

Fall-Winter 2024

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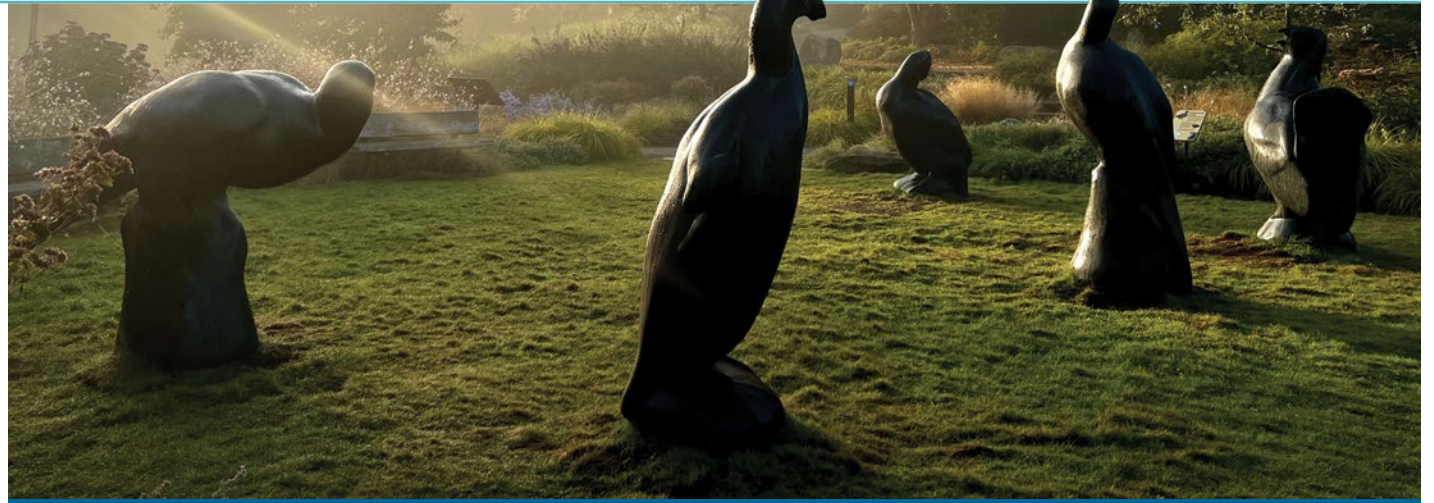


Winter calendar

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The Lost Bird Project immortalizes the passenger pigeon, Carolina parakeet, Labrador duck, great auk and heath hen.

Extinct bird sculptures roost at Bellevue Botanical Garden

Conservation education offered during installation's year-long stay

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

Visitors to the Bellevue Botanical Garden these days will see a dramatic art installation along with all the themed gardens. Large-scale bronze sculptures of five extinct species of birds are perched in the Urban Meadow near the visitor center.

The Lost Bird Project, created by Oregon artist Todd McGrain, immortalizes the passenger pigeon, the Carolina parakeet, the Labrador duck, the great auk and the heath hen – North American birds all gone by 1932. The sculptures, each

roughly four to six feet high and about 700 pounds, will be on display for a year.

“For the Bellevue Botanical Garden, the display reflects our mission and is a catalyst for a year of learning programs focused on conservation and habitat preservation, along with creating a special appeal for ornithology, which is the study of birds, and, of course, the connection to the plants and habitats we feature at the Garden,” said James Gagliardi, director of the Botanical Garden.

Those interested in doing their part for the planet are invited to check out BellevueWA.gov/environment.

The sculptures were delivered to the Garden in early September. Related programming, at the Aaron Education Center and other locations at the Garden, kicked off with a festival on Oct. 19 that included a panel discussion with McGrain and local artists, as well as a screening of “The Lost Bird Project” documentary.

Throughout the run of the exhibit, the Eastside Audubon Society will host monthly bird walks at the garden.

Since McGrain completed three sets of the sculptures in 2012,

BIRD SCULPTURES
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Proposed 2025-26 budget supports housing, human services, safety

By **MICHELLE DeGRAND**
Chief Communications Officer

The City Council is considering a 2025-2026 budget with key investments in housing, human services and public safety. With flat revenue growth anticipated over the next two years, the budget will be only slightly larger than Bellevue's current one, sustaining initiatives launched in the prior biennium.

In September, City Manager Diane Carlson submitted a preliminary 2025-2026 Operating Budget and the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plan, considering council priorities and resident and business desires expressed in annual surveys.

Community members had opportunities to weigh in on the proposed budget during information sessions on Sept. 23, 24 and 26, as well as public hearings hosted by the council July 9 and Sept. 24.

The council will hold one additional hearing Nov. 12, and a one-question survey about budget priorities is open through Nov. 12 at BellevueWA.gov/form/budget-feedback.

Bellevue's operating budget includes allocations in six strategic target areas adopted by the council – high-performance government, vibrant economy, safe and efficient transportation system, high-quality built and natural environment, community safety and health, and thriving people and communities. Nearly half of the operating budget is devoted to community safety and health, which includes funding for the Police, Fire and Utilities departments.

Specific programs funded by this budget include:

- Creation of an Office of Housing to coordinate and improve access to affordable housing

BUDGET
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Council Corner

Keep Bellevue Beautiful participation is inspiring

By Councilmember
JARED NIEUWENHUIS



Bellevue community members flooded the sidewalks in Wilburton's commercial area on a sunny day in April. Nearly 70 strong, they were there to pick up litter and celebrate Earth Day. It's humbling and inspiring to see people who love

Bellevue putting in the effort to keep our city beautiful. I truly enjoy serving with them and getting to know them through this effort.

I have participated in 10 of the 12 events held so far as part of the Keep Bellevue Beautiful (KBB) program launched by the city in 2023. Since that time, community members and businesses have collected 307 bags of trash at events around the city. This is almost two garbage trucks full of litter no longer in Bellevue.

With KBB's new Adopt-A-Street program, groups and businesses now have an opportunity to take ownership of tending specific streets or blocks. I personally have adopted a portion of Main Street and am excited to keep it looking beautiful with my family's help.

