



City of Bellevue

# BELLEVEUE IT'S YOUR CITY

Winter-Spring 2023

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New Downtown Park art

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Environmental stewardship accelerates

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Bellevue turns 70



A Community Crisis Assistance Team confers on the best course of action for an individual in crisis. The CCAT, a 2020 pilot program, has been added to public safety funding in the 2023-24 budget.

## City budget targets environmental stewardship, public safety and affordable housing

By MICHELLE DEGRAND  
Acting Chief Communications Officer

The City Council in November unanimously adopted a 2023-2024 operating budget and 2023-2029 Capital Investment Program (CIP) budget, funding essential services while also addressing Bellevue's unprecedented growth with targeted investments in environmental stewardship, public safety, affordable housing and equity.

In addition, the \$2.2 billion budget package continues spending for critical human

services and business support. Highlights in the budget include:

- Environmental Stewardship:** The city is prioritizing implementation of the 2021-25 Sustainable Bellevue Plan, including adding electric vehicle charging stations and making energy efficiency improvements to city facilities.
- Public Safety:** Funding for a new Community Crisis Assistance Team, which pairs specially trained plain-clothes police officers with Fire Department mental health professionals to respond to
- Affordable housing/ Homelessness:** Accelerates the Affordable Housing Strategy with investment in "Next Right Work" items, including removing barriers to new housing options. Preserves funding to services that support vulnerable populations, including individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as programs such as safe parking.

CITY BUDGET  
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## Construction of Fire Station 10 begins

By HEATHER WONG  
Fire Public Information Officer

Construction is expected to begin in March or April for a new fire station that will make it easier for firefighters to respond quickly to calls in Bellevue's "vertical neighborhoods" downtown.

The first new fire station in Bellevue since Fire Station 8 was built in 1994, Fire Station 10 will improve response times for fire and medical emergencies in Northwest Bellevue, downtown and BelRed.

The Bellevue Fire Department is rated among the top 1% of fire departments in the U.S., but high-rise apartment and condominium complexes going up in downtown and BelRed make it harder for firefighters to continue to respond to calls within the department's target of four minutes, from time of call to the arrival of the first unit. Traffic congestion, other incidents and the additional time required to move staff and equipment up 60+ stories can slow response.

Currently, Northtowne, Wilburton and West Bellevue are served by fire stations in Clyde Hill, West Bellevue and BelRed.

Cornerstone General Contractor will build Fire Station 10 on the 1200 block of 112th Avenue Northeast, just north of McCormick Park. The



This visualization shows the design of Station 10, with the bays for fire trucks and other apparatus on the lower level.

\$32 million building will be a two-story, approximately 20,000-foot building with three drive-through bays for fire engines and other apparatus.

The project meets numerous firefighter health and wellness requirements, and has eco-friendly features including solar and groundwater heating and cooling. A wetland on the property will be restored, and many trees on the site will be preserved during construction. New trees will be planted to help screen the station from houses in the surrounding neighborhood.

Construction of Fire Station 10 has been delayed due to the pandemic and other reasons. The station is expected to be completed by the spring of 2025.

More information about the Fire Station 10 project is available at [BellevueWA.gov/FireStation10](http://BellevueWA.gov/FireStation10).

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# Help update Bellevue's tree canopy regulations



Trees dot the landscape on both sides of Interstate 405 looking north, providing a multitude of benefits to Bellevue.

In June, the council adopted interim regulations for “landmark trees,” requiring a clearing and grading permit to remove any tree 24 or more inches in diameter. The interim definition of a landmark tree and permit requirements will be evaluated and refined as needed before being incorporated into permanent code.

The city is also looking to:

- Evaluate limits on tree removal
- Clarify retention requirements
- Improve tracking of tree removal and retention
- Evaluate expanding tree replacement requirements
- Assess enforcement mechanisms

The city will conduct outreach in the spring and summer to understand what tree code issues and opportunities residents want to prioritize.

Check [BellevueWA.gov/tree-code-update](https://BellevueWA.gov/tree-code-update) and subscribe to Alerts for updates about events. You can also reach out project manager Kristina Gallant ([kgallant@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:kgallant@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6196) to share comments or ask questions.

By KRISTINA GALLANT  
Code and Policy Senior Planner

Do you want to help shape Bellevue's tree regulations? The city is updating land use and city code provisions related to trees and will take input from residents at outreach events as part of the process.

Bellevue's tree canopy is a critical environmental asset and central to the vision of a “City in a Park.” To ensure city code supports

citywide tree canopy goals while balancing the need for more housing, the City Council has launched a comprehensive review of all provisions related to trees in the Land Use Code and Bellevue City Code in November – and updates will be made where necessary.

Bellevue's code provisions regulate “significant trees,”

currently defined as healthy trees at least eight inches in diameter. These regulations clarify when permits are required to remove such trees, the share of these trees that must be retained as part of a development project, when they must be replaced, how they must be protected from damage and more. As part of this code update, the definition of significant trees could be expanded to regulate more trees.

## COUNCIL ROUNDUP

By CLAUDE IOSSO  
It's Your City Editor

### Work continues to add housing capacity and increase affordable housing supply

As part of a continuing effort to address the urgent need for more housing and affordable housing in Bellevue, the City Council on Jan. 17 directed staff to make it easier for people to build accessory dwelling units. The council also asked staff to begin preparing code requirements for duplexes, triplexes and quadruplexes to complement the city's ongoing Comprehensive Plan Update process, and to simplify and expedite the permitting for affordable housing projects.

As part of the action to encourage ADUs and “middle-scale” housing complexes with two, three or four units, the city will explore mechanisms for separate ownership of units.

Since the adoption of the Affordable Housing Strategy for Bellevue in 2017, the city is well on its way to a target of 2,500 additional affordable housing units by 2027. But the need has increased, and the council is prioritizing “next right work” actions to encourage more housing production overall, increase the amount of affordable housing in the city and minimize procedural impacts to building housing.

### Exploring safe parking

On Jan. 9, the council was briefed on a safe parking pilot program planned for residents living in their vehicles in Bellevue. The pilot would allow the city to explore providing a safe location for vehicle residents to find stability and support in accessing permanent housing.

Development of a safe parking program is one of the council's 2021-2023 priorities, and in 2022 the council approved a budget

of \$450,000 per year to implement a pilot as part of the city's homelessness response. The program will provide a clean, safe, off-street parking area with nearby access to bathrooms, water and showers, as well as case management.

The program will use a portion of a city-owned parking lot on 116th Avenue Northeast next to a building currently operated by Congregations for the Homeless as an interim men's shelter.

The city is expected to select a program operator, who must develop a safety plan and code of conduct for the site, and launch the pilot around the third quarter of this year.

### Boosting tourism

The council voted unanimously on Nov. 28 for the city to take steps toward the development of a tourism promotion area, which would generate money for promotion of events and cultural activities, outdoor recreation opportunities and restaurants in Bellevue.

The council was presented with a draft interlocal agreement with the City of Redmond to cooperatively develop a tourism promotion area. Boosting tourism is a key objective in the city's five-year Economic Development Plan.

The tourism promotion area would encompass all of Bellevue and Redmond, with \$2.50 collected per room night collected from hoteliers in both cities. The total revenue in the first year is expected to be \$3.5 million, with money being spent in the jurisdiction where it is collected.

Hoteliers in both cities have expressed support for the development of a TPA.



At 24 feet high and 60 feet in diameter, the new artwork will offer an immersive experience that evokes both high-tech innovation and the natural forms in a “city in a park.”

## Innovative artwork comes to Downtown Park

By **LORIE HOFFMAN**, Arts Community Manager, and **AMBERGRIS PROJECT**, Art Consulting Firm

Residents see a swarm of mosquitos, a flock of hummingbirds, an array of lily pads or a cluster of mushrooms. A new artwork being installed at Downtown Park, the final piece of the Northeast Gateway at Northeast Fourth Street and Bellevue Way, evokes a variety of fauna and flora in the community.

