

Parks & Community Services Board

Regular Meeting

November 6, 2019

6 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall

Room 1E-113

450 110th Avenue NE

Bellevue, WA



AGENDA

Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting

<p>Boardmembers:</p> <p>Heather Trescases,, Chair</p> <p>Dave Hamilton, Vice-Chair</p> <p>Paul Clark</p> <p>Stuart Heath</p> <p>Debra Kumar</p> <p>Eric Synn</p> <p>Pamela Unger</p> <p>City Council Liaison:</p> <p>Jennifer Robertson, Councilmember</p> <p>Staff Contacts:</p> <p>Camron Parker 425-452-2032</p> <p>Nancy Harvey 425-452-4162</p>	<p>Wednesday November 6, 2019 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bellevue City Hall Conference Room 1E-113 450 110th Avenue NE Bellevue, WA 98004</p>																																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">Page</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Call to Order of Meeting – Chair Trescases</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Page</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Approval of Agenda</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Approval of Park Board Minutes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Minutes from the September 10, 2019 Regular Meeting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Minutes from the October 8, 2019 Special (Retreat) Meeting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Oral Communications/Public Comments</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>Note: Three-minute limit per person; maximum of three persons permitted to speak to each side of any one topic.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Communications from City Council, Community Council, Boards and Commissions</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Director’s Report</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Board Communication</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. Chair Communication & Discussion</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9. Boardmember Committee/Liaison Reports</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10. Discussion/Action Items (presentation/discussion time)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Newport Hills Neighborhood Park – Preferred Plan (Board recommendation requested) – Glenn Kost, Scott Vander Hyden</td> <td style="text-align: right;">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Aquatic Center Feasibility Study (information) – Glenn Kost</td> <td style="text-align: right;">43</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Page	1. Call to Order of Meeting – Chair Trescases	Page	2. Approval of Agenda		3. Approval of Park Board Minutes		a. Minutes from the September 10, 2019 Regular Meeting	1	b. Minutes from the October 8, 2019 Special (Retreat) Meeting	11	4. Oral Communications/Public Comments	N/A	<i>Note: Three-minute limit per person; maximum of three persons permitted to speak to each side of any one topic.</i>		5. Communications from City Council, Community Council, Boards and Commissions	N/A	6. Director’s Report	N/A	7. Board Communication	N/A	8. Chair Communication & Discussion	N/A	9. Boardmember Committee/Liaison Reports	N/A	10. Discussion/Action Items (presentation/discussion time)		a. Newport Hills Neighborhood Park – Preferred Plan (Board recommendation requested) – Glenn Kost, Scott Vander Hyden	17	b. Aquatic Center Feasibility Study (information) – Glenn Kost	43
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11. New Business	N/A
12. Proposed Agenda for Next Meeting	N/A
13. Other Communication	
a. CIP Project Status Report	49
b. List of upcoming Parks special events	53
14. Oral Communications/Public Comments	N/A
<i>Note: Three-minute limit per person; maximum of three persons permitted to speak to each side of any one topic.</i>	
15. Adjournment	N/A

Email the Board: parkboard@bellevuewa.gov

Online information about the Board -
<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/parks-and-community-services-board>

These minutes are in DRAFT form until approved by the Parks & Community Services Board.

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday
September 10, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Trescases, Vice-Chair Hamilton, Boardmembers Clark, Heath, Synn¹, Unger

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Kumar

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Scott Vander Hyden

OTHERS PRESENT: Heidi Dean, David Fredericks, John Suthern

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Trescases at 6:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Unger and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Hamilton and second by Boardmember Unger to approve the July 9, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

¹ Arrived at 6:02 p.m.

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Dave Fredericks

535 100th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Fredericks expressed his concern about the removal of 53 trees in Downtown Park for the NE Gateway Project. He wants to ensure that the Board has evaluated all options before the trees are cut down. Mr. Fredericks suggested that the Board consider modifying the NE Gateway Project to keep the existing main entry the focal point and gateway, rather than the proposed plan.

Heidi Dean

11661 SE 56th St., Bellevue, WA

Ms. Dean expressed her concern about the proposed project at Newport Hills Neighborhood Park. She explained that the neighborhood was promised that they would know the source of the community input yet the survey listed personal information as “optional.” Ms. Dean is aware that survey input not only came from people outside of Bellevue but also from people around Washington and throughout the country.

Ms. Dean explained that there was a survey conducted in 2014 of the Newport Hills Community Club. The results of this survey created a community level amenity (dog park) in what is intended as a neighborhood park. If the City has mandated that there must be a dog park at the Newport Hills Neighborhood Park then Ms. Dean thinks that other parks should be considered.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

Councilmember Robertson provided the following report:

- Council received an update regarding the NE 12th Street Multipurpose Path Project and its impacts to McCormick Park. This project will most likely remain a Council project, not a Parks Board project.
- Council received a briefing regarding the tent encampment (Tent City 4). The consent decree is inconsistent with the current code so Council is working to true up these issues.
- Council will receive a presentation regarding the East Main Land Use Code. They are also working on a new Development Plan and a large quasi-judicial matter.

Boardmember Heath asked if the Parks Board previously voted to cut down the trees for the NE Gateway Project at Downtown Park. Councilmember Robertson clarified that procedurally the Parks Board conducts planning and staff/designers work on the actual design elements. To Councilmember Robertson’s knowledge, the Parks Board does not evaluate the project to the level of what trees will be cut down. Boardmember Clark added that the Parks Board was made aware of the tree cutting at a previous Board meeting. Chair Trescases added that the NE Gateway Project was a concept as part of the Downtown Park’s Master Plan that was adopted in

the 1990s and is coming to fruition. The Board has reviewed and endorsed the current designs. This was done with consideration of the Park's history and will ultimately have a net gain of trees after the project is complete.

Boardmember Heath asked if the Parks Board has been charged with reviewing the alternatives for the Newport Hills Neighborhood Park Project or if the Parks Board is to determine where an off leash park should be located in Bellevue. Councilmember Robertson clarified that there is a Master Plan for Airfield Park that includes an off leash area (OLA) at Robinswood Park. This project is not funded and was the last discussion of off leash parks. The Parks Board is to determine the best alternative for the Newport Hills Neighborhood Park. Councilmember Robertson recommended that the Parks Board either approve one of the options that will be presented later in the meeting agenda or recommend an alternative. When the Parks & Open Space Master Plan is updated, then the Parks Board can evaluate and update citywide needs for off leash areas.

Boardmember Synn explained that although a project may not be in the Parks Board's charter, the Board is a visible conduit for feedback and can make sure any feedback provided is then forwarded to the appropriate party.

Boardmember Synn asked why the Parks Board is not involved in the planning process for McCormick Park. Councilmember Robertson clarified that although there are some park amenities, the current McCormick Park project is a Transportation project. The project includes a two-block gap for the bicycle lane. She added that the Parks Department has been involved in the project and the Transportation Department has been conducting the outreach for the project.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Ms. McVein provided the following report:

- The Bellevue Network on Aging is currently recruiting new members.
- The Kelsey Creek Farm Fair will be held on October 5, 2019. All Boardmembers are encouraged to attend.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Unger visited the following parks during the summer months:

- Surrey Downs Park
- Downtown Park, including Movies in the Park
- Meydenbauer Bay Park
- Hidden Valley Park
- Killarney Glen Park

Boardmember Clark visited the following parks during the summer months:

- Downtown Park
- Gateway Corner Park Project
- McCormick Park

- Ashwood Park
- Crossroads Park

Boardmember Synn expressed his amazement with the rapid growth in the Spring District. He suggested that the Board be diligent about planning for this area. Boardmember Synn also noted that the new growth is dense with little space for parks.

Chair Trescases visited Meydenbauer Bay Park via water access. She noted that the transient moorage is a bit difficult to find.

Vice-Chair Hamilton visited Downtown Park and the future site of Newport Hills Neighborhood Park. He noted that there are great social media connections for the parks, particularly the E-newsletter. Vice-Chair Hamilton also called attention to a *Seattle Times* article that featured Meydenbauer Bay Park and its many amenities.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Reported above.

9. **BOARDMEMBER/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

No reports.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Newport Hills Neighborhood Park – Planning Process and Site Alternatives**

Mr. Kost reviewed the Newport Hills Neighborhood Park project and explained that the project is made up of three separate parcels (Tyler, Brick, and Patterson). The Tyler property was acquired in 2010, the Patterson property was acquired in 2015 and the Brick property was acquired earlier this year.

Mr. Vander Hyden summarized the outreach and feedback that was conducted by the neighborhood in 2012 and by the City this year. Overall, most of the comments were in support of some sort of shared areas (i.e., OLA and common area).

Boardmember Synn asked staff to define an OLA. Mr. Vander Hyden explained that an OLA is a safe, fenced area where a dog does not have to be confined to a leash—it is a place to gather and let dogs run free. Boardmember Synn asked if there has been community input to the definition and features of an OLA. Mr. Vander Hyden clarified that the community has requested a traditional OLA for Newport Hills Neighborhood Park.

The following are additional details about the alternatives that Mr. Vander Hyden summarized:

- Alternative A: The least developed of the three alternatives, it closely resembles the 2015 Vision Plan. The OLA is 1.75-acres and the general use area is 1.35-acres with a small picnic shelter (15' x 25') and an open lawn area. The small off-street parking area would be expanded slightly and the picnic shelter would include an access drive with one ADA and one service/convenience parking stall;
- Alternative B: Moderately developed, this option adds several amenities to Alternative A, such as a larger general use picnic shelter (20' x 30'), a perimeter path. A small shelter, agility equipment and a dog wash station are added to the OLA. Off-street parking is relocated to near the picnic shelter and lighting is added to all of the OLA to be used after dark.
- Alternative C: The most highly developed, this option provides the largest picnic shelter/gathering space (20' x 35'), includes a grass viewing/seating mound and adds adult exercise equipment to the play area. It includes a separate shy/timid dog area and provides two small shelters in lieu of one larger one in the OLA. A small retaining wall is proposed to separate the OLA from general park area, creating a more level and useable general park area and an overlook/viewpoint into the OLA. This would also create a more defined sense of space between the OLA and the general park uses.

Outreach was conducted in May and July, 2019 for the Newport Hills Neighborhood Park. Mr. Vander Hyden reported that there were 55 written comments received after the May meeting. Most of the comments wanted a full or partial OLA, which is consistent with earlier outreach conducted by the Newport Hills Neighborhood Association in 2012. Mr. Vander Hyden noted that multiple common area amenities were also requested.

Mr. Vander Hyden explained that the following elements are common for all three plan alternatives:

- A fenced OLA. The size varies slightly with each option, ranging from 1.6-1.75 acres. Each option includes a double fenced entry, drainage improvements, informational kiosk and water station;
- A general use park area. The size varies with each option, ranging from 1.35-1.5 acres. Each option would contain an optional lawn area, a picnic shelter and gathering area (varying size) and pathway connections;
- Soft surface trail connection to 116th SE, future trail connection to the Brick Property and ravine overlook;
- Park frontage improvements along SE 60th St. and pedestrian crosswalk at 116th Ave. SE;
- Sani-can with an enclosure;
- Parking improvements.

Mr. Vander Hyden showed pictures of the Robinswood Park OLA as a size comparison for the proposed OLA and several existing neighborhood park areas similar in size to the proposed common area. The next steps and project timeline include:

- Third public meeting (Sept. 24) – present preferred plan
- Parks Board meeting (Nov.) – preferred plan/recommendation

- City Council meeting (Nov./Dec.) – present preferred park plans
- Design and permitting (Fall thru Spring, 2020)
- Public bid (Late Spring 2020)
- Construction (complete in 2020)

Boardmember Clark attended the community outreach sessions for the alternatives and expressed concern about the size and expected capacity of the park. He asked if previous Boardmembers had any metrics in regards to capacity. Mr. Kost clarified that there were no studies, other than the recommended alternatives. A minimum of one acre for the OLA is also recommended. Mr. Kost further noted that Robinswood Park typically has 12-15 dogs on a busy day and 3-4 dogs on a lighter day; however, no formal studies have been conducted to confirm actual uses.

Boardmember Clark suggested that one acre be allocated to the OLA at Newport Hills Neighborhood Park so that other parts of the park can be expanded and more accessible. Mr. Kost clarified that the proportions of the various OLA alternatives came from community feedback received since 2011. Mr. Vander Hyden added that the small dog and shelter areas decrease the usable space at the park.

Boardmember Unger asked how far dog owners travel to use dog parks. Mr. Kost explained that it is difficult to tell who uses the OLAs at the parks. The community outreach that was conducted targeted a specific area, which Mr. Kost highlighted on a map. However, he cautioned that people outside of this area could have responded to the survey—but that approximately 90% of online survey responses were from the highlighted map area.

Boardmember Unger expressed concern about the parking, since the alternatives include an OLA and the park is a neighborhood park. Mr. Vander Hyden noted that parking is important for the park and that the neighbors have requested that a dog park be included in a portion of the park.

Since Newport Hills Neighborhood Park is currently being used as an unofficial OLA, Boardmember Unger asked if the entire park is being utilized or only portions of the park. Mr. Kost clarified that the entire open area of the park is being used as an unofficial OLA.

Vice-Chair Hamilton noted that the Newport Hills community will ultimately benefit from the robust planning process for the park. He added that the history that has already been captured for the park needs to ultimately be reflected in the park, as well as the recent history. Vice-Chair Hamilton explained that the Newport Hills Neighborhood Park is part of a parks system and there is an obligation to the rest of the system to align with the priorities of all of the parks. Vice-Chair Hamilton commended staff on their efforts of gaining community feedback. The community vision, parks staff expertise, and the Parks Board recommendation will ultimately help inform Council of a recommendation. Vice-Chair Hamilton favors Alternative C with the reduction of the OLA to one acre. He thinks the OLA should be smaller than the recommended size because the park is a neighborhood park. He is concerned that people will approach the park thinking it is solely an off leash dog park. Vice-Chair Hamilton discussed some of the community comments he received about including a path within the OLA. He also suggested that signs be included to direct people one way and OLA users the other—Surrey Downs Park is a great example of what can hopefully be done at Newport Hills Neighborhood Park.

