



**Neighborhood Leadership Gathering
Meeting Summary
September 9, 2015**

On September 9th, the Neighborhood Outreach team hosted a Neighborhood Leadership Gathering, “Focused on Neighborhood Improvement” which assembled over 84 neighborhood leaders. There was great representation from neighborhoods across Bellevue. Councilmembers Robertson, Chelminiak, Stokes and Lee as well as EBCC members Kasner and Hughes, were in attendance. Bellevue’s new Police Chief Mylett introduced himself and provided welcoming remarks. Neighborhood Outreach manager, Mike McCormick Huentelman and Ying Carlson provided an overview of the newly reinstated Neighborhood Enhancement Program. Representatives from city staff in Transportation, Utilities, Planning, and Police were available to respond to specific questions. Table discussions and a large group facilitated discussion occurred around the question, “what are your best ideas to improve your neighborhood.”

Neighborhood leaders shared around some key themes: There was general agreement (approximately 85% of leaders in attendance agreed when asked) that there is need for more sidewalks throughout Bellevue’s neighborhoods. Pedestrian walkability, including improvements in sidewalks, trails, street lighting, safe crosswalks, bus shelters, and way-finding signage were all raised as key elements that would improve neighborhoods. Residents suggested the City explore creative funding options to dedicate to CIP sidewalk needs throughout the City, or exploration of other less expensive sidewalk options to provide interim solutions for pedestrian needs.

Residents expressed an appreciation for Bellevue’s parks and trails system. Residents identified the need for better signage to show how the neighborhood trails connect for runners and joggers. Eastgate residents expressed the need for gateway signage and neighborhood parks for their community. Residents also expressed an interest in developing the BNSF trail for pedestrians and bikers. The need for additional dog parks in Bellevue was also highlighted, along with more waste bag dispensers and disposal bins in existing parks.

Neighborhood leaders identified specific comments in areas of Neighborhood Planning, Community Building, Neighborhood Art, Parks, Environment, Improving Mobility, Public Safety, Code Compliance and concern over PSE’s Energize Eastside project. Detailed comments are attached.

Announcements highlighted opportunities for residents to participate in other citywide neighborhood improvement programs, including Neighborhood Art program, Neighborhood Match, Pedestrian & Bike Improvement Initiative, Parks and Open Space public hearing, and future Neighborhood Area planning efforts.

15 Volunteers to lead or work on an improvement project in their neighborhood

14 Requests for information on Neighborhood Enhancement Program

16 Requests for information on Neighborhood Match Program

Neighborhoods Represented: Bellefield Park, Bridle Trails, Cherry Crest, Downtown, Eastgate Enatai, Factoria, Greenwich Crest, Horizon Heights, Lake Hills, Lake Heights, Lakemont, NE Bellevue, Newport Hills, Newport Shores, Northtowne, Robinswood, Somerset, Somerset West, Surrey Downs, Trails End, Library, Spiritwood, Sunset, Vuecrest, Vuemont Meadows, Westwood Highlands, Wilburton and Woodridge.

Attachment #1
Focused on Neighborhood Improvement
Neighborhood Leadership Gathering
September 9, 2015

“Please share your best ideas for improvements in your neighborhood.”

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING

- Design district for downtown NW Village
- Partner with developers and businesses
- Amenities offered to developers need to be revised very carefully and particularly as they impact the neighborhood and adjacent properties.
- Public parking in downtown
- New buildings aren't asked for amenities for community
- We are very supportive of the “grand entry” proposed in the comprehensive plan. We would welcome a “lid” over 405 that connects east and west Bellevue core areas. Lots of people would walk to the downtown core from the suburbs if we had an enticing “lid” with landscaping and public art (see Mercer Island lid for example) “If you build it, we will come!” Right now, the bifurcation feels like two separate cities.
- We are very supportive of the I-405/Wilburton Grand entry program! Many walkers want a picturesque entry into downtown Bellevue!
- Make Factoria more than a mall
- Need “greening and caring” for Factoria and identity other than shopping and traffic
- Start to underground distribution lines throughout Bellevue consistent with Comprehensive Plan – have some creative financing ideas
- No more mega houses

COMMUNITY PLACES

- Community gathering spaces
- Place for youth – i.e. Skate park, see Kenmore City Hall
- No gathering place in Eastgate - No park for children, adults
- Maybe a community center?
- Place our neighborhood in historical context of the area and tell folks about it.
- We could have a community building that could be used for dances, weddings, concerts, community events, etc. It could have gardens and areas for children and adults to have/hold outside events. It could have an amphitheater – an area for community events.
- Kiosks – bulletin boards
- Block Parties
- Notification of new residences in neighborhoods
- Perhaps a welcome package to new residents from the City of Bellevue including info from Wilburton Community.