Bellevue's cleanliness contributes to our economic success. Our office vacancy rate downtown is 9.5% compared to the nationwide rate of 19.4%, and our clean commercial core is a key selling point. A clean city not only enhances the perception of safety but data shows that cleaning up spaces actually makes them safer in reality. These clean and safe spaces are desirable for businesses and residents alike, contributing to our overall attractiveness for people to live, work, and visit Bellevue.

Bellevue is fortunate to have residents so invested in the future and character of our city. Beyond feeling great about leaving a street or neighborhood in a better spot than when we found it, I enjoy seeing community connections being made and learning what residents love about our city and issues that need to be addressed.

I often hear about graffiti, and am happy to say we recently updated our city code to make it a public nuisance. Graffiti removal is now an element of the KBB program.

Keep Bellevue Beautiful is a multipronged effort involving staff, residents, businesses, and community groups. In addition to general cleanups, we're tackling beautification in Bellevue with:

- **Signature Streets:** A Saturday event to clean streets that make lasting impressions and have been hot spots for reported litter.
- **Adopt-A-Street:** More than 40 individuals, groups, and businesses have already adopted streets.
- **Shopping Cart Retrieval:** The city pays a contractor to collect carts and return them to businesses. More than 4,000 carts have been collected since April 2023.
- **Graffiti Reporting and Removal:** The city's Code Compliance team works with property owners to ensure prompt removal and mitigation.



Volunteers and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis (fifth from left) celebrate after a Keep Bellevue Beautiful cleanup downtown.

I'm not surprised by the program's success so far. Residents tell me time and again how much they love their city and are willing to step up and pitch in when the call goes out.

Our businesses in Bellevue are also part of these solutions. KBB is an incredible way for businesses to give back to the community they call home. Amazon, in particular, conducted two litter cleanups as part of their global month of volunteering, and has funded cleanup equipment and other supplies for the program.

We partner with organizations like the Bellevue Downtown Association to actively manage and develop programming for public spaces, helping ensure good upkeep and positive perception of those spaces.

As a reminder, if you see graffiti or abandoned shopping carts, please report them via the MyBellevue app.

All of this hard work is making a difference. Bellevue continues to match its name as a beautiful place. My hope is that these ongoing efforts ensure it will continue to be beautiful for my children and their children as well. Find out more at BellevueWA.gov/keepbellevuebeautiful.

Council Roundup

By CLAUDE IOSSO
It's Your City Editor

Arts facility grants approved

The City Council on Oct. 8 unanimously approved recommendations by the Arts Commission to fund capital projects and facility maintenance for four local nonprofit arts organizations. The money comes from the city's new Arts and Cultural Facility Grant program.

Grants totaling \$1.8 million will support KidsQuest Children's Museum, Theatre33 (two projects), the American Asian Performing Arts Theatre and the Bellevue College Foundation/Carlson Theatre. These grants support positive impacts for potentially 90,453 square feet of art and cultural spaces across Bellevue, from downtown to BelRed, Lake Hills and Eastgate.

Five organizations applied for grants after the council launched the capital grant program in June. The Arts Commission and invited local arts and culture professionals to participate in the review of the grant applications.

Comprehensive Plan update approved

The council on Sept. 24 approved Bellevue's overhauled Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission recommended adoption of the 2024-2044 plan, which accommodates projected increases in population and jobs in Bellevue by focusing growth in downtown, Wilburton, BelRed and other mixed-use centers.

The plan, which was set for formal adoption by the council Oct. 22, also meets the requirements of recently adopted state legislation by including planning for affordable housing, addressing racially disparate impacts and allowing middle housing.

The new plan will replace the one adopted in 2015. Cities are required by the state Growth Management Act to complete a major update of their comprehensive plans about every 10 years.

More than two years of outreach were conducted for the preparation of the plan and a related environmental impact study. During that engagement, which earned an award from the Puget Sound Regional Council, community members shared how they wanted to see Bellevue grow.

Wilburton Vision comprehensive plan amendment adopted

The council on July 23 adopted a comprehensive plan amendment that will facilitate the transformation of the west side of Wilburton into a vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood.

With updated policies and a future land use map, the plan amendment provides guidance for land use code amendments, affordable housing approaches, sustainability and multimodal transportation in the Wilburton transit-oriented development area.

The amendment, discussed in detail at the June 25 council meeting, marks a significant milestone for the Wilburton Vision Implementation initiative and provides a framework for future development in the neighborhood.

Acting City Manager Diane Carlson selected for permanent role

By MICHELLE DeGRAND
Chief Communications Officer

After about a year on the job in an acting capacity and a public interview process, Diane Carlson is now Bellevue's permanent city manager. The City Council unanimously selected her for the permanent role in September.

In May, the council decided to proceed with a transparent and community-involved interview process with Carlson after she was found to meet all the criteria in a profile for the position developed with community input.

A longtime Bellevue resident with a long and impressive career in public administration and government relations, Carlson served in an acting capacity after the retirement of former city manager Brad Miyake in November 2023.

"[The City Council] put a tremendous amount of thought into this decision," said Mayor Lynne Robinson during the meeting when Carlson was appointed. "To be able to hire someone of Diane Carlson's caliber into a major leadership position with her historic knowledge and without having to have a transition period...is just invaluable. We have a tremendous amount of work ahead of us...I am grateful for the opportunity to hire...an already-tested talent who can hit the ground running and be working at full capacity tomorrow, and I think our city deserves that."

Carlson has strong roots in the community and region. From 2002 to 2012, she served as the City of Bellevue's government relations director, before taking a position as capital division director for King County Metro. She also has led regional initiatives for the

Office of County Executive Dow Constantine and worked for the state Department of Transportation as director of planning, advocacy and initiatives, and for the Association of Washington Cities as senior manager for transportation.

Carlson returned to the City of Bellevue in 2022 to serve as deputy city manager before being appointed acting city manager.

"I'm passionate about Bellevue and recognize that the role of city manager is the highest level of responsibility to serve our community and carry out this council's vision," Carlson said. "I appreciate the council's confidence in me. We have a lot of work ahead of us and I'm looking forward to it."

Bellevue operates under a council-manager form of government, where the City Council hires a city manager to run the operations of the city and the council provides the vision, policies and priorities for the city.

For the public interview process in September, the city enlisted the community's input to submit interview questions for two community forums. In addition, the council held a special meeting where they interviewed Carlson.