Boardmember Synn asked if Bellevue has any breed or size restrictions for dogs in Bellevue parks. Mr. Vander Hyden confirmed that there are no restrictions. Boardmember Synn also asked staff to clarify the area of the park that is unusable for humans. Mr. Vander Hyden showed this area on a map. Boardmember Synn thinks that the presented alternatives include an OLA that is too large. He likes Alternative C but suggested flipping the OLA with the open park area so the OLA adjoins the wetland. Boardmember Synn added that the unusable space for humans should be considered as an OLA for dogs. Mr. Vander Hyden clarified that the unusable space cannot be used for dogs or humans because of the terrain. Boardmember Heath asked if the west side of the Tyler Property can be used for dogs. Mr. Kost explained that this area is also too steep and erosion would then become an issue.

Boardmember Heath requested that the proposed parking capacity at Newport Hills Neighborhood Park be compared with other neighborhood parks. Mr. Kost clarified that it is premature to determine the number of parking spaces. He added that many of the neighborhood parks have limited or no parking spaces. Boardmember Heath expressed his concern that building a neighborhood park with an OLA and lots of parking may make the park more of a destination park. Mr. Kost clarified that the park will not have programmed events so the use will be spread out—weekends are typically more popular along with nicer weather days.

Boardmember Heath asked if consideration has been given to OLA barriers that are mobile so the size of the park can be altered as needed. Mr. Vander Hyden explained that this might create community confusion and increase liability at the park. Boardmember Heath also asked if the OLA was included in the 2008 levy. Mr. Kost confirmed that it was not included.

Boardmember Heath explained that there is an assumption in conversation that the Newport Hills community prefers an OLA and an open space. However, there have been concerns expressed that this assumption comes from the 2011 community feedback, which some community members feel is flawed. Boardmember Heath suggested that this questioning be included and clarified on future surveys. Mr. Kost and Mr. Vander Hyden discussed the online survey collection methods noting that it is difficult to track where the data is coming from if the information is not provided. Boardmember Heath stated that there is a perception that there wasn't an adequate screening process for respondents completing the online survey. He asked if this could be eliminated if the survey was conducted again. Mr. Kost responded no.

Boardmember Heath asked if trees will be cut down to develop any of the recommended alternatives. Mr. Vander Hyden clarified that a few trees will most likely need to be removed.

Chair Trescases prefers using the term “common area” rather than “community area” since all of the areas are available to the community. She added that a one acre dog area does not translate to an actual acre because of the facilities that will be included in the park. Chair Trescases feels that the OLA is important for dogs to run free and get exercise. Although Newport Hills is a neighborhood park, Chair Trescases feels that any of the parks in Bellevue are potentially destination parks. However, she does not foresee the Newport Hills Neighborhood Park becoming a destination park. Chair Trescases expressed her support for Alternative C.

Councilmember Robertson requested clarification regarding the size of the proposed common area. Mr. Vander Hyden stated that the proposed size is between 1.35-1.5 acres.

Boardmember Unger expressed her support for Alternative C with the modification of a gate to change the park size to include small and large dog areas. Mr. Kost discussed the small dog area at Robinswood Park that includes an adjustable fence.

Mr. Kost explained that staff will revise Alternative C and move the wall to the south to make the OLA slightly smaller and the common area slightly larger. Various size options will be presented at the next Board meeting. Vice-Chair Hamilton clarified that the best practices, department knowledge, and 2010 OLA study/feedback should all be considered when determining the size of the OLA.

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Unger to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

12. **PROPOSED AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Chair Trescases reported that the next Board meeting will be a retreat held on October 8, 2019 at Lewis Creek Park.

Mr. Parker reviewed the following agenda items for October:

- Safety in the parks
- General OLA policy
- Progress on the Recreation Program Plan and Department Strategic Plan

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Memo from staff re Downtown Park NE Gateway Project Update
- C. Email from Heidi Dean re Newport Hills Park planning
- D. Email from Pamela Johnston re children's safety/staff salaries
- E. Email and attachments from Heidi Dean re neighborhood parks vs community parks

These minutes are in DRAFT form until approved by the Parks & Community Services Board.

- F. Email from Sierra P re summer camps
- G. Email from Amber A re summer camps
- H. List of upcoming Parks special events

14. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

John Southern

5761 110th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Southern is a dog owner and uses the Newport Hills Neighborhood Park daily. He said that a one acre OLA would be too small for the park. He also requested that sand not be used in the OLA. Mr. Southern expressed his appreciation to staff and the Board for considering an OLA at Newport Hills Neighborhood Park.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Synn to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
RETREAT MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday
October 8, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Trescases, Vice-Chair Hamilton, Boardmembers Heath¹, Kumar, Synn², Unger

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Clark

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Betsy Anderson, Shelley Brittingham, Toni Esparza, Laura Harper, Nancy Harvey, Jammie Kingham, Curtis Kukal, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Trescases at 6:17 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Unger and second by Boardmember Hamilton to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Boardmembers expressed their appreciation to Boardmember Kumar for her recent leadership as the Board Chair and Vice-Chair. Boardmember Kumar was presented with a token of appreciation.

3. **RETREAT DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

A. Park Ranger Program/Safety in Parks

Ms. Harper provided an overview of park safety. One of the key components of park safety is the Park Ranger Program. Ms. Harper discussed the following about the Ranger Program:

- Who are the Park Rangers?
- Who are the Summer Rangers?
- What do the Park Rangers do?

¹ Arrived at 6:24 p.m.

² Arrived at 6:19 p.m.

Park Rangers oversee the following programs:

- Family and adult programs
- Community farms and gardens
- Volunteer programs
- Special events (i.e., Arbor Day, MLK Day of Caring, etc.)
- Well-KEPT
- Ranger patrol tasks

Ms. Harper clarified that Park Rangers are not law enforcement so they partner with other enforcement agencies when needed. The Park Rangers focus primarily on voluntary compliance through education. There are also security contractors that patrol specific areas, particularly after hours, as well as Parks Caretakers.

Some of the common issues that Park Rangers typically address include:

- Dogs (particularly off-leash and in beach parks)
- Illegal overnight camping
- After-hours activities
- Cars and parking
- Wildlife

Discussion:

- What to do when approached by wildlife. *Response: staff demonstrated the various techniques used when encountering wildlife.*
- Have there been any wildlife attacks? *Response: there was an incident with a coyote and off-leash dogs last year. In 2006 there was an incident where a coyote bit a child, but this was not in or involving Bellevue Parks.*
- How do the safety statistics compare with last year? *Response: there were a few dog-related incidents last year but no serious attacks were documented. Similar issues have been addressed this year.*
- Do Park Rangers feel safe? *Response: each situation is evaluated to determine if it will benefit from outreach and education. Sometimes a coordinated response with police is necessary. Staff also has experience with de-escalation training.*
- Are there many needles in the parks? *Response: Park Rangers and other staff are specifically trained for sharp objects. Any encampments with hazards such as sharps or biohazards are cleaned up by an outside contractor.*
- Are there any specific areas where encampments are reoccurring? *Response: there are areas that are used more frequently for camping but not consistently used by the same camper.*
- Have car prowls in parks increased or decreased? *Response: statistics have decreased this year. There has been a lot of outreach made to discourage people from leaving valuables in their cars. In addition, Park Rangers have increased their presence in problematic areas.*

B. Recreation Program Plan and Parks Strategic Plan

Ms. Anderson explained that the Parks Department is in the process of updating its Recreation Program Plan and its Strategic Plan. The Board received information about each plan update at its April and June 2019 meetings. Ms. Anderson explained that public outreach for the Recreation Program Plan was conducted between April and September 2019. The outreach and engagement process consisted of a public survey; two focus groups; meetings with City boards, commissions, and advisory groups; and a review of relevant plans and outreach activities from other City departments.

The following questions were asked during outreach efforts:

- Demographics:
 - Which of the following applies to you (in regards to living, working, or attending school in Bellevue)?
 - Are you the parent or guardian of any children living in your household?
 - What is your age?
 - What language do you speak at home?
 - Race/Ethnicity
 - Gender Identity
 - Type of disability (if applicable)
- Recreation Preferences
 - What are your current recreation activities? In other words, how do you spend your free time?
 - Where do you normally participate in recreation activities?
 - With whom do you normally recreate?
 - Which Parks & Community Services recreation activities have you participated in?
 - Where do you normally find out about recreation activities?
- Barriers to Access
 - Are there any recreation activities that you have not been able to find, but would like to participate in?
 - Think about the last City of Bellevue Parks & Community Services activity that interested you that you weren't able to attend—what barriers prevent you from participating?

Ms. Anderson also discussed the focus group findings for people with children under 13 and people with no children under age 13. Highlights included hobbies, barriers to access, and marketing and program awareness.

Ms. Anderson noted that the Recreation Program Plan will be revised to reflect community feedback and input with hopes of a Plan endorsement in early 2020.

Discussion:

- There should be a way to customize a search when looking for classes (i.e., specific to a child's age). *Response: staff is working on a customizable brochure with this feature.*
- Do we evaluate what other cities are doing, particularly regarding barriers to access? *Response: there is ongoing work and collaboration to evaluate recreation trends.*
- How does current outreach integrate or supplement other outreach and survey efforts? *Response: a regular survey is conducted for the Parks & Open Space System Plan. The next survey is scheduled in advance of the 2022 plan update. This survey is a statistically valid survey and the results are included in the Parks & Open Space System Plan. The survey conducted for the Recreation Program Plan will help guide current work and inform any survey revisions for the 2022 Parks & Open Space System Plan.*

Boardmembers broke into two groups to discuss overarching questions to help inform the Parks & Community Services Strategic Plan. Staff will consider the ideas generated during these discussions as the plan update is drafted. Boardmembers first had the opportunity to brainstorm answers to the questions below and then had the opportunity to rate their preferred ideas using dot stickers. The following are the discussions for each station:

Question 1: What is the purpose and value of parks and community services?

- Build community! [*Three dots added*]
- 3rd place [*One dot added*]
- Gathering place
- Neighborhood gathering + character [*One dot added*]
- Play, fun [*One dot added*]
- Play with kids
- Safety in the outdoors: water, animals
- Probation services [*One dot added*]
- A sense of ownership, pride (“our parks”)
- Service
- Opportunity to indulge/engage in “non-mandatory” events; enrichment
- Enrichment: both building up (okay to great) and very bad/hard to okay; i.e., Probation, Youth Eastside Services, swim lessons
- Reminder of a non-urban world [*One dot added*]
- Engage with and understand relations to nature: trees, animals, wetlands [*One dot added*]
- Stewardship of resources: natural, historic and cultural [*One dot added*]
- Open space (convenient to Downtown)
- Quality of life (value) [*Two dots added*]
- Well being

- Get active (improve health)
- Be outside

Question 2: What strengths should we build on as a department over the next five years?

- Approachability and transparency. *[Two dots added]*
- Use community outreach strengths to address some of the barriers expressed in the survey. *[Two dots added]*
- Community building—bringing the community together—build upon this (e.g., Grand Connection, Eastrail, etc.). *[One dot added]*
- Take community input and use it for programming decisions.
- Ranger Program is fabulous—use this and volunteers to enhance the park experience.
- Continue future visioning—identify needs throughout the community. *[One dot added]*
- Build on public/private partnerships, particularly creative funding partnerships and programming. *[One dot added]*
- Programming for cultural interests.
- Build on great programs—communication/community outreach.
- Human service outreach to nonprofits/small agencies (less developed or experienced) with information about available/potential resources.
- Find a way to broaden the sphere of what community members are being informed about—need to improve on communication.
- Communicating to the public all that we already do. *[One dot added]*
- Continue growing center of excellence—Parks Department is known as the “best of.” *[Two dots added]*
- Parks Department is politically savvy. Continue to grow Council relationship.
- Keep setting the bar high for who is hired—so far...outstanding!
- Continue to stay true to charter; offer programs that are relevant.
- Community is impressed with the guidance the department offers...continue this.
- Continue investing in open spaces: non-concrete, especially with significant development. *[Four dots added]*
- Trail system.

Final thoughts:

- Great session—like informal meeting with alternate location.
- Value ability to get away from office setting—continue this focus.
- Community gathering is important—need green spaces but also plazas and other community gathering spaces.
- Partnerships are important.
- Need to zone parks separately so what we have now is protected not sold to developers.
- A parks foundation, led by the community, is a great idea.
- Need stable funding solutions.

These minutes are in DRAFT form until approved by the Parks & Community Services Board.

- Need to enhance the vitality of our parks system—protect it.
- People expect great parks—Bellevue is a “City in a Park.”
- Continue to stress how critical parks are to the quality of one’s life—essential services.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: November 6, 2019

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Glenn Kost, Planning & Development Manager
Scott Vander Hyden, Project Manager

Subject: Preferred plan for the Newport Hills neighborhood park

Proposed Action: **Recommend a Preferred Park Plan for the Newport Hills/Tyler Property to the City Council.**

SUMMARY

We will summarize the September 10th Park Board meeting discussion regarding the three alternative park plans, describe the preferred plan developed by the staff following that meeting, review the feedback received from the community and Park Board on that plan, and present a recommended plan for Park Board review. If the Park Board is satisfied, we ask that you recommend that plan to the City Council.

SEPTEMBER 10 PARK BOARD MEETING

At the September 10th Park Board meeting, staff reviewed the site and project history, community outreach, the three alternative site plans presented at the July 23rd public meeting and the feedback received from that meeting. We compared the proposed space allocations for the off-leash area (OLA) and general park area to existing spaces within Bellevue's park system to demonstrate how these areas can achieve their intended purpose (**Attachment 1 – 9/10/2019 Park Board memo**).

The Board's comments generally favored the Alternative C option, though some felt that a smaller (1-acre) OLA was a more appropriate size for this park, expressing concern that a larger OLA would become a destination park that would exceed the park's capacity, and that the common area would benefit with a larger space. Others supported Alternative C with the larger (1.6-1.75-acre) OLA.

The Board also commented that there was a perception from some in the neighborhood that this process, as well as the process conducted in 2011, did not reflect the views of the neighborhood. Staff noted that the outreach in 2011 was conducted by the Newport Hills Community Club, so the City could not verify the sources of that feedback. Staff also noted that while verifying on-line survey sources from the recent outreach effort was not possible, they assured the Board that the feedback received was representative of the neighborhood. Information summarizing the attendance at the two City-sponsored meetings is provided in **Attachment 2**.

SEPTEMBER 24 PUBLIC MEETING

On September 24, 2019 the City hosted the third public meeting, once again held at Newport Hills Swim and Tennis Club. Outreach was identical to previous meetings: invitations were sent to all Newport Hills area residents, Gov-alerts and meeting notifications sent to all subscribers, a City website notice and a NextDoor post. Fifty-three persons attended and signed-in, not including City staff, Councilmember Zahn, and Park Board members Kumar, Clark, Hamilton and Heath. Fifty-one resided in the Newport Hills area. **Attachment 2** summarizes the 7/23 and 9/24 meeting attendees, together with a “heat map” of addresses from the 9/24 meeting.