The daring design and grand scale of the artwork reflect Bellevue itself; a city of bold, creative thinkers and a skyline that’s stretching upward.

Installation of the piece created by New York art-architecture studio THEVERYMANY began in late January and is expected to wind up in mid- to late

March. The Northeast Gateway plaza and water feature were completed in May 2021.

At 24 feet high and 60 feet in diameter, the new artwork will be one of the largest permanent pieces in the city’s public art collection. Fluted columns will rise to form a perforated, aluminum canopy with light filtering through. Made up of over 6,600 unique panels, with over 60,000 handmade folds, the artwork will reflect Bellevue’s innovative technology sector and the natural forms of this “city in a park.”

The city commissioned the artwork, conceived as a key location in the Grand Connection pedestrian corridor being developed through downtown, and the Bellevue Arts Commission selected THEVERYMANY for the project through a robust public process.

## Lake Washington sewer line plan progresses

### Opportunity to comment on draft environmental review

By **MICHAELENE FOWLER**  
Utilities Public Information Officer

Bellevue Utilities is developing a management plan for the repair, replacement and maintenance of the Lake Washington wastewater lake line system. Residents can provide input this spring.

The plan will lay the groundwork for future design and construction projects that will support reliable wastewater services, protection of the lake’s ecosystem and enjoyment of a clean lake by the community.

While the management plan progresses, the city is preparing a related environmental impact statement, in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act. In 2022, community members weighed in on what should be studied in the EIS.

We anticipate completing the draft EIS in the spring, and we will seek resident input again.

Visit [BellevueWA.gov/lake-line-project](https://BellevueWA.gov/lake-line-project) to sign up for project updates and complete a survey. Questions or comments? Reach out to project manager Angela Chung ([ikwalakeline@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ikwalakeline@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-4320).



Utilities staff check the lake line just offshore.

## More opportunities for retail, creatives and tourism here?

By **CORBIN HART**  
Economic Development Analyst

The lasting shift to remote work arrangements and a contraction in the tech industry have dampened the demand for downtown office space in Bellevue. This poses challenges for the Eastside hub’s economy, but also offers opportunities for other businesses and other kinds of businesses.

The availability of office space is allowing new employers to enter the market here. In the last several months, Bellevue has welcomed new or expanded offices for Databricks, Expeditors and Betacom.

These companies wanted to be in Bellevue because they were eager to hire local residents who are among the best educated in the country. We build on this strength in partnership with Bellevue College. Our new Workforce Development program also helps residents access job-hunting and training resources.

On average, offices here are utilized at 48% of their pre-pandemic levels, and office vacancies have hurt some restaurants and small businesses reliant on office worker traffic, but there is increased activity in commercial areas closer to where people live.

Additionally, retail sales and overnight visitors in Bellevue have rebounded to pre-pandemic levels and Saturdays are now the peak of activity, with over 95,000 people going downtown to shop, eat and play. To build upon this strength, the city has partnered with local hotels to create a \$2.5 million fund for new events in Bellevue.



Utility boxes in BelRed have been wrapped with original art, in this case by Juliana Kang Robinson. This is one example of city support for the creative economy and a BelRed arts district.

The city is working to take advantage of the changes in use patterns downtown and elsewhere in Bellevue to benefit residents, businesses and entrepreneurs. Using our 2020 Economic Development Plan as a guide, the Culture and Economic Development division is focusing on industry diversification, the creative economy, retail, tourism and workforce development.

# Curator will make Botanical Garden plant collection more accessible



By **CHRISTINA FAINE**  
Parks & Community Services  
Public Information Officer

With 3,000 varieties of plants spread across 12 thematic gardens, the Bellevue Botanical Garden has an impressive collection. Soon a full-time curator will help make that collection more accessible to the 425,000 people who visit the Garden each year.

To fund the new position, one often associated with museums, the city is benefiting from its first ever endowment, the sort of donation more commonplace at universities. Terry Hayes, who's volunteered with the BBG Society one way or another since before the garden

opened 30 years ago, established the endowment in November to support the position in perpetuity.

"Terry's gift will have a huge impact on the Garden," said BBG Director James Gagliardi. "The curator position legitimizes the garden as an important place on the horticulture map."

Garden staff and volunteers with the BBG Society and other community partners host educational programs and community events benefiting Bellevue and the broader horticulture community. A plant database is available online and on markers throughout the garden that transmit information to visitors' phones, but keeping track of the burgeoning collection was growing more difficult.

The new curator – sometimes known as the "keeper of the plants" – will oversee the Garden's collection, maintaining records of individual plants and their locations. In addition to being an expert in horticulture, taxonomy (classification) and nomenclature (naming), the curator will also help educate the public about the collection.

"This is one of few botanical gardens I know in the country that focuses on everyday gardeners," said Hayes, the Garden volunteer and donor who recently chaired the American Horticultural Society board of directors.

The curator job will free up the director to focus more on the vision and mission of the Garden.



## Accelerating Environmental Stewardship programs in 2023

By **JENNIFER EWING**  
Sustainability Manager

The city's Environmental Stewardship Initiative is set to ramp up this year with an increase in funding in the 2023-2024 budget. With additional staff, the city will be able to accelerate implementation of its "Sustainable Bellevue" plan, building up existing programming and launching new efforts to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support environmental sustainability.

The city made significant advances in 2022, launching the Energy Smart Eastside program, forming the Eastside Climate Partnership collaboration with neighboring cities and creating a program to support energy use reduction in commercial buildings. The city developed a strategy for electrifying the city fleet and received multiple grants for solar and energy efficiency projects at city facilities. The team will build on these efforts in 2023.

Increased funding will allow the city to lead by example through energy efficiency retrofits at City Hall and the Bellevue Service Center, adding electric vehicle charging stations for city cars and adding solar panels to City Hall and the BSC.

On the community side, there will be new programs for sustainable district planning for Wilburton, green affordable housing and residential rooftop solar, as well as support for residents transitioning away from fossil-fuel heating and making their homes more energy efficient. Staff will also develop a plan, to support residents and businesses transitioning to electric vehicles.

### What You Can Do

Check out the Energy Smart Eastside program ([EnergySmartEastside.org](https://EnergySmartEastside.org)) for strategies to make your home more energy-efficient and to see if you qualify for incentives to install an energy-efficient heat pump. All households in Bellevue qualify for a \$500 rebate and energy efficiency tax credits through the Inflation Reduction Act. Income-qualified households may be eligible for additional incentives for heat pumps.

For additional actions you can take, join the Bellevue Climate Challenge ([BellevueClimateChallenge.org](https://BellevueClimateChallenge.org)) to track your impact and learn about ways to reduce your carbon footprint. To register for our March 29 Sustainable Bellevue Town Hall and learn more about environmental stewardship, visit [BellevueWA.gov/environment](https://BellevueWA.gov/environment).



Terry Hayes, who has endowed the new curator position at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, stands on the suspension bridge at the Garden's Ravine Experience.

## With endowment, long-time Garden volunteer offers remarkable support

By **CHRISTINA FAINE**  
Parks & Community Services  
Public Information Officer

Terry Hayes' endowment to the city for a curator at the Bellevue Botanical Garden is remarkable and unprecedented, but not surprising, given her support of the local landmark since 1986, when it was still being planned.

"My mother volunteered me to be treasurer, and I transferred information stored in paper bags to the BBG Society's first computer system," said Hayes, who retired from a career in

banking and garden design. Hayes, who lives in Woodinville, grew up in the Pacific Northwest and inherited a love of gardening and trees from her parents. As part of the family behind the philanthropic Hayes Family Foundation, Terry is comfortable giving generously to a cause she believes in.