City Manager Diane Carlson

Grand Connection Crossing takes shape

By LAURA MILSTEAD
Transportation Public Information Officer

After a year of community engagement and technical analysis, the Bellevue Transportation Department is nearing completion of the preliminary design concept for the Grand Connection Crossing.

While design specifics are still to be determined, the preliminary concept establishes the goals and engineering components of the crossing over Interstate 405. The west terminus will be City Hall Plaza while the east end will intersect with the Eastrail multi-use path.

The crossing is the heart of the Grand Connection program and the key to making downtown accessible for all Bellevue community members and visitors, not just people living or working downtown.

Meant for walking, biking or rolling, the crossing will connect downtown Bellevue with 175 miles of trails and the region's growing light rail network. It will also help catalyze Bellevue's next vibrant urban neighborhood – Wilburton – and its future shopping, dining and housing.

This summer, the project team conducted a Type, Size and Location study focused on:

- cost to build and maintain the crossing
- user experience and safety
- look and visual appearance
- opportunities to connect with future nearby public and private development

Community input from two open houses and informational tables at summer events have also informed the preliminary design. The project team, which includes staff from the Transportation and Community Development departments, as well as consultants, engaged more than 1,100 community members to understand their vision for the crossing, their priorities and what would make them feel safe and welcome.

After reviewing the study and considering feedback, the city is pursuing a design concept that prioritizes user experience and opportunities to connect with nearby future development. The report also confirmed the start and end points for the crossing.

As the project advances to future design phases, the project team will continue engaging people who live, work, learn and play in Bellevue.

The city will upload the preliminary design concept to our project page at the end of the year along with the full Type, Size and Location study. To view the materials and sign up for project alerts, visit BellevueWA.gov/i405-crossing.



Council approves updated Airfield Park master plan

New pool and pickleball courts included

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

The City Council has unanimously adopted a new master plan for Bellevue Airfield Park that includes an aquatic facility, pickleball courts, trails and picnic shelters. Taking environmental review into account, the council supported conserving tree canopy and habitat, as well as conducting environmental rehabilitation on areas of the Eastgate site.

The plan adopted on Sept. 17 is the result of multiple years of community engagement, including considerable connecting by the Parks & Community Services Board. After years of public outreach, the board recommended adoption of the updated park plan.

Residents supported trails, picnic areas and pickleball courts, as well as a new aquatic facility for the park. The off-leash areas at neighboring Robinswood Park are also set to be expanded as part of the project. Some neighbors of the park have expressed opposition to the plan, objecting to the level of development.

In 2003 and 2004, the city purchased two properties adjacent to a city-owned utility site in Eastgate – together totaling 27.5 acres – for development as a park. The site, just north of Interstate 90, has a unique history, both as a landfill from 1951 to 1964 and an airfield from 1945 to 1983.

The updated master plan replaces one the council adopted in 2012, which called for two lighted, synthetic-turf sports fields, picnic areas, trail connections and an expansion of the off-leash dog area at Robinswood Park.

In 2021, the council directed Parks staff to update the plan for the park to address current community preferences and study locating

an aquatic center there. Airfield Park is the only undeveloped, city-owned site with enough space (10 to 11 acres) for a modern aquatic facility.

Staff will initiate procurement for park design and engineering work to support the permitting and first phase of construction. More information is available at BellevueWA.gov/airfield-park.



The updated master plan for Bellevue Airfield Park features an aquatic center and pickleball courts on the eastern edge of the park, along with habitat conservation.

Updated tree regulations balance sustainability and development needs

By **AMANDA RICH ANDERSON**
Development Services Public Information Officer



Stately trees are a glorious feature of Bellevue.

To help preserve Bellevue's cherished tree canopy, which offers numerous environmental and community benefits, the City Council approved updates to the city's tree codes in July. These changes focus on balancing the need to protect "significant" and "landmark" trees with making the rules clearer and more accessible for residents.

By refining the process for tree removal and clarifying requirements, the city aims to ensure both the preservation of its urban forest and greater ease of understanding and compliance for the community.

Trees are essential to Bellevue's identity. They clean our air, provide homes for wildlife, slow stormwater runoff and make our community beautiful. While young trees can replace those that are removed, it takes many years for them to grow and provide the same benefits that larger, mature trees offer. That's why balancing development with tree preservation is so important.

The new tree code implements several changes, among them provisions for tree removal. If you're a property owner, you'll now need a permit to remove any significant or landmark tree from your

property. Fortunately, the process has been simplified to make it easier and more affordable for homeowners.

The city updated definitions of both a "significant" and "landmark" tree as part of the efforts to protect and enhance the city's urban forest. Under the new regulations, a significant tree is one with a diameter of six inches or greater, measured at four feet above the ground. A landmark tree is generally considered any tree with a diameter of 24 inches or more, measured at four feet above the ground.

The new regulations also include a landmark tree table with alternate, lower diameter thresholds that apply to several slower growing, but high-quality native tree species.

For projects that require development activity, including new developments, the city has introduced a "tree credit" system, which sets minimum tree density requirements based on the size of the property and type of development. Developers can meet these by keeping existing trees, planting new ones or, if tree retention and replanting are not possible, paying a fee to fund replanting and other urban forestry projects. The tree credit system provides more credit when trees are retained, with the intent being to first retain trees before planting.

The city is also cracking down on illegal tree removal by implementing more meaningful deterrents. These include monetary penalties based on the value of the trees removed, which could amount to several thousand dollars.

Additionally, the city has established inspection requirements to verify compliance with tree retention before and after construction and will be improving our data tracking efforts to better monitor tree removals and identify potential code violations.

If you're considering removing a tree, Bellevue's land use planners (425-452-4188, landusereview@bellevuewa.gov) are ready to help you navigate the new rules and stay compliant. And remember – trees on public property should never be removed or altered without the city's approval.

These updates ensure that as Bellevue continues to grow, we'll keep our city green and vibrant for years to come. More information is available at BellevueWA.gov/development-services.

they have been on display at museums, gardens and nature centers across the U.S., highlighting the need for conservation and wildlife protection. One of the sets features each of the individual sculptures on permanent display at the location related to that particular bird's decline.

"They don't have every detail and that's purposeful," McGrain said in an interview with Bellevue Television. "I think of a beach stone and the way memory softens over time. My hope is people will be moved by them, both by the form and the subject matter."