ART

- Public Art for new roundabout at intersection of Belfair Road and Belfair Drive
- Identifying art work for each neighborhood
- Works of art or something else seen by traffic on busy streets – 156th, 148th and 140th

- Art projects- Art Commission has proposed art to improve the cell phone towers on 156th in front of new Lake Hills Shopping Center

PARKS

- Each neighborhood should be able to use a neighborhood park FREE one time a year for a picnic or function.
- Parks that draw the community
- Picnic areas
- Add Dog Park (Possibly at 110th/2nd Place/2nd Street – Old Christmas Store/Trend Imports Auto Chopshop)
- Dog waste bag stations and waste disposal (maintained by City)
- Dog Park downtown
- Add a 2nd off leash dog park in Bellevue
- Off leash dog area in Surrey downs park
- We have security concerns at large parks – and need better park signage and security: Downtown Park has been taken over at times by off leash dogs. Park rangers are not available and police are hesitant to enforce loosely posted rules
- Intentional green space for Factoria
- Outside green space in Factoria/Eastgate
- Why is the zip line so expensive?
- Pocket Parks (Eastgate is a chili pepper. Really more like 3-4 mini neighborhoods)
- Eastgate lacks a park
- Slide at Kelsey Creek Park
- Not in my neighborhood, but Kelsey Creek's Park playground could use a slide ☺
- Kelsey Creek Park is not secure at night – and neither is Downtown park.
- Install bathroom on southwest side of Robinswood Park
- Keep remaining green space green and free of building at Ashwood Park
- Bridle Trails desire is to maintain a rural character – the Park is great – need more parks....trees etc. to block utility elements....friendly signage about neighborhoods & safety
- Maintain space for downtown parks
- Develop the park area at 132nd and 8th
- Complete 140th Park
- Create solar roofed covered area for “no name park”

IMPROVED MOBILITY

- Sidewalks in Vuecrest
- More sidewalks
- Sidewalk quality. Uneven sidewalks are a danger
- Sidewalk improvement and lighting on roadway from Newport Way and 164th leading up to Lakemont
- Sidewalks that are missing
- Sidewalks along 130th Ave SE, the main street of our neighborhood
- Our sidewalks are crumbling and over 50 years old – need replacing
- Sidewalks
- Of course, sidewalks
- Sidewalks

- Posted speed limits
- Lower Vuecrest speed limit to 20mph – lots of blind curves!
- Lower the speed limit in high pedestrian focused area
- Speed calming
- More speed bumps on our street
- I don't know how to improve this situation/problem so I'll tell you my concern: pedestrian and vehicle safety on 156th Ave between Eastgate and Lake Hills, especially the intersections. The Lake Hills Greenbelt has become the Lake Hills Speedway.
- Add speed bumps to control both speed and volume of traffic in high pedestrian populated section of Lake Wa Blvd SE
- Traffic calming down 119th street like they did around Jin Ming Elementary (“The old Newport Heights”)
- Signage for entry into Factoria (traffic is confusing)
- Way Finding through Factoria
- Signage for Eastgate – also way finding to library, zip line, S Bellevue community center, churches, schools
- Sign that says “Eastgate” – entrance signs for Eastgate
- Signage/monument on Newport Way at the entrance to our neighborhood with the name of our neighborhood – Somerset West
- Street sweeping
- Street sweeping needs to be done more frequently
- Connect (pedestrian) 18th to Tam O Shanter Park – fence in way
- Outreach to schools which side of the street to walk on (facing traffic)
- Connect neighborhood (Bellewood East) to neighboring neighborhood to allow pedestrian connection to Tam O Shanter Park
- I would love to see better pedestrian access to the South Bellevue Community Center and the Newport Library. The future sidewalk along Newport Way will help, but more can be done.
- Trails added/improved
- Reaching out to the neighborhoods – see what they need. Walk the neighborhood. Is it walkable? Our community needs natural greenspace and light to exercise in day and night! Use a softer surface appropriate for aging populations – safety first with adequate lighting.
- Traffic improvement
- Railroad tracks as bike lanes
- Bike path below our neighborhood (BNSF corridor) - Walking trails below our neighborhood
- We have lots of greens, but need well mapped paths for taking walks.
- Have teenagers make stencils for the walkway along 128th so it is obvious that it is a pedestrian path.
- Blinking lights in crosswalks
- Add a lighted crosswalk to cross Lake Wa Blvd/Lake WA loop trail near Newport shores neighborhood
- Run lights for street crosswalk at 129th Ave and 60th
- Left turn arrows
- A sound wall along NE 12th from 112th to 106th similar to that on 148th or around Vuecrest that buffers the neighborhood from increased traffic and noise. With this include neighborhood signage at 108th and NE 12th.