"Horticulture is one area that can save the world," Hayes said when asked what inspired her to make this substantial donation to the BBG. "Gardens contribute to our welfare and the welfare of diversity around us."

- **Human services:** Allocations from American Rescue Plan Act grants and the city Human Services Fund will support critical human services and rental assistance to keep people in their homes and assist small businesses in their recovery from pandemic shutdowns.
- **Equity:** Advancing equity and inclusion through support for cross-cultural programming and expansion of the minority, women, disadvantaged business enterprise program.

Capital investments include \$41 million in new spending for neighborhood projects, in addition to spending on ongoing infrastructure maintenance and roadway improvements, energy retrofits, an aquatic center, the long-range comprehensive plan, growth planning for Wilburton and the Grand Connection and debt paydown, to name a few.

Bellevue refinanced its debt in the last biennium, reducing debt by about \$4 million per year and allowing the city to fund new programs in the CIP. Debt makes up 22% of the CIP at \$178 million.

The report also highlighted continued risks and uncertainty in this budget cycle that could hurt the city's progress toward closing a known gap between revenues and expenditures over the next two years. Bellevue has used a variety of strategies over the past couple of budget cycles to alleviate the impacts. However, these decisions are likely to become more difficult in future budget cycle decisions if the gap widens. The city's finance group will continue to watch the trends and adjust the budget as necessary.

The budget also proposes a 0.01% Business & Occupation tax increase for businesses grossing more than \$180,000 annually, a 1% council-directed property tax addition and a 1% increase in revenue pulled from the city's banked capacity. The resulting tax impact to owners of a \$1 million home would be an additional \$18 per year in Bellevue property taxes, which make up 10% of a Bellevue homeowner's total property tax bill. To register for our March 29th Sustainable Bellevue Townhall and learn more about environmental stewardship at Bellevue, go to [BellevueWA.gov/environment](https://BellevueWA.gov/environment).



The new Main Street Bridge features a 12-and-a-half-foot-wide multi-use path. Some final items still need to be completed for the project, such as landscaping and painting.

## New Main Street Bridge is bigger, better

By GILLIAN HAGSTROM  
Transportation Public Information Officer

The new Main Street Bridge over Interstate 405 is wide enough to accommodate additional highway lanes under it, but the real highlights are wider sidewalks and added bike lanes for a better experience when walking and rolling on the bridge.

The new bridge fully reopened in January after almost eight months of work by contractor crews working for the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The new bridge opened to one lane of vehicular traffic in each direction at the end of November, but the additional traffic lanes, sidewalk and multi-use path remained closed while work on them was finalized.

WSDOT replaced the Main Street Bridge as part of its I-405, Renton to Bellevue Widening and Express Toll Lanes Project. The previous bridge, built in the 1960s, had to be replaced because it could not accommodate the new lanes planned for I-405. It was demolished last June.

In addition to accommodating the construction on I-405, the new bridge has much better amenities for people who walk and roll. The previous bridge had four-foot sidewalks on each side and no bike lanes. The new bridge has a five-foot-wide bike lane and an eight-foot-wide sidewalk and curb on one side, and a 12-and-a-half-foot-wide multi-use path buffered from traffic by a six-foot wide planter on the other.

WSDOT has additional work planned as part of its I-405 widening project, adding a new lane to I-405 in each direction to create a dual express toll lane system between State Route 167 in Renton and Northeast Sixth Street in Bellevue. Other project highlights include construction of portions of the Eastrail multi-use path and improvements at several interchanges, including 112th Avenue Southeast and Coal Creek Parkway. To keep up to date on this project, visit [WSDOT.WA.gov/i405widening](https://WSDOT.WA.gov/i405widening).

## Wilburton to be Bellevue's next urban, mixed-use neighborhood

By JANET SHULL  
Strategic Planning Manager

The west edge of Wilburton, which has already undergone several significant transformations over the past century, is being primed for another, from a commercial area dominated by Auto Row to Bellevue's next transit-oriented, mixed-use community.

The Wilburton area went through big changes before and after the area was incorporated as part of Bellevue's original city boundaries in 1953.

In the early 1900s and 1910s, Wilburton was the largest community on the Eastside as a lumber boom town – home to two general stores, several mills, housing for mill workers and a spur of the North Pacific Railroad. The Wilburton Trestle, built over Mercer Slough, is a landmark from Wilburton's logging past.

Between the 1920s and 1950s, the west edge of Wilburton became home to dozens of Japanese tenant farmer families who lived here and raised produce for the region. Many of these families were unable to return to their land after being interned during World War II.

In the 1950s and '60s, car dealerships opened along 116th Avenue Northeast. Overlake Hospital opened on 116th in 1960 and other medical facilities, along with hotels, are uses that continue to define the area today.

Now the city is planning for growth over the next 20 years by implementing a bold vision for the west edge of Wilburton to become an urban, trail- and transit-oriented, mixed-use community. A 15-member community advisory committee developed the vision in 2018 after meeting for over a year, evaluating concepts related to land use, transportation and urban design. The Eastrail multi-use trail, the Grand Connection and a light rail station will all soon pass through Wilburton.

What does this vision include? Future housing and employment will be well-connected to light rail and Eastrail, and within walking distance of new parks, plazas and open spaces. New pedestrian and bicycling connections throughout the neighborhood will support a variety of activities and economic opportunities. Sustainable development will ensure that natural assets like Sturtevant Creek can be enjoyed by current and future generations.

The city began implementing the Wilburton vision in April of 2022, collecting input from community members about housing, economic development, transportation, placemaking and environmental opportunities that will make the area a future destination.

Over the next two years, the city will amend policies and codes to support the Wilburton vision. Learn more about our progress and opportunities to get involved at [BellevueWA.gov/wilburton-vision](https://BellevueWA.gov/wilburton-vision).



Residents learn about the Wilburton vision during an Experience Bellevue! walking tour of the neighborhood in May 2022. The East Link tracks, elevated at this point, appear above the group.

# Bellevue turns 70

On March 31, 1953, Bellevue incorporated. By becoming a city, we ensured greater local control over how the community would grow, and grow it has! We celebrate our 70th anniversary with pictures and stories that trace the community's roots from a Coast Salish fishing village for millennia to high-tech hub of the Eastside. For most of the information here and four of the photographs, we owe much to the Eastside Heritage Center and its invaluable research.

## A prosperous community before incorporation

By CLAUDE IOSSO  
It's Your City Editor



Just a few houses, along with the Main Street School, dot the landscape beyond Meydenbauer Bay in 1911.  
Photo: Eastside Heritage Center

While incorporation in 1953 was essential for Bellevue to grow and emerge as the economic and retail hub of the Eastside, the community had been prosperous for many years before becoming an official city.

Coast Salish tribes thrived on the bounty of Bellevue's creeks and forests for thousands of years. When American settlers took much of the land here in the second half of the 19th century, they logged a forest and mined coal at Coal Creek. Benefiting from the collective labor of Japanese-American farmers, Bellevue was an agricultural hub for the region in the first half of the 20th century.

### Salish land for millennia

Much has been made of the arrivals of William Meydenbauer and Aaron Mercer here in 1869 and of Bellevue's naming in the 1880s, but the area's first settlers actually arrived 10,000 years earlier, according to the Burke Museum and other sources.

People of the Duwamish and Snoqualmie tribes were the primary residents on the Eastside prior to the arrival of people of European descent in the 1800s. They lived at least part of each year in villages on the eastern shore of Lake Washington, at the mouths of creeks where salmon spawned.

When the first white people came to the area in the 1700s, they had an immediate effect on the Coast Salish, passing on diseases to which the Salish people had no resistance. When George Vancouver arrived in Puget Sound in 1792, smallpox was already common among the Salish, decimating their population.

