



FEBRUARY 2010

# INSIDE

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## Census questionnaires coming to a mailbox near you



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*Rev. Donald Schmidt, left, of the Bellevue First Congregational Church, and Census Bureau partnership specialist Getachew Admassu in front of Schmidt's church, where census workers are being tested.*

Questionnaires for the 2010 census will go to residents in March. It's easy – 10 questions you can answer in 10 minutes. It's safe – by law the Census Bureau must keep your personal information confidential.

Last but not least, the census is important. If Bellevue's population is undercounted, it could cost the city millions over the next 10 years in federal and state grants, and mean less representation for the city in the federal and state government.

More than a third of Bellevue's population is foreign-born, and may have difficulty with or be leery about responding, so the Census Bureau and the city are tapping leaders among immigrant communities to relay the good news about the census.

"We have large areas of the city where 80 to 90 percent of the people mailed back their questionnaire in 2000," said John Saul, who manages the Census Bureau office in Bellevue. "But we also have places where the response has been just over half, and that's a lot of people left uncounted."

Immigrants from Russia, China, India, Korea and Mexico who live or work in Bellevue all talk about the census in a new video produced by the city, "Census 2010: A New Portrait of America." Translated into six languages, the video is being distributed to local social service agencies, faith-based organizations and businesses. It is viewable at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/2010-census.htm>.

The aim of the census is to count everyone living in the U.S. every 10 years. When people don't return their forms, census takers will go to people's homes to follow up starting in May. Census takers are hired by the Census Bureau and will carry identifying badges.

Convincing people to return their surveys by mail and making it easy for them to do so is considerably cheaper.

For those who may need a questionnaire in another language or need other help, the census office is setting up 21 questionnaire assistance centers in Bellevue, to be staffed by bilingual personnel. Hours and locations of the centers are being set and will be on the census website in March (<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>).

There will be another six unstaffed locations in Bellevue where people can pick up questionnaires in six different languages – English, Spanish, Korean, Russian, Chinese and Vietnamese.

## City to consider response to increased need for services

A new study confirms what many residents know all too well.

According to the 2009-2010 Human Services Needs Update, the recession has triggered significant local increases in unemployment and requests for emergency financial and food assistance and domestic violence services.

Produced by city staff every two years, the 2009-2010 study released in January identified the following emerging or ongoing trends and issues:

- **Unemployment:** The current economic downturn has resulted in significant job losses and high unemployment rates in Bellevue and elsewhere. Though Bellevue's unemployment rate was lower (7.2 percent) than the statewide rate (9.8 percent), there has been considerable impact in the city. Also, more residents are reporting that they are underemployed, working part time and/or earning less than at previous jobs.
- **Service requests:** Demand for services from nonprofit agencies has jumped dramatically,

including emergency financial assistance (49 percent increase), food banks (31 percent increase) and domestic violence services (50 percent increase).

- **Health care:** From 2005 to 2007, an average 8.4 percent of Bellevue residents reported they were uninsured, up from 5 percent in 2001. That percentage is expected to grow due to the high unemployment rate, according to the Needs Update.

The Needs Update relies on extensive data gathering, including telephone and online surveys, focus groups and interviews, to identify the key human services needs of Bellevue residents. The information gathered is used extensively for planning purposes not only by the city, but also community agencies, staff in other local jurisdictions and faith-based groups.

The City's Human Services Commission will make its 2010-12 budget recommendations to the City Council about human services planning and funding this summer and fall based largely on the Needs Update.

Bellevue provides some direct social services, and allocates money from its Human Services Fund and a portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant program to support local nonprofit, social-services agencies.

The City Council increased spending for human services in the 2009-2010 budget and approved additional funds to support new programs last July.

"Our role is to help ensure that Bellevue continues to be a vibrant and caring community that invests in its residents," said Jan Stout, a member of the commission. "The Human Services Commission will rely very heavily on the findings and indicators in the Human Services Needs Update."



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# Council Corner



## Teamwork a trademark of Bellevue councils

By Mayor Don Davidson

The fall election brought new faces to our City Council.

Jennifer Robertson, a two-term Planning Commissioner, and Kevin Wallace, chief executive officer of Wallace Properties, both won election for the first time to our seven-member council.

The council, which convenes every Monday night, is now composed of Jennifer and Kevin, Claudia Balducci, John Chelminiak, Grant Degginger, Conrad Lee and myself. Conrad and I were both re-elected in November to third, consecutive terms.

I am extremely honored to serve another term. I've served on the council off and on for 22 years now. During that time, I've seen Bellevue evolve into one of our region's most robust communities, a city known for its first-class neighborhoods and schools, excellent public safety services, superb recreation and cultural offerings and great retail centers.

I also am honored to have been selected by my council colleagues to serve as mayor. Every two years, council members choose someone from their ranks to serve two-year stints as mayor and deputy mayor. Conrad was chosen deputy mayor this time around.

This is my second time in the mayor's position, my first having occurred in 1994-95. But it should be noted the mayor's position in Bellevue is vastly different than in cities like Seattle, where a mayor is elected directly by voters to serve a four-year term and manage day-to-day city operations.

In Bellevue, where council members are part-time, a city manager hired by the council is responsible for overseeing city operations and hiring

department directors. The role of mayor is largely ceremonial, focused on such activities as appointing fellow council members to commissions, representing the city at functions, and facilitating council meetings to insure effective communications among council members, the public and staff.

These tasks are important. But it's the entire council, working as a team, that is – and always has been – most important in Bellevue. Our community has a strong tradition of councils that work together as a team to adopt the policies needed to move our community forward.

That tradition continues today, with a council that brings a diversity of interests and points of view to the table. Council members have distinguished themselves in various professions, including business, law, government and community affairs. We all care deeply about our community and are intent on making it an even better place than it already is.

In coming months, these skills and this passion will come in handy as the council tackles some big issues, including:

- Developing a new biennial budget in the midst of a severe recession that has left the city with big revenue deficits in both our operating budget and our infrastructure improvement program.
- Working to improve all transportation modes in the city.
- Focusing on ways to maintain and strengthen partnerships with neighborhoods, schools, volunteer groups, nonprofit organizations and others to maintain our unique sense of community identity; and
- Promoting smart economic development to maintain and expand our strong tax base and spur business and job growth.

To be sure, these challenges represent a tall order. But it's one I'm confident can be filled with our exceptional council team.

# Council Roundup

## New park planned for Eastgate

Following a 20-month planning process, the council in February viewed plans for a new, 27-acre park in the Eastgate business district, possibly to be called "Bellevue Airfield Park."

The new park, at 2997 160th Ave. SE, would feature: lighted, synthetic-turf areas for two soccer/lacrosse fields and three Little League fields; accessible picnic facilities and parking; two children's play areas; and restrooms.

To respond to the community's desire for more and better off-leash areas, the Parks and Community Services Board recommends some of the funding for the Eastgate Park be dedicated to the expansion of the off-leash area now at Robinswood Park to at least five acres.

The Park Board presented has recommended approval of a master plan for the park. When environmental review is completed, the council will consider the park master plan, along with a name for the park, for adoption.

**Feedback:** Glenn Kost, Parks Planning Manager, 425-452-5258, [gkost@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:gkost@bellevuewa.gov)

## New mayor, deputy mayor picked

The City Council has a new mayor and deputy mayor this year, with the council last month choosing veteran member Don Davidson for the top spot and Conrad Lee, another veteran, for the deputy seat.

Davidson replaces Grant Degginger, who finished two consecutive two-year terms in the mayor's position at the end of last year. Lee replaces Claudia Balducci, whose term also had expired.

Davidson has been on the council for a total of 22 years, and was re-elected in November to a third consecutive term. A dentist by profession, he also served as the city's mayor in 1994 and 1995, and as mayor pro tem in 1990 and 1991.

As mayor, Davidson will be responsible for presiding over council meetings and study sessions, representing the city in local and regional forums, and serving as chief spokesperson for the council.

Lee, who first joined the council in 1994, was re-elected to his fifth consecutive term last fall. Two newcomers – Jennifer Robertson and Kevin Wallace – were elected to the council in November.

Bellevue's seven City Council members are elected at large, and serve staggered, four-year terms. The council is responsible for adopting the general policies for the city, which are then implemented by the city manager and staff.

## Youth theater design unveiled

The council in December reviewed the design for a proposed new Bellevue Youth Theatre. To be located at Crossroads Park, the \$8 million facility will offer versatility and environmentally friendly features.