- Clean cement walls along 8th street
- Eastgate area is very strong with transportation. However, some bus stops are still not enough with the bus time schedule information, waiting benches, and lights for night customers. If we make sure that all bus stops well are prepared for newcomers, and potential users. It would be great.
- We would like to see these improvements in our development that has been in existence since the early 1930's and seems to never garner ANY of the City's funds when we respond and ask for these improvements that are basic to most existing neighborhoods in Bellevue
 - Sidewalk on the eastside of the development entrance continuing up the hill and on the east side of 120th Ave SE – the main road
 - Speed bumps throughout the ¾ mile stretch of 120th Ave SE
 - Traffic light to allow safe access "out" of the development onto Coal Creek
- Use of renewables – solar battery – let's take the lead! Come on Bellevue!
- Bus shelters and Art
- Lighting

ENHANCED RIGHT OF WAY

- Gateway for Factoria
- Remove the bush/hedges on the 3 City parcels at 110th, 2nd Street and 2nd Place
- Neighbors are made responsible for maintaining cul-de-sacs but not all the people on the street are considered neighbors, just those around the cul-de-sac. Not all cul-de-sacs are maintained to the same standard and are eye sores that drag down the community appearance.
- More street trees
- Bridle Trail's community – new signage that reflects character
- Eco-concerns foliage

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Also in that area the dock at Phantom Lake gets trashed frequently, and there's 'suspicious activity' (drug deals? Human trafficking?)
- Safety – video cameras – and develop a city system or support neighborhood action
- Add photo enforced speed cameras to high pedestrian populated section of Lake Washington Blvd SE

ENERGIZE EASTSIDE

- Underground utilities
- "Energize Eastside" will impact our neighborhood in a tremendously adverse way!! The rural character, the visual beauty (those new higher poles will be seen for miles) and the safety (There are numerous well done studies questioning the negative impact on our health) of residents will all be seriously negatively changed – dramatically. Our neighborhood will in NO WAY benefit. Keeping the poles and high current transmission out of our neighborhood would benefit our neighborhood and all of Bellevue.
- It is hard, if not impossible, to divorce this question from the Oct 7th Session wherein Energize Eastside, traffic, mega houses, crime are priorities – first and foremost ideas should be to minimize these negatives.
- Not allowing PSE to construct new power lines – the destruction of trees/habitat would destroy the character of our neighborhood and the Bridle Trails corridor. Last year, Energize Eastside

was #1 priority in survey of Bellevue residents – shouldn't this be addressed before we enhance our neighborhoods? PSE is set to destroy our neighborhoods –

- Do not allow PSE and EE proposed industrial blighting of our neighborhoods to occur!
- No PSE lines through our City!
- Could some funding go to protect our neighborhoods from the PSE project?

Attachment #2
Neighborhood Priorities: Submitted Comments
Neighborhood Leadership Gathering
September 9, 2015

“What are the top priorities/issues you want to see addressed in your neighborhood in 2016?”