In 1855, chiefs of many Puget Sound tribes, including the Duwamish and Snoqualmie, signed the Treaty of Point Elliott, unwittingly

in many cases ceding 54,000 acres of their homeland to the United States. In return, the U.S. guaranteed fishing rights and reservations. White settlers soon began violating even those provisions. Tribes in the area and beyond attacked the settlers, but they were no match for the U.S. military.

The City of Bellevue acknowledges "...the land we are on as the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish people ... We honor and express our deepest respect to the original caretakers of this land, a people still here, continuing to honor their heritage."

### Logging and mining

American settlers, many of them Civil War veterans, kept coming to the Eastside to homestead. However, great forests of cedars and firs posed a tall challenge and an opportunity.

Logging was Bellevue's first major industry. In the 1900s and 1910s, Wilburton was a lumber boom town and the largest community on the Eastside, with sawmills, stores and a stop on the North Pacific Railroad. Mechanization sped operations to the point that most of the area was clearcut by 1920. (The forests at Cougar Mountain, Mercer Slough and Coal Creek have grown up since.)

To power more industries, coal was mined around Coal Creek and transported by tram to Lake Washington. Coal mining in the area tapered off in 1929, due to lowered demand during the Great Depression.



People pick strawberries on the Takeshita family's Midlakes farm in 1933. With a collective effort, Japanese families cleared stumps and grew an abundance of produce in Bellevue from 1900 to 1942.  
Photo: Eastside Heritage Center

### Rich farmland

With the forests cleared, homesteaders started farms throughout Bellevue. Kelsey Creek Farm, preserved as a reminder of that time, was a dairy farm.

Japanese immigrants who settled in what is now downtown, Wilburton and Midlakes, grew many of the vegetables and fruit, especially strawberries, delivered to Seattle

via ferry. They came together as the Bellevue Vegetable Growers Association.

The Japanese immigrants were a vital part of the town. Class pictures for the Bellevue Grade School show a significant percentage of Japanese children among the kids in their rows. More than 500 people, including many Eastside leaders, attended the opening of the Kokaido clubhouse built in 1930 at the corner of 102nd Avenue Northeast and Northeast 10th Street.

Unfortunately, some Bellevue businessmen didn't like the success of the Japanese Americans, and agitated for laws that barred their ownership of land here. When the President Franklin Roosevelt ordered Japanese Americans on the west coast to internment camps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Bellevue's 60 Japanese families were forced to leave and few came back.



In the 1940s, Bellevue was in transition from a farming village to a popular Seattle suburb.  
Photo: Eastside Heritage Center

### A bridge and a mall make a suburb

The construction of the first bridge across Lake Washington in 1939 was instrumental in changing Bellevue from a farming community into a bustling suburb. By the end of World War II, most farming was gone from Bellevue.

James Ditty, a photographer and engraver who helped establish Beaux Arts as an artist colony, envisioned downtown Bellevue becoming a metropolis of skyscrapers. It would be some years before his dream came true, but his sale of 10 acres of land along Bellevue Way in 1938, had a more immediate impact.

Kemper Freeman Sr. saw potential in the establishment of one of the United States' first malls on that property. In 1946, he opened the Bellevue Shopping Square there. The business development of that time helped establish Bellevue as a desirable bedroom community of Seattle, setting the stage for incorporation less than a decade later.



The high-rises, Meydenbauer Bay Park and Downtown Park are notable differences between Bellevue's downtown in the 1940s and in 2020.

Photo by Tim Rice

## Incorporation sets growth strategy for Bellevue

By **CLAUDE IOSSO**  
It's Your City Editor

**W**hen Bellevue incorporated 70 years ago, it was a sleepy farm town starting to become established as a Seattle suburb. It grew from a city of 6,000 on five square miles mostly hugging the eastern shore of Lake Washington to a metropolis of 145,000 that occupies 34 square miles between Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish.

How did Bellevue change from farm fields to the high-tech hub of the Eastside and the fifth largest city in Washington? The city anticipated its own evolution and has carefully guided and shaped the ensuing growth over the decades.

### Expanding suburb

After construction of a bridge across Lake Washington in 1940, Bellevue began to blossom as a suburb. With new schools and the new Bellevue Square invigorating downtown development, the town grew quickly, but there was no governing body to create structure. Without local funding, key roads remained unpaved.

After a two-year campaign by business leaders, voters on March 24, 1953, approved incorporation, and on March 31, Bellevue officially became a city. The new city's first planner, Fred Herman, would have a key role in Bellevue's development over the next three decades.

Herman, who was Bellevue's planner until 1975, felt that too many cities "just happened" instead of growing in an orderly way. He had an ambitious plan for Bellevue, envisioning skyscrapers replacing one- or two-story shops downtown. The City Council endorsed the plan over the years, even affirming a wedding-cake concept for Bellevue's development, with the tallest buildings in the downtown core and surrounding residential neighborhoods keeping a lower profile.

The city's size and population jumped in the 1960s and '70s with annexations that absorbed Crossroads, Lake Hills, Wilburton, Woodridge, Bridle Trails, Somerset and parts of Sammamish. The city likely added its last acres with the annexations of neighborhoods including Eastgate and Hilltop in 2012.

Firefighting in Bellevue changed around that time as well. In 1965, a series of devastating fires proved too much for the volunteer force serving Bellevue then. King County Fire Protection District 14 became a city department with full-time, professional firefighters.

Even as subdivisions sprang up around Bellevue, green space was preserved. As parks director from 1961 to 1978, Siegfried Semrau increased the number of parks in the young city from eight to 35 and marketers started calling Bellevue a "city in a park." There are now about 100 parks in Bellevue, along with vast open spaces and dozens of trails.



Bellevue's first planner, Fred Herman (with back to camera), built models to convey his idea for a downtown of high-rises.

Photo: Eastside Heritage Center

### Transition to urban center

As high-tech began to emerge in the '80s in the Seattle area, Bellevue was well-situated. Microsoft took off as a software maker from a Bellevue office park along State Route 520. Since the early 2000s, nearly all of the biggest tech companies have employed thousands in Bellevue. Office complexes dot the Interstate 90 corridor too.

Over that time, office towers were not the only big buildings to spring up downtown. Residential high-rises now constitute a significant part of Bellevue's skyline, making downtown the city's fastest growing residential neighborhood. Restaurants and retail have kept pace, with Bellevue Square expanding multiple times and the Bravern opening in 2009.

In related developments, the East Link light rail line and Eastrail multi-purpose trail will soon provide convenient connections with

Seattle and neighboring cities that won't require cars.

The city has added bike lanes and multi-use paths and supports bus passes to limit the impact of thousands of new jobs on transportation around Bellevue.

To accommodate continued growth expected here, the city has adopted zoning and land use regulations that support transit-oriented development in BelRed and Wilburton. To facilitate conservation and minimize pollution, the city launched an Environmental Stewardship initiative in 2006 that is still a priority here.

### Bellevue welcomes the world

The influx of tech companies since the 2000s has helped spur a surge of immigrants from other countries since 2010. Bellevue has seen a rapid increase in community members settling here from Asian countries such as China and India.

For the first time in 2015, non-Hispanic whites no longer represented the majority of residents in Bellevue. Instead, a plurality of races/ethnicities exists, with people of Asian descent representing 34% of the population and Latinos representing 9%.

When the City Council adopted a vision for the city in 2014, they opened it with the statement, "Bellevue welcomes the world. Our diversity is our strength." A Diversity Advantage initiative since then has helped ensure that immigrants and refugees can prosper here, while their presence helps the city prosper.



City Hall moved to its current location in the downtown core in 2006, helping guide Bellevue's growth as a high-tech hub since then. Then Mayor Grant Degginger wields the scissors while, from left, Councilmember Claudia Balducci, Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak, City Manager Steve Sarkozy, Councilmember Phil Noble and Councilmember Conrad Lee help.

