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## 2021-22 budget approved Bridges deficit, supports diversity, transportation, environment

By Brad Harwood, Chief Communications Officer

At its last meeting of 2020, the City Council unanimously approved a 2021-22 "bridge" budget designed to plug a pandemic-induced \$32 million shortfall, while maintaining essential services and continuing support for key diversity outreach, transportation and environmental initiatives.

"This is a responsive and responsible budget," Mayor Lynne Robinson said before the Dec. 14 vote. "... It responds to the emerging needs of the community and is balanced, while maintaining all the services needed to support our city. It is the result of the council's many long discussions with community members, businesses and faith organizations, and the work of our excellent staff."

As City Manager Brad Miyake noted in his transmittal letter with a preliminary version of the budget: "This budget creates a 'bridge' to keep Bellevue on solid financial footing. Critical discussions and potentially difficult decisions will be necessary early next year and beyond as we

learn more about and deal with the aftershocks of the pandemic and structural deficit."

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic slowdown heavily impacted the city. The budget overcomes a \$16 million a year shortfall through a mix of cost reductions, and short-term fixes. These include the transfer of \$6 million to the General Fund from the Capital Investment Program, reductions to internal-facing operations which will impact the city's ability to be flexible as additional work arises, and the incorporation of additional revenues (1% property tax and Basic Life Support Fee).

With the \$1.7 billion combined operating and capital budget, the city:

- Maintains funding levels for critical public safety programs related to Fire and Police, while also continuing programs that advance equity and inclusion, build community connections and help the most vulnerable, including individuals experiencing homelessness.

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## Council weighs police use-of-force recommendations

By Claude Iosso, It's Your City Editor

The City Council began considering recommendations concerning Bellevue's police use-of-force policies this month. The recommendations were issued by an independent consultant that reviewed the policies and took input from residents, particularly communities of color.

In June, the council pledged to undertake a review of use-of-force policies in response to protests in Bellevue and around the country against racial injustice and systemic racism.

Bellevue is committed to ensuring policies and practices in every city function serve

all communities. The goal is to model equitable practices and work with the broader community to foster a safe, respectful and welcoming environment for communities of color.

To ensure impartiality and encourage unfiltered input from residents, the city hired a consultant, the Office of Independent Review Group, to look at the city's use-of-force policies, take input and issue a report with findings and recommendations.

Over the fall and winter, the OIR Group conducted community listening sessions and focused

outreach with stakeholders, especially residents of color. They also took written comments from the public.

The OIR Group issued a preliminary report with findings and recommendations on Feb. 3. The consultants were expected to refine their recommendations after community feedback was collected through Feb. 19.

When the council has the final report in hand, it will consider whether changes or reforms are necessary.

Learn about the current status of the police use-of-force review at [BellevueWA.gov/council-pledge](http://BellevueWA.gov/council-pledge).

# COUNCIL CORNER



By Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale

## Fostering inclusion in our diverse community

First, in recognition of Black History Month (borne out of Carter G. Woodson's Negro History Week), I want to acknowledge the many Black people who have contributed to the advancements in our society. Please take a moment to learn about those achievements in the article on page 7 about Bellevue's MLK Day celebration.

COVID-19 has made it difficult to, among other things, connect within our community. It's difficult to experience the chance encounters with community members that tie our community together through new relationships.

How we connect with each other influences our access to opportunities, our sense of belonging (i.e., whether we feel supported, connected, and included in our community) and our ability to share perspectives that help foster empathy for one another.

When I moved to Bellevue seven years ago from North Carolina, it took time to understand

how people socialize in this region. I came to learn, from my experience, that socializing primarily happens in cliques. People are generally less apt to acknowledge each other in passing, engage in impromptu conversation with unfamiliar community members, or make authentic connections. This is in contrast to a community where you "never meet a stranger."

As a growing city with a large minority population in a diverse region, spanning boundaries to meet and build relationships with those around us is key to bridging diverse races, ethnicities, and cultures in a community.

The City Council approved funding for the following new and existing programs that foster inclusion in our diverse community:

- **Communities of Color Initiative:** Identify and achieve racial equity outcomes in Bellevue by convening a team of residents representing the city's diverse communities.
- **Diversity Advantage Plan:** Update the plan to address current issues such as racial equity.
- **Cross-Cultural Center:** Help diverse residents connect and improve cultural competency across the community.
- **Cultural Conversations:** Connect diverse women in

- **Cultural Liaisons:** Conduct cultural outreach and engagement in partnership with trusted voices in the community.

As we implement these and other programs in the city, we must assess their efficacy to ensure they are having the intended impact, identify any systemic issues, and improve outcomes for specific groups where we see gaps. For example, in what ways might sense of belonging differ in our community based on race, ethnicity, and/or immigration status?

If we also make [anonymized] data and visualizations available to the community,

volunteers can better focus their community efforts, businesses and nonprofits can better focus their philanthropic efforts, and we can craft more informed policy within the city.

While there are actions we must take as a city, each of us is personally responsible for how welcoming and inclusive our community is. I encourage each person to think of at least one action they can take to make Bellevue more welcoming, more inclusive, more engaging, more empathetic, and stronger than it is today.

Feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with me at [jbarksdale@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jbarksdale@bellevuewa.gov). Let's do this together.



A family visits Peaks Frozen Yogurt Bar at Crossroads Bellevue.

# COUNCIL ROUNDUP

By Claude Iosso, It's Your City Editor

## Successfully adapting key services

The City Council on Jan. 11 received reports on two city service areas – permitting and conflict resolution – which, among many other functions at the city, successfully transitioned to primarily telephone and online service delivery during the pandemic.

Bellevue continued to experience strong development activity through 2020, issuing permits for the highest valuation of development assets ever, almost \$1.2 billion. More than 79,000 inspections were also completed last year.

Due to investments in paperless services and online tools, the Development Services Department was able to continue issuing permits seamlessly even as staff began working from home in March. Inspection teams found ways to complete some inspection tasks remotely and quickly instituted safety protocols for in-person work.

The Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center (BCRC) also transitioned quickly to serve emerging and changing needs in the community as the pandemic progressed.

The Center, in the Community Development Department, provides free mediation

and conciliation to people who live and work in Bellevue. Due to COVID-19, the BCRC ([BellevueWA.gov/conflict-resolution](http://BellevueWA.gov/conflict-resolution)) experienced a 30% increase in cases over the last quarter of 2020, many concerning rent arrearages and potential foreclosures.

Anticipating even more such cases this year, as eviction moratoriums expire, the BCRC has launched a rent negotiation program to help landlords and tenants reach agreements. To meet demand, the BCRC held a virtual conciliation training for new volunteers earlier this month.

## 2021 state legislative agenda

The council on Jan. 4 was presented with the draft 2021 agenda to serve as a basis for city communication to the state Legislature on key issues of concern to the city.

The draft agenda included priorities such as pandemic recovery, public safety and equity, key transportation items (Interstate 405 master plan, freeway interchanges and multi-use trail improvements), affordable housing, homelessness and environmental initiatives.

Councilmembers discussed amending the legislative agenda to include language that more urgently conveys the need to invest in infrastructure to absorb Bellevue's expected

growth in the coming years, which would pay dividends to the state if successfully managed. The council then approved a revised agenda on Jan. 11.

## Plan for adding affordable housing approved

On Dec. 14, the council unanimously approved a work plan for use of a 0.1% sales tax to support creation of affordable housing and mental health treatment in Bellevue. The plan focuses on serving people earning 60% or less of the area's annual median income, particularly underserved populations including people with disabilities, families, seniors and veterans.