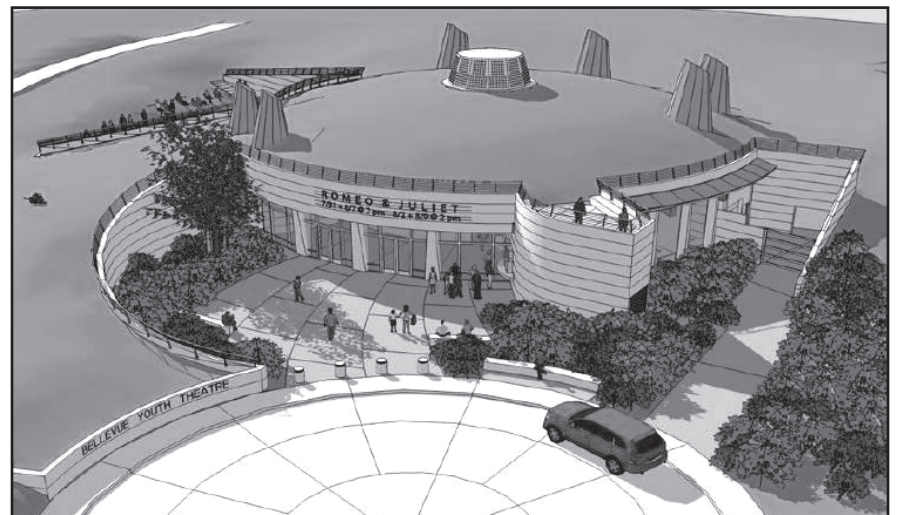
Design plans are expected to be complete in the fourth quarter of 2010. Depending on the availability of funding, construction could start in early 2011.

Since its establishment in 1990, the BYT has grown into a popular city program, with nine performances a year, summer day camps and theater classes. The theater has outgrown its current home in the former Ivanhoe Elementary School.

Designed by Becker Architects of Bellevue, the new theater is planned as an 11,700-square-foot facility that would allow multiple seating configurations, including theater-in-the-round, with capacity for up to 150.

A small outdoor stage will extend from one side of the building.

Taking advantage of the site's hilly topography, the building is designed into an existing slope. Much of the roof is park lawn. The hillside design will generate less runoff and demand less energy for heating and cooling, as the earth provides natural insulation.



Funding for the new theater will come from the 2008 Parks & Natural Areas Levy and the city's Capital Investment Program. The Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation told the council it aims to raise \$1 million for the project, with a fundraising campaign that began in January.

**Feedback:** Glenn Kost, Parks Planning Manager, 425-452-5258 or [gkost@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:gkost@bellevuewa.gov)

## Arts funding for 2010 approved

On Nov. 23, the council approved \$110,000 in funding for 31 arts performances, events and activities recommended by the Arts Commission for 2010.

The commission recommended the funding through two programs: Eastside Arts Partnerships, which supports arts organizations based in Bellevue, and Special Projects, which invites artists and organizations from anywhere to submit proposals for projects in Bellevue.

The commission received a record number of Special Projects applications for this year.

"We saw some familiar programs," said commission chair Betina Finley. "But at least half were new to us, and that is a good sign of the growing number and diversity of arts offerings we have in Bellevue."

A special call was made for projects in the Bel-Red area, in locations not typically used for arts installations. Four proposals came in and three were recommended. The call kicked off a strategy to build an arts community in Bel-Red, where zoning has been changed to allow mixed-use commercial developments.

**Feedback:** Mary Pat Byrne, Arts Specialist, 425-452-4105 or [mpbyrne@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mpbyrne@bellevuewa.gov)





## Ospreys get a new home

The pair of ospreys who have called a light pole at Hidden Valley Sports Park home for the past six years are moving.

When the city replaced the 40-year-old lights at the park in January, contractors moved much of the birds' nest from atop the cluster of lights on the old light pole to a new, taller pole with a platform especially for the ospreys.

"We want to provide good stewardship," city park ranger Laura Hughes noted. "We'd like for the ospreys to stay here, as they are beautiful and they have chosen this location as their home."

The new location will be better for the ospreys, offering an escape from bright, hot lights that could literally fry an egg. (The city had to remove some of the lights on that pole for the ospreys' safety.)

The new location will be better for residents too, since fans in the bleachers at Hidden Valley, Bellevue's premier softball complex, on 112th Avenue Northeast, couldn't sit under that light pole unless they wanted to risk being hit by nest debris, including bird poop, sticks and uneaten fish.

The city moved the nest with the guidance of the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. The move was completed last month, so the nest will be ready for the ospreys' usual return in the spring.



Contractors for Bellevue retrieve an osprey nest from the light pole.

## Neighborhoods poised to give again

In the summer of 2009, 23 Bellevue neighborhoods accepted the city's challenge to roll up their sleeves and help hard-hit local families weather the impacts of a prolonged recession. They can't wait to do it again this year.

"Our participation in Neighbor Link was so rewarding, we've already set the date for next summer," said Pam Kiel of the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association. "In August, Lake Hills will host a community festival that will bring together our neighborhood, school, community center and eastside human services providers."

Last summer, neighborhoods brainstormed and launched a variety of projects to generate resources for a community in need. They amassed tons of food. They gathered toiletries, school supplies and cash donations, and raised money through bake sales, garage sales and benefit concerts. They reached out to help seniors and struggling families stay in their homes.

The city's new Neighbor Link program facilitated and coordinated neighborhood groups' efforts. In its second year now, Neighbor Link gets underway with renewed city and neighborhood commitments to provide help for needy families.

New program features include an emphasis on youth involvement. Staff will work with high-school kids to come up with projects that make a difference and build community service credits for graduation. Staff will also work with neighborhoods that would like to incorporate younger children into community service projects.

At open houses in March, staff will help individuals and groups select projects, identify resources, mobilize support and get organized. The open houses, in the Neighborhood Resource Center at City Hall, are scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday, March 18, from 5 to 8 p.m. At these events, participants can bring their good ideas and their creative energy to the table, and see how the city can help them implement their public service vision.

With support from the Neighborhood Outreach staff in project selection, planning and logistics, neighborhoods and individuals who had never tackled a project before discovered in 2009 how easy it was to participate.

Participants also learned first-hand about the benefits of engaging with their neighbors in public service projects.

- **Stronger sense of community** – Neighbor Link was funded by the City Council as a tool for helping neighborhoods build strong internal relationships and sense of community. Synneva Wang, who organized a people and pet food drive at Forest Ridge, reported that during the event, "Different groups of neighbors would gather and hang out at our collection awning for a while, just to chat and get to know anyone who happened to be there at the time."
- **Shared satisfaction of giving** – Participants discovered that giving to the community was a deeply satisfying experience for their entire family. "Giving food to those in need created a strong feeling of togetherness in our community," explained Rob Pucher of Mockingbird Hill, who organized a food drive with his son Collin.
- **Fun and celebration** – Neighborhood projects culminated in 2009 with local celebrations, co-sponsored by the city and local businesses. Each participating neighborhood received a party starter – a "Party in a Box" with resources for a neighborhood gathering. And each participating neighborhood was invited to a city-sponsored celebration at the end of summer.

And again this year, Neighbor Link projects will be eligible for awards and recognition by the City Council. Awards will be presented at a Neighbor Link picnic and concert already scheduled for September on the City Hall lawn.

For award criteria and applications or any other information about Neighbor Link, go to <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighbor-link.htm>, e-mail [NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov) or call Neighborhood Outreach staff at 425-452-6836.

For tips on organizing a successful community project, click on [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Neighborhoods/Building\\_Blocks\\_How\\_To\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Neighborhoods/Building_Blocks_How_To_Guide.pdf).

## Light rail routes continue to be studied



Passengers disembark a Sound Transit light rail train at a Central Link stop in Seattle.

The Bellevue City Council and Sound Transit continue to analyze proposed light rail routes through the city, studying a range of options, including new ones developed in recent weeks.

Voters approved East Link in 2008 as part of a regional package of transit projects. East Link includes the extension of light rail from Seattle, across Lake Washington on Interstate 90 to Bellevue and on to the Overlake Transit Center in Redmond. The roughly 18-mile long East Link line is projected to carry more than 44,000 riders a day by 2030.

A draft environmental review of the project was released in December 2008, analyzing the various route alternatives, which numbered 15 in Bellevue. All are being studied in a final environmental impact statement, due for completion late this year.

After the Sound Transit Board makes a final decision on routes and station locations by early next year, design work is projected to continue into 2013. Construction of East Link is scheduled to begin by 2014; light rail service to Bellevue is forecast in 2020.

For more information on East Link and the various routes under consideration, visit Bellevue's website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm> or Sound Transit's website at <http://www.soundtransit.org/x3245.xml>.



## Transportation projects getting greener

In the old days, transportation engineers and planners had a saying: “Paint it black.” It referred to building new asphalt roads and parking lots, which occurred frequently in Bellevue’s past.

But times have changed. Green is the new black, less means more and recycled beats new. From low-tech drainage techniques to high-tech street lights, incorporating elements of environmental sustainability into Bellevue transportation projects is now part of the conversation at City Hall.

The trend in the Transportation Department also fits into a wider effort toward sustainability, as outlined in Bellevue’s Environmental Stewardship Initiative.

The initiative aims to integrate the natural and developed environments to create a sustainable urban habitat with clean air and water, habitat for fish and wildlife, and comfortable and secure places for people to live and work.