Using the information from previous community outreach, together with feedback from the Park Board, the staff presented a “Preferred Alternative” based largely on Alternative C as described below and depicted in **Attachment 3**. The key change was the reduced area of the OLA and resulting increase in the common area so that both areas were roughly 1.5-acres in size. This was followed by breakout stations allowing attendees to provide comments, ask questions and fully understand the proposed plan. Attendees were encouraged to submit comments on prepared comment cards or provide comments later via email.

Twenty-one comment cards were received at the meeting (20 with Newport Hills addresses); 36 emails were received later. Twenty of the emails sent by 14 individuals were addressed to the Park Board and forwarded to the Board earlier. The remaining emails and all comment cards are included in **Attachment 4**. Most comments, while generally supporting the preferred plan, urged that the OLA remain the size proposed in Alternative C (approximately 1.75-acres).

PREFERRED PARK PLAN

The preferred plan was developed to reflect both the interests of the neighbors and concerns of the Park Board. The plan remains unchanged from the 9/24 meeting. About 3/4 of the park will remain natural open space with development limited to soft-surface trails and a ravine overlook. The remaining area will provide park visitors with a variety of recreation opportunities:

- A fenced OLA approximately 1.5-acres in size with two double fenced entries, drainage improvements, informational kiosk, shelter, small/timid dog area and a water station;
- A general use area similar in size to the OLA with landscape improvements, crushed rock loop pathway, open lawn area, a picnic shelter w/drinking fountain, picnic tables and grills, gathering area, children’s adventure-type play area and hillside mound;
- Soft surface trail connection to 116th SE, future trail connection to the Brick Property and ravine overlook;
- Park frontage improvements along SE 60th St. and pedestrian crosswalk at 116th Ave SE;
- Sani-can with an enclosure or a restroom;
- Entry drive, parking improvements and security lighting;
- A retaining wall separating the OLA from the common area with an overlook/viewpoint into the OLA.

Based on the feedback received over the past five months via comment cards, emails, and the online survey, we believe the preferred plan fairly represents the interests of Newport Hills. A dedicated OLA will remain a popular year-round park amenity for area residents. We believe that a 1.5-acre OLA will accommodate the area needs while providing additional amenities such as secure entries, drainage improvements, a small/timid dog area, shelter and watering station. Given its size and location, we do not believe that this OLA will become a destination facility. It is consistent with the 2010 system-wide OLA study approved by the Park Board that provided for a series of smaller, geographically dispersed facilities throughout Bellevue. It also meets the criteria established in that study for locating OLA's in parks, such as sufficient parking, residential buffers and minimum size. It should also be remembered that the City Council, as part of the adopted Airfield Park Master Plan, approved the expansion of the Robinswood OLA facilities to a combined 5.75-acres (currently 1.75-ac). While this plan has not been implemented, we believe the expansion will create a more popular facility at Robinswood.

We also have confidence that the proposed 1.5-acre common area is sufficient to successfully achieve its intended purpose of providing the neighborhood with the gathering space and many of the amenities requested throughout the public engagement process. Its size is comparable to other successful neighborhood parks such as Bridle Trails Corner Park, Norwood Village Park, and Evergreen Park and enjoys the advantage of being adjacent to a large open space and trail system to complement the common area facilities.

EXPECTED NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

Based on feedback from this meeting, we will revise the plan as necessary and ask the Council to authorize the staff to proceed with detailed design and permitting based on the Preferred Plan, then to proceed with construction.

We continue to consider park naming options and will return to the Park Board in 2020 with a recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 9/10/19 Park Board memo without attachments
2. Feedback sources and 9/24 heat map
3. Preferred Park Plan
4. Comment cards and emails received 9/24 thru 10/25

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: September 10, 2019

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Glenn Kost, Planning & Development Manager
Scott Vander Hyden, Project Manager

Subject: Newport Hills Neighborhood Park - planning process & site alternatives
No action – discussion/direction requested

BACKGROUND & INITIAL VISION PLANNING (2011-2015)

Part of the 2008 Bellevue Parks & Natural Areas Levy included “Acquisition Opportunity Funding” dedicated to “*obtain land that complements the existing park system to increase access to lake shores, preserve open space.....and create opportunities for new neighborhood parks.*” The Park and Open Space System Plan identified the Newport Hills subarea as deficient in neighborhood park land, so the staff sought land to create a neighborhood park. In February 2010 the City acquired the Tyler property, a 4.79-acre parcel along SE 60th St. with the assistance of matching funds from King County. Approximately half of the property is a large, gently sloping grassy area, with the remainder a steeply sloping, wooded open space. No funds were available for any significant development, so in the summer of 2010, the City simply removed part of an old residential foundation, created 2-3 gravel parking spaces, installed park entry signs, dog waste bags and began basic park maintenance. The area quickly became a popular, though unofficial, off-leash area (OLA). Park Rangers would periodically remind users that dogs were to be kept on-leash, but with limited success.

In early 2011 the Newport Hills Community Club (NHCC) President approached the City to develop a “Vision Plan” for the park. We reminded NHCC that no funds existed to plan for or develop the park and cautioned against setting unreasonable expectations. However, we eventually agreed to assist NHCC with the understanding that it would be a neighborhood-driven process. NHCC appointed a Park Committee (PC) Chair and initiated a neighborhood outreach effort. The PC Chair solicited feedback at NHCC’s annual 4th of July picnic and ran an on-line survey. City staff also attended 3 NHCC monthly meetings and two neighborhood picnics. The results of those outreach efforts are provided on **Attachment 1**. A dog park was clearly the most popular element requested for the new park, though a wide variety of additional park amenities were also requested.

By 2012, the NHCC leadership had changed and the PC chair resigned. NHCC appointed a PC and Chair to work with the City to finalize the vision plan. Using previous feedback and comments from a subsequent NHCC meeting, the PC prepared two alternative plans to represent the views of NHCC. Each contained varying sized OLA’s and general use areas. These plans were reviewed by NHCC, and after further comments, the City drafted a vision plan that was approved by NHCC in June 2015. The NHCC-prepared and approved Vision Plan are depicted on **Attachment 2**.

Separately, in June 2015 the City purchased the adjacent 5.02-ac Patterson property, again using King County matching funds. This property is a heavily wooded, steeply sloping open space. The acquisition was to preserve open space. In late 2015 through the summer of 2016, we developed a soft-surface loop trail through the Patterson property with the assistance of Eagle Scouts and local businesses. In January of 2019, the City approved the purchase of the adjacent 3.7-acre Brick Property to continue the open space system. The park is now 13.7-acres (**Attachment 3**). 3.0-3.25 acres are considered developable, with the remainder in open space and passive recreation.

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH (2019)

In December of 2018 the City Council approved the 2019-25 CIP budget that included \$3m to plan, design and construct a new neighborhood park in Newport Hills, commonly referred to as the Tyler Property. In February of 2019, staff met with the NHCC President to alert them to the availability of funds and to re-engage the neighborhood in the park planning process. Unlike the previous outreach, the City would lead the process.

On May 21, 2019 staff attended a NHCC meeting at Newport Hills Community Church to re-introduce the project to the neighborhood. Invitations were mailed to 3,189 Newport Hills residents, advertised on the City and NHCC websites, on the NextDoor app, and .gov alerts. Approximately 75 people attended, including Councilmembers Robertson & Zahn and Park Board members Kumar, Hamilton, Heath and Clark. Staff shared project history, past outreach efforts, the expected planning process, and urged residents to offer feedback to help inform the plan moving forward.

Between the May 21 meeting and July 23 City staff received 55 emails expressing preferences for park amenities. Verbatim comments were previously provided to the Board. Some advocated that all developable land be dedicated as an OLA, though more requested both an OLA and a common area with a variety of neighbor-requested park amenities. These comments are consistent with the results of the earlier process that reflected the neighborhood's desire for both neighborhood park amenities and an OLA component. Frequently requested park amenities included trails, children's play area, picnic shelter and gathering area, benches, and an open lawn area.

On July 23, the City hosted a second meeting at Newport Hill Swim and Tennis Club. Invitations and alerts were identical to the first meeting. Approximately 50 residents attended, including Park Board members Kumar, Hamilton and Clark and Councilmember Zahn. Attendees were asked to sign-in with names, addresses and contact information. Of the 42 that signed-in, 41 provided addresses from the Newport Hills area and one from nearby Somerset. Staff summarized the comments received following the May meeting and presented three alternative park plans followed by breakout stations to allow residents to closely review the plans, ask questions and encourage dialogue. A description of each plan is presented below.

PLAN ALTERNATIVES

The three plan alternatives have been developed to reflect the neighbor's interests, which provide varying levels of program use and intensity. About 3/4 of the park will remain natural open space and passive recreation, with development limited to soft-surface trails and a ravine overlook. The remaining area will provide park visitors with a variety of recreation opportunities. Park elements common to all three plan alternatives include:

- A fenced OLA. The size varies slightly with each option, ranging from 1.6-1.75 acres. Each option includes a double fenced entry, drainage improvements, informational kiosk and water station.
- A general use park area. The size varies with each option, ranging from 1.35-1.50 acres. Each option would contain open lawn area, a picnic shelter and gathering area (varying size) and pathway connections;
- Soft surface trail connection to 116th SE, future trail connection to the Brick Property and ravine overlook;
- Park frontage improvements along SE 60th St. and pedestrian crosswalk at 116th Ave SE;
- Sani-can with an enclosure;
- Parking improvements.

Alternative A (Attachment 4): The least developed of the three alternatives, it closely resembles the 2015 Vision Plan. The OLA is 1.75-acres and the general use area is 1.35-acres with a small (15'x25') picnic shelter and an open lawn area. The small off-street parking area would be expanded slightly and the picnic shelter would include an access drive with one ADA and one service/convenience parking stall;

Alternative B (Attachment 5): Moderately developed, this option adds several amenities to Alternative A such as a larger (20'x30') general use picnic shelter, a perimeter loop trail and a children's adventure play area. The OLA is reduced slightly in size to accommodate the perimeter path. A small shelter, agility equipment and a dog wash station are added to the OLA. Off-street parking is relocated to near the picnic shelter and lighting is added to allow for the OLA to be used after dark.

Alternative C (Attachment 6): The most highly developed, this option provides the largest (20'x35') picnic shelter/gathering space, includes a grass viewing/seating mound and adds adult exercise equipment to the play area. It includes a separate shy/timid dog area and provides two small shelters in lieu of one larger one in the OLA. A small retaining wall is proposed to separate the OLA from general park area, creating a more level and useable general park area and an overlook/viewpoint into the OLA. This would also create a more defined sense of space between the OLA and the general park uses. A section view of this feature is depicted on **Attachment 7**.

FEEDBACK RECEIVED ON THE THREE ALTERNATIVES

140 responses have been received to-date: 20 comment cards received at the July 23rd meeting, 9 email comments following the meeting, and 111 responses to an on-line survey posted on the City website. The survey depicted the three alternative plans and asked respondents to identify their preferred alternative and desired amenities. The results are as follows:

Alternative A:	13 (9%)
Alternative B:	35 (25%)
Alternative C:	63 (45%)
Combination:	15 (11%)
Neither Alternative:	1 (< 1%)
None chosen	13 (9%)

The most popular general park area amenities:

1. Loop Trail 84%
2. Open Lawn Area 75%
3. Picnic Table/Benches 75%
4. Community Shelter 71%
5. Off-leash Overlook 55%
6. Grassy Hillside 53%

The most popular OLA amenities:

1. Dog Wash / Water Station 76%
2. Air Lock Entries 72%
3. Shelter(s) 63%
4. Small/Timid Dog Area 51%

Though optional, respondents were asked to identify their city and zip code. Of the 57 that provided their city, 51 were from Bellevue, 3 from Renton and 3 from Newcastle. Of the 53 that provided zip codes: 45 were in 98006 (south Bellevue), 2 in Bellevue north of I-90 and 6 in Renton or Newcastle.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Each alternative identifies separate spaces for the OLA and general park area. To help assess the merit of the alternatives, it is important to understand whether the spaces can successfully achieve their intended purpose. To compare the proposed space allocations to existing spaces within Bellevue's park system, some comparable areas are listed below for the OLA and general park area.

OLA proposed @ 1.60 - 1.75-acres. Two OLAs exist at Robinswood Park. The larger corral, located near 148th Ave SE, is 1.25-acres and improved with a double-gated entry, information kiosk, small shelter, water station and loop pathway. The smaller (0.5-acre) corral is located behind the tennis center and generally used by smaller dogs. It includes a double-gated entry, information kiosk, small shelter and benches. Both facilities are very popular.

While the City Council has taken no action, the Park Board approved recommendations contained in a 2010 system-wide OLA study. Key recommendations from that study include:

- Establish a service level standard of one OLA for every 30,000 residents, which would require (in 2010) 3 additional OLAs in addition to Robinswood (now 4);
- Geographically disperse OLAs in identified areas of need, specifically in Downtown, central Bellevue and south Bellevue.
- Established criteria for locating OLAs in existing parks, including parking, residential buffers and size, recommending that OLAs be a minimum of 1-acre in size.

General park area proposed @ 1.35 – 1.50-acres. Bellevue maintains several parks or park areas comparable in size to the area proposed at Newport Hills, including:

- Evergreen Park @ 1.33-acres with a children's playground, court games area, restroom, pathways and off-street parking;
- Norwood Village Park @ 1.6-acres with 2 tennis courts, 2 basketball courts, children's playground and open lawn area.
- Bridle Trails Corner Park @ 1.37-acres, with a children's playground, small parking lot, loop pathway and open lawn area. Area excludes the wetland and steep slopes.
- Killarney Glen @ 10.44-acres. The developed (general use) area is 2.2-acres with two tennis courts, children's playground and pathways. The adjacent wooded natural area is 8.2-acres.
- Ashwood Park @ 1.8-acres. Open lawn area only - excludes the parking lot.

- Lewis Creek Park Picnic Area @ 0.7-acres. Separate from the main park, with two picnic shelters, restroom, connecting pathways and open lawn area.

Though vastly different uses, another size comparison are the synthetic turf soccer fields at Newport Hills (1.6-ac) and Wilburton Hill (2.0-ac with perimeter track).