The Bellevue Botanical Garden – 53 acres of curated gardens and natural lands open free daily dawn to dusk – is one of Bellevue's most popular parks. In addition to the displays of flora tended in part by Botanical Garden volunteers from 10 partner groups, the BBG offers an array of plant-related education throughout the year.

This exhibit is supported by the BBG Society and funded by individual donors. More information about the exhibit and related programs is available at BellevueBotanical.org/lost-bird-project.

BUDGET
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- Additional \$2.5 million of human services funding, with targeted investment for youth and homelessness prevention
- Enhanced emergency preparedness and disaster recovery outreach focused on historically underserved communities
- Capital investments to complete major transportation projects underway (124th and 130th avenues) and focus new investments in neighborhood connectivity, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and safety

The council is expected to adopt a budget within weeks of the final budget public hearing on Nov. 12. Find details about the proposed budget, including an interactive budget book, at BellevueWA.gov/25-26-budget. Bellevue is in a stable and positive financial position, while remaining cautious and prudent, as is consistent with our long-standing policies and practices.



August Wilson Place

Eastside community organization CEO to keynote Bellevue Essentials graduation

By JULIE ELLENHORN
Community Relations Coordinator



David Bowling

When the 2024 cohort from Bellevue Essentials graduates on Thursday, Dec. 12, those 35 emerging leaders will hear about making a difference from someone who knows – David Bowling, CEO of the Eastside Community Development Fund.

Bowling, who led Congregations for the Homeless as it worked to build a men's shelter in Bellevue, will keynote the graduation, 7-9 p.m., at City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE. The graduation and reception are open to the community. RSVP with Julie Ellenhorn (jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov).

Bowling was executive director of Congregations for the Homeless (now Porchlight) for 17 years. The men's shelter in Eastgate, which routinely serves 100 men nightly, is a tribute to his determination.

At the Eastside Community Development Fund now, Bowling guides a nonprofit whose mission is to address our community's social needs through engaging, connecting and mobilizing businesses and civic organizations through funding, convening and advocacy.

Bowling brings together different sectors of the community to create innovative solutions to complex social challenges, including homelessness and affordable housing.

Bowling is a graduate of the inaugural Bellevue Essentials class of 2013. He followed that by graduating from Leadership Eastside, which gives him a true understanding of the importance of local leadership development programs. He will help set the stage for our Bellevue Essentials graduates to move into the next phase of engagement, from learning to action.

A speaker from the 2024 graduating class will also speak about their Bellevue Essentials experience. Mayor Lynne Robinson and City Manager Diane Carlson will present graduation certificates for the ceremony, which will be followed by a dessert reception.

The graduation provides an opportunity to learn more about Bellevue Essentials, the city's 12-week introductory program to civic engagement. The next class will commence in September 2025, with applications available May 1, 2025.

For more information on future participation in the Bellevue Essentials program, visit BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials or contact Julie Ellenhorn at 425-452-6836 or neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

Crossroads and Newport neighborhood area planning launches



People stroll around the Crossroads Community Center.

By EMILY INLOW-HOOD
Deputy Communications Officer

Neighborhood area planning, intended to address changing needs and conditions at the micro-local level, is underway in Crossroads and Newport.

These planning efforts are part of the Great Neighborhoods program, which launched in 2018 and produced updated plans for the Northeast and Northwest Bellevue neighborhood areas.

Neighborhood area plans are part of the city's overall Comprehensive Plan, which outlines citywide policies on issues including housing, transportation, parks, environmental sustainability and more. These plans inform neighborhood responses to future growth and change by guiding city staff and developers about the kinds of improvements people want to see in their neighborhoods.

The Crossroads neighborhood area plan was last updated in 2020; Newport's current plan was last updated in the 1990s. The planning process for both kicked off with a virtual event Oct. 10. During this meeting, city planners provided an overview of the program and answered questions from residents.

Great Neighborhoods aims to update neighborhood area plans in the Comprehensive Plan for all 16 neighborhood areas in Bellevue. Rooted in extensive community engagement, the resulting plans will have policies and provide direction to enhance neighborhood identity, community gathering spaces, urban design and mobility options.

Community members interested in learning more can visit BellevueWA.gov/great-neighborhoods.

Neighborhood transportation levy making difference throughout Bellevue



In June 2017, the first levy project kicked off, with 360 sidewalk panels repaired in the Crossroads neighborhood.

By **JOHN MURPHY**
Transportation Senior Planner

Bellevue neighborhoods are the heart and soul of our city – the places where people tend to gardens, chat with neighbors and walk kids to school. How we get to and around our neighborhoods is critically important.

With the help of the voter-approved Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy, the Transportation Department has been able to add crosswalks, streetlights, sidewalks, traffic calming, bike lanes, turn lanes and more to every neighborhood in Bellevue. Eight years into the 2017 levy, the department is delivering on its mission to enable residents to get to and through neighborhoods safely and predictably – no matter how they travel.

More than 70 levy-funded projects have been completed, with many more planned for the remaining 13 years of the levy, with upcoming projects in Eastgate, Bridle Trails and Northwest Bellevue.

Levy for projects requested by residents

The community has been our ears and eyes on the street, letting the city know what neighborhood-scale projects could be built to improve safety. To address such projects around Bellevue, which didn't fit in the city's capital budgets, the City Council decided to ask voters if they would support a levy.

The 20-year Transportation-focused levy approved by voters in 2016 produces revenue at a rate of 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, allowing the city to tackle projects long desired by the community across six categories: transportation safety, bicycle facilities, sidewalks, maintenance, transportation technology and congestion reduction. In 2024, that translated to \$9.19 million in revenue.



A family walks to Newport Heights Elementary School on a new sidewalk.

Scale of projects varies, not principles

Thanks to the confidence of the voters, the city has been building out transportation improvements at a faster rate than prior to the levy passing. Every neighborhood in Bellevue has benefited, with projects filling in sidewalk gaps, connecting the bicycle network, repairing sidewalks, slowing neighborhood traffic to safe speeds, building traffic signals and adding streetlights.

The scale of levy projects can vary greatly, but the same principles govern all of them. For example, funds are often supplemented with outside sources, such as grants or private partnerships, making levy investments stretch further.