# Assessment offers insights on Bellevue's housing needs

By BROOKE BROD  
Community Development Outreach

As part of its Comprehensive Plan update and in support of other work related to affordable housing, the city recently completed an assessment of housing needs in Bellevue.

The last Housing Needs Assessment was done in 2016 and led to the adoption of Bellevue's 2017 Affordable Housing Strategy. The 2022 assessment looks at a variety of topics, including current and future gaps in affordable housing types and areas of the city where there is a risk of displacement of long-term residents.

The housing needs assessment ([BellevueWA.gov/HousingNeedsAssessment](https://www.belleuewa.gov/HousingNeedsAssessment)), which will inform the housing element of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan now being developed, provides a wealth of information that will help inform decision-making. Key takeaways include:

- One quarter of Bellevue households earn less than 80% of area median income (\$107,680 for a four-person household and \$75,376 for a one-person household).
- Housing costs have been rising significantly faster than typical incomes in Bellevue. Rental and ownership vacancy rates in Bellevue are extremely low. Limited supplies contribute to increased housing costs.
- While just over half of Bellevue's housing units have three or more bedrooms, this percentage is shrinking significantly as smaller apartments have dominated residential construction in recent decades. If these trends continue, the share of available family-sized housing in the city will decrease further.

Community input about housing in Bellevue is critical as the council and staff consider ways to further address housing needs. Residents



August Wilson Place downtown is one of a limited number of apartment complexes in Bellevue with units for a range of incomes below than the area median income.

are invited to learn more about various analyses and participate in small group discussions about housing at three housing forums.

- **Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
at Crossroads Community Center
- **Tuesday, March 21, 6-8:30 p.m.**  
at East Shore Unitarian Church
- **Thursday, March 23, 12-1 p.m.**  
virtual lunch and learn

People of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served. To learn more and sign up to attend, visit [Bellevue-2044-Housing-Forums.eventbrite.com](https://www.belleuewa.gov/2044-Housing-Forums.eventbrite.com).

## Rules to follow when storing recreational vehicles

By SEAN SMITH  
Code Compliance Officer

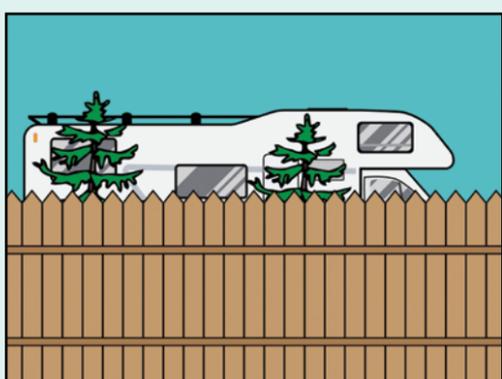
Until the warm weather really kicks in, we keep many of our outdoor toys such as boats, motorhomes and travel/utility trailers – collectively known as recreational vehicles or “RVs” – on our properties. This usually leads to an increase in neighborhood concerns about the storage of these items on residential property in Bellevue.

The City of Bellevue has Land Use Codes covering the parking and storage of recreational vehicles. RVs can be stored on residential properties as long as they are stored outside of property line setbacks, are under a certain length and are properly screened from view when required.

### Some common examples of proper storage are:

- Housed within a garage or carport with proper screening.
- Parked on concrete, asphalt or other impervious surfaces along the side or rear of a home, outside of property line setbacks, and screened by a solid board fence or dense vegetation at least six feet high.
- A maximum of one recreational vehicle may be stored in a front driveway of a home if the owners can demonstrate there is no reasonable access to the side or rear areas of the home. Recreational vehicles stored in the front of a home under this exception are subject to increased sight screening requirements.

Requirements do not apply during loading and unloading of recreational vehicles if the loading/unloading is completed in a three-day period and is limited to once every two weeks.



For more information concerning recreational vehicle storage, including detailed examples, please visit [BellevueWA.gov/rv-boat-storage](https://www.belleuewa.gov/rv-boat-storage). If community members have additional questions or concerns, please contact Code Compliance 425-452-2047 or [codecompliance@belleuewa.gov](mailto:codecompliance@belleuewa.gov).

With everyone's cooperation we can ensure that Bellevue continues to be the beautiful “city in a park” we all love and enjoy!

## What do you think about travel options in Bellevue?

By KATE JOHNSON  
Commute Program Manager

How do you get to and through Bellevue? If you drive alone, what would encourage you to try another mode of travel instead, like biking or taking the bus?

The city wants your input as it updates its Transportation Demand Management plan, which promotes carpooling, vanpooling, transit, walking, biking, teleworking and flexible work hours. There is an online survey open now for people who live and work in Bellevue, including property managers and those who manage commuting for their employees.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to fill out, and survey takers will have the opportunity to enter a drawing for one of six \$50 gift certificates for family-friendly Paddy Coyne's Irish Pub in Bellevue, contributed by the restaurant and the city.

To take the survey, visit [bit.ly/BellevueTDM](https://bit.ly/BellevueTDM). The results will help inform the Transportation Demand Management plan update, which will cover the 2023-31 period.

Transportation demand management maximizes the efficiency of Bellevue's existing transportation system, limiting the impacts of traffic on Bellevue neighborhoods and reducing air and water pollution. The TDM plan helps provide more options for traveling around the city, lists goals and targets, and includes strategies to reach these goals.

Interested in learning more about transportation options and services in Bellevue? Visit [ChooseYourWayBellevue.org](https://www.chooseyourwaybellevue.org) or download the Choose Your Way Bellevue app on Google Play or the Apple App Store.

# Variety of city construction projects now in design

A variety of transportation, utilities and park projects are now in design, listed by neighborhood here. Project cost projections change during the design process, so estimates are not provided. Look for updates, including cost estimates, for these and other projects expected to be in construction this year in the summer edition of It's Your City. For more information about projects, please contact the project manager listed.

## BelRed

**120th Ave. NE Multimodal Improvements (NE 16th St. to Northrup Way):** Widen 120th Avenue Northeast, adding protected bike lanes and sidewalks, and replacing culvert pipes with a culvert structure fish can navigate. Other improvements include flashing beacon crossings, traffic signal modifications, streetlights, landscaping and storm drainage improvements. Construction not yet funded. **Jun An, jan@bellevuewa.gov**



**130th Ave. NE Multimodal Improvements (Bel-Red Road to NE 20th St.):** Add protected bike lanes, sidewalks and mid-block crossings, on-street parking, traffic signal modifications, streetlights, landscaping and water main replacement. Construction anticipated 2023 to 2025. **Greg Lucas, glucas@bellevuewa.gov**

**Eastrail Trail Connection at NE 12th St. and Spring Blvd.:** Construct a 14-foot-wide multi-use trail connection between Eastrail and Northeast 12th Street/Spring Boulevard, including lighting, walls and landscaping. Construction tentatively scheduled for 2024. **Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov**

**NE Spring Blvd. Zone 3 (between 124th and 130th Aves):** Add eastbound and westbound lanes to Northeast Spring Boulevard between 124th and 130th avenues. Other improvements include bike facilities, sidewalks, traffic signal modifications, streetlights, landscaping and water main installation. Construction not yet funded. **Greg Lucas, glucas@bellevuewa.gov**

**Valley Creek at 21st St. Flood Control:** Replace and enlarge the culvert at 21st Street, and restore Valley Creek between 20th and 21st streets, to mitigate flooding. Construction anticipated summer 2023. **Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov**

## Bridle Trails

**Bridle Trails 140th Ave. NE Neighborhood Park:** New 1.4-acre park will feature a playground, picnic shelter, restroom, walking trails and natural areas. Construction anticipated in 2023. **Scott VanderHyden, svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov**