And finally, the picnic shelters range in size from 375-700sf with capacities of 2-4 picnic tables. These are relatively small shelters consistent with a neighborhood park, but large enough to accommodate large families or small groups. For comparison, the two shelters at Surrey Downs Park are 320sf (2 tables) and 480sf (3 tables). Our larger shelters at Crossroads Park (1,700sf) and Newcastle Beach (1,300sf) community parks are popular with large groups and company outings.

Though these parks or park areas are uniquely different, each reflects the interests of the users and neighborhood. All have proven successful over time and are well-loved neighborhood amenities.

EXPECTED NEXT STEPS & TIMELINE

Using the information from the outreach effort, together with the feedback received from the Park Board, the staff will prepare a “Preferred Alternative” Plan to present to the neighbors at a public meeting scheduled September 24. Based on feedback from that meeting, we will make any necessary revisions and present it to the Park Board at your November meeting asking that the Board recommend that the Council endorse the plan and authorize the staff to proceed with detailed design, permitting and construction.

A Council Study Session is expected in late 2019/early 2020 to review the preferred plan and Park Board recommendation. Assuming Council endorses the plan, we expect to complete park construction in 2020.

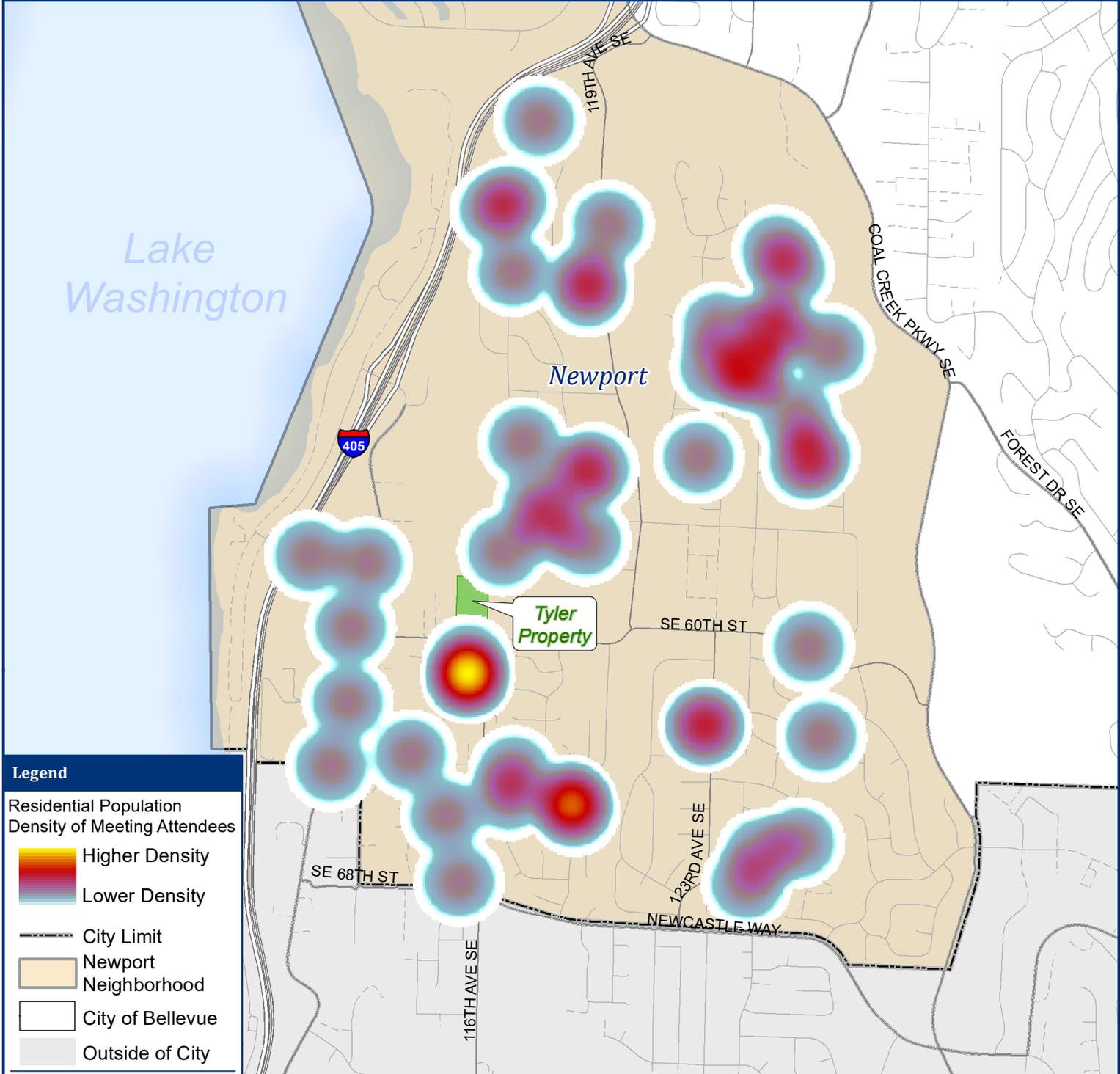
ATTACHMENTS

1. 2011 NHCC survey responses
2. 2012-2015 Early Vision Plans
3. Park property aerial
- 4-7. Park Plan alternatives A, B and C and section view

Community Involvement Heat Map

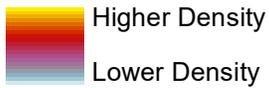


Tyler Property Development: September 24, 2019 Community Meeting

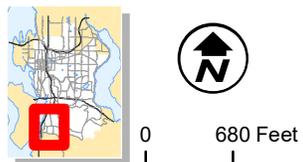


Legend

Residential Population
Density of Meeting Attendees



- City Limit
- Newport Neighborhood
- City of Bellevue
- Outside of City



Source: City of Bellevue

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

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 (2011)
StatePlane Washington North FIPS 4601 Ft

Notes:

September 24, 2019 Meeting:	Previous July 23, 2019 Meeting:
53 attended and signed in*	42 attended and signed in*
51 Newport Hills addresses	41 Newport Hills addresses
1 Renton (Kennydale address)	1 Somerset address
1 Newcastle address	

*Not including City of Bellevue staff, City Councilmembers, or Park Board members

Preferred Park Plan

116th Ave SE

SE 58

SE 60th St

113th Ave SE

large picnic shelter

service/accessible parking
security lighting

grass viewing mound
adventure play

animal control
gate/water &
san-t-can enclosure

open play
lawn

Off-leash dog area
(w/drainage improvements)

open space nature/interpretive trails

off-leash observation
stone retaining wall

berry picking

small
shelter

crushed rock
loop trail
with seating

small
dog area

crosswalk

frontage improvements

overlook

future trail connection to be determined

Newport Hills Neighborhood/SE 60th Street Preferred Park Plan



21 Comment Cards Received

20 from Newport Hills residents, 1 from Renton

- 6 Like the Plan as is
- 13 Like the plan with modifications (most frequently request larger OLA)
- 2 Do not like the plan, with or without modifications

Verbatim compiled comments are below

Suggested modifications: WE HAVE VISITED THIS PARK SINCE 2012, AND WOULD RECOMMEND A LARGER DOG PARK AREA; THEN CURRENTLY PROPOSED. RATIO OF 2 ACRES DOG PARK AND 1 ACRE "PARK" AT A MINIMUM. THANK YOU PARKS DEPT!

Suggested modifications: as much space for dogs as possible - 1.75 acres. Just because Robinswood OLA is 1.25 acres doesn't mean that is sufficient.

Comments: The surface in the OLA should be pea gravel NOT grass or bark. Bark is nasty, it absorbs urine and dogs will roll in it. If the surface is grass, be sure it is mowed and there is adequate drainage.

Thank you for including neighbors in this process.

Suggested modifications: I continue to request that the OLA shrink and have the majority of the space for people. This is supposed to be a neighborhood park but the amenity of the OLA is drawing in others from outside the neighborhood making this feel like a community level park. Other than the OLA size I think the plan in general looks good.

Comments: I am so pleased we are getting a park here, that everyone can enjoy.

Thank you

Suggested modifications:

The off leash area should be large enough for 3-4 people "chucking" balls 100-125 feet to mid-range dogs to chase

Suggested modifications:

The off leash area should be large enough for 3-4 people "chucking" balls 100-125 feet to mid-range dogs to chase

Comments:

The dog park area should be the size and approx ~~dimension~~ dimension of a soccer field

Suggested modifications: Can we ensure trash cans, that will be w/in the open play area, will be kept far away from the off-leash retaining wall? That would ensure the dogs won't be near food wrappers that might have food residue that would hurt them.

Comments: Maybe grills might not be a good idea w/ the amount of dogs that would frequent the park

Can there be signs to prevent kids throwing/feeding dogs from the off-leash observation. Hopefully there will be a high enough fence on top of the retaining wall to prevent that.

It's good that we're catering to both neighbors w/ & w/out dogs, so hopefully the park can be harmoniously used. 😊

Suggested modifications:

Retain ~~POA~~ OLA to 1.75 acres and keep the agility equipment in OLA
We need more OLA space not less.

Comments: I have not attended any of the previous meetings. I am VERY pleased with the "present preferred plan C" & impressed with all of the details you have planned.

It's important to have the off leash area, but also that you have given those of us without pets a new, lovely place to be.

The children's play area looks terrific, too.

GOOD JOB, all of you.

Belleve Parks are the best! Downtown Park & new Meydenbauer Bay are wonderful!

Suggested modifications: I'd like to see trash cans from open play area and BBQ to not be located close to dog area as there will be a risk of food or other contaminants being dropped within reach of dogs.

With that said, I'm also concerned about the BBQ area. Reservation? First come first serve?

No, I do not like the plan, with or without modifications. I also question whether it's a good idea to have a BBQ area so close to a dog area for ~~the~~ reasons:

Comments:

- Food contaminates, some toxic to dogs
- Kids potentially feeding dogs

Comments: We have many parks for families & children but few areas for our dogs. Please consider giving us a quality dog area. Thank you!

Comments: ~~We~~ We voted for Plan C. I would love to stay with what was voted on! Vote! Original winner

Suggested modifications: All the amenities are fine. Just please Maximize the OLA as best as you can. Our dogs need more space!

Comments: NH Residents w/o dogs will only use the park 4 months of the year at most while dog owners will use the park 12 months a year.

Please Please Please error on the side of more OLA than less OLA area.

Thank you.

Comments: ~~It is~~ On any given day you can drive by the park at Ringdall, Newport Hills Park, Jing Mei Elementary Park, & Newcastle Beach Park and find them COMPLETELY EMPTY! Meanwhile, the dog park is almost always full. I appreciate that you are adding in lights, parking, shelter, fencing and trails (These are great!). However, our area has no need for more children's play areas. I will guarantee you that from September-June, the open play lawn (no dog area) will be empty. I know this because most of our open play area parks are empty. I would love to see improvements to our beloved dog park but adding a 'no-dog' area & making the dog park area smaller is doing a disservice to our community! Please let me know if you would like to discuss further.

- Suggested modifications: ^① Would love a larger OLA-like 60%/40% instead of 50/50. [↑]
- ② Please consider a larger shelter for the OLA - perhaps 10x20'
- ③ Benches are great - pls make sure the material/coating can withstand dog pee! 😊

Continued:

Unlike the childrens play area + open area, OLA will still be highly used throughout all seasons of the year - should justify a slightly larger play area for those owners ball with the 'chuck-it' throwers! they go forever!

Comments: other than those suggestions - looks great! Looking forward to not having to bring my big jug of water! ☺

Comments: I like the trail loop surrounding the park.

I personally don't mind if OLA is a little bigger like Option C. But either way I think it's a good compromise. Thank you for all the work!

Don't really like plan

Comments: The dog park is much smaller than the survey. Why do we need a new large playground in Newport Hills? Kids can play at Newport Heights Elementary after school & weekends, at Hazelwood, at Newport Hills Soccer Field etc. If you throw a ball for your dog it will go far so they need space to chase it. There is no need for a small dog portion. Small dogs can roam with big dog. My 16lb dog hangs with my 95lb dog in the large dog park. Please make dog portion bigger. We walk to the park so we put in lighted cross walk, speed traps and speeding signs on SE 60th so that people don't get hit crossing to the park. We walk there.

Suggested modifications: I like the sharing of space with dogs and dogless. This will be an wonderful gathering place. Thanks for all your planning to make it useful for us all.

Suggested modifications: How will THE PARK BE SECURED?

Comments: WHAT WILL THE HOURS BE?
WHAT ABOUT ADDITIONAL LIGHTS
IN THE PARK. WHAT ABOUT A
FIRE PIT

Comments: I think a plumbed bathroom with running water is necessary. A porta potty isn't enough for children & elderly especially.

Suggested modifications: I would like to see permanent restrooms as opposed to sani-cans.

Yes, I like the plan with modifications plan C is too small for a dog park

Suggested modifications:

Robinswood is about the same size as 'C' - It is widely criticized for being too small to exercise your dog, this park is such a treasure for decades.

No, I do not like the plan, with or without modifications

Comments: Kids park is ~~next~~ across the street by Ball field. Dog parks in the area are limited. This treasure should be "A", so many users will be very sad. Save your money fence it better & call it good. Dog lover.

Hi, I recently saw signs posted at the Newport Hill Neighborhood Park on SE 60th Street regarding current plans to develop the park. I'm an active user of the park and encouraged by the continued use as an off-leash dog park. I would like to know more about what is being planned. Is a site plan drawing of what is being proposed available for review?

Thank you for allowing the community to give input in the decisions being made per the neighborhood off-leash dog park. I am a dog owner and also a parent of a young child. I live in Pembroke Meadow, just down the street. I am very much in favor of using the full space or at least 75% of it for an off-leash dog park. There are many wonderful parks with playgrounds for our children to play in but very few dog parks. I believe this site is perfect for it. There are no private yards next to it, to bother neighbors. It's a wonderful space to allow larger dog breeds to roam free. Since we all have such small or non-existent yards these days, it's a great need. From what I understand there will never be another off-leash dog park in this part of Bellevue. I feel that if we miss this opportunity, it will never be available again.

I want to let you know that I think the preferred design for the proposed Newport park is a good compromise. I'm sure you got a significant amount of pressure on all sides but you seem to have landed in a place that gives all parties something to like. My one suggestion would be to have real restrooms as opposed to a "porta potty". Permanent restrooms would be clean and parents wouldn't mind having their children use them. I've heard people say they are too expensive and might be used by homeless people. My answer to those concerns is that this park will be around for many years to come and real bathrooms are a reasonable expectation just as they were a reasonable expectation in the downtown park. With regard to bathrooms being used by homeless people...so what?? Do homeless people use the restrooms in the downtown park? Probably. Just lock them at night so they don't become someone's living space. Thanks for your work on this project. Your efforts are much appreciated.