Additionally, transportation planners coordinate projects, like adding traffic calming features to a sidewalk project. Such coordination results in additional community benefit, less disruptive construction and cost savings on design.

Nowhere is this coordination more evident than on traffic safety improvements in Eastgate around Tye Middle School.

After annexation of Eastgate in 2012, the city began hearing about speeding concerns and school safety. After community outreach in 2016 to help determine where to prioritize investments, the city installed a temporary traffic circle at Southeast 40th Street and 138th Avenue Southeast and speed cushions on 138th Avenue Southeast. These were added while a larger sidewalk and mini roundabout were designed and built.

A few years later, the speed limit was changed to 20 mph, which helped reduce high-end speeding. This year, striping to narrow the roadway to encourage people to drive slower and an all-way stop were installed.

Connecting Newport

Walking and biking is considerably safer in the Newport neighborhood area as a result of a package of levy projects.

During the school year, the area around Newport Heights Elementary is abuzz with activity as students and their families make the trip to and from school. Until recently, there were relatively few connected sidewalks in the vicinity, including on busy 119th Avenue Southeast.

Since 2017, more than 2,000 feet of sidewalks have been built, connecting sections of walkway around the perimeter of the entire school.

Filling in these sidewalk gaps stems directly from community input and city programs that prioritize investments around schools, among other factors. The scale of these improvements was amplified by a strategic partnership with the Bellevue School District, which supported construction of the missing sidewalk gap on 117th Avenue Southeast.

A multiphase project has taken shape along 119th Avenue. Speed cushions have reduced high-end speeding (45+ mph) by up to 85% in some locations, while buffered bike lanes around the Newport Hills Shopping Center make biking in the area much safer.

More projects in Newport are coming too. On 123rd Avenue Southeast, south of Southeast 60th Street, a new sidewalk is being built to fill a gap. Finally, additional speed management controls and flashing crosswalks are planned for Southeast 60th Street.

Learning and building

Approaching projects methodically – sometimes starting with small-scale pilots – helps Transportation planners determine if an investment will be effective. We can learn about site context and refine our tactics before investing in more expensive, permanent changes.

We followed the pilot approach on the 108th Avenue Northeast Complete Street project.

The 108th Avenue segment through downtown represented a key gap in the city’s bike network. Starting as a demonstration bikeway – using paint and plastic posts – allowed cyclists to quickly use the facility while staff measured effectiveness and considered ways to improve the facility.

Evaluation showed more people biking and little changes in travel time/delay for people driving, so a more robust, design was sought. The project also included new pavement, accessibility improvements, enhanced crosswalk treatments, traffic signal upgrades, communication upgrades, curbside pick-up/drop-off zones and other improvements. Since completion in 2020, additional improvements build on the vision and create more separation and safety.

Forward thinking

The levy is also helping shape the future of transportation in Bellevue. For example, the city is preparing for a future where mobility is, at least in part, automated. The levy helped bolster the city’s street communications network to support such automation.

The improved communications network, in turn, is enabling cutting-edge projects, such as leveraging video analytics to identify near-miss crashes on our streets. This analysis allows staff to pinpoint problem locations and identify real-world solutions to improve safety.

Congestion reduction

While many safety, sidewalk and bike projects originated from existing programs, there was no such program dedicated to congestion reduction, a concern for both the council and the community.

The levy congestion reduction program allows for proactive, systemwide identification and implementation of projects that ease traffic congestion within, near and between neighborhoods, making it easier for people to get to homes, jobs, schools and shopping.

The program targeted two initial investments: solving a pinch point at 150th Avenue Southeast at Newport Way and identifying where other pinch points are across Bellevue.

Work at 150th Avenue and Newport Way began quickly and reduced afternoon travel times along with improving the environment for

people walking. Construction was funded not only by the levy, but also other city funds. Levy money is sometimes not enough for construction projects of this scale. Grants, partnerships and blended funding strategies help deliver projects the levy helps to initiate.

Several additional intersections required improvements to cut travel time for people driving including:

- a mini roundabout at 164th Avenue Southeast and Newport Way
- an additional westbound turn lane at Southeast 38th Street and Factoria Boulevard
- a new signal at 112th Avenue and Northeast 24th Street
- a new turn lane at Lake Hills Boulevard and 148th Avenue Southeast

With more projects on the horizon – including converting the all-way stop at Lake Hills Boulevard and 156th Avenue Northeast to a traffic signal – people traveling in Bellevue can expect less delay when getting to where they want to go.

Future levy projects

One of our upcoming projects is in Bridle Trails, where a new sidewalk will create a continuous connection on Northeast 40th Street. This project, which also includes bike facilities and a new crosswalk, was requested through the city’s popular Neighborhood Enhancement Program.

In Northwest Bellevue, nearly a mile of new sidewalks and shared-use paths will be added along 100th and 98th avenues and Northeast 18th and 21st streets, along with five raised crosswalks/intersections connecting to five nearby schools. This project, supported by other city funding and a state grant on top of the levy, builds on other levy-funded projects in the area that included sidewalks, a new flashing crosswalk and a mini roundabout.

Planning for this project began nearly 10 years ago, after a group of parents at Clyde Hill Elementary School expressed concerned about the lack of safe routes to the school.

In Eastgate, a congestion reduction project is anticipated to cut travel time in half. The project along 150th Avenue Southeast, from 28th to 38th streets, will improve highway access and add street capacity with specific improvements for each portion of the corridor. Another example of making levy dollars stretch, this project is supplemented by a nearly \$4 million state grant along with additional city funding.

The levy has and will continue to deliver projects the wants. Walking to school is becoming safer and easier, the bicycle network is getting filled in, crosswalks are more visible, people drive slower in our residential communities and it’s easier to get in and out of neighborhoods.

These small but mighty projects are changing the transportation network and strengthening the neighborhoods that make Bellevue a great place to live, work, study and play.



Buffered bike lanes connecting Northrup Way to the State Route 520 trail was one of the first levy-funded projects completed.



A cyclist rides in the 108th Avenue Northeast bike lane.



A new signal at 112th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 24th Street helps people get in and out of the neighborhood.

Get ready for winter in Bellevue



Chained melody? As part of training for winter weather, city staff practice mounting chains on the tires of trucks used for plowing snow.