**Northeast 40th St. Sidewalk:** Construct a six-foot-wide sidewalk and planter strip on the north side of Northeast 40th Street between 140th and 145th avenues. Project will also include striped bike lanes, a crosswalk at 142nd Place and storm drainage improvements. Construction anticipated in 2023. **Glen Kho, gkho@bellevuewa.gov**

## Citywide

**2023 ADA Upgrades:** This project will upgrade various ADA ramps at nine locations throughout the city. Construction is anticipated late summer 2023. **Casiano Atienza, catienza@bellevuewa.gov**

**Citywide Pavement Preservation:** Resurfaced streets – including grinding, fresh asphalt, new pavement markings, upgraded curb ramps and new sidewalks. Repaving typically occurs between April and October. A map of all planned 2023 resurfacing projects is available at: [BellevueWA.gov/pavement](http://BellevueWA.gov/pavement). **Isack Habte, ihabte@bellevuewa.gov**

## Citywide (Continued)

**Crosswalk Improvements (145th Pl. SE and intersection of 116th Ave. NE and NE 20th St.):** Improve pedestrian crossings at four locations. The work along 145th Place Southeast includes installing flashing beacons at midblock crossings north of Southeast 13th Place and 144th Avenue Southeast, and south of Southeast 22nd Street. At the 116th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 20th Street intersection a new crosswalk, refuge median island, street lighting, curb ramp, sidewalks and flashing beacons will be added. Construction anticipated spring 2023. **Sara Haile, shaile@bellevuewa.gov**

## Cougar Mountain/Lakemont

**Cougar Mountain 1 Pump Station:** Replace aging pumps and associated mechanical systems, conduct seismic retrofit and upgrade electrical systems to improve operational efficiency and hydraulic performance at the aging water pump station. Construction anticipated summer 2023. **Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov**

**Horizon View 2 Reservoir and Pump Station:** Replace reservoir and associated pump station. New reservoir will hold more water. An emergency backup generator, pressure-reducing valve stations and offsite water main will also be included. Construction anticipated summer 2023. **Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov**

**Lakemont Boulevard Crosswalk at Red Town Trailhead:** Install new crosswalk with accessibility improvements and flashing crosswalk at the trail connection on Lakemont Boulevard near the Red Town Trailhead. Construction anticipated summer 2023. **Kurt Latt, klatt@bellevuewa.gov** and **Darcy Akers, dakers@bellevuewa.gov**

**Crosswalk Beacon Installations:** Add rapid flashing beacons and otherwise upgrade marked crossings at Lakemont Boulevard Southeast and Southeast 58th Street. May also include sidewalk extensions, sidewalk repairs, drainage improvements and reconstruction of curb ramps if required. Construction anticipated summer 2024. **Brittany Quan, bquan@bellevuewa.gov** and **Min Jie Kim, mjkim@bellevuewa.gov**

## Downtown

**Crosswalk Installations:** Install crosswalks with median islands and flashing beacons on 110th Avenue Northeast, Northeast Second Place and Northeast 11th Street. Construction anticipated summer 2023. **Tyler Lam, tlam@bellevuewa.gov**

**Downtown Overlay: Bellevue Way, Northeast Fourth and Eighth Streets:** Grind, overlay and upgrade ADA ramps on Northeast Eighth Street between Bellevue Way and Interstate 405, Northeast Fourth Street between Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue Northeast, and Bellevue Way between 112th Avenue Northeast and Northeast Fourth Street. Construction anticipated summer 2023. **Tyler Lam, tlam@bellevuewa.gov**

**Main Street Off-Street Trail – 108th to 112th Aves SE:** Construct a multipurpose path with a planter on the south side of Main Street, including upgraded ramps, raised crosswalks at 110th Avenue Southeast and 110th Place Southeast. Construction anticipated spring 2024. **Benjamin Wright, bmwright@bellevuewa.gov**

**NE Eighth St. Pedestrian Enhancements over I-405:** Improve safety for pedestrians crossing the I-405 ramps along Northeast Eighth Street by adding flashing beacons and a signal to crosswalks. Construction anticipated summer 2023. **Sara Haile, shaile@bellevuewa.gov**

## Eastgate

**170th Pl. SE Pressure Improvements:** Install 1,500 linear feet of new eight-inch water main and a pressure relief valve to increase system pressure to required level. Construction anticipated in fall 2023. **Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov**

*Construction projects continued page 10*

## Eastgate (Continued)

**150th Ave. SE Mobility Project:** Improvements include a new general-purpose southbound vehicle travel lane from Landerholm Circle to Southeast 38th Street. Intersection improvements include additional turn pockets at 150th Avenue Southeast and Eastgate Way and additional turn pockets at 150th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 37th Street. Preliminary design will be completed summer 2023. **Paul Krawczyk, [pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov)**

**Bellevue College Connection:** Work includes preliminary roadway design plans that contain a 10-foot-wide multiuse access path along enhanced two-way general purpose/transit lanes for improved transit service into the Bellevue College campus from Southeast 24th to 32nd streets. Preliminary design has been completed, and future design is awaiting grant funding. **Paul Krawczyk, [pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov)** *photo below*



## Factoria

**Factoria Blvd. Stormwater Conveyance Improvements:** Improve stormwater system capacity along Factoria Boulevard, between Southeast 38th Street and Richards Creek inlet, to reduce the risk of flooding during large storms. Construction is anticipated winter 2024. **Maria Peraki, [mperaki@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mperaki@bellevuewa.gov)** *Photo bottom page*

## Lake Hills

**156th Ave. SE and Lake Hills Blvd. Traffic Signal:** Replace the all-way stop at Lake Hills Boulevard and 156th Avenue Southeast with a new traffic signal, including ADA ramp upgrades and pavement overlay. Construction anticipated summer 2023. **Chris Masek, [cmasek@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:cmasek@bellevuewa.gov)**

**Main St. and 156th Ave. SE Traffic Signal Upgrades:** Replace the all-way stop at Lake Hills Boulevard and 156th Avenue Southeast with a new traffic signal, including ADA ramp upgrades and pavement overlay. Construction anticipated summer 2023. **Chris Masek, [cmasek@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:cmasek@bellevuewa.gov)**

**Main St. between 140th Ave. NE and 153rd Pl. NE Crosswalk Upgrades:** Pedestrian safety features include crosswalks with accessibility improvements and upgraded flashing crosswalk systems at the trail crossing near Sammamish High School and 145th Place Northeast. Install new flashing crosswalk system at the crosswalk on 153rd Place Northeast. Some work was completed in 2022; additional work for flashing systems is in design with construction anticipated in summer 2023. **Kurt Latt, [klatt@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:klatt@bellevuewa.gov)** and **Darcy Akers, [dakers@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:dakers@bellevuewa.gov)**

**Kelsey Creek Culvert at Lake Hills Blvd.:** Replace deteriorating Kelsey Creek culverts at Lake Hills Boulevard, includes replacement and relocation of 1,225 linear feet of 12" to 16" sewer and 800 linear feet of water lines. Construction anticipated summer 2024. **Bob York, [ryork@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ryork@bellevuewa.gov)**

**Sanitary Sewer Replacement:** Replace 1,150 linear feet of sewer pipeline between Southeast 11th and 13th streets in the vicinity of 158th Avenue Southeast. Construction anticipated summer 2023. **Vanaja Rajah, [vrajah@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:vrajah@bellevuewa.gov)**

## Newport

### 119th Ave. SE Speed Cushions, Phase 2:

Install three sets of speed cushions on 119th Avenue Southeast between Southeast 48th Street and Southeast 54th Place. Construction anticipated spring 2023.