This email is in response to the Newport Hills neighborhood park development meeting held on September 24, 2019 which presented the 'near final' proposal for the park development on SE 60th Street. As always, thank you for your thorough and well organized presentation. I believe this will be my third written comment on this topic. I have cc'd the Bellevue City council email box and Janet Zahn who I voted for most recently, as it is my understanding that they will not necessarily see my specific comments, as they rely primarily on the Park Board input in these matters. It is also my understanding that this topic will be covered at a future city council meeting this fall. My hope is that my comments better inform the council members and encourage them to read other resident comments on more subtle points that may not come through on summaries and surveys and powerpoints. I was extremely disappointed and shocked to hear at the recent meeting that the acreage dedicated to the off leash dog area was now being even further diminished in the proposal that was presented. As you know from my previous comments, I have been an advocate of keeping as much open area for the dogs as possible. I have lived in this neighborhood since the early 80s and brought up three boys and six dogs in that time. I understand the desire to have an area that is available to the general community and for children to play, and though I don't necessarily oppose that view, I feel strongly that a large and natural setting for dogs - as we have now available to us - is paramount. There is nothing else like it in Bellevue. We should be proud to keep something as beautiful and unique as this. My comments for the latest proposal presented at the meeting are simply: Please, please do not take away even more space and further diminish the dog area as outlined in the first proposals, or for the purposes of this email, previous Proposal C, which will already drastically reduce its current size. As a

dog owner AND a parent of three boys, I can assure you that the dog area will get much more use over time and during colder wetter weather than the play area/ open area. I believe the additional area now being proposed to be given to the community/play area will be a waste of precious space, especially as the area is sloped. I also consistently voiced my preference against a small dog area within the off leash area, as I don't believe there is a need for it, and it further diminishes the free area for all dogs. I am a small dog owner (under 20 pounds) and other small dog owners that I have met at the park feel the same way. Another very important reason to preserve as much open area as possible is that it allows more active dogs to have enough room to play and run and still allow quieter and less active dogs the ability to also have an open area to roam and avoid any potential conflicts. This is one of the wonderful features of the area as it is today that I fear will be lost. I go to the park every day with my dog (currently a small elderly dog) and we consistently use the whole area; sometimes walking alone and sometimes socializing with other dogs and humans. Lastly, I heard one offhand comment from your colleague that city officials (it wasn't clear if it was park board or council members) who feared that if the dog park was large it would attract people from other areas. That seems like an unreasonable and frankly ridiculous fear. If there are any grounds for such fears and I don't believe there are - there should be a fear that having elite and new play equipment will attract people from other areas. (As though that's a bad thing!) The dog park is as big today as it will ever get, and as I go there every day, I can tell you that I do not get the sense that people are driving from miles away or from other cities or distant neighborhoods to come there. I don't think we need to worry that somehow it will be on the same scale of a destination park like Marymoor! If anything, I fear it will be so greatly diminished in size and atmosphere that I won't even want to go there anymore — which really makes me sad as a long time (37 years!) resident of this neighborhood that is proud that we finally have a decent and pleasant place to go with our dogs that also happens to be a haven for human beings, because of its natural and open setting. In closing, though my admitted preference is to keep the entire park as it is now, dedicated as an off-leash dog area, I absolutely respect the voice of other residents to take some of the space for community activities and a play area. That said, I urge you, the parks board and the council to weigh the alternatives for space very very carefully to ensure the best long term use. There are plenty of community and play areas in Bellevue. There are pitifully few other off-leash dog areas (one!), as you've fairly pointed out at every community meeting. Thank you for your consideration, and as always if you have any questions about my comments or need more information please don't hesitate to let me know.

Just wanted to give feedback from the Sept 24th meeting. I hope it's not too late!
I really like the preferred plan presented. I also really like the "The Shire" theme of the children's play area, especially the bridges and climbing aspects. Additionally, I wanted to advocate for a full bathroom facility, although I know that is more costly. It would be a very attractive feature that would increase use of the park. Thanks for all your work!

My husband shared with me the briefing from the 9/24/19 presentation as I was unable to attend the meeting. I wanted to let you know that I support either of the two options (the original Alternative C with the unequal size people area/OLA area, and the modified Alternative C with the roughly equal people area/OLA area). Looks fabulous! Can't wait to see our spiffy updated park! Thank you for all your and your team's hard work on this!

Thanks for presenting at the meeting last Tuesday. I attached my feedback.
I would appreciate if you could post the electronic copy of the handouts and the comment sheet on the project web site, so that those who couldnt attend can comment.

Thank you for presenting to Newport Hills last week. See attached – we like the Preferred Park Plan – however we feel that the open park area could be decreased, allowing more space for the Off Leash Area (Dog Park). The current park is highly populated with dog owners, and it’s not an “official dog park”, if it is turned into an official dog park, it will most likely become very popular and possibly overcrowded. Please consider our idea, of going back towards “option C”, with a ratio of 2 acres dog park – 1 acre open park/play area. Thank you – and look forward to the Parks Department making a decision and moving forward with construction.

I’m writing to say that I’d like to see the current Newport Hills Off Leash Park be made permanent and given as much area as possible. There are already nearby parks available for those that might not wish to be around dogs. Bellevue has a wonderful number of these types of parks. While there are some Off Leash Parks, there aren’t enough and not all are big enough. Big dogs and those with high energy need a lot of room to chase balls while not smacking into tons of other dogs. I have a high energy Australian Shepherd that needs a lot of exercise and changes in scenery. My husband and I take him to a couple of other parks too. Robinswood is one. It’s ok but not really very big and when there are a lot of dogs there it’s hard to get enough space to be able to have our Aussie run and get the ball. Thanks for the opportunity to give input.

I was not able to make the meeting on Tuesday as I was out of town. I am hearing rumblings that the original plan C which the community, including myself, voted/provided feedback on is now being challenged or changed. The rumor is the off lease dog area will be reduced.

Is that correct?

How much is it being reduced (hearing as small as a 0.25 acre)?

And what factors are at play?

I live here and see the area as one of the most used spaces. The Newport Hills ball fields rarely have people there unless there is a game. Maybe as many as 5 kids play on the equipment during any hour as I walk my dogs around the neighborhood. In addition, rarely do I see picnics at the tables. Occasionally some elderly people gather to chat; though only during the hospitable weather. Based on my observations and living in this neighborhood for over 10 years, I conclude the Tyler property will be extensively used for any of those types of activities year round. In contrast, currently the Tyler property sees year round dogs at all hours of daylight. It is a space where people gather and chat with each other (become neighborly) and dogs are free to play in a wide open space. Additionally, I live in the Westfield association. We maintain our own park at 166th & SE 64th. We have signage that it is a private park and dogs are to be on leash. At least three times a week, I encounter someone, who is not a Westfield homeowner, with a dog who is not on leash and is not part of our neighborhood. I remind them; it is a private park and there is an open space down the street. Usually it is someone who is unaware of the "unofficial" dog park. I hope the rumors are just that rumors. If not, help me understand why this is going against the original voice of the community who provided feedback. It will impact my dogs and probably negatively my private park if there is not sufficient room at the new park. Thank you in advance for your time.

I am writing in concern for new Newport dog park. We the dog owners were given 3 plans to look at the majority wanted the c choice with Have the park be for the dogs that should be 1.7 acres for the park.

This last meeting it was presented with 1.3 acres we all want the 1.7 acres which is approximately 2/2 the park. Thank you for listening.

I know I am really late on getting this email out to you. I Like plan C but I prefer the original plan where the unleashed part of the park was larger. I believe this is important because once this becomes an official off leash park we might be getting more people. In Renton area there is only one park Cedar River Dog Park. Human nature is to go to the closes location. I also believe the park should be larger than the proposed size from the last Community Meeting, because when you add up a small dog section, trees benches and 2 covered areas it will reduce the size of the park too small for dogs to actually run around with each other and chase a ball. I have a shepard/begal mix and a newfoundland and when they play they need some space. Currently if a dog is not playing well with other dogs the owner will take the dog to the other side of the park to prevent problems. If the park is not large enough there really is no where for those people to go and I feel they will just use the common area. This negates the purpose of having the fenced in area. On the design of the park I have attached some edits which I hope can be included in the final plans. Adding a 3 gate on the South West corner of the park. Moving the small dog area to the same area. This is important for the summer time there would be more shade for the smaller dogs. If possible to have one of the covered area large 10x20 instead. The reason for this is during the winter the rain comes down at an angle and a 10x10 people will still get wet. Thank your for time.

I understand the Plan C has been change to significantly reduce the size of the dog park portion. I don't understand why C was changed to be a "hybrid" especially when Plan C, which I understand was voted for by the majority of the people. Again, I want to emphasize that there are plenty of places close by for children to play -- Donegal Park, Lake Boren, school playgrounds. Granted some are not in Newport Hills but not more than 5 minute drive. If the dog park is too small, I can see that people will go the playfields so their dogs have more room to run. Please don't take away what the majority want. Dog owners use the park year round. Isn't this a democracy?

Pembrook Meadow is a PUD consisting of 150 town homes, located in Bellevue, a few blocks south from the existing off leash park. I have been following the development of the design of the park with great interest. Many of our dog owning home owners, including myself, have been using the off leash park for many years and find it a great facility for all dog owners to use. There are very limited off leash parks around the area and this one is heavily used and appreciated by the community. Many parks around the area do not allow dogs, even on leashes, during long periods of the year, greatly reducing the available areas to take our pets. With this in mind the dog owners in our community strongly support keeping the majority of this area of the proposed park for off leash use. It is away from homes and people who may have concerns about being too close to dogs – therefore an ideal location. We would appreciate you taking our support of the off leash park into consideration.

I am writing to voice my support for Plan C at this park. I feel this is the most reasonable option that will serve the needs of our community. Right now the park only serves the needs of large dog owners. I live in the neighborhood and would welcome a space where our family, and small dog, could all go and enjoy time together. Plan C is the thoughtful option that takes into account the whole neighborhood of Newport Hills, for years to come. Thank you for your consideration,

The proposal for development of the space on SE 60th into a neighborhood park and off-leash dog park shows careful planning as well as serious consideration of the wishes of the community. I want to express my appreciation for the care that your staff have taken in this effort. Throughout this process, staff have pointed out that the Newport Hills community is underserved in terms of parks. It is terrific to live in a city that seeks to spread resources fairly throughout the neighborhoods. This view suggests that more parks might eventually be developed within our part of town. After review of the proposal presented at the meeting this evening at the Newport Hills Swim and Tennis Club, I wish to restate my position that the off leash area (OLA) should be given priority. My reasoning is two-pronged. First, when comparing the area of the proposed OLA to Robinswood, the proposal is for a space a bit larger than Robinswood. Nevertheless, there is no evidence to suggest that either space is adequate for multiple large dogs that simultaneously need to chase balls. And secondly, when those potential future parks are developed in Newport Hills, they will likely be playgrounds or fields rather than additional OLAs. The reasoning will be that we already have an off leash dog park. So, let's put in a great OLA now recognizing that it is the only one we will ever have. In other words, use up to two acres for the OLA. Thank you for consideration of my viewpoint.



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 29, 2019

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Glenn Kost, Capital Project Manager, Parks & Community Services

Subject: Aquatic Center Feasibility Study (*Information Only*)

At your November 6th meeting we will summarize the “Aquatic Center Feasibility Study Update” that was presented to City Council in October. While the Board does not have a specific role in this project, we seek to inform you on the status of this Council priority. Following an informational staff presentation, there will be sufficient time for Board questions and discussion.

Attachment

- October 21, 2019 Bellevue City Council Study Session Agenda Memo

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Update on the Aquatic Center Feasibility Study

Shelley McVein, Acting Director, 452-5378

Glenn Kost, Park Planning & Development Manager, 452-5258

Parks & Community Services

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**INFORMATION
ONLY**

Staff will update Council on the Aquatic Center Feasibility Study, including preliminary program options, capital and operating cost estimates, and site analysis. Staff seeks feedback on the information presented.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

The existing Bellevue Aquatic Center (aka Odle Pool) has served Bellevue's 140,000 residents for nearly 50 years, but no longer meets current or future demand for aquatics in Bellevue. The City is currently evaluating alternatives and partnership opportunities to develop a new, year-round aquatic facility that considers the full-range of activities associated with contemporary, state-of-the-art aquatic facilities.

In March 2009, Council was presented an Aquatics Feasibility Study, expressed support for a comprehensive aquatic facility, (Attachment A) and directed staff to explore regional funding partners. In early 2010, staff reported back to Council that, after a thorough review, any potential partners were not prepared to pursue a project at that time. Because of the lack of partner interest coupled with the impacts of the recession, Bellevue ceased further exploration of aquatics alternatives.

Since 2010, the cities of Redmond and Kirkland have been independently exploring aquatics alternatives. In 2015, the City of Kirkland placed an aquatic center ballot measure before voters that ultimately failed.

In 2017, King County Parks convened a process to explore the viability of a regional approach to fill the aquatics gap on the Eastside. King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci secured an appropriation of \$2M to work toward a regional solution. This process is not complete and all parties continue to meet.

On May 21, 2018, the Council approved a Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between King County and the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, and Redmond to continue exploring the feasibility of a regional approach to developing aquatics facilities and to coordinate on a public aquatics assessment.

On November 19, 2018, the Council approved a Resolution authorizing a professional services agreement with ARC Architects to update the 2009 Aquatics Feasibility Study. The study will provide

updated technical information to assist the City in determining whether, and to what extent, the City wishes to proceed with a new aquatic center, including project scale and scope, estimated capital and operating costs, site analysis, financing, and operational options. Staff last updated Council on the current Feasibility Study on April 21, 2019.