By GILLIAN HAGSTROM
Transportation Public Information Officer

As the seasons change, it's important to prepare for the challenges that fall and winter bring. The City of Bellevue works hard to keep our streets safe and our roads clear, but there are also steps you can take to prepare and stay safe as cooler temperatures, rain and snow arrive.

The city is already prepared for snow and ice. Staff are fully trained and supplies such as de-icer are stockpiled by the end of October. Over 60 staff from multiple departments are ready to respond in the event of a snowstorm, and the city has 15 trucks that can be configured with plows and sanders.

During major winter storms, city staff work in 12-hour shifts around the clock plowing roads.

Streets are prioritized based on a snow response map, focusing first on major routes essential for emergency services, transit and high-traffic areas.

Here's how you can get ready:

- **Watch for weather updates:** Check for updates, including road conditions, by visiting BellevueWA.gov, WSDOT.gov, Weather.gov/sew or following the city on social media (@bellevuewa and @bvuetrans on X).
- **Prepare your vehicle:** Practice putting on tire chains at home and put on traction tires if necessary. Stock your car with winter essentials like an ice scraper, snow brush and blanket, and always travel with a full tank of gas if possible. Check WSDOT.gov/winter for a full list of recommended items.

- **Prepare your home:** To help protect pipes from freezing and breaking, make sure to insulate pipes located in unprotected and unheated locations such as the garage, attic and crawl space. Make sure to disconnect outside hoses and do not set indoors temperature below 55 degrees. For more tips, visit BellevueWA.gov/frozen-pipes.
- **Stay safe on foot:** Invest in shoes with good grip or ice grippers to help prevent slips. Consider using a walking stick or other mobility aids to navigate snowy conditions safely.
- **Shovel snow:** Purchase a snow shovel so you can clear the sidewalks in front of your home of snow to keep them accessible for people walking and rolling.

Who to contact

In the event of an emergency, it's important to know who to contact! Consider taking a picture of this information with your phone or cutting this out and posting it on your fridge.

- For life-threatening emergencies, always call 911.
- To report hazardous conditions, such as blocked streets or sidewalks, fallen trees or flooding, call Bellevue's 24-hour operations and maintenance line at 425-452-7840 or report it through the MyBellevue app.
- For power outages or downed lines, contact Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773.

For more information on how you can prepare, and Bellevue's fall and winter response, including road conditions and emergency contacts, visit BellevueWA.gov/winter.



Factoria Blvd flooding fix

Contractors for Bellevue Utilities put the finishing touches on major improvements to the Richards Creek channel by Factoria Boulevard, a part of stormwater conveyance fixes that will reduce the risks of flooding during heavy storms in the area. The 11-month project, which included installation of a massive concrete vault under Factoria Boulevard, finished earlier this month. A community celebration is planned.

Prepare for the rainy season, prevent flooding

By DIVYA PASUPULETI
Utilities Planning Senior Engineer

When the rainy season hits, the city's storm drain system can become overwhelmed, and flooding can occur. It's a good idea to prepare now to protect your home and property from possible high water.

Most flooding in Bellevue is caused by storm drains in streets and parking areas getting clogged with leaves and debris, especially during heavy rains. Utilities crews regularly inspect, clean and maintain the city's storm system to minimize the risk of flooding. But with over 20,000 public storm drains in the city, city crews need help from residents to keep them free of debris.

You may need to take extra precautions. Bellevue's stormwater system includes storm drains, storage ponds, pipes and ditches that discharge to wetlands, streams and lakes. **Properties next to wetlands, streams and lakes are most susceptible to flooding.**

To find out if your property is in floodplain, call 425-452-6932 or visit BellevueWA.gov/flood-insurance-maps.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) offers policies to protect your

property. Flood insurance is required for structures in the floodplain that have federally backed mortgages, but anyone in Bellevue can receive flood insurance. Ask an insurance agent for more information about NFIP policies. The city participates in a FEMA flood reduction program, which entitles property owners to a 25% discount on NFIP policies.

Additional tips to help you protect your property from flooding:

- Utilities staff can help you with flooding or other drainage problems, including finding your water shut-off valve. Call 425-452-7840 any time, day or night.
- Build responsibly; get the proper permits from the city before clearing or constructing in or next to critical areas such as designated floodplains and wetland areas.
- Slow stormwater flows and prevent erosion and mudslides by preserving trees and other vegetation on steep slopes, especially near streams and lakes.
- **For information on property protection measures or to request a site visit,** contact Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932 or utilities@bellevuewa.gov.

EV Roadmap points way to more charging stations for more EVs

By COLIN MUNSON
Climate and E-Mobility Coordinator

In October, Bellevue's Environmental Stewardship team published the Electric Vehicle Roadmap, a plan to prepare the city for increasing numbers of EVs and EV drivers in coming decades.

The Roadmap forecasts EV growth in Bellevue through 2050, and details strategies to address EV charging needs. The document includes policies and programs that both support charging stations on public and private property and expand charging options for residents of multifamily buildings. These strategies aim to increase access to EVs, EV charging, and other forms of electric mobility for all members of the Bellevue community.

The Roadmap project was launched in fall of 2023, and developed over the course of the year with input from community members and key stakeholders. The sustainability team took public comments on a draft EV Roadmap Sept. 9-23 of this year. The final version of the plan, released Oct. 16, reflects feedback received from the public at every stage of development.



Today, about 9% of vehicles in Bellevue are electric. We expect this to increase to over 30% by 2030. There are currently fewer than 650 publicly available EV chargers in Bellevue. The Roadmap forecasts that to support 30% EVs in 2030, the city will need more than 2,800 public EV chargers.

In addition, Bellevue's many residents and visitors will likely require support in accessing charging at home, particularly in multifamily buildings where installing charging can be more difficult. The EV Roadmap is the city's plan to address these needs and build robust electric mobility in Bellevue through the coming decades.

Now that the EV Roadmap is complete, city staff will expand the public charging network on city property and support private-sector partners adding chargers. The city will explore programs to assist multifamily buildings looking to install charging for residents, and maximize EV and EV charging funding for residents, building owners and other community members through promotion of financial incentives and programs.

The Environmental Stewardship team emphasizes that EVs are just one part of reducing overall transportation-related emissions in Bellevue.