Transportation Director Goran Sparrman noted that Bellevue’s streets and sidewalks, made of asphalt and concrete, cover 14.5 percent of the city’s total area of 32 square miles – a significant amount of pavement.

“We have a better understanding today about the environmental consequences of our work – which is to move people and freight efficiently around the city – and about how we can minimize impacts,” Sparrman said. “Several projects we’ve undertaken recently are attempts to incorporate that knowledge into Bellevue’s transportation system.”

Transportation-related projects that contain elements of environmental sustainability include:

**Recycling materials in place:** It’s standard practice now to haul away broken up asphalt or concrete from road projects and recycle it for use on a different job. But last summer, Bellevue took that approach one step further on a major road widening project at Northup Way and 124th Avenue Northeast.

There, crews not only removed the old roadway, they used a special machine to pulverize the asphalt chunks in place and re-use the material immediately as a base for the new street. It not only saved numerous truck trips to remove the debris to an off-site recycler, it saved more than \$20,000 in project costs.

**Electric vehicle charging stations:** Mass-produced electric cars are on the way, with some possibly going on sale in the Seattle area by the end of this year. At Bellevue City Hall, work is under way to figure out how to encourage the creation of charging stations, so drivers of electric cars can find juice for their batteries. One way is to simply make sure that city staff have the knowledge and expertise to issue permits to people who want to install charging systems in their home garages.

**Pervious sidewalks:** Last May, the city installed its first section of “pervious concrete” sidewalk as part of a pilot project to test its strength and its ability to reduce storm water runoff. The 675-foot stretch of pervious sidewalk is located on the north side of Northup Way, between 165th and 168th Avenue Northeast. One advantage of pervious sidewalks is that they reduce the amount of runoff to the stormwater system, allowing water to soak through the concrete into the ground. They also use less space, since a separate detention area, catch basin or vault is not needed.

**LED street lights:** In another pilot project, the city last year installed 10 new light emitting diode (LED) street lights along 118th Avenue

Southeast, south of Main Street. The new LEDs provide a more uniform light than the traditional high-pressure sodium lamps they replaced, and are significantly more energy-efficient. Such lights have the potential to cut energy costs by up to 40 percent, a potentially major savings in Bellevue where there are approximately 8,000 street lights that use close to \$520,000 worth of electricity annually.

**Rain gardens/natural drainage:** The city’s first rain gardens incorporated into a transportation project were created last summer on 154th Avenue Southeast near Southeast Eighth Street. Located inside a pair of curb extensions, they feature shallow depressions with plantings that help absorb and filter rain instead of allowing it to drain to the city’s storm water system. Plants were chosen for their ability to tolerate all types of weather and to fit in with the surrounding neighborhood. They include dwarf red-twig dogwood, beach strawberry, tufted hair grass, Oregon iris and peach blossom.



Robert and Joyce Koreski stand in one of two small rain gardens near their West Lake Hills home. “We like green things and recycling so we think it’s a very good idea,” Robert Koreski said. “It’s also cut down on the cut-through traffic,” Joyce Koreski added.

## New gardens, visitors center for Botanical Garden

The Bellevue Botanical Garden may be one of the city’s most popular destinations, but it’s not standing pat. From a new look for its prominent perennial border to the addition of two themed gardens, the park is slated for significant improvements.

The 10 specialty gardens now at the park will remain, but an updated master plan calls for a new visitors center and a new education center along with a remodeling of the current visitors center and an enlarging of the parking lot.



The perennial border garden now features a kind of grand staircase.

The changes are expected to better accommodate more than 150,000 annual visits, as well as 160,000 visitors who come for the Garden d’Lights event each winter.

The Northwest Perennial Alliance Border, the first display many see, is undergoing a transformation from an explosion of showy flowers and sprawling bushes to a more restrained but still colorful collection of leafy plants, with fewer blooms.

Over the past several years new stairs and paths have been added to make the perennial border more accessible. With volunteers providing much of the labor last fall and this spring, invasive ornamentals have been removed and thousands of native perennials that require less maintenance were added.

The other improvements planned include:

- New visitors center, with green design features, right on Main Street.
- Wetland Sun Terrace Garden west of the existing gardens, which will feature plants appropriate for residential applications throughout Bellevue;
- Ravine Garden that will provide pathway extensions through the Botanical Garden forest and include a 150-foot pedestrian suspension bridge over a dramatic wooded ravine.

The improvements will be funded in part by the 2008 parks levy and the city’s Capital Investment Program. The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society is raising the balance.

The Bellevue Botanical Garden is located at 12001 Main Street. For more information about design plans for the garden, contact Glenn Kost, parks planning manager, at 425-452-5258 or [gst@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:gst@bellevuewa.gov). For information about the Bellevue Botanical Garden, including hours, events and tours, call 425-452-2750 or visit <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/>.





## Questions and answers about shoreline management update

Two years into the process of updating Bellevue's shoreline management regulations, the city continues to gather public input. While some property owners along Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish have engaged in the process, residents who swim, fish or boat in the lakes and streams around Bellevue also have a lot to gain by contributing to the discussion about how our shorelines are managed.

Bellevue's Shoreline Master Program update can seem complicated. To make the topic easier to understand, city planners have provided answers here to commonly asked questions.

### Q: What is the Shoreline Master Program?

**A:** Bellevue's Shoreline Master Program is essentially a planning and zoning ordinance that governs waterfront development in Bellevue. It was drafted in 1974, following passage by the state of the Shoreline Management Act, intended to prevent the "inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines."

Cities such as Bellevue are the primary regulators of their shorelines, but the state Department of Ecology approves local programs and some permit decisions. The Shoreline Master Program (SMP) protects natural resources, encourages land uses that require a waterfront location and promotes public access to shorelines.



Docks and bulkheads dominate the Lake Sammamish shoreline.

### Q: Why is Bellevue updating its shoreline management program now?

**A:** In 2003, the state revised its shoreline management guidelines (the standards which local governments must follow in drafting and updating their SMPs). The Legislature ordered the update in the face of mounting scientific evidence that the health of Washington's lakes, rivers and streams is suffering in part because of insufficient shoreline protections.

With the new state guidelines in place, city shoreline master programs needed review to address current conditions, consider new science and better align with related laws. An effective shoreline master program update will reduce unsustainable development and provide shoreline land owners with a clearer set of standards.

### Q: What shorelines are in Bellevue?

**A:** Shorelines include the water bodies of Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, Phantom Lake, Mercer Slough, Kelsey Creek and properties within 200 feet of these water bodies and associated floodplains and wetlands.

### Q: What must Bellevue do to update its SMP?

**A:** Essentially, the city is required to conduct an inventory and characterization of its shorelines, and assess what kinds of development and environmental conditions are there now. Based on that analysis, the city designates different portions of the shorelines for certain kinds of uses or activities.

Policies and regulations for shoreline uses and modifications (i.e. dredging, pier and bulkhead construction) are then developed. These policies and regulations are assessed for their cumulative impacts in the future. The regulations should protect ecological functions from the impacts of new shoreline development.

As part of the protection of ecological functions, a restoration plan must be prepared. This is different from mitigation associated with development activities. The restoration plan identifies goals and objectives, and prioritizes opportunities for restoration. While restoration plans are not required for private development, there may be incentives for developers to invest in some restoration activities. All of these elements go into the preparation of an SMP.

### Q: What is the condition of Bellevue's shorelines today?

**A:** Most of Bellevue's shorelines are held in private, residential ownership; other uses include city parks and a few private marinas. Docks and bulkheads or retaining walls are prevalent. These types of modifications disconnect the lakes and streams from those inputs necessary for survival of fish and other species. Although much of the shoreline is developed, there are instances where vegetation and more natural conditions exist. Even developed areas can accommodate important, ecological functions.

The ecology of the city's shorelines, lakes and streams can improve significantly with modest measures, including revegetation, removal of intrusive shoreline structures and removal or treatment of toxic materials. The city hopes to provide tools and incentives to property owners to undertake restoration activities.



Plantings, gravel, logs and slope modification (left) can be an effective alternative to bulkheads (right).

### Q: Where are we in the process?

**A:** An inventory of Bellevue's shoreline conditions has been completed. The Planning Commission is considering shoreline designations for the primary use of shoreline segments that respond to the conditions documented in the inventory. To date, no new policies or regulations have been formally proposed. The commission is slated to begin considering regulatory changes in the first quarter of 2010.

### Q: How will the city's shoreline management likely change as a result of the update?

**A:** A major addition to the SMP will be the environmental designations, essentially zoning, assigned to segments of the city's shorelines that reflect their uses and environmental conditions. For the most part, these designations will reflect current uses. For example, a residential property (either single- or multifamily) would be designated "shoreline residential."

Standards for marinas and other water-dependent uses will also be added to the SMP. There will likely be adjustments to existing rules based on how clear the existing standards are for property owners or new scientific understanding.