Bellevue Partnership Interests

Partnerships to build and operate an aquatic facility have been encouraged with both private and public agencies who share common interests. Staff have explored potential partnerships with the following groups and additional work in this area remains necessary:

- The Bellevue School District (BSD) previously submitted a letter to the City expressing interest in meeting the needs of their competitive aquatics programs and is exploring capital funding options. However, they do not expect to proceed with a facility on their own.
- Bellevue College has expressed interest in siting an aquatic facility on their campus for potential student-centered applications. Bellevue College administration is conducting due diligence and exploring partnership options.
- SPLASHForward is committed to building private partnerships and leading a private funding campaign for a new aquatics center. SPLASHForward is a community advocacy group and stakeholder that provides deep knowledge and experience of the aquatics landscape.
- The City remains open and interested in pursuing partnerships and corporate sponsors to advance the goal of an Aquatic Center. Several area health care providers have suggested the need for more specificity about the scale, scope, timing, and location of a facility before discussing potential partnerships or contributions.
- The cities of Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue, and King County have continued to share respective interests and explore regional partnership opportunities. The King County report is expected to be complete before the end of 2019.
- Depending on the scope of the facility, strong interest is possible from competitive aquatics organizations. This project advocacy might generate additional partnership opportunities and contributions beyond those described above.

Bellevue Feasibility Study Update

The City of Bellevue is exploring the feasibility of developing a contemporary, state-of-the-art facility that meets the aquatics needs of the community and potential partner groups, and a place that promotes community health and wellness. The facility would be operationally sustainable and serve the full range of fitness, recreation, health and wellness, as well as competitive aquatics programs for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Key program elements include a 50-meter pool with movable bulkheads, deep water, therapy/wellness options, a lesson/program pool and leisure pool. Seating capacity options will also be explored to accommodate a range of competitive events. This is essentially the regional model described in 2009, updated to reflect the contemporary needs of aquatics stakeholder groups and potential partners and the best practice recommendations of the consultants. The extent of dry-side features and specific partner needs were not fully developed in the 2009 study.

The overall goal is to develop an optimal mix of features that meets program needs while balancing operating and capital investments.

Staff will provide preliminary information on the key program elements of a new facility, including estimated capital and operating costs. Information will be presented to give Council a range of options for each element as well as the aggregate costs for three facility options.

Site Needs/Preferred Locations

Based on the 2009 Bellevue study, approximately four to seven acres are needed to develop a comprehensive aquatic facility depending on whether the parking is at-grade or structured. The scope of the Update includes site feasibility analysis for the following four sites:

- Bellevue College Campus—the Bellevue College updated master plan reserved space for a community partnership and college officials have indicated a willingness to explore this idea further.
- Lincoln Center—the City-owned 4-acre property along the Grand Connection and part of the Wilburton commercial area redevelopment.
- Marymoor Park—the 20-acre Bellevue Utilities-owned site that is part of King County’s regional park and which contains three ballfields. Use of the Bellevue Utilities site may require fair market value compensation.
- Airfield Park—a City-owned 27-acre park and former landfill. Park development was included in the 2008 Parks Levy. The City is currently working toward developing phase 1 of the adopted master plan that includes athletic fields and general outdoor recreation facilities.

Staff will provide preliminary information on each of the above sites, including ability to fit, pros/cons, and potential costs. Staff remain open to considering additional sites identified over the next several months, including sites identified by the City or one of the partner groups.

Future Decisions/Next Steps

This study will develop the information necessary to assist Council in determining whether, and under what circumstances, to proceed with an Aquatic Center, and includes the following tasks:

- Finalize the scale and scope of the program elements and prepare a schematic drawing and architectural rendering.
- Finalize the estimated capital costs by program element and identify potential cost recovery strategies.
- Update the estimated operating cost performance by program element.
- Complete the site feasibility analysis.
- Develop a financing and operational plan that could include public/private/nonprofit partnerships.
- Report on how existing area aquatic facilities may be impacted by a new aquatics center.

Next Steps

- Review Final Study (Spring 2020)
- Additional work on Partnership Agreements, Governance Structure, and Funding Mix (to be determined based on specific interests and timelines of partner groups)

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Comprehensive Plan: Parks, Recreation & Open Space Element

- PA-3. Equitably distribute a variety of parks, community centers and other indoor and outdoor recreation facilities throughout the City.
- PA-8. Develop partnerships with other public agencies and the private sector to provide parks, open space, and cultural and recreation facilities in the City.
- PA-15. Encourage the development of facilities for special purpose recreation.
- PA-25. Promote partnerships with public and private service providers to meet cultural, recreational, and social needs of the community.

An aquatics facility addresses several strategic target areas of Council's adopted vision: great places where you want to be, economic development, regional leadership, and high quality built and natural environment. City Council Vision Priority 2018-2020 also identifies determining "whether to explore the possibility of a regional aquatic center in Bellevue" as Priority #13 on the list of 3-Year Priorities.

Fiscal Impact

Funding for the Bellevue Aquatics Center Feasibility Study Update and the King County Regional MOU is included in CIP Plan No. G-114, Regional Aquatic Center Study, in the adopted 2019-2025 CIP Plan.

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. 2009 Aquatics Feasibility Study Option D
- B. CIP Project Description (CIP Plan No. G-114)

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

2009 Bellevue Aquatic Center Feasibility Study



PARKS CIP PROJECT STATUS REPORT October 2019

Aquatic Center Feasibility Study

Staff presented a status report on the Feasibility Study at the October 21 Council Study Session, sharing work on stakeholder meetings, partnership updates, individual program elements, capital and operating costs and site analyses. The presentation was well received, and Council continues to support a larger regional sized facility, and expressed support for the Bellevue College site. Staff continues to explore partnership opportunities with Bellevue College to locate the facility on their campus. A final report is expected in spring 2020, which will finalize the costs and include a market analysis, economic development impacts and funding options. Staff will continue to work closely with SplashForward on the research and development of the feasibility report.

Ashwood Park Master Plan Update

Staff is preparing for a Park Board presentation in October to review the planning process and community involvement strategy. The survey is complete, analysis work is ongoing and public outreach is expected to begin in early winter.

Ashwood Plaza

Work continues on the landscape repairs to the plaza located above their underground garage and adjacent to Ashwood Park. Repairs include replacement of planter box: water-proofing, irrigation, lighting, soil, and plants. Staff is participating in construction meetings and monitoring work to assure successful operation and maintenance. Work should be complete by the end of the year.

Bridle Trails 140th Street Park Development

Construction design and permitting phases will begin later this year, with construction following in 2021. Staff has kept the BTCC up to date on the project timeline and will attend their February meeting to update the community. We are preparing a 2020 legislative request to assist with funding of this project.

Downtown Park – NE Gateway

Staff is finalizing the vacation of the NE 4th Street right-of-way (alley) and continuing with the permitting process. The environmental land use permit (SEPA) has received a Determination of Non-Significance and the initial plan revisions have been submitted in hopes of securing a construction permit by the first of next year. The final design, engineering, fabrication and installation contract for the public art is being executed. We hope to be out to bid in early spring, which will allow construction to start later in Spring 2020 and continue throughout the year.

Newport Hills/Tyler Park

Planning continues on the neighborhood park in Newport Hills. The Park Board reviewed the 3 alternative site plans at their September 10 meeting and expressed concern over the large size of the off-leash area. The area was reduced in size and the preferred plan was presented at the third public meeting on September 24. Most comments indicated support for the preferred plan if it included the larger-size off-leash area similar to Alternative C. The preferred plan will be presented to the Park

Board at their November meeting with a request to make a recommendation to Council. We hope to complete the park by the end of 2020.

Wilburton Hills Synthetic Turf Replacement

Staff has initiated work on the replacement of the 9-year old synthetic turf at Wilburton Hill Park. We received an RCO grant to help offset the cost, and hope to complete work this year.

Park & Natural Areas Levy Projects Summary

- **Synthetic Sportsfield at Wilburton Hill Park:** Project complete.
- **Synthetic Sportsfield at Newport Hills Park:** Project complete.
- **Lewis Creek Park Picnic Area:** Project complete.
- **BYT Construction:** Project complete.
- **Bellevue Airfield Park: on-hold.** Site analysis and initial schematic design is complete. The cost estimates for Phase 1 are significantly over the anticipated budget, and schematic design options for Phase 1 have been explored. Work is on-hold pending the result of the Aquatic Center study, as Airfield is one site being considered for the Center.
- **Botanical Garden Projects:**
 - **Ravine Garden:** Project complete.
 - **Visitor Center:** Project complete.
- **Neighborhood Parks:**
 - **Bridle Trails/140th Ave property acquisition:** Project complete.
 - **Bridle Trails Corner Park acquisition & development:** Project complete.
 - **Newport Hills Tyler/Patterson acquisition:** Project complete.
- **Downtown Park “Complete the Circle” Development:** Project complete.
- **Hidden Valley/Boys & Girls Club Partnership:** Project complete.
- **Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park:** No activity.
- **Surrey Downs Park Development:** Project complete.

Renovation Program

The 7-year plan for 2020-2026 is complete and we are currently completing project manager assignments. The following is the 2019 project status:

Planning (**P**); Design & Bid (**DB**); Construction (**C**); Complete (**CP**); Deferred (**D**)

The following 2018 projects were deferred into 2019:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Chism Burrows Insurance Claim (CP) | • Forest Glen Playground (CP) |
| • Coal Creek Lower Bridges (P) | • Highland CC Door & Lock (CP) |
| • Crossroads CC Air Handler (CP) | • Kelsey Creek Rabbit Hutch (CP) |
| • Eastgate Park Ticket booth & deck (CP) | • Lattawood Playground (CP) |
| • Meydenbauer Whaling Building (CP) | • Bannerwood Power Extension (CP) |

70 projects are approved for the 2019 program, as follows:

Programmatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park furnishings (C) • Multi-site asphalt repairs (C) • Energy Conservation (C) • NPDES requirements (C) • Natural Area Restoration (C) • Urban Forestry Park Sites (C) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streetscapes (C) • Greenways & Trails (C) • Pedestrian Counter System (D) • Irrigation Modem Repl (CP) • Dock Inspections (CP)
Ardmore Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground Improv (NEP) (CP) 	
Bellevue Aquatic Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpet Replacement (DB) • Recirculating Pump Replacement (DB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm Springs Liner Repl (P) • Fire Suppression Add (CP)
Chandler Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation System Replacement (CP) 	
Crossroads Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spray Park & Play Area Impr (CP) • Sport Court Repairs (CP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC Playground Swing Repl (CP) • Gym Air Conditioning (DB) • Vault Access Improvements (P) • Challenge Course Improv. (DB)
Downtown Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plaza Power Extension (CP) 	
Eastgate Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBCC Boiler Replacement (CP) 	
Evergreen Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation Repl. (DB) 	
Forest Hill Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground Equipt & Surf Repl. (DB) 	
Highland Community Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boardwalk Repairs (CP) • Indoor Skate Park Remodel (CP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gym Air Conditioning (DB)
Kelsey Creek Farm Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic Shelter Restain (CP) • Trail Timber Stair Repl (DB) • Ed Barn Fan Install (CP) • Transformer Relocation A&E (DB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Connector Trail Repair (D) • Barn Conc Apron&Drain (CP) • Footbridge Replacement (CP)
Killarney Glen Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power POC Reconfigure (DB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Court Repair & Resurf (CP)
Lake Hills Greenbelt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabin Roof & Ext Maint (C) • Ranger Station Interp Signs (DB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larsen Produce Stand Cooler (CP) • Produce Stand Farm Bridges (CP) • Produce Stand Parking Imp (DB)
Lake Hills Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunker Improvements (DB) 	
Lake Hills Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballfield Asphalt Repair (DB) 	
Lakemont Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street of Dreams Trail Repair (C) 	
Mercer Slough EEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beam & Handrail Refinish (DB) 	
Meydenbauer Bay Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency Project (C) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting Connection (Cancelled)
Newcastle Beach Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathway Repairs (CP) 	
Newport Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking Area Sealcoat & Stripe (C) 	
North Bellevue Community Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restroom Remodel A&E (CP) • Hearing Loop Room D (DB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accordion Partion Repl (CP)
Robinswood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barn Security System (P) • Dog Park Surfacing (CP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seal Log Cabins (DB) • Irrigation System Repl (DB)
Saddleback Mini Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summit Stairs Renovation (CP) 	
SE 32 nd Street Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asphalt & Trail Repairs (DB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation Replacement (DB)
Silverleaf Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Court Resurface (CP) 	
Wilburton Hill Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformer Relocation (DB) 	

The following contingency projects were added in 2019:

Entatai Beach Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boathouse Waterproofing Asses. (CP)
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Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Events List
(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

NOVEMBER 2019

Oct 25-Nov 3 “The Phantom Tollbooth” (Bellevue Youth Theatre play),

Oct 25, 26 and Nov 2 at 7 p.m.;

Oct 27, Nov 2 and 3 at 2 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street

Packed full of playful puns and wonderful wordplay, “The Phantom Tollbooth” is the story of Milo, a young child who has become disenchanted with life. Through the magic of a tollbooth, he is transported to the Land Beyond where he discovers the limitless powers of imagination. This show will be a delight for all ages.

Ages: All ages welcome. **Cost:** \$15. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.

Nov 1

Lewis Creek Story Time: “Very Hairy Bear”

Two sessions, choose one – 11 a.m. –noon OR 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Look, listen and create during an hour of stories and crafts! Where do our bears go when it gets chilly out? Join us as we read some fun stories about our local fuzzy neighbors. **Ages:** Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:**

Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.

Nov 2

Grateful for Goats and Happy for Horses, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE

There’s a lot to be thankful for at Kelsey Creek Farm! Children will ride a pony, take our goats on a walk, and give treats to the animals for a job well done. Then we’ll come inside the barn for a craft and a story. Come dressed for the weather. Adult/child teams only. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$35/resident and \$42/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required.

Info and to register: KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course 1903139.

Nov 2

Ranger-Led Hike at Lewis Creek Park, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Join a Park Ranger to explore the natural and cultural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife, and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. For groups of 10 or more, please call. **Distance:** Approximately 1 mile. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required.