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING

- Rules on helicopters/drones
- Better coordination between planning, permitting and neighborhoods to ensure development that works together (Counter example – the alley between Bellevue Towers and Bellevue Galleria)
- Crossroads is a good example of revitalization and grew in a dense area with lots of retail – how can this inform Factoria?
- Rental control and upkeep laws
- Building density and heights
- The commercial center on 140th and 16th is run down, vacant or minimally used buildings.
- Neighborhood character loss – due to developer new builds and covenant enforceability
- Bel-Red Development
- What is happening with the new school in Wilburton??
- We would like to see the City pitch in with BSD to build the NE 1st access to new Wilburton School. This is the only logical access point for the amount of traffic the school will generate. If the current plan of Main Street is seriously considered - then several intersections and the length of Main Street will require major improvements.
- Detached accessory dwelling

IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

- Website
- Communication – MyBellevue App

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Signage and Community gathering spaces
- Help to resolve neighbor disputes regarding landscaping/views – major source of controversy
- A community area for people to meet and hold events – could have gazebos etc. – covered area and place for picnics and kids to play
- A larger area or smaller areas for people to meet and kids to play
- We need more discussions among neighbors. One-day meeting with a variety of events such as neighborhood free-market, music or art contests, and cultural fair will help enlarge community opportunities.
- Improve Community Connection/Interaction
- Better communication among residents
- Kiosk

ARTS

- Art project @ 156th and Lake Hills

PARKS

- Nature Trails
- Bathroom at Robinswood
Lakemont park – add activity center
- More than one doggy bag box in Surrey Downs Park and garbage cans at each entrance! Also would like Parks to ensure bags are always available. Doing a much better job now, last year it was empty for months at a time!
- Benches in open spaces
- More sport fields in our city!!
- Covered picnic area in Wilburton Park
- Electric outlets in Kelsey Creek Pavilion (picnic area)
- Another water feature similar to the one at Crossroads Park

ENVIRONMENT

- Get children and family outside to experience nature (real-time)
- Wildlife corridors through Bellevue

IMPROVED MOBILITY

- Sidewalks in downtown Bellevue – blacktop patchwork cracks/breaks within months
- Sidewalks on 112th near Hidden Valley Park are overgrown with vegetation, cracked from the tree roots and are too narrow for strollers/wheelchairs
- Need sidewalks along 120th (too scary to walk because it has been taken over by transients living in their broken down cars)
- Sidewalks
- The City put asphalt to correct sidewalk tripping panels were tipped up about ½ inch. We were told at the time the city would come back and replace the panels so that we wouldn't have to look at the ugly temporary repairs, but that still has not happened – maybe 5 years and counting.
- Sidewalk on Allen Road!
- Sidewalks redeveloped and add sidewalks
- Sidewalks for school children safety
- More sidewalks
- Horse/Walking trails along 134th and 132nd. The speed of cars with little consideration for horses or pedestrians – and increased noticeably over the last few years. Speed limits aren't observed.
- Trails enhancements would be appreciated – like along 132nd
- Trails/Paths that are accessible – but not necessarily cement. Softer surface please because you have an aging population
- Trail system on BNSF Rail line
- Reduction in cut-through traffic
- Drivers avoiding Richards Road by coming through our neighborhood (Woodridge) using our streets as major arterials!

- Traffic control through Woodridge – so many non-residents access I-90 through our neighborhood! They don't obey the speed limits, or care that the new "Local Access Only" signs.
- Signage that tells people "not a through street" or "local access only"
- Solutions for multi-modal transportation and Newport way; biking, walking, running and cars
- Dangerous intersection of 10th and 100th! New high density development will make this worse!
- Covered and lighted bus stops along Newport Way
- Covered bus stops
- Benches and covered bus stops
- "matching project" redo monuments on entrance to Conifer Crest neighborhood
- Traffic and pedestrian safety! (flashing crosswalks and flags)
- Light rail construction mitigation
- Speed bumps
- Crosswalk at the bottom of Coal Creek so I can cross to the island to the other crosswalk to use for linkage to Lakeshore Trail along Lake Washington. Not safe now. If not crosswalk, than an overhead walkway.
- Safety (Crosswalks, speed control mechanisms -> cameras, speed bumps, etc.)
- Volume control (Local Access Only)
- We need critical safety improvements to the neighborhood of 289 households. We have a dangerous (turn pocket lane) across from our development ingress/egress and cannot "exit" and turn onto Coal Creek Parkway safely. This needs immediate attention! We cannot wait to 2022 to put our safety issues in front of the city. A stop light at the train tressell bridge would allow our development "safe" travel onto Coal Creek (I will only list this item because of the urgency of this issue).
- Traffic enforcement/calming
- Bike Lanes "Hot Spots" at corner of 129th and 60th
- Better safety along 128th
- Remove graffiti from traffic section over SE 8th
- Traffic Safety