The addition of shoreline regulations would be based on experience gained from more than three years of permit review, significant changes in scientific understanding and changes in the shoreline environment identified in the inventory. Ideas advanced by the community that would achieve the same outcome at less cost or impact on private property owners are welcome. Unique areas such as Phantom Lake and portions of Newport Shores on Lake Washington may warrant specific standards.

The shoreline management regulations that typically generate concern among waterfront property owners – standards for docks, bulkheads and buffers or setbacks – were changed when Bellevue's critical-areas ordinances were updated in 2006.

Mitigation will only be required as part of major redevelopment or new development of a property. Minor repair and maintenance, such as changing the plumbing or electrical within an existing structure, and even some minor building expansions would not trigger large-scale mitigation of shorelines.

### Q: Shoreline conditions aren't the only impacts to the health of the shorelines, lakes and streams. What about the effects of citywide activities?

**A:** Certainly non-point pollution – stormwater runoff – has an impact on lakes and streams too. To minimize pollution from runoff, the state adopted new stormwater standards. In turn, the city last year, adopted new stormwater management requirements for construction, business and other activities. The city is also participating in an extensive regional public education campaign to make sure residents keep pollutants out of the storm drain.

### Q: If I don't live on a shoreline, why does the SMP update matter to me?

**A:** Bellevue's lakes and streams are public resources that benefit everyone. Ever go to any of the city's waterfront parks? Wish you had more access to our lakes and streams? Want our lakes and streams to be free of pollution, with healthy populations of salmon, shellfish and other aquatic life? Your participation can help ensure that your interests in shoreline use and protection are heard and taken into account in the updated Shoreline Master Program where appropriate.

### Q: How can I get involved?

**A:** Staff encourages anyone with an interest in the update to contact them directly at any time during the process. Planners Michael Paine (425-452-2739 or [mpaine@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mpaine@bellevuewa.gov)) and Heidi Bedwell (425-452-4862 or [hbedwell@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:hbedwell@bellevuewa.gov)) are working on this project. A range of perspectives are welcome and interested parties are encouraged to participate.

The Planning Commission is discussing the SMP update at many of its monthly meetings. Public input is welcome at those meetings. In addition, a citizen can provide written comment at any time. Learn about meetings and other details related to the SMP update at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/shoreline-master-plan.htm>. Look for other news releases and mailings regarding future open houses and meetings.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on a draft version of the updated SMP before it goes to the City Council for approval. Citizens will have an opportunity to provide formal comment during the hearing.

### Q: When will the new plan be adopted?

**A:** The project timeline calls for adoption by the City Council in December – this schedule is driven by state mandate and staff must demonstrate to Ecology staff that continuous progress is being made toward update completion. After council adoption, the state Department of Ecology will review the SMP for consistency with the state guidelines and will hold a public hearing. Final adoption will likely occur in 2011.





The 2008 Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition featured some art installations, such as “Wall,” plastic bags and scavenged tree branches assembled by artist Ilene Sunshine across a large window at City Hall.

## Sculpture exhibition features art walk

The 10th edition of Bellevue’s sculpture exhibition will stretch beyond Downtown Park and City Hall to include visual arts installations along a three-quarter-mile route through the heart of downtown.

“Bellwether 2010: Art Walk Bellevue,” June 26 to Oct. 17, will focus on sustainability and the idea of an art walk connecting City Hall with the city’s waterfront. The installations for the show will trace the route planned for a future permanent public art.

Property owners on that route, which will include the Northeast Sixth Street pedestrian corridor and Bellevue Way between Northeast Sixth and Fourth streets – will have the opportunity to host installations.

A bellwether is an early sign of what’s to come, and this year’s exhibition is intended to presage Bellevue’s future with its focus on sustainability and future visions of downtown Bellevue.

The city is accepting entries this month for inclusion in the show. A panel of nationally respected artists will review entries and recommend sculptures and installations.

Bellevue’s sculpture exhibition, a high-profile event for the regional arts community, has taken place every other year since 1992. The 2008 exhibition was the first to have a theme.

Bellwether is expected to feature up to: 27 outdoor sculptures, at Downtown Park and on the City Hall grounds; 18 indoor sculptures in City Hall; and five installations – typically art pieces assembled on-site to illustrate or highlight something about the location.

More information about Bellwether 2010 is available at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellwether2010.htm>.

## Wilburton Connections to accommodate growth

An open house from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2, will present plans for the Wilburton Connections – a group of projects intended to accommodate future growth and support increased access between Wilburton, downtown Bellevue and the Bel-Red area.

The projects include:

- Northeast Fourth Street Extension, from 116th to 120th Avenue Northeast;
- Northeast Sixth Street Extension, from I-405 to 120th Avenue Northeast;
- 120th Avenue Northeast Widening, from Northeast Fourth to Northeast Eighth Street;
- Northeast Fifth Street Neighborhood Traffic Assessment.

At the open house, which will be held on the first-floor concourse of City Hall, participants can get project information, ask questions, offer comments and express concerns.

For more information, visit <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/wilburton-connections.htm> or call 425-452-4638.

## New community garden at Crossroads

For years, Bellevue has offered small garden plots to residents who want to grow fruits and vegetables, but don’t have the land to do it. Now, with demand growing faster than a zucchini, the Crossroads Bellevue shopping center is offering community garden plots too.

Residents can apply to the city to lease 400-square-foot plots at two locations, the Lake Hills Greenbelt P-Patch Garden and the Crossroads Park P-Patch Garden. With administrative assistance from the city, Crossroads Bellevue has launched a third option – the Crossroads P-Patch Community Garden.

Located by the mall, the new garden offers year-round plots. For more information, or to be added to the Crossroads Bellevue garden waiting list, contact Susan Benton at 425-990-1201.

While the new garden could have a name that more clearly distinguishes it from the city’s site, there is no question that it fills a need.

“There’s been a steady growth in demand over the last few years,” said Laura Hughes, the park ranger who manages city’s P-Patch program. She noted that while plots have never been vacant while she’s been in charge, people are snapping them up faster. The waiting lists fill up quickly too.

At the Lake Hills Greenbelt, 41 seasonal plots will be available this spring. Eleven seasonal plots are available at the city’s Crossroads site. Three plots at Lake Hills are accessible for people with disabilities. Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 garden season.

It costs \$58 to lease a city P-Patch plot for a season. Residents who want to garden year-round can lease one of 35 all-season plots at the Lake Hills Greenbelt for \$68 a year. The fee covers on-site water and yard waste collection. Scholarships are available.

To apply for a city P-Patch plot, contact Laura Hughes at 425-452-7225. More information about city’s P-Patches can be found online at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/community-gardens.htm>.

## New turf field at Wilburton to be ready for kickoff



Wilburton Hill Park will soon have the second sports field in Bellevue available for year-round use, with synthetic turf to be ready for soccer games in March. A grand opening celebration is set for Saturday, May 1, from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

The first project in the 2008 voter-approved parks levy to be completed will help satisfy an identified need for more high-quality game fields. The turf replaces a dirt field that would turn to uneven mud in the wet months. The field will now also be usable for youth football and lacrosse.

A rubberized running track has been installed around the perimeter of the field, along with a drinking fountain and an expanded seating/staging area. Wilburton Hill Park already had lighting, parking and restrooms.

Voters also approved installation of synthetic turf at Newport Hills Park, where the grass field is usable for only half the year. Design work has been completed for Newport Hills, but installation is still to be scheduled.

In addition to being more durable than grass, synthetic turf also requires no costly mowing, watering, fertilizing or reseeding. New synthetic turf fields expanded capacity for soccer and other sports at Robinswood Park.

## Dyeing to find leaks

A leaky toilet can waste thousands of gallons of water per year – water you pay for. You should be dyeing to find such leaks.

Around March 15 Bellevue and the Cascade Water Alliance will send toilet leak detection dye to all single-family residences in Bellevue. The dye allows residents to easily check toilets for costly leaks.

In addition, Cascade is partnering with local hardware stores to offer discounts on replacement flappers and free classes on toilet repair. Visit <http://www.cascadewater.org> for more details.





## Three Garden volunteers receive President's Service award



Udell Fresk gives Garden d'Lights tips.

Volunteers are key to making the Bellevue Botanical Garden one of the city's highlight destinations. Udell Fresk, Ruth Edwards and Joanne White are being honored this year for logging more than 4,000 hours of free labor.

All three will receive national recognition – the prestigious President's Call to Service Award – from the city. Fresk has spent more than 6,000 hours weeding, pruning and planting at the Garden. Edwards put in 4,400 hours and White put in a little over 4,000 hours.

Bellevue has a long history of volunteer service; more than 6,700 volunteers perform services for the city each year. This is the second year the city will present President's Volunteer Service Awards to top volunteers – 50 individuals and one group who logged hours last year for a variety of programs.

Zach Fortenbaugh put in almost 300 hours for the Parks and Community Services Department's Natural Resources division. Michael Ryan logged more than 400 hours serving as chaplain for emergency services. Michaela Paeth and Ishani Deo served over 400 hours at Kelsey Creek Farm.