The Legislature last year allowed cities and counties to impose a sales tax for housing and related services, and the Bellevue City Council approved the tax in October. Mental and behavioral health assistance is included in the approach along with creation of affordable housing units because this combination of services is needed to achieve housing stability for many.

Based on Bellevue's taxable sales in 2019 (pre-pandemic), the 0.1% sales tax would generate about \$9 million in a typical year.

# Mobile teams vaccinate adult family homes

By Lt. Camari Olson, Fire Public Information Officer

With the number of people eligible for the coronavirus vaccine growing, the protocol for distribution in Bellevue and the rest of the state was still being worked out in late January.



A resident at an adult family home receives the vaccine from a Bellevue firefighter in a mobile team.

Residents should check their eligibility with [FindYourPhaseWA.org](https://www.findyourphases.wa.gov/), the state Department of Health's vaccine eligibility screening survey. With a limited supply of the vaccine, state officials have planned to give it out in phases, starting with those at highest risk, such as health care workers and people over 65.

If people are eligible, the FindYourPhase has a list of locations where the vaccine is being dispensed. As of Jan. 20, Overlake Medical Center and the Safeway pharmacy on Bellevue Way were both on the list. Eligibility must be documented, and online appointments must be made on their websites. Due to limited vaccine supply, available appointments may be limited.

Health workers and firefighter/medics were among the first people in Bellevue to receive their first rounds of the vaccine. The firefighter/medics, in turn, began deploying mobile teams to speed the vaccine to staff and residents in adult family homes, the hardest-to-reach people in phase 1a.

Gov. Jay Inslee announced an updated statewide vaccine distribution plan on Jan. 18 intended to increase the number of Washingtonians vaccinated and establish infrastructure capable of mass vaccinations in the coming months.

Please consult [BellevueWA.gov/coronavirus-vaccines](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/coronavirus-vaccines) for current information. Accurate information about the vaccine in Washington is available at [DOH.WA.gov/emergencies/covid19/vaccine](https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid19/vaccine).

## Budget continued from page 1

- Preserves funding for human services and includes increased Community Development Block Grant funds. It keeps important mental health, community relations and outreach programs.
- Creates a "Communities of Color Coordinating Team" – a community-led, staff-supported effort to advance racial equity in Bellevue.
- Continues to fund and prioritize maintenance to ensure safety.
- Adds funding for construction of congestion-relieving transportation projects in neighborhoods.
- Continues to build the highest priority infrastructure needed to address growth and provides for new capital programs including Vision Zero, transportation grants and economic development/public-private partnership implementation.
- Adjusts Development Services rates to account for growth and maintain cost recovery.

- Enacts modest increases in utility rates to address aging infrastructure and wholesale cost increases
- Adds \$100,000 in 2021 and 2022 to the CIP for Environmental Stewardship implementation.
- Largely preserves current staff, CIP work and transportation infrastructure projects, adds planning capacity, and invests in Bellevue's affordable housing initiatives to responsibly address the significant growth projected for the community.

The Dec. 14 budget adoption marked the conclusion of a process that began in June with the council's biennial budget workshop, and included multiple deep-dive weekly public briefings in the fall. Public hearings were held on July 27, Sept. 21 and Nov. 23. In addition, public input was provided through performance surveys, emails and phone calls.

## Grants support commuter parking options for businesses

By Kate Johnson, Transportation Program Manager



Choose Your Way Bellevue, the City of Bellevue's travel options program, recently relaunched its business mini-grants for daily commuter parking options and small capital improvements. Employers and property managers at worksites in Bellevue are eligible.

While funding lasts, employers and managers can apply to receive up to \$10,000 for one-time, small capital improvements or campaigns to support non-drive-alone

commuting. Example projects include bike racks, carpool/vanpool parking signage and changes to parking equipment or management techniques that facilitate shifting from monthly to daily commuter parking pricing.

The mini-grant program is a collaboration between the city, King County Metro and the Bellevue Downtown Association. Learn more and apply at [ChooseYourWayBellevue.org/business](https://www.chooseyourwaybellevue.org/business).

## Virtual fitness, arts, tech classes when you need them most

By Christina Faine, Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

Get fit, creative or informed with a wide range of free and low-cost virtual and prerecorded programs from Bellevue's Parks & Community Services. Virtual programs allow people to participate safely in activities without leaving their homes.

Choices range from fitness and the arts to technology and English as a Second Language for older adults.

"We're reaching a population who hasn't been able to find a good format for a workout," said Joan Perugini, fitness supervisor at South Bellevue Community Center, of Bellevue's virtual fitness programs. "If you're at home with kids and/or telecommuting, you schedule a break, click on a link, add a password and 45 minutes later you've exercised and are feeling energized."

Many of the programs are filmed live, offering participants company from the other people on the Zoom call.

Residents can register for virtual classes at [Register.Bellevuewa.gov](https://www.register.bellevuewa.gov). Prerecorded activities are also available at [BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-at-home](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue-at-home).



South Bellevue Community Center fitness instructor Joan Perugini offers virtual programming.

## Neighborhood Leadership Gathering: Survival tips in times of stress

By Julie Ellenhorn, Neighborhood Outreach



Robin Rose

For Bellevue, 2020 was a year of uncertainty, stress and change, both at an individual level and as a community. Adaptability and resilience were essential. For the year ahead, these skills will also likely shape how we bring out the best in people and create stronger, healthier neighborhoods and communities.

At the next Neighborhood Leadership Gathering, Thursday, Feb. 25, 6:30-8 p.m., trainer Robin Rose will deliver a keynote address on how to stay calm,

centered, effective and more resilient – especially during high-stress times.

In addition to the keynote, participants will interact in small breakout rooms where they are encouraged to share stories of community resilience.

Rose, a renowned speaker, brings 30 years of experience exploring the frontiers of leadership and neuroscience. She understands the stress human beings can endure. With a master's degree in counseling psychology, Rose teaches a rare and scientific approach that teaches people how their brains work, so they can think, act and communicate at their highest proficiency. She translates brain science into practical and useable information and skills.

Whether it is stress in the workplace, managing remote learning for children, adapting to a virtual world or just maintaining human connections, Rose will help participants understand their emotional responses, and help them manage their stress to be their best selves.

Consistently rated an audience favorite, Rose is known for sessions that educate, entertain and motivate. Audiences come away with practical tools they can put to use right away.

The Neighborhood Leadership Gathering is a semi-annual gathering of residents who come together to share and learn from each other. Anyone invested in the health and quality of life in their Bellevue neighborhood is welcome.

To reserve a place in the Neighborhood Leadership Gathering, RSVP to [neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6836 for the Zoom link.

## Federal COVID-19 funding for businesses and nonprofits

By Claude Iosso, It's Your City Editor

With the pandemic continuing to challenge Bellevue residents and businesses, the city has worked to steer federal relief funds here.

Following a \$284 billion injection approved by Congress, a second round of forgivable Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans is available for eligible local businesses through March 31.

Additionally, nonprofit organizations offering Bellevue residents rental assistance, food assistance and behavioral health support were able to apply to the city in January for block-grant funding after nearly \$900,000 came to the city in a second round of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocations.

Local nonprofits who received block grant funding had to document how their services prevent, prepare for or respond to the



Staff gather food at Hopelink food bank for distribution.

coronavirus, indicating a clear connection between the service and COVID-19 in their applications.

"We are encouraged to see more rounds of business relief, and hope local businesses will take advantage of these resources," said Chief Economic Development Officer Jesse Canedo regarding the second round of funding. "The PPP can help Bellevue's small and independent businesses stay afloat, and keep Bellevue's residents employed."

The PPP provides businesses with 2.5 months of payroll costs. To obtain full forgiveness, borrowers must spend at least 60% of loan funding on payroll, but can spend up to 40% on other qualified expenses including: rent, mortgage interest, utilities and business software.