ENHANCED RIGHT OF WAY

- Landscape maintenance in ROW areas
- Add gateway art on corner of Newport Way and Factoria Blvd
- Signage
- Defining the neighborhood with signage on 108th NE and NE 12th
- Sound wall with increased traffic noise to maintain a feeling of a safe, quieter neighborhood for families (Bellevue Way in Northtowne)
- Defining the areas in Bellevue with landscaping, speed bumps and signage. Include public art on the wall like on NE 8th! So many great possibilities to beautify Northtowne and Downtown border.
- Trash at I-90 edge of area

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Get rid of the RATS!
- Safety
- Homelessness – people sleeping in doorways and benches around library
- Burglaries! Could we have cameras installed at the 3 main entrances to Woodridge?
- Crime problems
- Cameras would help decrease crimes, which now are occurring regularly during the day
- Bellevue police Block Watch info sessions to crime
- Bellevue fire walk through in neighborhood to increase safety
- Public Safety
- Also provide more police cruisers Wednesdays –Saturdays from midnight to 4:00am to reduce car prowls and more cruisers Mon-Friday 10:00 to 3:00pm to help prevent home burglaries.
- Neighborhood Crime/ more street lighting
- Panhandlers that park on 120th Ave SE either on the way up or at the top of the hill

CODE COMPLIANCE

- The issue I would like to be addressed: Noise making playground equipment (plastic drums, etc.) at Sherwood Forest Elementary School located too close to the fence with residential homes. According to the city code, there needs to be a 25 feet landscaped buffer zone between residential area and a school zone. This equipment is less than 25 feet away from the fence and creates a disturbance unnecessarily.

ENERGIZE EASTSIDE

- Tall power lines in Eastgate
- PSE's Energize Eastside project is THE issue that my neighbors ask about. It's vastly out of scale, providing 4-5 times the transmission capacity of our existing lines on towers 2-3 times the size of current towers. It's too costly \$200-400 million to be paid by ratepayers. It's an environmental disaster calling for the destruction of 8,000 trees. And it's not even clear if it's needed – US, Washington and King County electric consumption is flat to down. We're counting on our elected city officials and city employees to protect this city, serve its residents and put the brakes on this runaway train of a project that they have thus far only encouraged and allowed to gain speed.
- Energize Eastside continues to be the top concern for our neighborhood. I love the Neighborhood Enhancement Program – very enlightened. We don't think Bellevue's approach to electric utility planning is as smart. We let a private corporation motivated by profits drive the process. PSE is even influencing the outcome of the Environmental Impact Study that should be fairly evaluating alternative solutions. Neighborhoods will bear the brunt of the impact of Energize Eastside, but it feels difficult for us to have a real say on this project.
- A more thorough and analytical EIS for EE that truly represents neighborhoods is #1 You might revisit ideas/issues/and priorities going forward due to Energize Eastside; Sound Transit, Spring District changes etc – maybe through the subarea Comp plan process

- Puget Sound Energy – Energize Eastside project – we need to find alternatives to ensure our beautiful scenic area is not destroyed. The scope of the project does not fit into the neighborhood – it is industrial and not appropriate for a neighborhood or the Bridle Trails corridor – the sheer amount of trees they have slated to remove completely will alter the beauty, habitat, and overall feel of the area – you can add all the enhancements, art, etc. but if these horrific poles are constructed it will destroy the area we love and live in!
- To stop PSE from getting into Bridle Trails/Bellevue to keep them from cutting trees and building unneeded electrical towers
- Do not install PSE and EE proposed industrial blighting of our neighborhoods!
- Energize Eastside
- Electrical Reliability – Underground