Honorees from Mediation, who logged more than 100 hours last year helping residents resolve conflicts, include Josh Sundt and Catherine Zimmerman. Victor Hsaio put in 100 hours for the Bellevue Aquatic Center.

Sharon Graham, Dallas Graham, Annie Tyvand, Marge Peacock, Nancy Daar and Jackie Foushee all put in more than 400 hours for the Botanical Garden. Other honorees for service to the garden are: Lena Wegner, Candice McIvor, Joella (Jody) Yoder, Debbie Vaught, Carolyn Ward, Norm Hansen,

## Waterwise Garden volunteers wanted



Tia Scarce, a Waterwise Garden volunteer at work.

Volunteers at the Utilities Department's Waterwise Garden receive as well as give.

Located in the Bellevue Botanical Garden, the Waterwise Garden shows visitors how a garden can be managed naturally and sustainably. The volunteers who keep it blooming learn about composting and soil-building first-hand, while meeting people who share an interest in gardening and being outdoors.

Volunteer days are the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 1 to 3 p.m., through the fall. No experience is necessary; training is provided. To sign up, contact Patricia Burgess at [pburgess@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pburgess@bellevuewa.gov) or call 425-452-4127.

People who take any of the dozens of volunteer positions in Bellevue are rewarded in many ways.

To learn more about all local volunteering opportunities, check out the city's volunteer page at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/volunteer.htm>. For more volunteering opportunities throughout the community, click on the Community Volunteering Guide, or e-mail volunteer program coordinator Shelly Shellabarger at [volunteer@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:volunteer@bellevuewa.gov).

Diane Buck, Barbara Hall, Freddy Bovard, Michael-Marie Haunreiter, Donna Pratt, Michele Cournoyer, Anne Chin, Bernice Velategui, (Catherine) Anne Davis, Elizabeth (Betti) Johnson, Jan Lyon, Jean Nibbe, Carol Scheuffele, Kathy Calvert, Leila Martin, Gayle Richardson, Sylvia Cameron, Judy Sanderson, Kathleen Searcy, Donna Addison, Carol Holloway, Sandra Brann, Carol Todd, Louise Streuli, Cathy Gibbins, Roy Harsh, Bill Willard and Olga Bonilla.

## Deadline for match grants extended

Have you had ideas on how to make your neighborhood more livable and attractive, but didn't have the resources to make it happen? Join forces with your neighbors and the city can offer a matching grant.

Implementing a successful project just takes a spark of an idea and a little energy to get a few neighbors together to get started. Through the Neighborhood Match Program, residents can receive up to \$5,000 from the city to match their contributions in cash, labor, professional services and materials on a project.

The match program for 2010 kicked off Jan. 1, but there's still time to apply. The deadline has been extended to March 15.

Small neighborhood improvements, spearheaded by neighborhoods themselves, could include beautification of a median, installation of an entry sign with landscaping, replacement of deteriorating mailbox stands, or even a public art project.

A list of criteria for proposed projects and a simple application form can be found at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood\\_match\\_program.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood_match_program.htm). For more information, to discuss your project ideas, or to get help with the application process, contact Patricia Knight at 425-452-7917 or [pknight@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pknight@bellevuewa.gov).

## Council launches review of Eastgate/I-90 corridor



The Eastgate commercial area along Interstate 90 is one of five major employment centers in Bellevue, representing approximately 18 percent of the city's total work force. It's also an important hub for higher education, a crucial transportation corridor and a center for neighborhood services for nearby residential areas.

To ensure that the area remains vital, the City Council has directed staff to conduct a land use and transportation study for the Eastgate/I-90 area. The project will involve extensive public involvement over the coming months.

The primary study area focuses on the commercial office and retail properties lining I-90, generally bounded by I-405 to the west, 161st Avenue Southeast to the east, Southeast 26th Street to the north and Southeast 38th Street to the south. The primary study area will also include a narrow corridor eastward along I-90 that encompasses the planned Mountains to Sound Greenway and the Lakemont Boulevard interchange.

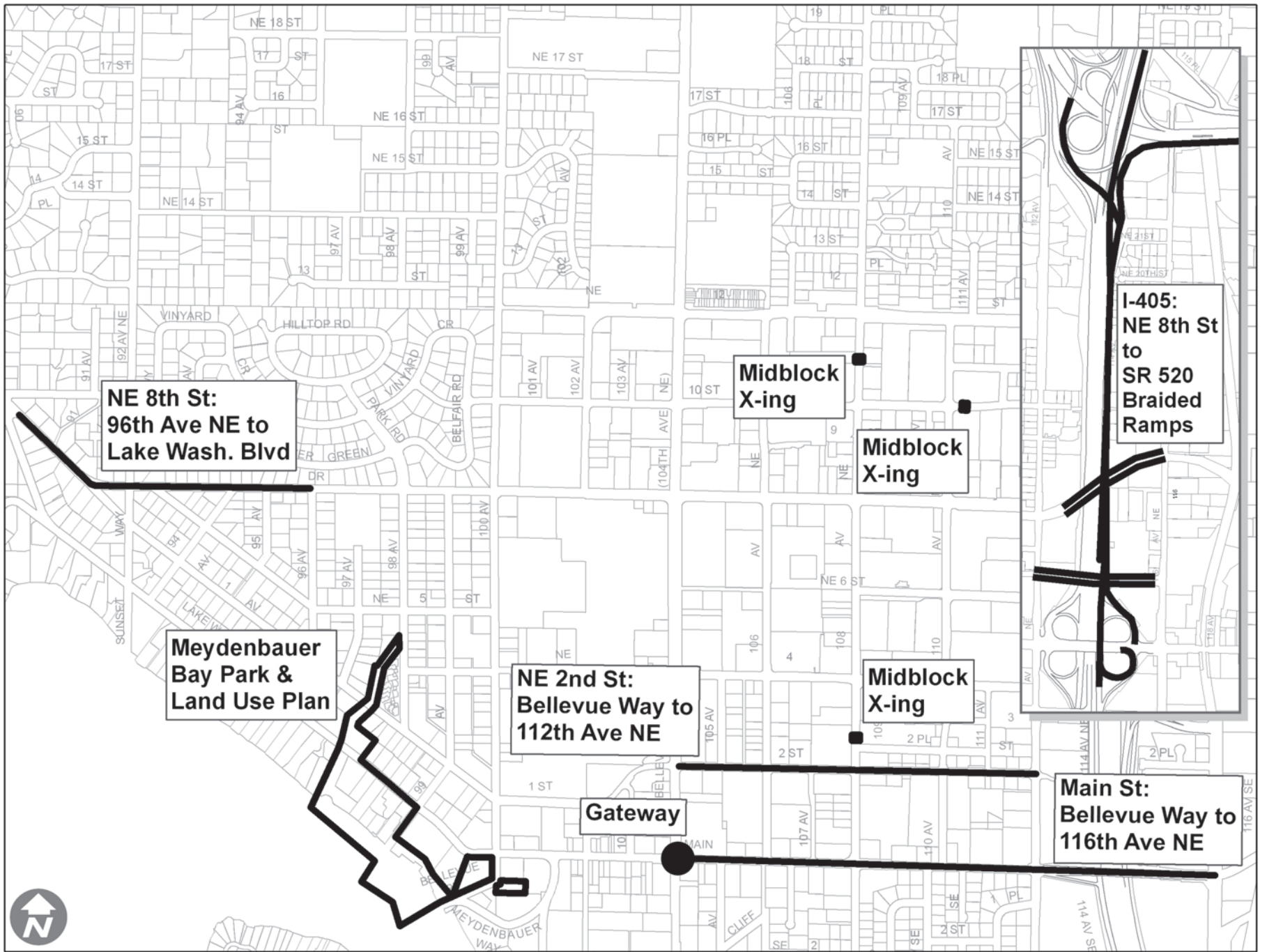
While acknowledging the city's limited capacity to fund major new infrastructure to support land use changes, the council concluded that this project needs to proceed now. Reasons include: a need to work with the state Department of Transportation to improve regional access, the need to stem the erosion of neighborhood services needed by nearby neighborhoods, the need to consider interest by several Eastgate property owners in redevelopment, a desire to create a more coherent image for the area and opportunities to work with Bellevue College as completes the transition to a four-year institution.

In a parallel effort to the land use and transportation study, staff will discuss future annexation options with residents who live in an unincorporated part of Eastgate south of I-90.

More information on the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Project is available on the city's Internet site at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastgate-corridor.htm>.



# Downtown Projects



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The city is pursuing a half-dozen projects in or near downtown. One is from the Parks & Community Services Department and the others are from the Transportation Department.

## MEYDENBAUER BAY PARK AND LAND USE PLAN



This project would create a new 10-acre waterfront park on Meydenbauer Bay and connect it to the downtown through land use changes on nearby upland properties. This project has been envisioned in the Parks & Open Space System Plan and Comprehensive Plan for more than 20 years.

The project Steering Committee has completed its final recommendation, and the Parks & Community Services Board will review of the proposed master plan early this year. The master plan, with the Parks Board's recommendation, will go to the City Council for adoption this spring.

