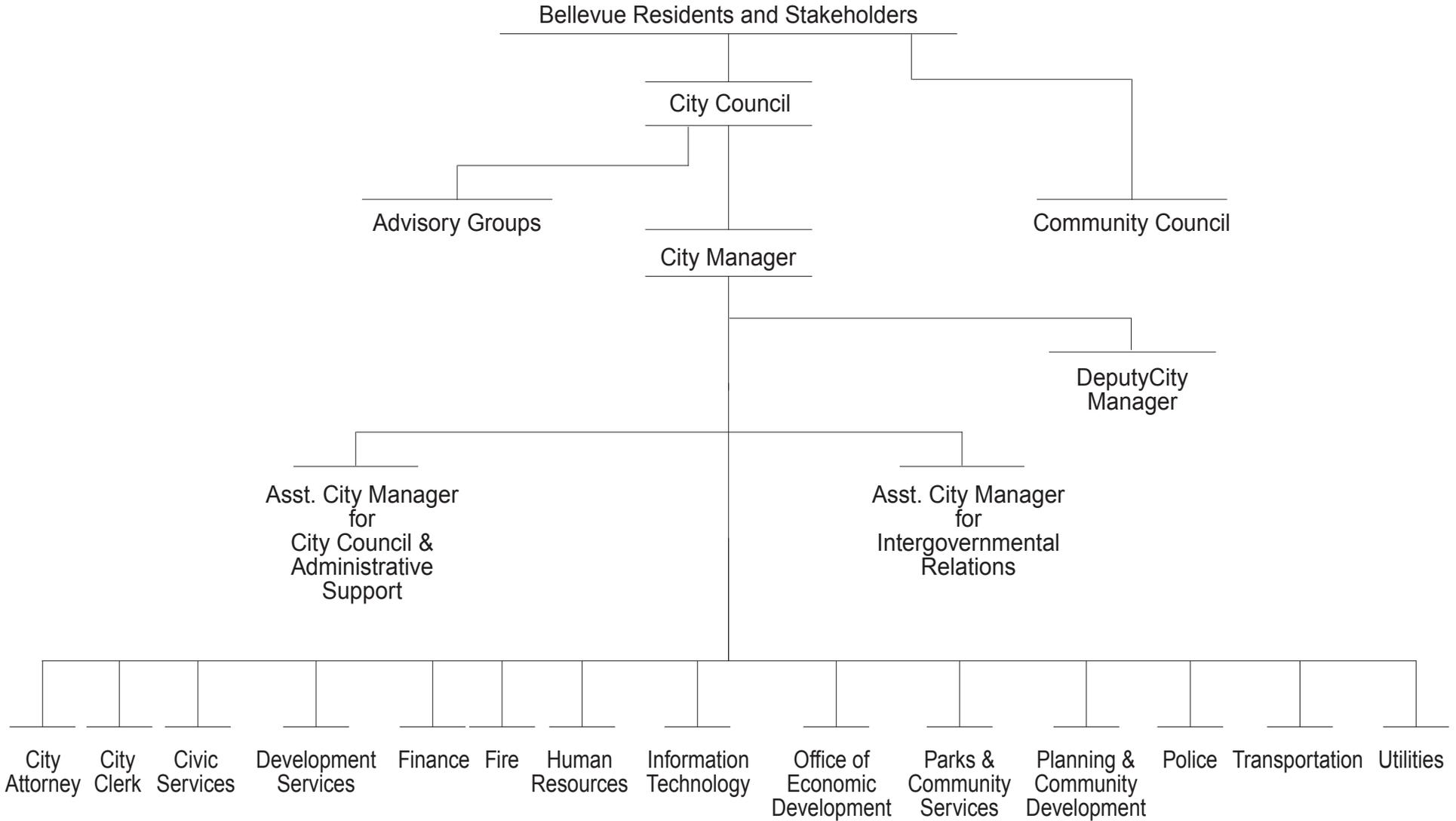
Figure 6-1 presents a hierarchical organization chart that shows the "chain-of-command" reporting relationships that currently exist.

Figure 6-2 presents a functional organization chart showing the principal activities for which each organization is responsible. These functional responsibilities are shown in detail in the department organization charts presented in the departmental chapters of the Budget.

Figure 6-3 lists the current Councilmembers and department directors.

Figure 6-4 presents and describes the array of advisory boards and commissions.