This new round of funding is limited to businesses with fewer than 300 employees that have experienced drops of at least 25% of their revenue during the first, second or third quarter of 2020. Businesses can receive up to \$2 million in funding.

The federal Small Business Administration manages the PPP. Details are available at [SBA.gov](https://www.sba.gov). Bellevue works with partner organizations to provide multilingual help to businesses applying for PPP and other loans.

The city's [BellevueWA.gov/bizresources](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/bizresources) page details grant and loan programs, regional support campaigns, city-sponsored assistance programs and other ways to support local businesses.

## Smart Water Meter Project Update

By Jessica Guthrie, Utilities Public Information Officer

Your water is about to get a lot smarter! Bellevue Utilities is replacing outdated manually-read water meters with new "smart" wireless technology. Once connected to the online portal, you will be able to track your home's water use, manage your water consumption and spot leaks much faster – potentially saving water and money.

In 2019, the City Council approved an updated approach to the project to use newer cellular endpoint technology that will require less system maintenance over time. This update added about 18 months to the project schedule to allow additional time for procurement, testing and installation. The project continues to have no additional rate impacts on customers. The project is scheduled for completion in mid-2022.

In 2020, most large commercial meters were upgraded. Beginning in spring, we will be upgrading all residential meters.

All customers will receive notice before their meter upgrade. Look for a postcard to alert you when work will be performed in your neighborhood, and what to expect during installation.

Installation is simple, takes about 15 minutes and requires no home entry. The meters will be installed outside, exactly where the current meters are.



The smart water meters look like this.

You can learn more about how Smart Water Meters work, the project benefits and updated timeline at [BellevueWA.gov/Smart-Water-Meter](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/Smart-Water-Meter). You can also contact us at [smartwater@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:smartwater@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6973.

# Former railroad corridor transforms into regional Eastrail



Eastrail is being paved in a section south of Coal Creek Parkway.

By Mike Ingram, Transportation Senior Planner

The first paved section of Eastrail in Bellevue – south of Coal Creek Parkway – is now under construction, with completion expected this spring. A former railroad line, Eastrail is being transformed into a 42-mile, multi-use trail that runs from Renton to Snohomish County, including seven miles in Bellevue.

King County owns most of the corridor through Bellevue, and is leading the development of Eastrail. In 2018, a mile-long, gravel-surface segment opened for use in north Bellevue. The 2.5-mile paved trail segment in southwest Bellevue is being built by the state

Department of Transportation as part of its Interstate 405 Renton to Bellevue Widening and Express Toll Lanes project.

“Partnerships are at the heart of Eastrail development, and are helping to make these projects a reality,” said Curt Warber, King County’s Eastrail project manager. “Together, we’ll realize the vision of a connected regional trail through Bellevue and the Eastside within the next few years.”

Upcoming Eastrail construction milestones:

- Construction is scheduled to begin this fall on an elevated trail crossing at busy Northeast Eighth Street, next to the new Wilburton light rail station. The crossing will include interpretive installations commemorating the Japanese American farmers who used a packing house in the area. The \$27 million estimated cost for the crossing will be funded by the 2020-2025 King County Parks Levy.
- Also expected to begin later this year is construction of an elevated trail crossing over the southbound lanes of I-405, between I-90 and Southeast Eighth Street. The pedestrian-bicycle bridge is another component of WSDOT’s I-405 Renton to Bellevue project.
- Work is anticipated to start early next year to rehabilitate for trail use the iconic Wilburton Trestle, built in the early 1900s. Funding will come from the King County Parks Levy, with contributions from the City of Bellevue, Washington state and Kaiser Permanente. Estimated cost: \$29.5 million.
- Another upcoming project will provide a much-needed link between Eastrail, where it crosses under Northup Way, and the SR 520 Trail corridor, an important east-west bicycle route. The estimated \$2.5 million cost is made possible by grants of \$1 million each from REI and Facebook, through a partnership project managed by the nonprofit Eastrail Partners, plus a contribution from King County. The start date has not yet been determined.

For more information about Eastrail, visit [BellevueWA.gov/eastrail](http://BellevueWA.gov/eastrail).

## Home retrofits, tree planting in updated Environmental Stewardship Plan

By Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Manager

Over the next five years, the city will ramp up efforts to preserve the environment by subsidizing energy-saving home retrofits, supporting residents in preserving and planting trees and helping businesses increase energy efficiency and conservation.

The city itself will continue a transition to an all-electric light-duty vehicle fleet by 2040.

These are among 77 actions included in “Sustainable Bellevue: Environmental Stewardship Plan 2021-2025,” adopted by the City Council on Dec. 14. The council requested quarterly updates on implementation of the plan.

The council also approved an additional \$200,000 in the 2021-22 budget to fund “quick win” projects, along with an additional \$50,000 over two years to support enhanced engagement with residents and key stakeholders.

Sustainable Bellevue, the third plan to guide the Environmental Stewardship initiative

since it was launched in 2006, charts the course of actions for the next five years.

Multiple rounds of public engagement were held and the city heard from over 1,000 residents and stakeholders. Throughout the process, the community voiced support for bold environmental action to achieve the city’s short and long-term environmental goals.

Overall, the city is aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050. Among other actions, the plan calls for planting 75,000 trees over the next 30 years and implementing a suite of energy, transportation and waste reduction strategies.

The city has a goal of 40% tree canopy cover by 2050, and is promoting tree planting and preservation in the city. We are seeking input on tree planting locations on public property, and offering the volunteer Neighborhood Tree Ambassador program for the second year. To learn more about our tree programs, visit [BellevueWA.gov/trees](http://BellevueWA.gov/trees).



A resident offers her take on environmental stewardship in a selfie at a pop-up event at Crossroads Bellevue in September 2019.

The council requested that staff develop an enhanced engagement strategy to build support for implementation among residents and businesses. Staff are scheduled to present a work plan and approach for enhanced engagement to the council this spring.

For more information on the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and opportunities to get involved, go to [BellevueWA.gov/environment](http://BellevueWA.gov/environment).

## Patio dining proves popular

City explores outdoor dining for restaurants citywide

By Anthony Gill, Economic Development Analyst

The city is exploring ways to increase outdoor dining options for restaurants throughout Bellevue after a survey indicated strong support from residents and businesses for al fresco eating allowed on Main Street over the summer.

To help restaurants weather pandemic restrictions, the city allowed several in the Old Bellevue section of Main Street to use curbside parking spaces and sidewalks for “patio” dining. Five restaurants added on-street spaces, while almost a dozen – both on Main Street and across the city – took advantage of sidewalk and parking lot spaces to expand their seating areas.

A resident survey about the dining expansion program garnered around 400 responses, with more than 70% of respondents expressing strong support. Many participating restaurants told the

February 2021

city that the expanded space offered a significant economic benefit.

The outdoor dining space expansion program was an eight-week, collaborative effort through the city’s economic development and transportation teams with the Bellevue Downtown Association and sponsorship support from Microsoft.

The city is now considering how to further streamline permitting for outdoor dining throughout Bellevue and ensure the program returns this summer. In areas outside of downtown, the program’s success will depend on new partnerships with business groups and creative ideas—like repurposing parking lot spaces for outdoor dining.

Businesses interested in adding outdoor space through the winter and this summer can reach out to staff on the city’s Economic Development team ([agill@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:agill@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-4114) for one-on-one assistance. Residents can expect more outdoor dining opportunities in the coming months.

# Bellevue welcomes the world

The City of Bellevue has been welcoming the world for many years, working to ensure equitable services for all in its diverse population. With a range of new and continuing programs highlighted here, we're advancing the mission of the Diversity Advantage Initiative.