"Almost all of our greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation and buildings," says sustainability manager Jennifer Ewing. "Electric vehicles are an important piece of the emissions-reduction puzzle, in addition to flexible, accessible mobility options that reduce reliance on driving alone to get people where they need to go."

To read the EV Roadmap and learn more about next steps, visit BellevueWA.gov/electric-vehicles.

Workshops demystify heat pumps and related rebates

By SARAH PHILLIPS
Energy Smart Eastside Program Manager

It's no secret that home efficiency upgrades can be overwhelming in the best of circumstances. Sifting through contractors, quotes, rebates and tax credits is pretty much out of the question in the midst of a furnace outage.

Energy Smart Eastside makes heat pumps more accessible with workshops that help residents navigate the upgrade to a pump from start to finish – before that old gas furnace blows out.

Heat pumps are significantly more efficient than traditional heating and cooling, but connecting with a contractor, understanding rebates and making it to installation can be daunting.

Energy Smart Eastside's in-person and virtual workshops demystify all of this, covering everything from contacting contractors to taking advantage of rebates and incentives that can save you thousands of dollars. Residents learn about the pros and cons of different types of heat pumps contractors might recommend and can ask questions about potential pitfalls.

The next workshop is on Sunday, Nov. 10, 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at Bellevue First Congregational Church. Residents of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond and Sammamish are encouraged to attend.

Register and learn more at EnergySmartEastside.org/events.

Energy Smart Eastside is a joint climate initiative of the cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond and Sammamish. ESE connects residents with the information, incentives and resources they need to switch from less efficient forms of energy to electric.

Environmental Stewardship Plan update begins Nov. 21

Virtual town hall kicks off outreach

By SOFIA FALL
Sustainability Coordinator

Evidence of climate change is all around us in 2024. In Bellevue, we've seen worsening heatwaves and smokier skies, hotter streams and dramatic swings between downpour and drought. Reducing our greenhouse gas emissions while planning for climate change with efficient buildings, accessible transportation systems and healthy tree canopy is more important now than ever.

With our Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan, adopted in 2020, as a guide, the city has implemented efficiency and electrification programs for residential and commercial buildings, developed a plan for EV charging, and begun to

reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to meet our 2030 and 2050 reduction targets. We've converted 30% of our municipal energy to renewables, and reached citywide tree canopy of 40%.

The original Sustainable Bellevue Plan laid out strategies for climate action and sustainability for decades to come, and was set to be updated every five years to ensure the city remains on track to achieve our goals. With this plan update, we're looking to cut emissions even more and shape sustainability across many sectors in Bellevue over the next five years.

The Environmental Stewardship team will kick off engagement for the Sustainable Bellevue Plan update with a town hall

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 5:30-7 p.m. at Puesta Del Sol Elementary School. All community members are welcome. Please register at BellevueWA.gov/Environment.

The new plan will follow the structure of the Sustainable Bellevue 2020-25 plan, which includes 78 strategies and actions in five focus areas: climate change, energy, mobility and land use, waste management, natural systems and the city's municipal operations. Over the past five years, implementing these actions has taken us closer to our overarching targets that commit the city to act boldly and aggressively to ensure that Bellevue is a healthy, livable and sustainable community for generations to come.

Bellevue's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan features a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 95% by 2050. This ambitious target will guide the goals, strategies and actions we build into our ESI plan update.

Building a livable future takes everyone. The voices of our community are critical to shaping the sustainable, inclusive, resilient Bellevue we will become in 2030 and future decades. If you can't attend the townhall, there will be many more events and pop-ups around Bellevue in the coming months. To make sure you never miss an update, subscribe to our Newsletter at BellevueWA.gov/Environment.

We can't wait to build a livable future for all with our community.

Transportation, parks and utilities projects around city completed

These large-scale projects, all completed or slated for completion this year, are listed by neighborhood area. Only neighborhood areas with projects set for completion this year are listed. For more information about projects, please contact the project manager listed.

BelRed



124th Ave NE: Ichigo Way to Northup Way: Transportation has substantially completed work for this project, which began construction in March 2023. Improvements to 124th Avenue Northeast, from Ichigo Way (formerly Northeast 18th Street) to Northup Way, include raising the roadway and widening it to five lanes. Other upgrades include a multi-purpose pathway on the west side of 124th, between Northeast 16th Street and Ichigo Way, sidewalks on both sides of the street, separated from the street by landscape planters, and a culvert that fish and other wildlife can navigate (\$41.5 million).

Marina Arakelyan, marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

Citywide

Flashing Beacon Crosswalks: Improved pedestrian crossings at four locations. The work along 145th Place Southeast included installing flashing beacons at midblock crossings north of Southeast 13th Place and 144th Avenue Southeast, and south of Southeast 22nd Street. At the intersection of 116th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 20th Street a new crosswalk, refuge median island, street lighting, curb ramp, sidewalks and flashing beacons will all be added. Anticipated completion November 2024 (\$650,000).

Sara Haile, shaile@bellevuewa.gov

2024 Channelization: Intersection improvements and new road striping to improve safety and mobility for people driving, walking or rolling throughout streets in Bellevue. The nine projects included upgrades such as center turn lanes, added curbs and new parking lane striping. Construction complete fall 2024 (\$200,000).

Citywide (continued)



2024 Pavement Preservation: Resurfaced streets – including grinding, fresh asphalt, new pavement markings, upgraded curb ramps and new sidewalks. A map of resurfacing projects completed between April and September is available at BellevueWA.gov/pavement (\$7,300,000).

Isack Habte, ihabte@bellevuewa.gov

Eastgate

Newport Way and 153rd Guardrail: Installed a guardrail and fencing on the northeast side of Southeast Newport Way east of 153rd Avenue Southeast to improve safety conditions as vehicles navigate the curved road. Completed September 2024 (\$110,000).

Brittany Quan, bquan@bellevuewa.gov

Factoria

Factoria Boulevard Stormwater Conveyance Improvements: Improved stormwater system capacity along Factoria Boulevard, between Southeast 38th Street and Richards Creek inlet, to reduce the risk of flooding during large storms. Construction completed November 2024.

Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov

Newport

SE 54th Pl and SE 52nd St Sidewalks: Constructed 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. Completed fall 2024. (\$500,000)

Olivia Aikala, oaikala@bellevuewa.gov

West Lake Sammamish

170th Pl Pressure Improvements: Installed 1,800 linear feet of 8-inch and 4-inch water main and pressure-reducing valve stations to address low water pressure and fire flow to the residents along 17th Place, east of Weowna Park. Construction completed November 2024.

Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov



Stay Connected with Bellevue Television

Live and recorded community meetings
and special programming

youtube.com/BellevueWashington | BellevueWA.gov/btv

Adopt-A-Street off to fast start

By SARINA MILLER
Community Relations Coordinator

The Keep Bellevue Beautiful Adopt-A-Street program is off to a fast start! Since its launch in late July, over 40 businesses, community groups and families have committed to keeping their corner of Bellevue litter-free.

Groups have pledged to maintain streets throughout the city, but there are still many more to choose from, and there's no deadline for participating in this program. Just go to BellevueWA.gov/adopt-a-street to apply. You can also use the map feature to see which streets have already been adopted.

Participants can choose the location and length of street for adoption. By adopting a street, participants commit to pick up litter at least four times per year on their chosen street, for a minimum of two years.

The Adopt-A-Street program is doing more than just beautifying our city; it's bringing people together for a shared purpose,

whether it's neighbors bonding over a weekend cleanup or businesses partnering with their community.

The program is also an opportunity to inspire younger generations and promote environmental stewardship. We encourage families and school groups to join as a fun and educational way to have a positive impact.

We owe much of the program's success to our early adopters. Their hard work and enthusiasm are already making a difference in the appearance of our shared spaces and inspiring others to join in.

Amazon also deserves credit as a sponsor contributing funds to support the program.

Adopt-A-Street is just one of several efforts within the Keep Bellevue Beautiful program, along with Signature Streets cleanups and collection of abandoned shopping carts.

Let's keep Bellevue beautiful – one street at a time! Learn more at BellevueWA.gov/keepbellevuebeautiful.



Volunteers with Amazon participate in a cleanup.

Community Calendar



November

"Finding Nemo Jr."

Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre

Nov. 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 7 p.m.
Nov. 17, 23 and 24 at 2 p.m.
Sensory-friendly, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.

All ages. \$13 per ticket

425-452-7155 or BellevueWA.gov/byt

December

"'Twas the Night Before Christmas"

Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre

Dec. 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 7 p.m.
Dec. 8, 14 and 15 at 2 p.m.
Sensory-friendly, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.

All ages. \$13 per ticket

425-452-7155 or BellevueWA.gov/byt

Holiday Ships Beach Event

Dec. 14, 8:40 p.m.

Meydenbauer Bay Park
9899 Lake Washington Blvd NE.

Ship arrives offshore and gives onboard performances. Weather dependent, there will be a beach fire 8-9 p.m.

Free

425-452-4106 or nwac@bellevuewa.gov

Bellevue Magic Season

Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink

Nov. 15-Jan. 12
Open daily, hours vary

Downtown Park
One block south of Bellevue Square at
Northeast First Street and 100th Avenue.

The region's largest open-air ice rink
presented by Symetra.

Admission includes skate rental.
\$15 Monday-Thursday, \$20 Friday-Sunday
\$25 Dec. 20-Jan. 5

BellevueIceRink.com

Snowflake Lane

Nov. 29-Dec. 24

Nightly parade at 7 p.m. along Bellevue
Way between Northeast Fourth and Eighth
streets. Festive holiday scene on the
sidewalks between Bellevue Square and
Lincoln Square.

Free

425-454-8096 or
BellevueCollection.com/snowflakelane

Garden d'Lights

Nov. 30 to Dec. 31,
Times vary, see website for details

Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.

Over half a million lights amid the natural
beauty of the garden.

\$8 admission.
Free for children 10 and under.

\$5 admission Dec. 2-5 and Dec. 9-12,
when park closes at 8:30.

Free parking at Wilburton Hill Park.

\$5 on-site parking; free for limited mobility
with disability parking permit.


Tickets must be purchased online.

GardendLights.org



City Contacts

| City Hall | 450 110th Ave. NE / P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012 |
|--|--|
| Service First (general information) | 425-452-6800 |
| City of Bellevue website | BellevueWA.gov |
| City Council Office | 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 |
| 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 | MyBuildingPermit.com |
| Application and inspection status | MyBuildingPermit.com |
| 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 | 425-452-5255 |
| Mini City Hall | 425-452-2800 |
| 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 | 425-452-6856 |
| Utilities | |
| Administration | 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 modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4448 (voice) or email ciosso@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

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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.

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Planning a sustainable district in Wilburton

By JUSTUS STEWART
Sustainability Program Manager

Wilburton's commercial area – already amid a transformation from auto row to walkable, mixed-use neighborhood – could become a “sustainable district” too.

In October, the city completed the Wilburton Sustainable District Opportunity Assessment report, which explored the feasibility of creating a dedicated sustainable district in Wilburton's transit-oriented development area.

A sustainable district can take many forms. As an arts district embeds art into every aspect of a place, a sustainable district is a geographic area where sustainable practices are integrated throughout – in buildings, open spaces and the public's interactions with the space.



The 2 Line passing through Wilburton is among the advantages of the neighborhood for sustainable practices.

Opportunities identified in Wilburton as part of a sustainable district include an energy production site that would provide energy to surrounding buildings, green stormwater infrastructure (trees, plants and natural surfaces that slow stormwater runoff to prevent overloading the sewer system), expansion of urban wildlife habitat and green space, and advanced green buildings practices on city sites.

To develop the sustainable district assessment, the city convened workshops with community members, property and business owners and subject matter experts to inform goals and priorities for a sustainable district. Stakeholders also identified opportunities for transformative early-phase projects, including prioritizing sustainable practices in the development of city-owned property.

Wilburton's transit-oriented development area is being considered for a sustainable district because it is already the location of significant local and regional investments and opportunities, including a light rail station, the Eastrail multi-use trail, a part of the Grand Connection, and land use code changes related to the city's Wilburton Vision.

Now that the Wilburton sustainable district assessment is complete, the city will continue to engage stakeholders over the next year to determine whether and how opportunities identified in the report could be implemented.

To learn more about the project and read the Wilburton sustainable district report, visit BellevueWA.gov/environment.