**FIGURE 6-1
CITY OF BELLEVUE
HIERARCHICAL ORGANIZATION CHART**



**FIGURE 6-2
CITY OF BELLEVUE
FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION CHART**

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

**FIGURE 6-3
CITY OFFICIALS**

ELECTED CITY COUNCIL

Mayor	Grant Degginger
Council	Claudia Balducci Patsy Bonincontri John Chelminiak Dr. Don Davidson Conrad Lee Phil Noble

APPOINTED ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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

**FIGURE 6-4
BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

Arts Commission

Number of Members:	7
Appointed By:	Mayor, Confirmed by City Council
Purpose/Comments:	To perform the necessary functions in order that Bellevue may provide leadership in the Arts and to advise the City Council on matters of the Arts. The Board meets once a month, and staffing is provided by the Planning and Community Development Department.

Bellevue Convention Center
Authority Board

Number of Members:	7
Appointed By:	City Manager, Confirmed by City Council
Purpose/Comments:	To govern the affairs of the Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA) which was established by City Council action on December 4, 1989. All corporate powers of the BCCA are exercised by or under direction of the Board of Directors. The BCCA Board meets monthly and staffing is provided by the Meydenbauer Center staff.

Building Code Board of Appeals

Number of Members:	7
Appointed By:	City Manager
Purpose/Comments:	1) To hear appeals of any order issued by the City related to the Uniform Building and related codes; 2) to determine the suitability of alternative materials or methods of construction; and 3) to make recommendations to the City Council for new legislation related to the City's building codes. The Board meets when convened to hear appeals filed with the City Building Official, and staffing is provided by the Planning and Community Development Department.

FIGURE 6-4 (Continued)Civil Service Commission

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

Disability Board

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

Environmental Services Commission

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

FIGURE 6-4 (Continued)Human Services Commission

Number of Members: 7, plus City staff from the Police and Parks & Community Services Departments appointed as ex officio members by the City Manager

Appointed By: Mayor, Confirmed by City Council

Purpose/Comments: To make recommendations to the City Council regarding human services issues such as the community's needs, policy development, and the allocation of local and federal funds.

The Commission meets once a month and is staffed by the Parks & Community Services Department.

Library Board

Number of Members: 7

Appointed By: Mayor, Confirmed by City Council

Purpose/Comments: 1) To serve as a liaison between the libraries and the community; and 2) to cooperate with the local, regional, and national trustees associations to participate in library matters.

The Board meets once a month, and staffing is provided by the local libraries.

Parks & Community Services Board

Number of Members: 7

Appointed By: Mayor, Confirmed by City Council

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

The Board meets once a month, and staffing is provided by the Parks & Community Services Department.

FIGURE 6-4 (Continued)Planning Commission

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

Transportation Commission

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

B. LOCATION, POPULATION, AND BUSINESS CLIMATE

A Growing City

Bellevue, the fifth largest city in the state with a population of 119,200 in 2008, is located on the eastern shore of Lake Washington near the population and geographical center of the Puget Sound region. It is just 11 miles from Seattle and 40 miles from Tacoma with the mountains of the Cascades to the east, the Olympics to the west, and Mount Rainier to the south. Bellevue is about three hours north of Portland, Oregon, and two hours south of Vancouver, Canada.

As a thriving regional city encompassing an area of approximately 31.5 square miles, Bellevue is a major and growing employment center within the Puget Sound region.

Bellevue demographics are viewed as particularly favorable for economic growth and well positioned to meet the needs of a dynamic and resilient economy. City planners estimate that the residential population will rise significantly over the next several years gaining more than 7,000 new residents by the year 2010. In the downtown central business district, the residential population will grow from about 4,500 current residents to 14,000 residents by 2020. Citywide jobs will increase at a rapid pace also with close to 18,000 more jobs added through 2010. Office vacancy rates in the central business district (CBD) continue to drop (6.0% reported for the 2nd quarter of 2008) with over 1,000,000 square feet of office space being absorbed in the last year alone.



Between 2001 and 2002, Bellevue, like the region as a whole, experienced a loss of jobs, and Bellevue was hard hit and lost approximately 8 percent of its employment base, or nearly 10,000 jobs during this time and experienced an office vacancy rate of 26.4% in the third quarter of 2002. Bellevue's employment base is expected to grow about 30 percent over the next 25 years, resulting in an increase of more than 50,000 new jobs. Bellevue's daytime population is more than 180,000. Bellevue ranks second in the state in both retail sales and property values (as measured by assessed valuation). Its location at the crossroads of the Eastside between the shores of Lake Sammamish and Lake Washington strategically positions Bellevue as one of the strongest economic forces in the Puget Sound region. Many residential and office projects dot the city's horizon; Lincoln Square's Office Tower is entirely occupied by Microsoft and Eddie Bauer, The Bravern and City Plaza are both fully pre-leased to Microsoft and Tower 333 is occupied by Expedia.