## City supports communities of color with new initiative

By Michelle DeGrand, Deputy Communications Officer

A new initiative called Bellevue Centers Communities of Color encourages residents and other community stakeholders to play a direct role in designing, addressing and enhancing racial equity in Bellevue. The initiative will be a community-led effort to give voice and power to communities of color, identifying and responding to their needs. The work is now underway after the City Council approved an implementation plan in January.

The council in December approved \$150,000 in the budget to create a mechanism to support racial equity in the community by building trust and awareness across the city's diverse population.

The three-year proposal includes three key elements:

- **Develop trust through dialogue:** The initiative will include a series of community discussions on equity issues during year one.
- **Build racial literacy skills through education and training:** The city will explore and initiate a variety of opportunities to educate community members on racial equity issues. This includes

potential partnerships with local businesses, nonprofits, schools and faith-based and government organizations.

- **Co-create recommendations for action:** Work among the coordinating team, staff, leadership and other stakeholders will explore input to inform process and policy updates around racial equity.

The city is establishing a Communities of Color Coordinating Team made up of diverse community members who will work in close partnership with the city and entire community to lead the initiative. As proposed, the team will be selected by the city manager, and the city will provide resources to the coordinating team for technical assistance, facilitation and developing recommendations over the next three years.

While the city has laid out broad themes and parameters for the coordinating team, staff will work with team members to establish a detailed work plan, metrics, etc.

For this initiative, the city aims not only to work with communities of color, but also to engage the entire community, including businesses, nonprofits, schools and faith-based organizations.



In one breakout session, artist Anne Jess used feedback from participants to create this "doodle," which illustrates a vision for equity in Bellevue.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit proves timely

### Discussions and breakout sessions offer tools and support for racial equity

By the Diversity Advantage Team

The city hosted an inaugural summit on diversity last month, drawing hundreds of participants, including residents and staff from Bellevue and other cities, as well as people from businesses and nonprofits. Attendees joined the free, virtual event - "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: History, Progress, Vision" - in live, online sessions.

The summit provided a progress report of Bellevue's Diversity Advantage Initiative, now in its sixth year, offering lessons learned and addressing the important work that remains. Recognizing the challenges of the year behind us and the powerful call to address systemic racism and racial inequities in our community and local government, the event commemorated the Diversity Advantage Initiative with timely content participants could apply to their personal and professional lives.

"This past year has revealed some frustrating inequities in our system and society, both locally and nationally, all the while catalyzing a greater awareness of these issues," Mayor Lynne Robinson said in opening remarks. "This is an historic moment for Bellevue."

The city hosted five concurrent breakout sessions, tailored for specific audiences within the private and public sectors, and

explored racial equity, accountability and skills-building for a more inclusive and equitable culture throughout the Eastside.

The session "Racial Equity - A North Star for Decision Makers," by consultants from Gemini LLC, was geared for elected officials and other organizational leaders. This session provided guidance on how to lead with racial equity as your organization's guide.

Community members, service providers and summit attendees had the opportunity to attend "Creating a Vision for our Community Together." With former city diversity team member Mark Manuel as facilitator, participants reimagined the future together. Artist Anne Jess sketched a "doodle" of a future Bellevue that is welcoming, equitable and safe for all.

Sessions three and four, "Universal Design in Outreach and Engagement for Communities of Color" and "Responding to Race-Related Trauma," featured experts providing best practices on inclusive outreach and tools and mechanisms necessary for working through and understanding racial trauma historically affecting our Black, Indigenous and other communities of color.

Lastly, "A Facilitator's Guide to Racially Equitable Group Norms," provided private- and public-sector facilitators, trainers and educators tools for incorporating racially equitable norms in workshops, trainings, retreats and day-to-day meetings.

A recap on the event, videos and other materials from the summit are available at [BellevueWA.gov/diversity-summit](https://BellevueWA.gov/diversity-summit).

# Our diversity is our strength

## Virtual health fair on MLK Day

As the COVID-19 pandemic and social concerns of our time continue to impact local communities, the City of Bellevue offered a Martin Luther King Jr. virtual celebration, "A Day On Not Off." The events offered an opportunity to reflect, engage and take action in building a beloved, healthy and thriving Bellevue in the spirit of the Rev. King's legacy of equity and community.

The event, on MLK Day (Jan. 18) featured health and COVID-19 community resources, showcased a sampling of Black-owned businesses and promoted a Bloodworks Northwest blood drive. Guest speakers included Youth Speaks poet Jamey Williams, while musical performers included the Sonny Byers Band, Roz and Naomi Wachira.

This free event – a long-time tradition at Bellevue, usually in-person at Crossroads Bellevue – was presented in partnership with the Bellevue Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. For more information about the event, please contact Yuriana Garcia Telléz, diversity outreach and engagement administrator, at 425-452-7886 or [diversity@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:diversity@bellevuewa.gov).



Naomi Wachira was among the artists to perform at the virtual MLK Day celebration. Photo by Bryan Tucker

## Cultural Conversations continue to thrive in a virtual environment

By Carol Ross, Community Relations Coordinator



This graphically represents members of the community participating in Cultural Conversations.

After a decade of transforming relationships and perspectives among diverse women in Bellevue through education and storytelling, the Cultural Conversations program suddenly had to transform itself.

Like so many entities last year, the grassroots program that had prospered with connections forged around tables at the Crossroads Community Center had to shift to virtual gatherings.

While the move from face time to FaceTime with family and friends hasn't been without challenges, there have been five Cultural Conversations gatherings on Zoom since the pandemic started, averaging more than 70 attendees. That attendance is similar to what Cultural Conversations had averaged before with in-person meetings.

Most recently, on Feb. 16, participants visited virtually to share "six-word memoirs" around the themes of community, pandemic and justice. Yvonne Adagala, a longtime Cultural Conversations collaborator, led the meeting, sharing the importance of storytelling learned from her Kenyan grandmother.

As the women associated with Cultural Conversations navigate an unfamiliar landscape steeped in technology, finding connection and community is apparently more important than ever before.

The entire community, including men and families, is welcome to the next Cultural Conversations on March 24. Links and details are available at [BellevueWA.gov/cultural-conversations](http://BellevueWA.gov/cultural-conversations). Or reach out to [NeighborhoodOutreach@Bellevuewa.gov](mailto:NeighborhoodOutreach@Bellevuewa.gov) or 452-452-6836.

## City celebrates Black History Month

### Hosts virtual museum and Black history panel discussion

By Yuriana Garcia Telléz, Diversity Outreach and Engagement Administrator

"We are not makers of history. We are made by history." Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

As a city, we honor Black History Month. While Bellevue moves forward with efforts to become more inclusive and center communities of color here, we must recognize the troubled history of race in the U.S. and the Northwest.