**Rohit Ammanamanchi, [rammanaman@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:rammanaman@bellevuewa.gov)** *photo right*



**123rd Ave. SE Sidewalk Improvements:** Complete missing segments of sidewalk along the west side of 123rd Avenue Southeast from Southeast 60th Street to 65th Place. Also install curb bulbs, replace water main, upgrade ADA ramps and full street overlay. Construction anticipated summer 2023.

**Glen Kho, [gkho@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:gkho@bellevuewa.gov)**

**SE 54th Pl. and SE 52nd St. Sidewalks:** Construct sidewalk along the north side of Southeast 54th Place, where missing, west of 119th Avenue Southeast and the south side of Southeast 52nd Street between 117th and 119th avenues Southeast. Street parking on both streets will be preserved to the greatest extent possible. Construction anticipated summer 2023.

**Olivia Aikala, [oaikala@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:oaikala@bellevuewa.gov)**

## Northeast Bellevue

**Crosswalk Installations:** Install a new crosswalk on 164th Avenue Northeast at Northeast 12th Street. Construction anticipated summer 2023. **Tyler Lam, [tlam@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:tlam@bellevuewa.gov)**

## Northwest Bellevue

### Northwest Bellevue Walkways and Safety Improvements:

Construct a multi-use trail on the east side of 100th Avenue Northeast between Northeast 14th and 24th streets. This project will also construct sidewalks where missing on the north side of Northeast 18th and 21st streets between 98th and 100th avenues Northeast, on the east side of 98th Avenue Northeast between Northeast 18th and 20th streets. Construction anticipated spring 2023. **Benjamin Wright, [bmwright@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bmwright@bellevuewa.gov)**

**Flashing Beacon Installations:** Add rapid flashing beacons and otherwise upgrade marked crossings at Northeast Eighth Street and 95th and 98th avenues Northeast. May also include sidewalk extensions, sidewalk repairs, drainage improvements and reconstruction of curb ramps if required. Construction anticipated summer 2024. **Brittany Quan, [bquan@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bquan@bellevuewa.gov)** and **Min Jie Kim, [mjkim@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mjkim@bellevuewa.gov)**

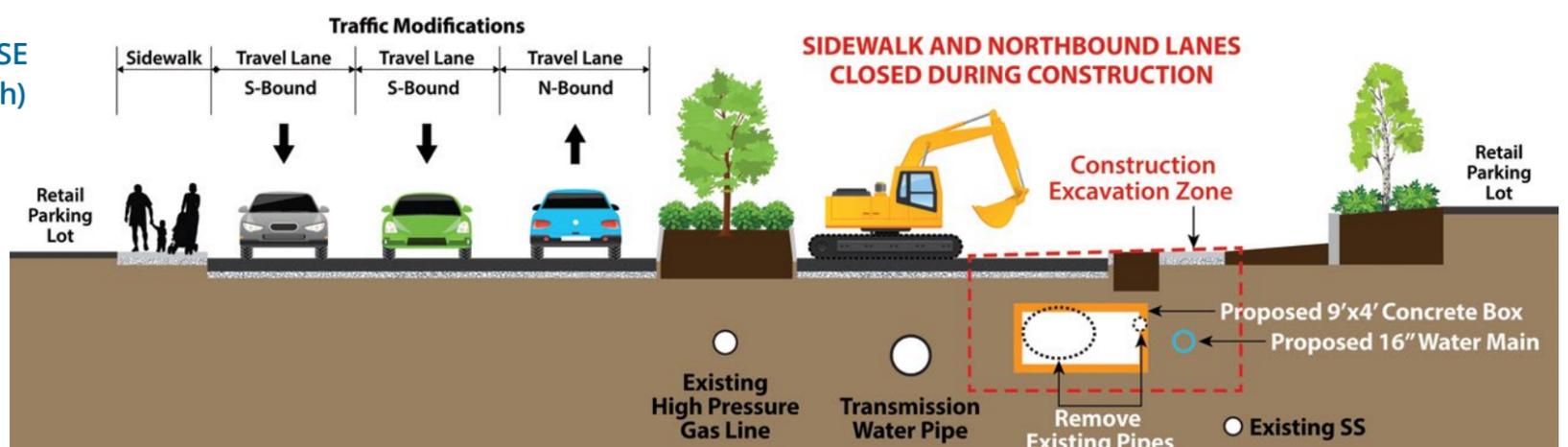
## Wilburton

**11635 NE Eighth St. Sidewalk:** Construct a missing section of sidewalk on the south side of Northeast Eighth Street in front of 11632 Northeast Eighth Street. Construction anticipated spring 2024. **Chris Masek, [cmasek@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:cmasek@bellevuewa.gov)**

**Lake Hills Connector and SE Eighth St. Improvements:** Widen roadway and add a second northbound left-turn lane along Lake Hills Connector at the Southeast Eighth Street intersection to relieve traffic congestion and delays. Construction anticipated summer 2024. **Sara Haile, [shaile@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:shaile@bellevuewa.gov)**

**Wilburton Sewer Pump Station:** Rehabilitate sewer pump station with below-ground submersible pumps and associated systems. Construction anticipated spring/summer 2023. **Bob York, [ryork@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ryork@bellevuewa.gov)**

### Factoria Blvd SE (Looking North)



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Garden Workshops and Lectures

Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.

**Parks, Plants and Perseverance**  
March 15, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Mason Bees**  
March 25, 10 a.m.-noon

**Clematis: Queen of the Climbers**  
April 1, 10-noon

**Scout Day at the Garden for Younger Scouts** (K-3rd grade)  
April 2, 12:30-3 p.m.

**What your Food Ate: How to Heal Our Land and Reclaim Our Health**  
April 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Garden Cloche Making**  
April 15, 10 a.m.-noon

**Summer Wildflowers of the Goat Rock Wilderness by Mark Turner**  
May 9, 7-8:45 p.m.

**Parallel Art Forms: The Intersection of Garden Design and Photo Composition**  
May 17, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Introduction to Fern Tables**  
May 20, 10 a.m.-noon

Workshops provided in conjunction with various partners. Prices vary. Please check website for details. Many events require preregistration.

[BellevueBotanical.org/events](http://BellevueBotanical.org/events)

## Puget Sound Dahlia Association Tuber Sale

Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.

**March 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**March 18, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Exhibition-quality dahlias at reasonable prices.

[PugetSoundDahlias.com](http://PugetSoundDahlias.com)



## March Mania Plant Sale

Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.

**March 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Featuring unique specialty landscape plants from local growers. Indoor location.

[NorthwestPerennialAlliance.org](http://NorthwestPerennialAlliance.org)



## "Winnie the Pooh"

Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre



**Friday, March 31, 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 1, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 2, 2 p.m.**

Bellevue Youth Theatre  
16051 NE 10th St.

\$12 per ticket

425-452-7155 or [byt@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:byt@bellevuewa.gov)

## NW Chapter N. American Rock Garden Society Annual Spring Plant Sale

**April 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.

Specializing in rock garden plants.

[NARGSNW.org](http://NARGSNW.org)

## "Beauty and the Beast"

Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre



**Friday, April 21, 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 22, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 23, 2 p.m.**

Bellevue Youth Theatre  
16051 NE 10th St.

\$12 per ticket

425-452-7155 or [byt@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:byt@bellevuewa.gov)

## Kelsey Creek Sheep Shearing

**April 29, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Kelsey Creek Farm  
410 130th Pl. SE

Shearing, spinning demos, children's activities, tractor-pulled wagon rides, pony rides and food. Free admission. Costs vary for food and activities. No ATM on site.

425-452-7688 or [kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov)

## "Amelia Earhart"

Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre



**Friday, May 5, 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 6, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 7, 2 p.m.**

Bellevue Youth Theatre  
16051 NE 10th St.