Expanding Economy

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

A diversified mix of industries exists within Bellevue with retail and service sectors being the largest. Department stores such as Nordstrom and Neiman Marcus (coming in 2009), luxury retail, automobile dealerships, and electronic/computer stores lead the retail sector. The service sector has a high concentration of real estate companies, engineering firms, financial institutions, accounting firms, and computer software companies. Bellevue is home to several of the top 25 largest public companies in Washington including Puget Sound Energy, a regional electric and natural gas utility; PACCAR, a manufacturer of trucks and other heavy equipment; T-Mobile, a cellular communication company; and Esterline Technologies, a diversified aerospace company. Newer companies located in Bellevue make up many of the top 50 fastest-growing public companies in Washington and include: Infospace, a provider of software and high-tech applications, Drugstore.com, an online retailer, and Coinstar, Inc. which provides a network of supermarket-based coin counting and other electronic services.



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

Downtown Development

Downtown Bellevue continues to evolve as a vibrant urban center with a diverse mix of retail, residential, office, and cultural uses. Major new tenants are choosing Bellevue as a “destination” location and the office vacancy rate in mid-2008 was 6.0% and is expected to decline in the 3rd quarter. A major signing at the end of 2004 brought Symetra Financial, a former division of Safeco insurance company, which leases nearly 300,000 square feet in the core of downtown. Bellevue is the national headquarters of Eddie Bauer and of Microsoft NA. Both moved into the new Lincoln Tower office complex in 2007.

2.8 million square feet of office space are proposed, in permit review, or currently under construction. Many new residential and retail projects will add greatly to street-level pedestrian activity and the attractiveness of Downtown Bellevue as a place to both live and do business. These recent projects include mixed-use buildings with residential units and ground-floor retail space. Nearly 4,500 people now call Downtown Bellevue home, with another 35,000 plus working downtown. Large projects under construction in 2008 include The Bravern (4 towers), Tower 333, and the City Center Plaza. A 256-room Courtyard by Marriott Hotel opened in 2007, and more than 1,000 city employees occupied a new downtown City Hall in 2006.



With completion of the Access Downtown project, the City has largely implemented its 1989 downtown plan. An update of the downtown plan, completed in 2003, identifies new recommendations to support ongoing growth and development through 2020, including transportation, parks, and community character. A major project component of the Downtown Plan underway is the extension of NE 10th Street. This project will ultimately extend NE 10th Street from 112th Ave NE across I-405 & through the Overlake Hospital Medical Center campus to connect with 116th Ave NE, resulting in improved access to the Overlake Hospital and Group Health Cooperative Medical Centers and reducing pressure on the already busy NE 8th Street crossing of I-405.

Bellevue Schools and Higher Education

The Bellevue School District is one of the most “high-tech” in the country. Bellevue public schools have computers in every classroom. Many technically oriented courses, such as drafting, are taught exclusively on computers. With a total enrollment of 16,179 students in 2005, the Bellevue School District consists of 16 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 5 high schools, and 6 alternative schools. All five Bellevue School District’s large high schools were ranked in the top 1% of high schools in America according to the 2008 assessment and ranking of *America’s Best High Schools* reported by Newsweek Magazine and a similar ranking of the nation’s high schools by U.S. News and World Report.

Bellevue is home to one of the nation’s finest community colleges. The National Workforce Center for Emerging Technologies, located on the campus of Bellevue Community College (BCC), focuses on cutting-edge information technology. BCC has a student body of nearly 35,000 total students for the year. Based on information from the 2005 Census, Bellevue’s adult population is very highly educated, with over 60 percent having a bachelor’s degree or higher. This is one of the highest levels in the nation and well above the county-wide average of 40 percent.

A Wired City

Bellevue residents value information technology and are among the nation’s most “connected” citizens. Based on a survey conducted in January 2008, nearly 100% of Bellevue residents have Internet access at home and 76% of those surveyed have high-speed access by either a cable modem or DSL. People use the Internet for a variety of daily activities including access to the City of Bellevue’s web page. Seventy-three percent of Bellevue residents are aware of the City’s Internet site. Of these residents, sixty-six percent have used the City’s web site.