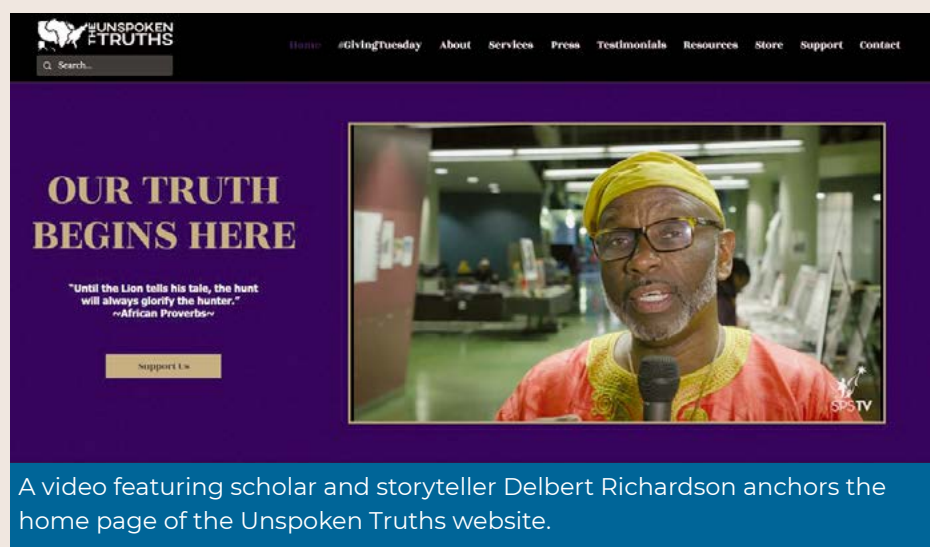
To that end, the city is hosting the American History Traveling Museum: The Unspoken Truths at [BellevueWA.gov/diversity-advantage](http://BellevueWA.gov/diversity-advantage) through March 31. The virtual exhibit explores the Black experience in United States history, including origins in Africa, slavery and Jim Crow. Unspoken Truths also highlights inventions and other contributions of Black Americans.

You can also learn about the history of Black Americans in the U.S. at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture ([NMAAHC.si.edu](http://NMAAHC.si.edu)).

In addition to hosting Unspoken Truths, the city presented a live, online panel discussion on Feb. 18 featuring Unspoken Truths creator-curator Delbert Richardson, political science professor

Megan Ming Francis and activist/criminal defense attorney James Curtis.

You can find detailed information about the panel at [BellevueWA.gov/diversity-advantage](http://BellevueWA.gov/diversity-advantage).



A video featuring scholar and storyteller Delbert Richardson anchors the home page of the Unspoken Truths website.

## Neighborhood Levy tallies 17 projects in 2020; more on the way



By John Murphy, Transportation Senior Planner

In a year when our collective sense of normal was upended, the city's commitment to delivering on the 2016, voter-approved Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy remained steadfast.

Last year, 17 levy projects were completed, bringing the tally to 49 since funding began in 2017. Levy-funded project highlights for 2020 included:

- Completion of the city's first three mini-roundabouts, at 164th Avenue Southeast and Southeast Newport Way, downtown at 100th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 10th Street, and at 138th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 40th Street;
- Completion of new bike lanes on 130th Avenue Northeast and 119th Avenue Southeast, along with four other locations to fill in bike network gaps;
- New sidewalks and crosswalks on Southeast 16th Street at 160th Avenue Southeast as well as 156th Avenue Northeast, between Northeast First and Sixth streets.

Also in 2020, design work began to reduce congestion at intersections where it's most pronounced, through traffic signal upgrades and reconfiguring lanes. Future projects include Lake Hills Boulevard at 156th and 148th avenues, Lake Hills Connector and

Southeast Eighth Street, and Southeast 38th Street and Factoria Boulevard.

In 2021, major levy investments will be made for: more crosswalk improvements at 10 locations citywide; sidewalk upgrades on 112th Avenue Northeast; new sidewalks on 105th Avenue Southeast, south of Main Street, and on 123rd Avenue Southeast, near Southeast 60th Street; and a retaining wall to stabilize a slope in northeast Bellevue.

Levy funding also keeps Bellevue a leader in transportation technology upgrades through innovative partnerships such as the one with the University of Washington and the Transportation for America organization, which are studying how to better manage the city's limited curb space.

The 20-year Neighborhood Levy generates property tax revenue at the rate of 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. In 2021, it's expected to raise about \$8 million for neighborhood congestion reduction, pedestrian and bicycle system improvements, neighborhood safety work, enhanced maintenance, and technology for safety and traffic management.

For a full list of levy projects with more detailed information, please visit [BellevueWA.gov/transportation-levy](https://BellevueWA.gov/transportation-levy).

## Crossroads Connect ride service grows; more riders wanted

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer

Crossroads Connect, the app-based, on-demand ride service launched last fall by Bellevue and King County Metro, is growing in popularity as more people try it. In recent weeks, the service has expanded both its service area and hours of operation, now noon to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The service area in northeast Bellevue now extends roughly from SR 520 south to I-90, and west to 124th Avenue Northeast or I-405. It includes Bellevue College and the Eastgate Park and Ride, linking homes, jobs, schools and shopping to Metro bus routes that serve the broader Eastside.

Riders have responded positively to the changes.

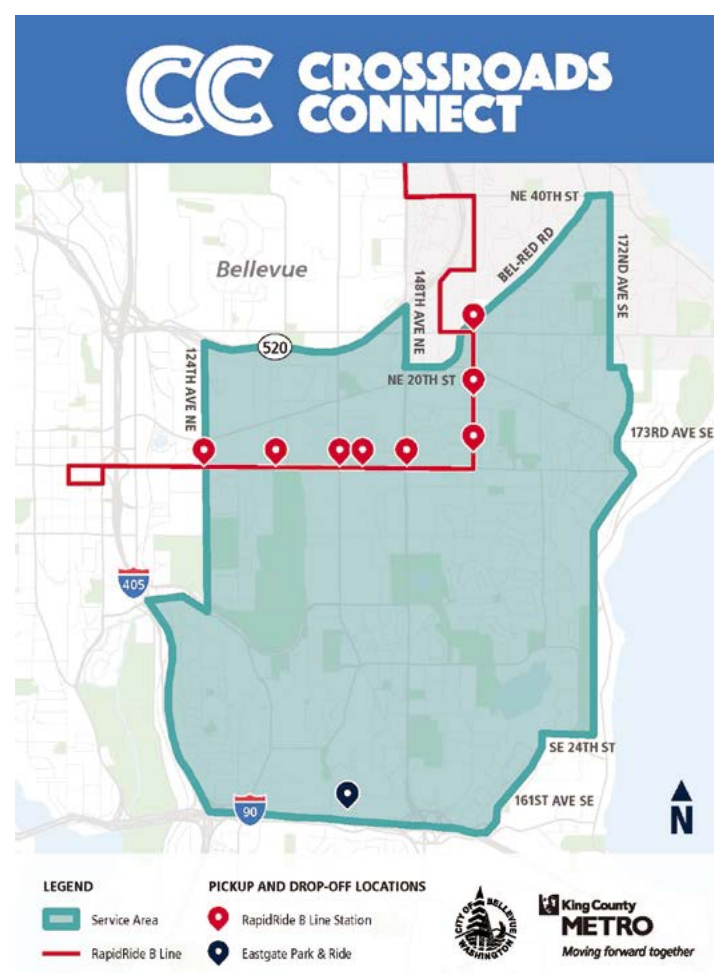
"Bus service within a mile of my home is infrequent," said rider Pete Ryan. "The ability to conveniently schedule Crossroads Connect enables me to more easily access Rapid Ride transit."

Another customer, David Eklund, added: "The drivers are friendly and on time. Since I'm disabled, this service is a huge convenience for me."

The City of Bellevue and its partner, Hopelink, want more people to take advantage of Crossroads Connect. They are seeking Bellevue-based volunteers to conduct virtual outreach with community members and peers. Volunteers will become experts on Crossroads Connect, then provide education and resources to other residents.

Training will be provided. Bilingual or bicultural candidates are preferred, and a small stipend may be available for those who qualify. If you're interested and familiar with Bellevue and its residents, please contact Sara Sisco ([ssisco@hopelink.org](mailto:ssisco@hopelink.org) or 425-943-6760).

For general information about Crossroads Connect, including the service area map, how to use the app and book a ride, connections to Metro Transit bus routes, health and safety protocols and cost (standard Metro rates apply), visit [BellevueWA.gov/crossroads-connect](https://BellevueWA.gov/crossroads-connect).