Info: 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Nov 3** **Mercer Slough Ranger Walk**, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Park Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This kid-oriented program aims to educate kids and their parents about the Nature Park while discovering the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. The hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge in the middle of the park. From there you can continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Ages:** All ages welcome; family event. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required; please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Nov 3** **Let's Plant a Tree!** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Learn why tree leaves change color and why some trees don't. We'll try some experiments on tree leaves, go for a short walk through the forest at Lewis Creek Park, and then each participant will plant a willow tree! Please wear waterproof shoes. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 years old with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the day before the program. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Nov 4** **Story Time at Kelsey Creek Farm**, 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Come enjoy story time in a farm setting. Each story session will involve a different farm-related theme and include a visit with one of our resident farm animals. The stories will come alive for your children as they see the featured animal characters from the stories in real life. Space is limited. Doors close when the program begins. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.
- Nov 7** **Wisdom Café Themed Conversations – The Gifts of Memory**,
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Downtown Bellevue Main Club, 209 100th Avenue NE
“Your presence is your gift” speaks to the intangibles we each bring to our lives. What are your gifts of presence? What holiday traditions are most important to you? We'll share stories about how to bring ourselves and those close to us more fully to this season of celebration. Converse, connect, and reflect! Come share your wisdom! These cafés provide an opportunity to converse and connect with others in discussion of universal topics such as gratitude, legacy, happiness, and what gives life meaning. Come for one session or more in a facilitated small group conversation. Connect with others, build community, and share wisdom. Coffee, tea and treats provided! Offered by the Northwest Center for Creative Aging and the King County Library System. **Ages:** Adults. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** 425-452-4106, course 1935625. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or <https://bellevuewa.gov/mainclub>

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Nov 8-17** **“The Monkey King” (Bellevue Youth Theatre play),**
Nov 8, 9, and 16 at 7 p.m.;
Nov 10, 16, and 17 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
A rambunctious young boy wants to be a god! In this adaptation of a portion of the classic Chinese legend, the Monkey King (Sun Wukong) has supernatural abilities. When his kingdom is overrun by demons, he sets out to be the first monkey ever to become an immortal. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** \$15. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.
- Nov 9** **Let’s Plant a Tree!** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Learn why tree leaves change color and why some trees don’t. We’ll try some experiments on tree leaves, go for a short walk through the forest at Lewis Creek Park, and then each participant will plant a willow tree! Please wear waterproof shoes. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 years old with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the day before the program. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Nov 10** **Salmon Sense,** 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Each year, salmon migrate inland throughout our region... but have you ever wondered why they make this perilous journey or how they find their way? Join us at the Lewis Creek Visitor Center as we dissect an adult salmon and discuss this incredible journey. Afterwards, we’ll head outside to learn about stream habitat. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 9-14 years old with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the day before the program. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Nov 11** **Holiday Farm Tour: Veterans’ Day,** Two sessions, choose one:
10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. OR 11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Come visit our resident farm animals! Meet our ponies, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, and rabbits, all while discovering what it takes to be a farmer. You will get to pet many of our animals and even feed some of them! Each person who attends the tour must register and pay. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Ages:** 2 years and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$8/resident and \$10/non-resident per person. **Pre-registration:** Pre-register to guarantee your spot. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, courses 1931401 (10-10:45 a.m.) and 1931402 (11-11:45 a.m.).

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Nov 14** **Ladies Musical Club of Seattle Concert**, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th Street
Join us for a classical music concert by the Ladies Musical Club of Seattle. This concert will feature an oboe recital and *An American in Paris*: piano solos and vocal music by Gershwin and French composers. **Ages:** All ages welcome; family event. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4874.
- Nov 16** **Living with Wildlife – Cunning Crows**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Crows are one of Bellevue’s most commonly-seen wildlife residents. They have more advanced cognitive abilities than many mammals, an amazing memory, and are very social. Find out why crows gather in enormous numbers, and what the fuss is all about. Learn what crows know, and discover how we can get along together. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** Best for adults, but ages 13 years and older are welcome with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Nov 17** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lakemont Community Park**, 10:30 a.m. – noon
Meeting place: Lakemont Community Park, 5170 Village Park Dr SE
This lovely trail winds alongside a creek as we ascend and descend throughout the park. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. For groups of 10 or more, please call. **Distance:** Approximately 2 miles. **Level of difficulty:** Moderately Difficult (700 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Nov 18** **Story Time at Kelsey Creek Farm**, 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Come enjoy story time in a farm setting. Each story session will involve a different farm-related theme and include a visit with one of our resident farm animals. The stories will come alive for your children as they see the featured animal characters from the stories in real life. Space is limited. Doors close when the program begins. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Nov 21** **Wisdom Café Themed Conversations – Gratitude, More than Counting Blessings**, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Downtown Bellevue Main Club, 209 100th Avenue NE
All of the world’s spiritual traditions emphasize gratitude as a central practice. How does gratitude manifest in your life? Converse, connect, and reflect! Come share your wisdom! These cafés provide an opportunity to converse and connect with others in discussion of universal topics such as gratitude, legacy, happiness, and what gives life meaning. Come for one session or more in a facilitated small group conversation. Connect with others, build community, and share wisdom. Coffee, tea and treats provided! Offered by the Northwest Center for Creative Aging and the King County Library System. **Ages:** Adults. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** 425-452-4106, course 1935622. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or <https://bellevuewa.gov/mainclub>
- Nov 22** **Wonders of Wilderness**, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
The autumn season brings thoughts of appreciation and thanks toward all aspects of life, including nature and all its gifts. Join us for a very special program focused on being thankful for our wild spaces for the wonders they give us, whether through nourishment for our bodies or the simple joy of admiring nature’s beauty. Wander through the park with a Park Ranger on a relaxed hike, and complete the journey with a fun craft to take home! **Ages:** Best for children ages 3 to 8. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** parkrangerprogram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6993.
- Nov 22** **Story and a Stroll: “Owl Moon”** 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Enjoy this heartwarming story of father and daughter out for a winter evening walk. While the trees are still and the night is quiet, the father knows there are creatures of the night. Do you know how to call the owls? **Ages:** Best for 3-5 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required; please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Nov 22** **Movies at Mercer Slough: “Seasonal Forests,”** 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
This episode of *Planet Earth* explores our seasonal coniferous and deciduous woodland habitats and the animals that depend on them. Narrated by David Attenborough. **Ages:** All ages welcome, but best for 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Nov 22** **Night Hike at Lewis Creek Park**, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
When the sun sets and the dark of night creeps in, Lewis Creek Park comes alive! Learn about the different nocturnal and crepuscular species that call the park home, and join a Park Ranger on a hike through the woods after dark! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes and warm clothes for the journey. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 years and older with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** <https://register.bellevuewa.gov> for course 1903220. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Nov 22-Dec 1** **“Madagascar, Jr.” (Bellevue Youth Theatre play)**,
Nov 22, 23, 29, and 30 at 7 p.m.;
Nov 24, 30, and Dec 1 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
Take a walk on the wild side! Join four friends when they find themselves shipwrecked in Madagascar. This lively musical is appropriate for all audience members. There’s plenty of song and dance for the whole family. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** \$15. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.
- Nov 23** **Visions of Sugar Plums**, 10 a.m.. – 11:30 a.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Join us for a sweet beginning to the holiday season by making a gingerbread-type house, singing songs, dancing and eating yummys for your tummies. Dress in your party clothes for happy holiday wholesome fun! All materials provided. This is a caregiver/child class - one caregiver/one child. **Ages:** Ages 2 to 5 years old. **Cost:** \$21/residents/ and \$26/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** 425-452-4106, course 1902816. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Nov 23** **Appreciating Nature through Art**, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m..
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
For centuries, individuals have better observed the natural world through sketching and keeping detailed notes. Learn how to fine-tune your observational skills by heading out on a walk into the forest with paper in hand, ready to pay close attention to the wide array of life in the parks! Paper and art materials will be provided for the day, but feel free to bring your own favorites. Program will partially take place outdoors, so be sure to dress accordingly. **Ages:** Best for ages 9 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** parkrangerprogram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6993.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Nov 23** **Ranger Program: Nocturnal in November**, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Several types of owls can be found living throughout many of Bellevue's parks. These silent predators of the night are considered a keystone species within the ecosystem. Join us for a fun-filled hour learning about these owls. Dissect an owl pellet to discover who was for lunch. Put your creativity to use with a craft activity that's yours to keep. **Ages:** Best for 5-10 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required; please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Nov 23** **Let's Plant a Tree!** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Learn why tree leaves change color and why some trees don't. We'll try some experiments on tree leaves, go for a short walk through the forest at Lewis Creek Park, and then each participant will plant a willow tree! Please wear waterproof shoes. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5-10 years old with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the day before the program. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Nov 30 – Dec 31** **Garden d'Lights**, 4:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., every evening including holidays
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Garden d'Lights features over half a million sparkling lights formed into the whimsical shapes of plants, flowers, birds, animals and cascading waterfalls, set amid the natural beauty of the Bellevue Botanical Garden. **Cost:** \$5/person; children 10 and under are free and do not need a ticket. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time or at the event. **Parking:** \$5 for on-site parking; free parking at Wilburton Hill Park. **To buy tickets ahead of time (beginning October 15) and for driving, parking and general information:** <http://www.gardendlights.org/>

**Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Events List
(This list is a guide. Details may change.)**

DECEMBER 2019

Nov 22-Dec 1 “Madagascar, Jr.” (Bellevue Youth Theatre play),

Nov 22, 23, 29, and 30 at 7 p.m.;

Nov 24, 30, and Dec 1 at 2 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street

Take a walk on the wild side! Join four friends when they find themselves shipwrecked in Madagascar. This lively musical is appropriate for all audience members. There’s plenty of song and dance for the whole family. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** \$15. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.

Nov 30 – Dec 31 Garden d’Lights, 4:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., every evening including holidays

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street

Garden d’Lights features over half a million sparkling lights formed into the whimsical shapes of plants, flowers, birds, animals and cascading waterfalls, set amid the natural beauty of the Bellevue Botanical Garden. **Cost:** \$5/person; children 10 and under are free and do not need a ticket. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time or at the event. **Parking:** \$5 for on-site parking; free parking at Wilburton Hill Park. **To buy tickets ahead of time (beginning October 15) and for driving, parking and general information:** <http://www.gardendlights.org/>

Dec 2 Story Time at Kelsey Creek Farm, 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE

Come enjoy story time in a farm setting. Each story session will involve a different farm-related theme and include a visit with one of our resident farm animals. The stories will come alive for your children as they see the featured animal characters from the stories in real life. Space is limited. Doors close when the program begins. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.

Dec 4-7 Hilltop Holiday Craft Show,

Dec 4-6, 10 a.m. -8 p.m.

Dec 7, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street

Lift your holiday spirit! Come and enjoy a delightful, unique, whimsical craft show featuring thousands of hand-crafted items from over 60 selected Northwest crafters. This show features one-of-a-kind products, including: holiday ornaments, decorations, pottery, jewelry, wood and knit items, and more. **Cost:** Admission and parking are free; craft items vary in price. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106. Crafter application and information: Bellevuehilltop@gmail.com or <http://www.bellevuehilltopholidaycraftshow.com>

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Dec 5** **Wisdom Café Themed Conversations – Staying Connected, Strategy for a Full Life**, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Downtown Bellevue Main Club, 209 100th Avenue NE
As we age, our relationships and responsibilities change. How do we stay connected with our children, our communities, and the environment? What does it mean to stay connected with our minds, our bodies, and our spiritual lives? We all have wisdom we can share about this important topic. Converse, connect, and reflect! Come share your wisdom! These cafés provide an opportunity to converse and connect with others in discussion of universal topics such as gratitude, legacy, happiness, and what gives life meaning. Come for one session or more in a facilitated small group conversation. Connect with others, build community, and share wisdom. Coffee, tea and treats provided! Offered by the Northwest Center for Creative Aging and the King County Library System.
Ages: Adults. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** 425-452-4106, course 1935623. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or <https://bellevuewa.gov/mainclub>
- Dec 6** **Lewis Creek Story Time: “Water Dance”**
Two sessions, choose one – 11 a.m. –noon OR 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Look, listen and create during an hour of stories and crafts! Water can behave in strange ways in winter – from forming icicles to becoming hot cocoa’s steam. We’ll read to discover how it’s all a part of the water cycle. **Ages:** Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Dec 6-15** **“The Twelve Days of Christmas” (Bellevue Youth Theatre play),**
Dec 6, 7, 13, and 14 at 7 p.m.;
Dec 8, 14, and 15 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th Street
This delightful tale has all the joy of a holiday treasure. A prince longs for a new world within his kingdom and finds a town fallen to bad times. It is brought back to life with true love and Christmas joy. This is a great holiday adventure for the whole family. **Ages:** All ages welcome. **Cost:** \$15. All seats are reserved. **Info and to buy tickets:** 425-452-7155.
- Dec 7** **Garden Class: Build Your Wreath**, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Come and learn how to create a holiday wreath from the ground up! We will provide the frame, evergreens, and some accent plants. You are welcome to bring extra accents from your hard (cones, rose hips, holly, etc.), and any ribbon or other decorations you want. We will show you how to wrap the evergreens onto the frame and how to attach decorations. **Cost:** \$30. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** <https://bellevuebotanical.org/events/>