Climate

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

Recreation Opportunities

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

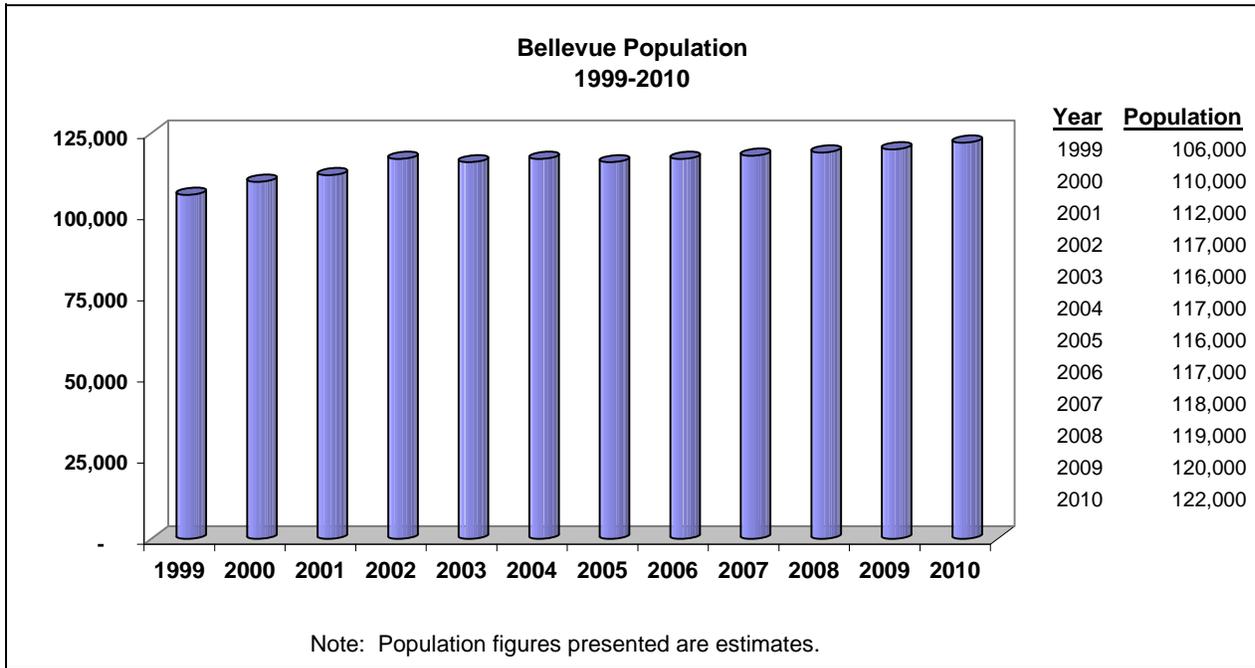
General Demographics

Bellevue's official 2007 population was 118,100 and is projected to be 119,200 in 2008 and 120,310 in 2009 and 121,500 in 2010. As the population has grown over the years, so has the median age and the diversity in Bellevue’s ethnic makeup.

In 2000, the median age was 38.2 years, up from 35.4 in 1990. During this period, residents age 65 or over went from comprising 10 percent of the population to making up 13.4 percent of the population. Bellevue's per capita income was \$36,905 in 1999 (as reported in the 2000 Census), which was significantly higher than the per capita income in the county as a whole. As a reflection of the diversity of Bellevue's increasing population, over 30 percent of Bellevue's residents in 2007 were born outside of the United States, and almost 27 percent of Bellevue residents over the age of five speak a language at home other than English. Nearly 70 different languages are now spoken by children in Bellevue public schools. The City is also much more racially diverse, with over 30 percent of its residents being non-Caucasian. The City's Asian and Hispanic populations more than doubled since 1990.

Figure 6-5 displays key demographic trends for Bellevue.

Figure 6-5
Key Demographic Trends



Other Key Demographics 2007-2010						
	Actual 2007	Projected 2008	Projected 2009	Projected 2010	Unit Change 2009-2010	% Change 2009-2010
Puget Sound Per Capita Personal Income	\$45,707	\$48,499	\$52,864	\$57,622	\$4,758	9.0%
Puget Sound Unemployment	4.0%	4.8%	6.8%	7.3%	0.5%	6.7%
Seattle CPI-U	2.2%	4.3%	-0.5%	1.9%	2.3%	(508.1%)
Square Miles	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	-	0.0%
Assessed Value (\$ in billions)	\$26.6	\$31.4	\$37.1	\$40.8	\$3.7	10.0%
Total Budget All City Funds (\$ in millions)	\$620.3	\$634.2	\$704.6	\$651.0	(\$53.6)	(7.6%)