No construction schedule has been identified. The preliminary estimated construction cost for the project is \$41.4 million.

For more information, contact either project manager: Robin Cole, Parks & Recreation Department, 425- 452-6195 or [Rcole@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Rcole@bellevuewa.gov), or Mike Bergstrom, Planning & Community Development Department, 425-452-6866 or [Mbergstrom@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Mbergstrom@bellevuewa.gov).

## NORTHEAST EIGHTH STREET SIDEWALK



A new sidewalk is being installed on the north side of Northeast Eighth Street, between 96th Avenue Northeast and Lake Washington Boulevard. The water main along that stretch is being replaced. Construction is expected to be complete in the summer.

For more information, please call Marina Arakelyan, project manager, at 425-452-4632 or [Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov).



Follow projects with  
E-Mail Alerts

[www.bellevuewa.gov](http://www.bellevuewa.gov)





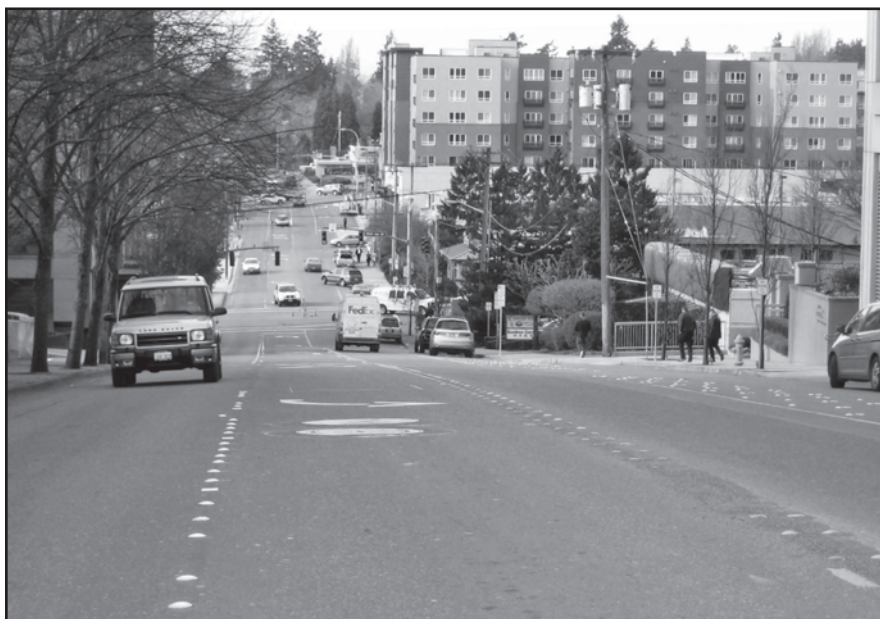
## MAIN STREET AND NORTHEAST SECOND STREET ENHANCEMENTS



Enhancements under consideration include making Main Street more pedestrian-friendly between Bellevue Way and 116th Avenue Northeast and widening Northeast Second Street between Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue Northeast.

- **Main Street and Downtown Gateway:** Various lane configurations and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, such as bike lanes or sharrows, are being considered for Main Street. A gateway to downtown is also being developed at the intersection of Main Street and Bellevue Way.
- **Northeast Second Street Widening:** Plans call for widening Second Street from three lanes with on-street parking to five lanes. Streetscape design concepts have been drafted for each block of Northeast Second Street from Bellevue Way to 112th Avenue Northeast. A linear park along Second Street is envisioned, with park space on all four corners at the intersection with 110th Avenue.

An open house to present the range of alternatives for both corridors was held in May 2009. In 2010, the traffic analysis for Main and Second streets will be updated to more fully assess impacts to the roadway network. After this, a final recommendation for the lane configuration and proposed



improvements will be provided to the City Council, property owners and the surrounding community.

While this project is being led by the Transportation Department, it is a multi-departmental effort with close coordination and team representatives from the Planning and Community Development and Parks and Community Services departments. This conceptual design project will be completed in 2010. For more information, please contact Francine Johnson at 425-452-6967 or [fjohnson@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:fjohnson@bellevuewa.gov).

### DOWNTOWN MID-BLOCK CROSSWALKS

To enhance safety for pedestrians trying to cross busy downtown streets, mid-block crosswalks will be installed. On Northeast 10th Street by the library, a signal will be added for the crosswalk already there:

- 1) Northeast 10th Street west of 110th Avenue Northeast
- 2) 108th Avenue Northeast at Northeast 11th Street
- 3) 108th Avenue Northeast and Northeast Second Place

These three projects are under construction. For more information, contact Chris Masek at 425-452-4619 or [Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov).

## FREEWAY IMPROVEMENTS



### INTERSTATE 405 STATE ROUTE 520 BRAIDED RAMPS AND INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS

This project is a partnership with the state Department of Transportation, who will build new multi-level “braided” ramps to separate vehicles entering and exiting northbound I-405 between Northeast 8th Street and SR-520. The ramps are as follows:

- One on-ramp will begin at Northeast Eighth Street and lead drivers to northbound I-405
- Another on-ramp will begin at Northeast 10th Street and lead drivers to eastbound SR-520 from downtown Bellevue
- A bypass lane will take drivers over the 124th Avenue NE exit to eastbound SR-520

The new ramps will reduce congestion and accidents on I-405 caused by drivers weaving across traffic to enter and exit the highway between Northeast Eighth Street and 520. Additionally, this project will enhance pedestrian and bicycle access on the Northeast 12th Street Bridge.

This project received \$30 million in stimulus funding from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The funding advanced delivery to the public by approximately one year. Total project budget: \$278.6 million

Construction is underway. First, the contractor will rebuild the 12th Street Bridge with a longer, wider one that enhances pedestrian and bicycle access. For the next two years, the traffic over the bridge will be funneled into two lanes from the current four.

Crews will build the new bridge in halves, keeping two-way traffic flowing with the exception of one weekend closure for bridge demolition. Still, drivers should use the new Northeast 10th Street overpass if possible during construction on 12th Street.

The overall project will be complete in the winter of 2012.

For more information, contact Steve Peer at 425-456-8624 or [steve.peer@i405.wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:steve.peer@i405.wsdot.wa.gov) or [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i405/NE8thtoSR520/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i405/NE8thtoSR520/) or Nancy LaCombe at 425-452-4382 or [Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov).

**If you have questions or comments about the Downtown Bellevue Projects Update**, call 425-452-4638, or write Tresa Berg, Public Involvement Manager, City of Bellevue, Transportation Department, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012 or [Tberg@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Tberg@bellevuewa.gov)

### TITLE VI NOTICE

*It is the City of Bellevue's policy to assure that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated may file a complaint with the Title VI Coordinator. For Title VI complaint forms and advice, please contact the Title VI Coordinator at 425-452-4270.*

### COMMUTE ADVANTAGE GIVES DRIVERS OPTIONS

The city is working to reduce demand on the transportation system by helping downtown employers, workers and residents find others ways to get around, rather than driving alone. The Commute Advantage program provides free employer assistance to set up employee commute options. This includes help from an industry expert in telecommuting.

The Commuter Connection store at the Bellevue Transit Center (10850 Northeast Sixth St.) offers bicycle parking memberships and free commute planning assistance. For more information visit the city's travel options website, <http://www.ChooseYourWayBellevue.org>, or call 425-452-7896.



## A new era dawns

*By Steve Kasner, East Bellevue Community Council Chair*

This is my first article since the East Bellevue Community Council was re-elected. Four of the five of us were appointed during our last term. It was gratifying to see overwhelming community support as our approval rating was over 81 percent.

This contrasts with a much lower percentage in the last few elections. This was also the highest approval percentage for community councils in the state. I believe this stems from the fact that we are very open to community feedback and provide an open forum for all sides of an issue to be heard.

As chair I pledge to continue this positive atmosphere throughout my time on the council. We have worked with city staff and the City Council to make sure those issues of interest to our neighbors are discussed thoroughly before any decisions are made. Thank you to all that voted because it is what makes democracy great.

### Lake Hills Shopping Center progressing

As you may have noticed, the Lake Hills Shopping Center project is moving ahead quickly, and sometime in the late spring or summer we will celebrate the grand opening of the Lake Hills Library just down the street from its current location.

If you are curious about what the building will look like, please stop by the Lake Hills library to see some of the drawings. The library recently held a meeting at which they discussed the new plans at length with the community. The drawings were discussed and community questions were answered about the new facility and how the transition is going to work.

I am very excited that we will have this gem of a community asset in our neighborhood.

### Community input is vital

As you may have read, the EBCC continues to work with city staff to make our community more livable. I hope we continue to be proactive to discuss what we want and instead of trying to legislate what we do not want after the fact.

Community input is vital to make decision makers aware of issues that affect you. One decision under discussion is how light rail is implemented in our city. Make your voice heard on this very important issue for our future.