## Utilities discounts and rebates

By Heather DeWitt, Program Administrator

The City of Bellevue offers programs to assist low-income residents with utility costs for water, wastewater and drainage. Information about these programs, eligibility requirements and timelines to apply are shared below.

### Rate Relief

Rate relief offers 70% off basic utility costs for low-income seniors (62 and older) and low-income persons with permanent disabilities who meet specific residency and income guidelines. You may qualify for rate relief if your 2020 household income was \$41,800 or less for one person or \$47,800 or less for two.

The form of relief depends on how utility costs are paid:

- **Utility Rate Discount:** If you pay a Bellevue utility bill, you may qualify for a rate reduction on your 2021 utility bills. This program is open through Oct. 29.
- **Utility Rate Rebate:** If your utility costs have been paid through rent or other third party, you may qualify for a rebate check on 2020 utility costs. This program is open April 1 to Oct. 29.

### Emergency Assistance Program

If you pay a Bellevue utility bill directly, and are not eligible for a rate discount, you may qualify for a 100% discount for up to four months of basic utility service, if you are experiencing a one-time financial shock that interferes with your household's ability to cover basic needs.

There are no age or disability requirements for the Emergency Assistance Program. This assistance is available once every three years.

### Additional Requirements

Additional requirements apply for rate relief discounts and rebates as well as the Emergency Assistance Program. Guidelines and applications are available at [BellevueWA.gov/utility-relief](https://BellevueWA.gov/utility-relief), or call 425-452-5285 for more information.

## Greener Living classes offer tips and tools

Bellevue Utilities is offering another round of our popular "Greener Living" virtual classes on a variety of environmental conservation topics. Attendees to these interactive classes, taught live over Zoom, will receive digital resources, tips and tools after each class.

Classes are geared toward adults and children over seven. Families with younger kids can join two "all ages" classes during April's Earth Month.

Registration is required to receive class link. To register, visit [BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes](https://BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes), or contact us at [recycle@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:recycle@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6932.

### Sample Classes/Events

#### Core Class: Safer Cleaning

Live demonstrations of how to make safer cleaners and safer purchasing choices.

#### Core Class: Super Sorter

Learn where items at home go: recycling, compost or garbage. Find out what happens to each type of waste when it leaves your home.

#### Core Class: Reduce Wasted Food

Watch hands-on examples of how to maximize your food through proper storage, label reading and innovative recipes.

#### Genius Class: Responsible Reorganizing

Explore how to downsize your stuff at home without tossing it into the trash. Receive an action guide for decluttering.

#### Genius Class: Curbside Composting and Beyond

Dig into how to identify compostable products and how to set up composting service for your house, apartment, or condominium.

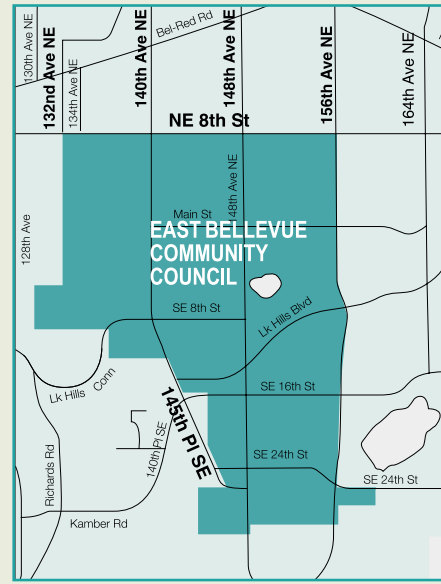
#### Genius Class: Plastics: Problems and Possibilities

Deepen your knowledge on plastics, what plastics can be recycled and how to help reduce our global plastic piles through action.

#### Genius Class: Sustainable Shopping

Sharpen your skills for making choices on products you need vs want. We will cover resources for borrowing, reusing, repairing and purchasing.

Visit [BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes](https://BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes) for times and dates.



For more information about the EBCC, call Deputy City Clerk Karin Roberts, 425-452-6806.

The EBCC meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

**Members:** Hassan Dhananjaya, Ron Epstein, Ross Gooding, Betsi Hummer, Steven Kasner

We welcome comments about the East Bellevue area. You can share your views with the EBCC via email at [ebcc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ebcc@bellevuewa.gov). To find out more about the agendas and decisions of EBCC, [BellevueWA.gov/ebcc](https://BellevueWA.gov/ebcc).



## Affordable housing strategies come before EBCC

By Betsi Hummer, EBCC Chair

Affordable housing-related amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Code have come before the East Bellevue Community Council this year.

For background, the city facilitates affordable housing ([BellevueWA.gov/affordable-housing](https://BellevueWA.gov/affordable-housing)) in Bellevue with a list of strategies adopted in 2017.

The EBCC recently approved the Affordable Housing C-1 Strategy comprehensive plan amendment. This conforms with recently passed state law, and will increase the development potential on suitable land owned by public, nonprofit housing and faith-based entities for affordable housing.

Several faith-based properties have long-standing affordable housing. The Church of the Resurrection, on Main Street and 153rd Avenue, has senior housing that consists of duplex and triplex units. This was constructed in 1996 and has been successfully occupied and serving the community since. The process to build the units took six years. Hopefully the new process will be more efficient.

The comprehensive plan amendment allows for construction of demonstration projects. It will be interesting to see what projects are built as demonstrations.

The EBCC also voted 3 to 2 to extend an interim official control that reduces the parking standards in the Land Use Code for developments located near frequent transit service. This supports the Affordable Housing C-5 strategy. The only permit applicant who has taken advantage of the interim control is the men's shelter at Eastgate.

Concerns raised by EBCC members included the impact of reducing parking on lower-income individuals dependent on their vehicles for transport to their jobs and for carrying their tools.

The Planning Commission has several scheduled study sessions concerning the C-5 strategy. The EBCC encourages its constituents to follow these closely, so the EBCC can vote for the best outcome within its jurisdiction.

Once the Planning Commission has finalized a permanent parking land use code amendment, it will go to the City Council for review, the EBCC for a courtesy hearing, back to council for final action and return to EBCC for final vote if it is to take effect in the EBCC jurisdiction.

At the Feb. 2 meeting the EBCC voted for a chair, vice chair and alternate vice chair for the coming year. Two courtesy hearings were also on the agenda: 1) allowing for unit lot subdivisions in zones where multifamily development is allowed, and 2) allowing for an attached accessory dwelling to be built at the same time as new single-family home construction. These will come back to the EBCC for public hearings and a vote in March.

# Capital improvements: Projects in construction and design

With its Capital Investment Program, or CIP, the city plans major public facility improvements to be implemented over a seven-year period. The CIP budget funds project design, land acquisition and construction costs, and identifies funding sources.

With the adoption of the 2021-2022 budget in December, the City Council also approved the 2021-2027 CIP budget. Despite budget constraints due to COVID-19, more than \$650 million will be invested in the coming years for improvements to the transportation, parks and utilities systems in Bellevue.

The list below features projects under construction this year, listed by neighborhood, and projects in the design phase. Descriptions include the estimated cost. Construction schedules often change; contact the project manager listed for status.

## BelRed

### 124th Ave NE: NE 12th Street to NE Spring Blvd

Widen 124th Ave NE to five lanes, build a pedestrian-bicycle path on both sides, improve street lighting, landscape and irrigation and modify a traffic signal. Summer 2021 to end of 2022 (\$21 million).

*Marina Arakelyan, marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov*

### NE Spring Blvd: 130th Ave NE to 132nd Ave NE

Extend NE Spring Blvd east with two vehicle lanes, add a buffered bike lane and a sidewalk in each direction, plus landscaping. Spring 2021 to spring 2022 (\$16 million).