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Dec 7** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lewis Creek Park**, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Park Ranger to explore the natural and cultural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife, and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. For groups of 10 or more, please call. **Distance:** Approximately 1 mile. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Dec 7** **Holiday Barn Lighting**, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Join us for a special holiday barn lighting celebration at Kelsey Creek Farm. Bring the whole family to meet a resident farm animal, enjoy hot cocoa, complete a holiday-themed craft, and visit with Santa. Top off the evening of holiday cheer with the barn lighting and traditional holiday carols. Bring a flashlight to help make your way back to the parking lot as it will be dark at the end of the event. Join us in making this holiday season memorable as we light up the farm and enjoy this wonderful season of giving. **Ages:** All ages welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.
- Dec 8** **Mercer Slough Ranger Walk**, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Park Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This kid-oriented program aims to educate kids and their parents about the Nature Park while discovering the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. The hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge in the middle of the park. From there you can continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Ages:** All ages welcome; family event. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required; please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Dec 8** **Whoooo's Hooting?** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
How does a barn owl find its prey in total darkness? How does a great horned owl clasp its talons with 28 pounds of force? Join us as we learn all about our favorite silently flying friends, try out our hoots, and dig deeper into an owl's diet by dissecting owl pellets! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 5-10 years with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the day before the program. **Info and to RSVP:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Dec 13** **Conifer Connections**, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
'Tis the season to have evergreens on the mind, and what better time to learn about them? Head over to the Ranger Station to learn about our parks' own species, how these stunning trees survive through the seasons, and what interactions they have with other creatures. Tag along on a walk through the woods with a Park Ranger, and end the morning with a craft you'll want to show off! **Ages:** Best for children ages 3 to 8. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** parkrangerprogram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6993.
- Dec 13** **Night Hike at Lewis Creek Park**, 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
When the sun sets and the dark of night creeps in, Lewis Creek Park comes alive! Learn about the different nocturnal and crepuscular species that call the park home, and join a Park Ranger on a hike through the woods after dark! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes and warm clothes for the journey. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 years and older with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** <https://register.bellevuewa.gov> for course 1903221. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Dec 14** **Mix, Measure and Chop Holiday Fun!** 10 a.m.. – 11:45 a.m.
Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street
Caregiver and child will mix, measure and cook a delicious and tasty mini-meal together. All materials provided. This is a caregiver/child class; one caregiver/one child. **Ages:** Ages 2 to 5 years old. **Cost:** \$25/residents/ and \$28/non-residents. **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** 425-452-4106, course 1903145. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Dec 15** **Living with Wildlife – Deer in the Headlights**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Black-tailed deer are a welcomed friend in many of Bellevue's neighborhoods. Join us to learn about how to attract deer, deer biology, how to address potential conflicts (including how to protect your fruit trees), what to do if you find a fawn, and more! This is an indoor program. **Ages:** Best for adults, but ages 13 years and older are welcome with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Dec 15** **Christmas Ship Festival**, 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.; ship arrives off-shore at 8:15 p.m.
Newcastle Beach Park, 4400 Lake Washington Blvd SE
Join us on shore to welcome the Christmas Ship Festival presented by Argosy Cruises. Come with family and friends to marvel at the parade of boats as they come by the beach. You can join the caroling or just enjoy the onboard choir's performance. Beach fire provided! **Ages:** All ages welcome; family event. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Dec 20** **Story and a Stroll: “Who Lives in the Snow”** 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Although the surface of the snow looks quiet and serene, life below is drastically different. Visit the mysterious world of winter in and under the snow. **Ages:** Best for 3-5 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required; please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Dec 21** **Ranger Program: Breakfast for Birds,** 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
The Mercer Slough provides critical habitat for both residential and migratory birds year-round. Limited resources for these birds during the winter months can make survival challenging. Join us to find out more about our winter birds and what you can do in your own backyard to help them survive tough times. **Ages:** Best for 5-10 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required; please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Dec 21** **Whoooo’s Hooting?** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
How does a barn owl find its prey in total darkness? How does a great horned owl clasp its talons with 28 pounds of force? Join us as we learn all about our favorite silently flying friends, try out our hoots, and dig deeper into an owl’s diet by dissecting owl pellets! This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 5-10 years with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the day before the program. **Info and to RSVP:** 425-452-4195.
- Dec 21** **Christmas Ship Festival,** 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.; ship arrives off-shore at 7:40 p.m.
Meydenbauer Bay Park, 9899 Lake Washington Blvd NE
Join us on shore to welcome the Christmas Ship Festival presented by Argosy Cruises. Come with family and friends to marvel at the parade of boats as they come by the beach. You can join the caroling or just enjoy the onboard choir’s performance. Beach fire provided! **Ages:** All ages welcome; family event. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
- Dec 27** **Movies at Mercer Slough: “From Pole to Pole,”** 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
The first episode of *Planet Earth* illustrates a journey around the globe revealing the effects of gradual climate change and seasonal transitions. Narrated by David Attenborough. **Ages:** All ages welcome, but best for 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Dec 28** **Holly's Not So Jolly**, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Pull on some gardening gloves and join the battle against invasive English holly plants. We'll learn how to identify this beautiful (but pesky) plant and how it harms our forests. Afterwards, we'll go out to pull some of these invasive plants and learn how to turn them into a fun craft! This is an indoor/outdoor program.
Ages: Best for ages 5-10 years with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the day before the program. **Info and to RSVP:** 425-452-4195.
- Dec 29** **A Winter Wander**, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Head outside this winter to reflect on the passage of time in nature. We'll ponder seasonality, forest changes, and the bygone residents of the area. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. For groups of 10 or more, please call.
Distance: Approximately one mile. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages are welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

**Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Events List
(This list is a guide. Details may change.)**

JANUARY 2020

- Jan 3** **Lewis Creek Story Time: “Over and Under the Snow”**
Two sessions, choose one – 11 a.m. –noon OR 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Look, listen and create during an hour of stories and crafts! Many animals burrow down into the subnivean zone to stay nice and toasty from the worst winter weather. Read along as we discover this hidden refuge under our feet!
Ages: Best for ages 3-7 with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults. **Info and to RSVP:** LCVC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4195.
- Jan 4** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lewis Creek Park, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Park Ranger to explore the natural and cultural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife, and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. For groups of 10 or more, please call. **Distance:** Approximately 1 mile. **Level of difficulty:** Easy (50 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required.
Info: 425-452-4195.
- Jan 5** **Mercer Slough Ranger Hike, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Bring the whole family to join a Park Ranger on a guided hike through the Mercer Slough Nature Park. This kid-oriented program aims to educate kids and their parents about the Nature Park while discovering the birds and animals that call the Mercer Slough home. The hour-long nature walk ends at the channel bridge in the middle of the park. From there you can continue on to further explore the rich diversity the park has to offer. **Ages:** All ages welcome; family event. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required; please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Jan 5** **What’s Up? The Canopy! 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
There’s an entire world hiding within the layers of Bellevue’s forests. We’ll learn what makes up the canopy and why each layer of the forest is important to our resident wildlife. Afterwards, we’ll go out on a short walk to put our new forest knowledge to the test. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 5-10 years with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the day before the program. **Info and to RSVP:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Jan 9** **Ladies Musical Club of Seattle Concert**, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th Street
Join us for a classical music concert by the Ladies Musical Club of Seattle. This concert will feature songs by Swedish composers. **Ages:** All ages welcome; family event. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4874.
- Jan 10** **Winter Wings**, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
While many of the other animals in our region are tucked away, we still often notice plenty of different birds – even ones we don’t usually see! On a Ranger-led walk, we’ll discuss why this is, how migration works, and learn which species to look for (and who knows, maybe we’ll even see a few!) Back at the Ranger Station, use your creative side for a craft to take home! **Ages:** Best for children ages 3 to 8. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** parkrangerprogram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6993.
- Jan 11** **Ranger Program: A Long Winter’s Nap**, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Can you imagine sleeping all winter and waking up in the Spring? Wouldn’t you get hungry? While some animals can adapt to winter conditions, others will hibernate right here in our own backyards. Join a Park Ranger to find out what happens to their bodies that allows them to survive without food. **Ages:** Best for children 5 to 10 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required; please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Jan 11** **Living with Wildlife – Crouching Bobcats**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Can you tell the difference between a bobcat, cougars, and a housecat? Bobcats are reclusive and sneaky, but sometimes we’re lucky enough to see them! Find out how to recognize these short-tailed cats and how we can coexist with our shy neighbors. This is an indoor program. **Ages:** Best for adults, but ages 13 years and older are welcome with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Jan 12** **Adult Enrichment: The Lowering of Lake Washington**, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
Local educator and Eastside Heritage Center staff member, Jane Morton details the effects of the 1916 lowering of Lake Washington on the economic growth of the region. She will discuss the varying affects that the exposure of new land had on individuals and businesses all over the Eastside of King County. **Ages:** Best for adults. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required; please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Jan 15** **Garden Lecture: “Ferns: A Bellevue Botanical Garden Legacy,”**
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Lecture by Richie Steffen, Executive Director of the Elisabeth C Miller Botanical Garden and the President of the Hardy Fern Foundation. Ferns have had an important place in the Garden since the Shorts family developed the land prior to it becoming a public garden. The BBG has a partnership with the Hardy Fern Foundation, which assists with maintaining the ferns and adding to its collection. Richie will share his knowledge of the best selections for our area as well as share the varied and interesting history of the fern in the Garden. **Cost:** \$5/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members and \$15/non-members. **Pre-registration:** Recommended. **Info and to register:** <https://bellevuebotanical.org/events/>
- Jan 17** **Story Time at Kelsey Creek Farm, 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.**
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Come enjoy story time in a farm setting. Each story session will involve a different farm-related theme and include a visit with one of our resident farm animals. The stories will come alive for your children as they see the featured animal characters from the stories in real life. Space is limited. Doors close when the program begins. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.
- Jan 17** **Story and a Stroll: “Baby Bear is Not Hibernating” 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.**
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
This story captures baby Black Bear’s winter adventures with his friends moose, owl, and rabbit. He soon realizes that life outside his warm, cozy den may not be all that fun. With the help of his friends, he makes his way back to shelter to spend a long, cozy winter with his mom and dad. **Ages:** Best for children ages 3-5 years old. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required; please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Jan 17** **Night Hike at Lewis Creek Park, 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.**
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
When the sun sets and the dark of night creeps in, Lewis Creek Park comes alive! Learn about the different nocturnal and crepuscular species that call the park home, and join a Park Ranger on a hike through the woods after dark! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes and warm clothes for the journey. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for children ages 5 years and older with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **To register:** <https://register.bellevuewa.gov> for course 20004221. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Jan 18** **Winter on the Farm**, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Adult and child will team up to find out how the farm animals at Kelsey Creek survive the chilly winter months. Meet some of our fluffy and furry friends, then come in and warm up as we continue our fun activities in the history barn. Adult/child teams only. A team is one child and one adult. **Ages:** 4-8 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$25/resident and \$30/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course 2000335.
- Jan 18** **What's Up? The Canopy!** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
There's an entire world hiding within the layers of Bellevue's forests. We'll learn what makes up the canopy and why each layer of the forest is important to our resident wildlife. Afterwards, we'll go out on a short walk to put our new forest knowledge to the test. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 5-10 years with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the day before the program. **Info and to RSVP:** 425-452-4195.
- Jan 19** **Northwest Perennial Alliance Lecture and Event: "The Promise of Spring,"**
10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
This NWPA event features plant sales, door prizes and speakers. **Cost:** Free for Northwest Perennial Alliance members and \$15/non-members. **Info:** <https://www.northwestperennialalliance.org/event-3482888>
- Jan 20** **Fiber Fun at Kelsey Creek Farm**, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Farm House Upstairs, 410 130th Place SE
School is out, but the sheep are still busy at the farm. Join Mrs. Kandi for a fun day of fiber arts. We will visit the sheep, learn the process of making yarn, and felt a project with wool from the farm sheep. Please bring your lunch and wear close-toed shoes. **Ages:** 5-7 years old. **Cost:** \$50/resident and \$60/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course 2000317.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

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- Jan 20** **Holiday Farm Tour: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**, Two sessions, choose one:
10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. OR 11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Come visit our resident farm animals! Meet our ponies, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, and rabbits, all while discovering what it takes to be a farmer. You will get to pet many of our animals and even feed some of them! Each person who attends the tour must register and pay. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Ages:** 2 years and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$8/resident and \$10/non-resident per person. **Pre-registration:** Pre-register to guarantee your spot. Day-of registration will be accepted if space allows. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, courses 2006672 (10-10:45 a.m.) and 2006683 (11-11:45 a.m.).
- Jan 23** **Garden Class: Urban Gardening Series – Indoor Plants**,
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street
Taught by Penny Kriese, Master Gardener. **Cost:** \$25/Bellevue Botanical Garden Society members and \$35/non-members. **Pre-registration:** Recommended. **Info and to register:** <https://bellevuebotanical.org/events/>
- Jan 24** **Make Pasta at Kelsey Creek Farm**, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Farm House Upstairs, 410 130th Place SE
Join Kandi in the Farm House as we learn to make pasta using three different methods with only two ingredients. Kandi will provide sauce options and recipes. You will leave with a pound of fresh pasta and the confidence to make it again at home. **Ages:** Adults only. **Cost:** \$30/resident and \$36/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course 2000318.
- Jan 25** **Painting with Chickens**, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE
Create a painting with a chicken! Children will work with a chicken to create a fun, colorful piece of artwork combining your child's creativity with the footprints of one of our resident chickens. Children will also get to pet the chicken artists and feed them some yummy treats. The nontoxic children's finger paint is washable, but wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. Adult/child teams only. A team is one child and one adult. **Ages:** 4-8 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** \$25/resident and \$30/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course 20005361.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

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(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

- Jan 25** **What's Up? The Canopy!** 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Meeting place: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
There's an entire world hiding within the layers of Bellevue's forests. We'll learn what makes up the canopy and why each layer of the forest is important to our resident wildlife. Afterwards, we'll go out on a short walk to put our new forest knowledge to the test. This is an indoor/outdoor program. **Ages:** Best for ages 5-10 years with accompanying adult(s). **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** RSVP required for children and adults by 4 p.m. the day before the program. **Info and to RSVP:** 425-452-4195.
- Jan 25** **Movies at Mercer Slough: "Planet Earth II - Mountains,"** 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE
In this episode we climb high into the world's great mountain ranges. Only a few pioneering animals have what it takes to survive up here. They are among the most elusive and mysterious on the planet! Popcorn provided! **Ages:** All ages welcome, but best for 5 years and older. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Please RSVP. **Info and to RSVP:** MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.
- Jan 25** **Night Hike with a Ranger,** 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street
Most of us have taken walks or hikes during the day, but what about at night? A whole different world of creatures awaken in the evenings at our parks, ready to be discovered! Take a relaxed hike through the Lake Hills Greenbelt with a Ranger to look and listen for these mysterious animals. Bring warm clothing and a reusable cup for some free hot chocolate! **Ages:** Best for children ages 3 to 8. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** parkrangerprogram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6993.
- Jan 26** **Ranger-Led Hike at Lakemont Highland Open Space,** 10 a.m. – noon
Meet at: Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Join a Bellevue Park Ranger at the Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center to explore the Lakemont Highlands Open Space trail system. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. For groups of 10 or more, please call. **Distance:** Approximately 3.5 miles. **Level of difficulty:** Moderately Difficult (680 feet elevation change). **Ages:** All ages welcome; we encourage families to join us! **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.
- Jan 27** **Kids Can Cook Cinnamon Rolls,** 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Farm House Upstairs, 410 130th Place SE
Join Mrs. Kandi in the Farm House and learn the process of making cinnamon rolls from scratch. Each child will bring home a pan of cinnamon rolls and the recipe. Please bring your lunch and wear close-toed shoes. **Ages:** 5-11 years old. **Cost:** \$50/resident and \$60/non-resident. **Pre-registration:** Required. **Info and to register:** KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688, course 2000334.

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Events List

(This list is a guide. Details may change.)

Jan 31

Story Time at Kelsey Creek Farm, 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Kelsey Creek Farm Park, Education Barn, 410 130th Place SE

Come enjoy story time in a farm setting. Each story session will involve a different farm-related theme and include a visit with one of our resident farm animals. The stories will come alive for your children as they see the featured animal characters from the stories in real life. Space is limited. Doors close when the program begins. **Ages:** 3-6 years old; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost:** Free! **Pre-registration:** Not required. **Info:**

KelseyCreekFarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688.