(ADDRESS CORRECTED FROM PRINT EDITION)

\$12 per ticket

425-452-7155 or [byt@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:byt@bellevuewa.gov)



## Fuchsia and Friends Plant Sale

**May 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.

Featuring fuchsias, irises, daylilies and other plants. [carolinez.garden@yahoo.com](mailto:carolinez.garden@yahoo.com)

## Northwest Perennial Alliance Plant Sale

**May 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.

Featuring unique specialty plants from local growers, perfect for PNW gardens.

[NorthwestPerennialAlliance.org](http://NorthwestPerennialAlliance.org)

## "Peter Pan Jr."

Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre

**Friday, May 19, 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 20, 7 p.m. and 2 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 21, 2 p.m.**

Bellevue Youth Theatre  
16051 NE 10th St.

\$12 per ticket

425-452-7155 or [byt@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:byt@bellevuewa.gov)

## Master Gardener Foundation of King County Plant Clinics

**Beginning late March-early May (depending on location) through October**  
Schedule TBA-Check website for details. Free

### Locations:

- Bellevue Botanical Garden
- Bellevue Nursery
- The Home Depot in Bellevue
- The Crossroads farmers' market
- The Plant Clinic at Bellevue Demonstration Garden

[MGFKC.org/resources/map-of-mg-clinics-and-gardens](http://MGFKC.org/resources/map-of-mg-clinics-and-gardens)

## Lake Hills Farm Fresh Produce Stand

156th Avenue SE and SE 16th St.

**April through June**, Hours vary, please call farm to confirm: 425-233-1198

## Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm

700 148th Ave. SE

**March-September**, Hours vary, please call farm to confirm: 346-298-0193

## Park Site Reservations

Planning a gathering at one of Bellevue's beautiful parks? Outdoor rentals are now available for reservation.

[parkrental@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:parkrental@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6914

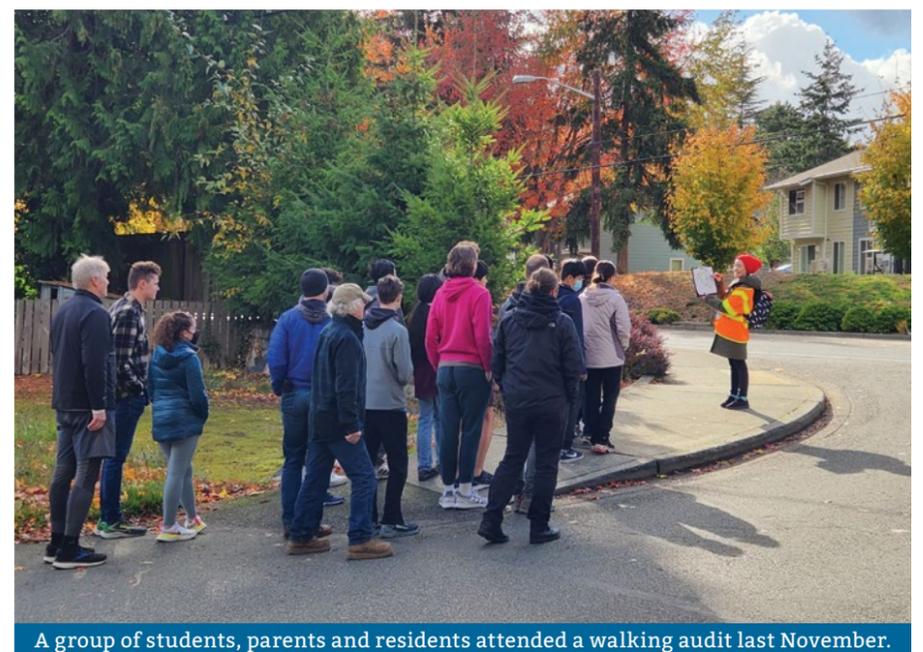
# CITY CONTACTS

<b>City Hall</b>	450 110th Ave. NE / P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012
<b>Service First (general information)</b>	425-452-6800
<b>City of Bellevue website</b>	<a href="http://BellevueWA.gov">BellevueWA.gov</a>
<b>City Council Office</b>	425-452-7810
City Offices	
City Clerk's Office and Public Records:	425-452-6464
City Manager:	425-452-7228
Community Development	425-452-7892
Conflict Resolution Center	425-452-4091
Crossroads Mini City Hall	425-452-2800
Development Services	425-452-6800
New permit applications	425-452-4898
Inspection requests, application and status, pay fees	425-452-6875
Simple permits, inspection requests	<a href="http://MyBuildingPermit.com">MyBuildingPermit.com</a>
Application and inspection status	<a href="http://MyBuildingPermit.com">MyBuildingPermit.com</a>
Code Compliance	425-452-2047
Diversity Program	425-452-7886
Fire Emergency	911
Fire Non-Emergency	
General Information	425-452-6892
Inspection	425-452-4254
Fire prevention	425-452-6872
Human Resources	425-452-6838
Information Technology	425-452-4626
Neighborhood Outreach	425-452-6836
Parks & Community Services	
Aging Services	425-452-4200
Information, Recreation, Youth Sports	425-452-6885
Ballfield, Park Rentals	425-452-6914
Park Maintenance	425-452-6855
Human Services	425-452-6884
Probation	425-452-6956
Community Centers	
Crossroads Community Center	425-452-4874
Highland Community Center	425-452-7686
North Bellevue Community Center	425-452-7681
Northwest Arts Center	425-452-4106
South Bellevue Community Center	425-452-4240
Marina	425-452-4883
Police Emergency	911
Police Non-Emergency	
General Information and Records	425-452-6917
Crossroads Station	425-452-2891
Factoria Station	425-452-2880
Crime Prevention	425-452-6915
Transportation	
Administration/Information	425-452-6856
Utilities	
Administration/Information	425-452-6932
Billing/Customer Service	425-452-6973
Water, Sewer, Street Maintenance and Emergency	425-452-7840
Other Numbers (Not city government)	
Regional Animal Services of King County	206-296-PETS
Republic Services (recycling, yard debris, garbage)	425-452-4762
Metro Transit/Sound Transit	206-553-3000

 For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4448 (voice) or email [ciosso@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ciosso@bellevuewa.gov). For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email [ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov). If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.

**It's Your City** is published for people who live or work in Bellevue. For questions or comments about this publication, contact Claude Iosso, 425-452-4448 or [ciosso@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ciosso@bellevuewa.gov).  
**Editor:** Claude Iosso  
**City Manager:** Brad Miyake  
**Acting Chief Communications Officer:** Michelle DeGrand  
**Graphic Designer:** Kristine Music

# CITY COUNCIL



A group of students, parents and residents attended a walking audit last November.

## Help make streets near schools safer

BY JENNIE CAMPOS  
 Transportation Public Information Officer

To gather real-world observations and experiences of those walking and rolling near schools, the Transportation Department will host road safety assessments around Newport High School on March 25 and April 1, both Saturdays.

These assessments will conclude a series of "walking audits" around Bellevue schools that began in January 2022. Improving walking and bicycling safety and comfort on routes near schools is a top priority and part of Bellevue's "Vision Zero" effort to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injury collisions on city streets by 2030. Results from the walking audits and questionnaires will be used to make future safety improvements on roadways.

Parents, students and neighbors are invited to sign up for a walking audit. You can also share your thoughts by responding to a short online questionnaire or "dropping a pin" on an interactive map available in eight languages. Both online feedback opportunities can be accessed at [BellevueWA.gov/road-safety-assessments](http://BellevueWA.gov/road-safety-assessments).

The city is also coordinating with the Bellevue School District on the safety assessments. The previous assessments covered streets close to Lake Hills, Phantom Lake, Sherwood Forest and Stevenson elementary schools; Tillicum, Highland and Odle middle schools; Interlake and Sammamish high schools; and Big Picture and International schools.

Learn more about Vision Zero at [BellevueWA.gov/vision-zero](http://BellevueWA.gov/vision-zero).



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