It seems like only yesterday that we were talking about Y2K and how the world as we know it could implode. There is no way that I could have predicted during the '90s some of the amazing technical advances that have occurred in the ensuing decade.

Fortunately, I have children who help me understand how it all works so I can keep up. I think it highlights the point that we need to keep an open mind about all of the possibilities.

### Making visions reality

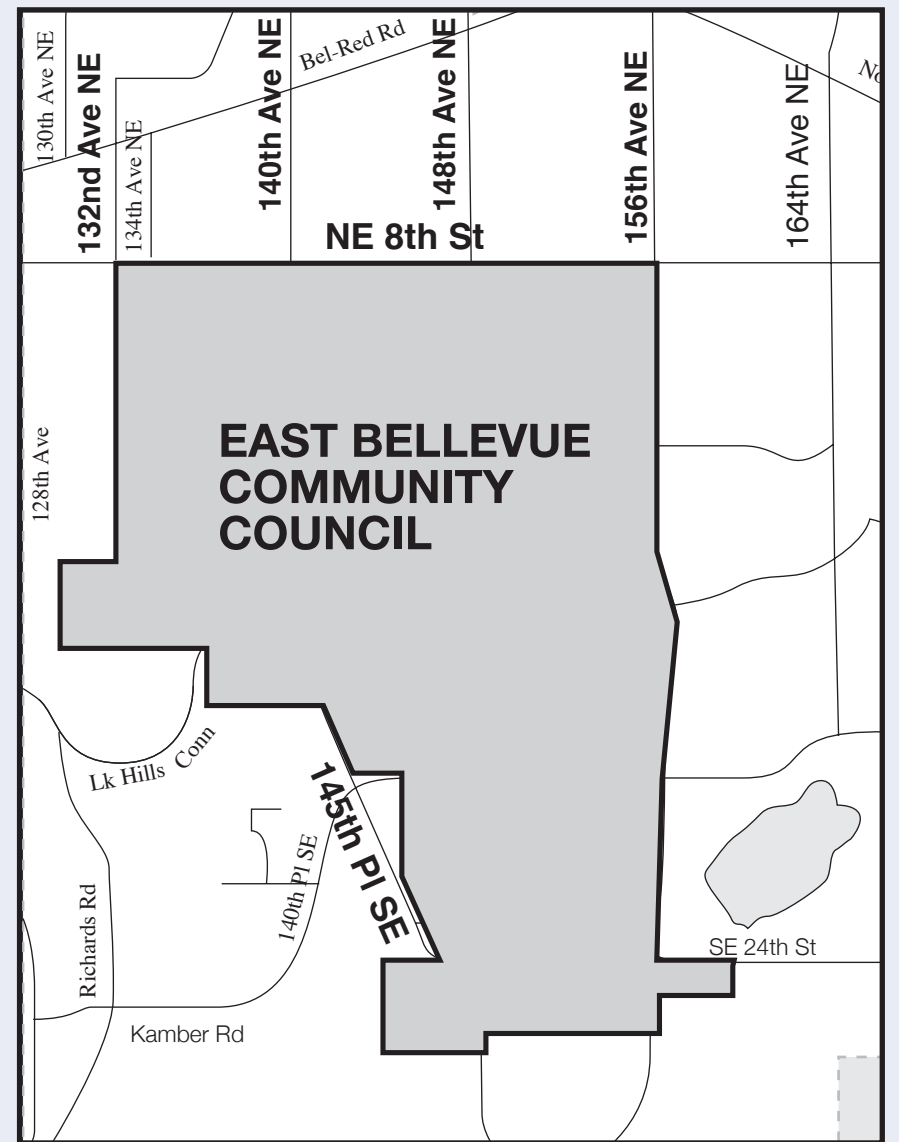
My greatest joy as a public servant is seeing the South Bellevue Community Center filled with happy families, because it was a dream of mine and many others over the 20 years it took to see it happen. Many thought the obstacles were too great to overcome, but the vision and belief ultimately prevailed so that now we will enjoy it for years to come.

There are other examples in Bellevue's history where one or more people believed in something to make it happen. I considered naming names on each of these projects, but fear that I would leave out key movers and shakers. I'll just talk about the projects in broad brush, so you can take pride if you had anything to do with one. Perhaps the projects will inspire you to be part of the next great one.

We were told our city was not big enough to support our own hospital. We have been able to increase our access to waterfront in our city because people believed. I remember the discussion about the need for community pools and the determination of those that believed they were very important to our quality of life.

I am sure that there are many other projects and programs that you are aware of that make this a great city to live in. If you think of one, please take the time to thank those who made it happen because we have a richer city because of it.

Finally, please fill out the census forms when you receive them next month. We should be proud of what we have accomplished in the past and what we are capable of in the future. But the census is our scorecard to show who is here; an accurate count is the basis of that and any federal dollars that may go with it. Thanks for reading and go out and enjoy your city.



For more information about the East Bellevue Community Council, call Deputy City Clerk Michelle Murphy, 425-452-6466, or contact Steven Kasner, acting chairman for the EBCC.

**East Bellevue Community Council** meets the first Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

### Members

Michael Elwin, Ross Gooding, Steven Kasner, Ken Seal, Richard Erwin

We welcome comments about the East Bellevue area. You can share your views with the Community Council via e-mail at [EBCC@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:EBCC@bellevuewa.gov). To find out more about the agendas and decisions of EBCC go to the website, [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm).

See *It's Your City* on **BTV<sub>21</sub>**  
Bellevue TV  
 Every Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.  
 and every Friday at 9:30 p.m.  
 or see any episode anytime on the web.  
 Go to [bellevuewa.gov/bellevue\\_tv.htm](http://bellevuewa.gov/bellevue_tv.htm).





# Community Calendar

## Family Movies at Mercer Slough

Feb. 26, 5 to 6:30 p.m.  
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center  
1625 118th Ave. SE.  
"The Biggest Dam Movie You Ever Saw!" Rare look at beavers in their lodge. Free. • 425-452-2565

## Fiction Fridays at Lewis Creek

March 5, 11 a.m. to noon.  
Lewis Creek Park  
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE.  
"The Salamander Room" by Anne Mazer. Primarily for ages 3-6. Preregistration required. \$1 suggested donation. • 425-452-4195

## March Mania Plant Sale

March 7, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.  
Featuring unique specialties and spring ephemerals. Proceeds benefit the Northwest Perennial Alliance Border.  
425-452-2750 or <http://www.n-p-a.org>

## St Patrick's Dance

March 9, 2 to 4 p.m.  
North Bellevue Community Center  
4063 148th Ave. NE  
Sound of Swing performs. \$3.  
425-452-7681

## Family Movies at Lewis Creek

March 13, 2-4 p.m.  
Lewis Creek Park  
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE.  
"Whales: An Unforgettable Journey" (IMAX film) Children under 12 must be accompanied by a registered adult. Preregistration required. \$1 suggested donation.  
425-452-6885

## Leapin' Leprechauns!

March 13, 10 to 11:30 a.m.  
Northwest Arts Center  
9825 NE 24th St.  
Green milkshakes, green bowler hats, songs and stories. Ages 2-5 with caregiver.  
[NWAC@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:NWAC@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6046.

## Giving o' the Green- NPA Border Fundraiser

March 13, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
March 14, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Wells Medina Nursery  
8300 NE 24th St., Medina  
Purchase plants chosen for the Northwest Perennial Alliance Border at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.  
<http://www.n-p-a.org>

## Madeline

March 19, 20, 26 and 27, 7 to 9 p.m.  
March 21, 27 and 28, 2 to 4 p.m.  
Bellevue Youth Theatre  
16661 Northrup Way  
\$10 • 425-452-7155

## Family Movies at Mercer Slough

March 26, 5 to 6:30 p.m.  
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center  
1625 118th Ave. SE.  
"MicroCosmos" Insect documentary. Best for ages 10+. Free. • 425-452-2565

## Peep! Peep!

March 27, 10 to 11:30 a.m.  
Northwest Arts Center  
9825 NE 24th St.  
Egg-decorating workshop. Music, snack and an egg hunt. Ages 2-5 with caregiver.  
[NWAC@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:NWAC@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6046

## Fiction Fridays at Lewis Creek

April 2, 11 a.m. to noon.  
Lewis Creek Park  
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE.  
"Going to be... a butterfly" by Colin Walker. Primarily for ages 3-6. \$1 suggested donation. Preregistration required.  
425-452-4195



A Bellevue Youth Theatre production of "Oklahoma!"