*Greg Lucas, glucas@bellevuewa.gov*

### State Route 520 Trail Corridor Bicycle Safety

Bicycle safety and connectivity improvements along SR 520 Trail corridor at Northrup Way and 108th Ave NE, Northrup Way and NE 24th St, 148th Ave NE and NE 29th Pl, and along 120th Ave NE. March to July 2021 (\$650,000).

*Chris Iverson, civerson@bellevuewa.gov*

## Bridle Trails

### Pikes Peak Reservoir Replacement

Replace aging 1 million-gallon steel reservoir in Bridle Trails State Park with 1.25 million-gallon concrete reservoir to address seismic and storage deficiencies. Spring 2021 through summer 2022 (\$6.5 million).

*Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov*



The Northeast Gateway at Downtown Park is taking shape.

## Downtown

### 112th Ave NE: NE 12th Street to NE 24th Street

New sidewalk panels, mid-block crossing near Hidden Valley Sports Park, curb ramp replacements, new traffic signal at NE 24th St, off-site tree planting mitigation and repaving. Spring to end of 2021 (\$2.75 million).

*Mike Rodni, mrodni@bellevuewa.gov*

### Downtown Park – New Northeast Gateway

Plaza seating area, lighting, landscaping, water feature and public art. Underway, with completion summer 2021 (\$6.2 million).

*Ken Kroeger, kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov*

### NE 12th Street Multipurpose Path: 112th Ave NE to 108th Ave NE

Expand the sidewalk to a 12-foot wide multipurpose path, curb ramp upgrades, expand the planter. Underway, with completion in spring 2021 (\$700,000).

*Sara Haile, shaile@bellevuewa.gov*

## Eastgate

### 160th Ave SE Crosswalk Improvements

New flashing beacon crosswalks on both sides at SE 33rd St and 158th Ave SE, repave impacted roadway and upgrade curb ramps and lighting. Late spring through late fall 2021. (\$2.4 million combined project cost--see Somerset and Lake Hills listings)

*Daniel Lam, dlam@bellevuewa.gov*

### Eastgate Annexation Area Curb Ramp Upgrades

Upgrade 30-plus curb ramps for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, replace surrounding curb, gutter and sidewalk as needed and repave impacted roadway. Construction summer through fall 2021 (\$850,000).

*Daniel Lam, dlam@bellevuewa.gov*

### SE Eastgate Way Lighting Project: Richards Road to 139th Ave NE

New light poles and upgrade of existing streetlights to LED (light-emitting diode). Late spring to late summer 2021 (\$353,000).

*Daniel Lam, dlam@bellevuewa.gov*

### SE Newport Way Pedestrian & Bicycle Improvement Project: Somerset Blvd-SE 150th Ave SE

10-foot wide multipurpose path and 5-foot bicycle lane on the south side, flashing beacon crosswalk, new retaining walls and guardrail replacement. Underway through summer 2021 (\$10.7 million).

*Paul Krawczyk, pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov*

## Factoria

### Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail: 132nd Ave SE to 142nd Place SE

Continuation of 12-foot-wide paved pedestrian and bicycle path north of SE 36th Street, new retaining walls, lighting, landscaping, pavement restoration, urban design features and signal improvements. Underway through end of 2021 (\$9.3 million).

*Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov*

## Lake Hills

### 156th Avenue Traffic Signal Improvements

New signal poles at 156th Ave and Main St, including flashing yellow arrows. Remove all-way stop signs at 156th Ave SE at Lake Hills Blvd and install new traffic signal system. Repaving and other upgrades at both locations. End of 2021 to early 2022 (\$2.2 million total).

*Daniel Lam, dlam@bellevuewa.gov*

### Kamber Road Crosswalk Improvements

Flashing beacon crosswalks on both sides of the road at SE 20th and SE 24th streets, extend sidewalk on east side, repaving, upgrade curb ramps and lighting. Late spring through late fall 2021 (\$2.4 million combined cost-- see Somerset and Eastgate listings).

*Daniel Lam, dlam@bellevuewa.gov*

## Newport

### Lake Heights Wastewater Pump Station Update

Replace mechanical equipment, build new retaining wall and install new electrical structure. Underway through summer 2021 (\$1.1 million).

*Dwight Smith, dbsmith@bellevuewa.gov*

### New neighborhood park on SE 60th Street

New 3-acre neighborhood park will include off-leash dog area, playground, walking trails, picnic shelter and open lawn. Park will connect to an additional 10 acres of forested open space with trails. Park name to be determined. Summer through winter 2021 (\$3 million).

*Scott VanderHyden, svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov*

## Northeast Bellevue

### NE 24th St at 172nd Ave NE Slope Stabilization Project

Stabilize slope on north side of NE 24th St, between 171st and 172nd avenues. Spring to end of 2021 (\$1.9 million).

*Jun An, jan@bellevuewa.gov*

## Northwest Bellevue

### Cherry Crest Pump Station Replacement

Replace aging water pump station, combining Pikes Peak and Cherry Crest pump stations into one, improving system function and reliability. Underway through early spring 2021 (\$6.9 million).

*Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov*

### Forest Drive SE Crosswalk Improvements

Flashing beacons at five crosswalks (Somerset Dr SE, Highland Dr SE, SE 60th St, 142nd Ave SE and SE 63rd St) and one new crosswalk (152nd Ave SE). Spring to late fall 2021 (\$2.4 million combined cost-see Eastgate and Lake Hills listings).

*Daniel Lam, dlam@bellevuewa.gov*

## West Bellevue

### Enatai Beach Park Boathouse Reroof

Replace concrete roof and water-damaged structural elements. Fall 2021 (\$700,000).

*Ernie Podaca, epodaca@bellevuewa.gov*

## West Lake Sammamish

### Sinkhole Repair, Lake Sammamish

Remove sediment from Lake Sammamish and complete mitigation work. Winter 2021 (\$200,000).

*Abe Santos, asantos@bellevuewa.gov*

### West Lake Sammamish Parkway Multipurpose Path and Water Main Replacement Project

Between NE 200 block and NE 800 block: 8- to 10-foot wide multipurpose path on west side, repave existing 10-foot wide travel lanes and 4-foot shoulder on the east side and other upgrades. Coordinated with utilities project to replace two miles of water main and a third of a mile of pressurized sewer pipe between SE 1900 block and NE 800 block, and improve water pressure. Underway through end of 2021. (\$13.1 million).

*Paul Krawczyk, pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov*

## Wilburton

### 136th Ave NE Water Inlet Station and NE 8th St Transmission Main

Capacity and water supply improvements to improve system reliability and support growth in the downtown and BelRed areas. Through summer 2021 (\$7.3 million).

*Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov*

## Various Locations (under construction in 2021)

### AC Water Main Replacement (2020 Phase 1)

Replace 16,000 linear feet of 4- to 6-inch aging asbestos cement water main at various locations: Eastgate, Rock Creek, Apple Valley, Bellewood Farms, Stanley Park, Diamond S Farms, Pikes Peak, Cherry Crest, Town of Yarrow Point, City of Clyde Hill. Through winter 2021 (\$4.6 million).

*Abe Santos, asantos@bellevuewa.gov*

### AC Water Main Replacement (2020 Phase 2)

Replace 14,000 linear feet of 4- to 6-inch aging asbestos cement water main at various locations: Spring Creek Northtowne, Valley Green, Hillaire, Town of Yarrow Point and cities of Medina and Clyde Hill. Through winter 2022 (\$5.5 million).

*Abe Santos, asantos@bellevuewa.gov*

### AC Water Main Replacement (2021 Phase 1)

Replace 8,400 linear feet of 4-inch and 6-inch asbestos cement water main at: NE 1st Pl, NE 2nd Pl, NE 5th Pl, NE 6th St., NE 6th Pl, 165th Ave NE, 167th Ave NE and 168th Ave NE. Construction spring 2021 through winter 2021. (\$4 million).