## Family Movies at Lewis Creek

April 10, 2-4 p.m.  
Lewis Creek Park  
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE.  
"Bees: Tales from the Hive" All ages welcome. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a registered adult. Preregistration required. \$1 suggested donation.  
425-452-4195

## Earth Day-Arbor Day Volunteer and Community Celebration

April 17, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Lewis Creek Park  
5808 Lakemont Blvd.  
Volunteer projects in various locations, interactive displays and activities.  
425-452-4195

## April Pools Day

April 17, noon to 3 p.m.  
Bellevue Aquatic Center  
601 143rd Ave. NE  
Promoting water safety and proper life jacket use. Free swimming, raffles and water safety demonstrations.  
425-452-4444 or [sarmstrong@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:sarmstrong@bellevuewa.gov)

## Little Lake-to-Lake Earth Day Walk 5K

Apr 21, 2 to 6 p.m.  
Lake Hills Greenbelt Park  
156th Ave. SE and SE 16th St.  
Parking at Community Gardens. Free  
425-452-7106 or [dpettersson@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:dpettersson@bellevuewa.gov)

## The Music Man

April 23 and 24, 7 to 9 p.m.  
April 24 and 25, 2 to 4 p.m.  
Meydenbauer Theatre  
11100 NE Sixth St.  
Bellevue Youth Theatre production with lively dancing and memorable songs. \$12 • 425-452-7155

## Sheep Shearing

April 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Kelsey Creek Farm  
410 130th Pl. SE  
Including spinning demonstrations, children's crafts, tractor rides and food. Free admission. Costs vary for food and activities. No ATM on site, and no charge cards are accepted.  
425-452-7688 or [kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov)

## The Little Mermaid

April 30, May 1, 7 and 8, 7 to 9 p.m.  
May 1, 2 and 8, 2 to 4 p.m.  
Bellevue Youth Theatre  
16661 Northrup Way • \$10  
425-452-7155

## Wilburton Sports Field Grand Opening

May 1, 8:30 to 10 a.m.  
Wilburton Hill Park  
12400 Main St. • Free

## Eastside Fuchsia Society Plant Sale

May 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.  
Featuring a great selection of plants from Eastside Fuchsia Society.  
425-452-2750

## Mothers Day Social

May 9, 1 to 4 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.  
Grand opening of the new Perennial Border Open house. Light refreshments and music.  
425-451-3755 or <http://www.bellevuebotanical.org>

## SEASONAL

### Spring/Summer Recreation Programs

& Day Camps Registration  
March 1- Registration begins for Parks spring and summer programs and classes.  
425-452-6885 or [www.myparksandrecreation.com](http://www.myparksandrecreation.com)

### Seasonal Fresh Produce Stands

Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm and Bill Pace Fruit & Produce  
April-October, 9 a.m. -7 p.m. daily.  
Mercer Slough Nature Park  
2380 Bellevue Way SE  
425-467-0501

### Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm and

Cha Family Farms  
Lake Hills Greenbelt, 2 locations:  
700 148 Ave SE & 156th Ave SE/  
SE 16th St.  
Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m.  
425-260-2266

### Bellevue Botanical Garden Tours

April - October, Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.  
425-451-3755

### Guided Tour and Wetland Walk

Saturdays, 1-2 p.m.  
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center  
1625 118th Ave. SE  
Free guided tours. Meet at the Visitor Center. No registration necessary. 425-452-2565

### 2010 Picnic Shelter Reservations

Planning a special occasion or casual summer gathering at one of Bellevue's beautiful parks? Picnic shelters are now available for reservation. Call 425-452-6914



# City Contact Information

## Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Ave. NE/P.O. Box 90012  
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

City of Bellevue website: [www.bellevuewa.gov](http://www.bellevuewa.gov)

Information Center: 452-6800

City Council Office: 452-7810

## City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Mondays each month: study session 6-8 p.m., regular session 8-10 p.m.  
2nd and 4th Mondays each month: extended study session 6-10 p.m.

## Community Council Meetings

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.  
Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

## Board & Commission Meetings

Call 452-6466 for meeting locations/agendas

Arts: 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Civil Service: 2nd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Jan., Mar., July, Oct.

Environmental Services: 1st Thursday, 7 p.m.

Human Services: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Library Board: 4th Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Parks & Community Services Board: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Planning: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Transportation: 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Youth Link Board: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

## City Offices (all city phone numbers use the 425 area code)

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 452-6464

City Manager: 452-7228

## Community Centers

Crossroads: 452-4874

Highland: 452-7686

North Bellevue Senior: 452-7681

South Bellevue: 452-4240

Community Council: 452-6466

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Development Services Center: 452-6800

New permit applications and application status: 452-4898

Inspection Requests: 452-6875

Code Compliance: 452-4570

## Fire & Emergency Medical

Emergency Only: 911

Business and Information: 452-6892

Inspection/Fire prevention: 452-6872

## Human Resources: 452-6838

Job Line: 452-7822 or [www.bellevuewa.gov](http://www.bellevuewa.gov)

## Information Technology: 452-4626

Marina Hotline: 452-6123

Neighborhood Mediation Program: 452-4091

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

## Parks & Community Services

Parks Information: 452-6881

Recreation Registration: 452-6885

Youth Sports: 452-6887

Ballfields: 452-6914

Picnics/Rentals: 452-6914

Park Maintenance: 452-6855

Human Services: 452-6884

Cultural Diversity: 452-7886

Probation: 452-6956

Recreation & Special Services Division: 452-6885

## Police

Crossroads Station: 452-2891

Factoria Station: 452-2880

Transit Center Station: 452-7933

Emergency Only: 911

Complaints and Information: 452-6917

Crime Prevention: Commercial 452-6915; Residential 452-6916

Traffic Safety/Enforcement: 452-6940

## Transportation

Administration/Information: 452-6856

## Utilities

Administration/Information: 452-2977

Billing/Customer Service: 452-6973

Water, Sewer, Street, & Surface Water Maintenance and Emergency: 452-7840

## Other Numbers (Not city government)

King County Animal Control: 206-296-PETS

Allied Waste/Rabanco: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)

Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000

# Bellevue

## IT'S YOUR CITY

*It's Your City* is published for people who live or work in Bellevue. If you have questions or comments about this publication or city services, call 425-452-4448; or write: Editor, *It's Your City*, City of Bellevue, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012;

or send e-mail to [ciosso@bellervuewa.gov](mailto:ciosso@bellervuewa.gov)

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[www.bellevuewa.gov](http://www.bellevuewa.gov)



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# Bellevue City Council



Don Davidson  
Mayor



Conrad Lee  
Deputy Mayor



Claudia Balducci



Grant Degginger



John Chelminiak



Jennifer  
Robertson



Kevin Wallace

## It's a walk in the park

To give residents an interesting way to explore some of Bellevue's 94 miles of trails, the Parks & Community Services Department has organized four walking events.

Like park walks in 2009, this year's will highlight the best of Bellevue art, parks and natural and historic sites. Walkers can track their progress in "walking passports" available at the start of each walk. If participants complete all four walks, they could win a prize.

All walks are free and registration takes place the morning of the event at the start location. Not all walks are suitable for small children and strollers. (See each event for details.)

Maps and flyers will be available online, closer to the dates of the events, at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/COBCalendar> or by contacting park ranger Debbie Pettersson (425-452-7106 or [dpettersson@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:dpettersson@bellevuewa.gov)).

The walks are sponsored in partnership with the American Volkssport Association and Whole Foods Market Bellevue.

### Little Lake-to-Lake ~ Earth Day 5K Walk

Date: April 21

Time: 2 to 6 p.m. (registration anytime)

Location: Lake Hills Greenbelt Park, 156th Avenue SE and SE 16th Street

This easy walk follows the Lake Hills Greenbelt Trail connecting Larsen and Phantom Lakes. Walkers are invited to stop along the way by each "earth education" station set up within the park. This walk is family-friendly and accessible for strollers and wheelchairs. Event highlights include the Larsen Lake Pioneer Cabin, Master Gardener Demonstration sites and pristine natural areas.

### Bellevue Downtown Art & Park 10K Walk, Connecting People, Parks & Art

Date: May 22

Time: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (registration: 8 a.m. to noon)

Location: Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street

Walking along city streets and through parks, participants will view more than 20 pieces of public art, seeing a diverse array of media, style and cultural expression downtown. Sites featured include Downtown Park, Meydenbauer Beach Park, Wildwood Park, the Bellevue Arts Museum, City Hall and the Northwest Arts Center. A shorter, six-kilometer walk will be an option. This is a sanctioned walk hosted by the Interlocken Trail Blazers.

### Lake-to-Lake Greenway Trail 15K Walk, Connecting People, Parks & Nature

Date: Sept. 18

Time: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (registration: 8 to 10 a.m.)

Location: Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm, 2380 Bellevue Way

Walkers can enjoy the beauty of Bellevue's parks and open spaces along the Lake-to-Lake Trail. From the farm, participants are shuttled to the start of the trail at Weowna Park. The shuttle runs approximately every half hour. This walk is strenuous and not suitable for small children or strollers. A six-kilometer walk option is also available at the Mercer Slough. The Northwest Striders host this sanctioned walk.

### Lakemont Lewis Creek 5K Walk

Date: Oct. 10

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (registration 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

Location: Lewis Creek Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd

Walkers can enjoy the colors of fall through pristine natural areas. A nature education station will be set up at the park. The walk is great for families, but an alternate accessible route is available as the main route includes some steep hills and uneven terrain not suitable for strollers.