*Abe Santos, asantos@bellevuewa.gov*

### AC Water Main Replacement (2021 Phase 2)

Replace 17,500 linear feet of 4- and 6-inch asbestos cement water main and two pressure reduction valve assemblies at various sites (to be determined). Fall 2021 through winter 2022/2023 (\$5.2 million).

*Abe Santos, asantos@bellevuewa.gov*

### AC Water Main Replacement (2021 Phase 3)

Replace 8,750 linear feet of 4- and 6-inch asbestos cement water main at various sites (to be determined). Summer 2021 through fall 2022 (\$2.9 million).

*Abe Santos, asantos@bellevuewa.gov*

### Sewer and Storm Pipeline Repairs

Repair and rehabilitate sewer and storm pipeline defects throughout the city. Through 2021 (dig and repair \$935,000; trenchless \$1.3 million).

*Shelby Blair, sblair@bellevuewa.gov*

### Pavement Preservation Program

Annual program includes surveying 1,100-plus lane miles of pavement; creating a five-year plan, coordinating with public/private projects; repairs and resurfacing, upgraded curb ramps and new sidewalks. April to October. More at [BellevueWA.gov/pavement](http://BellevueWA.gov/pavement). (\$8 million in 2021).

*Kyle Potuzak, pavement@bellevuewa.gov*

## Projects under design in 2021

### 120th Ave NE: NE 16th St (future street) to Northup Way

Widen roadway, install pedestrian and bicycle facilities, replace culvert, develop urban design features. Online open house at [EngagingBellevue.com](http://EngagingBellevue.com) in late March. Design underway through 2022 (\$3.5 million); construction not yet funded.

*Jun An, jan@bellevuewa.gov*

### 124th Ave NE: Ichigo Way (future street) to Northup Way

Widen 124th Ave to five lanes, build a multipurpose path on the west side of the road, between NE 16th St and Ichigo Way and install sidewalk. Winter 2022 through 2023 (\$33 million).

*Marina Arakelyan, marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov*

### 130th Ave NE: Bel-Red Road to NE 20th Street

Add protected bike lanes, sidewalks and mid-block crossings, on-street parking, signal and intersection modifications, streetlights, landscaping and utility improvements. Construction 2022 to 2023 (\$23 million).

*Greg Lucas, glucas@bellevuewa.gov*

### 170th Place SE Pressure Place Improvements

Install 1,500 linear feet of new 8-inch water main and a pressure relief valve to increase system pressure to required level. Construction anticipated in 2022 (\$700,000).

*Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov*

### Cougar Mountain Pump Station Rehabilitation

Replace aging pumps and obsolete electrical equipment, upgrade site piping and evaluate seismic requirements. 2022-2023 (\$2.7 million).

*Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov*

### Factoria Boulevard Stormwater Conveyance Improvements

Improve stormwater system capacity along Factoria Boulevard, between SE 38th Street and Richards Creek inlet, to reduce risk of flooding during large storms. Design and stakeholder outreach through 2021. Construction expected in 2023 (\$12 million).

*Biorol Shaha, bshaha@bellevuewa.gov*

### Horizon View 2 Reservoir and Pump Station Replacement

Replace aging 150,000-gallon steel reservoir and pump station building with 300,000-gallon reservoir and pump station building to improve system reliability. Evaluation, design, permitting, public outreach, 2021-2022. Construction anticipated in 2022 or 2023 (\$7.1 million).

*Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov*

### Kelsey Creek Culvert at Lake Hills Blvd

Replace deteriorating Kelsey Creek culverts at Lake Hills Blvd. Construction anticipated in 2023.

*James B. Nicolls, jbnicolls@bellevuewa.gov*

### New neighborhood park in Bridle Trails

New 1.4-acre park will feature playground, picnic shelter, restroom, walking trails and natural areas. Construction spring through winter 2022 (\$3 million).

*Scott VanderHyden, svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov*

### Newport Sewer Capacity Improvements

Build sewer force main along Cascade Key and rehabilitate Newport Lift Station and Newport Pump Station. Construction expected in 2022 (\$3.5 million).

*Biorol Shaha, bshaha@bellevuewa.gov*

### Parksite Reservoir Interior Recoating and Rehabilitation

Recoat interior and perform limited rehabilitation/repair to 2-million-gallon reservoir. Construction planned for 2022 (\$1.4 million).

*Prabhat Karna, pkarna@bellevuewa.gov*

### SA270 West Lake Sammamish Pkwy Individual Pressure-Reducing Valves Installation

Design and install Individual pressure-reducing valves along West Lake Sammamish Pkwy for up to 165 homes. Evaluation between valve stations and individual valves for some homes near SE 40th Pl. Construction anticipated in 2022 (\$882,000).

*Prabhat Karna, pkarna@bellevuewa.gov*

### Valley Creek at 21st St Flood Control Program

Replace and enlarge culvert at 21st Street and restore Valley Creek, between 20th and 21st streets, to mitigate flooding recurrences. Construction anticipated in 2022/2023 (\$3.2 million).

*Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov*

# CITY CONTACTS

**MANY CITY FACILITIES remain closed at this time.**

## City Hall

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

**Service First (general information):** 425-452-6800

**City of Bellevue website:** [BellevueWA.gov](http://BellevueWA.gov)

**City Council Office:** 425-452-7810

## City Offices

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 425-452-6464

City Manager: 425-452-7228

Community Development: 425-452-7892

Conflict Resolution Center: 425-452-4091

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 425-452-2800

Development Services: 425-452-6800

New permit applications: 425-452-4898

Inspection requests, application and status, pay fees: 425-452-6875

Simple permits, inspection requests: [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com)

Application and inspection status: [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com)

Code Compliance: 425-452-2047

Diversity Program: 425-452-7886

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.: 425-452-6806

Fire Emergency Only: 911

Fire Non-Emergency

Business and Information: 425-452-6892

Inspection: 425-452-4254

Fire prevention: 425-452-6872

Human Resources: 425-452-6838

Information Technology: 425-452-4626

Neighborhood Outreach: 425-452-6836

Northwest Arts Center: 425-452-4106

Parks & Community Services

Aging Services: 425-452-4200

Recreation Program Registration/Parks Info: 425-452-6885

Youth Sports: 425-452-6885

Ballfield Rental: 425-452-6914

Picnics/Facility Rentals: 425-452-6914

Park Maintenance: 425-452-6855

Human Services: 425-452-6884

Probation: 425-452-6956

Community Centers:

Crossroads Community Center: 425-452-4874

Highland Community Center: 425-452-7686

North Bellevue Community Center: 425-452-7681

South Bellevue Community Center: 425-452-4240

Marina: 425-452-4883

Police Emergency Only: 911

Police Non-Emergency

Crossroads Station: 425-452-2891

Factoria Station: 425-452-2880

Complaints and Information: 425-452-6917

Crime Prevention: Commercial 425-452-2979; Residential 425-452-6915

Traffic Enforcement: 425-452-6940

Transportation

Administration/Information: 425-452-6856

Utilities

Administration/Information: 425-452-6932

Billing/Customer Service: 425-452-6973

Water, Sewer and Street Maintenance and Emergency: 425-452-7840

## Other Numbers (Not city government)

Regional Animal Services of King County: 206-296-PETS

Republic Services: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)

Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000



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

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Download it today.

BellevueWA.gov/MyBellevue

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**Contributors:** Marie Jensen, Robin Steel

# CITY COUNCIL



## Brainstorming for Great Neighborhoods

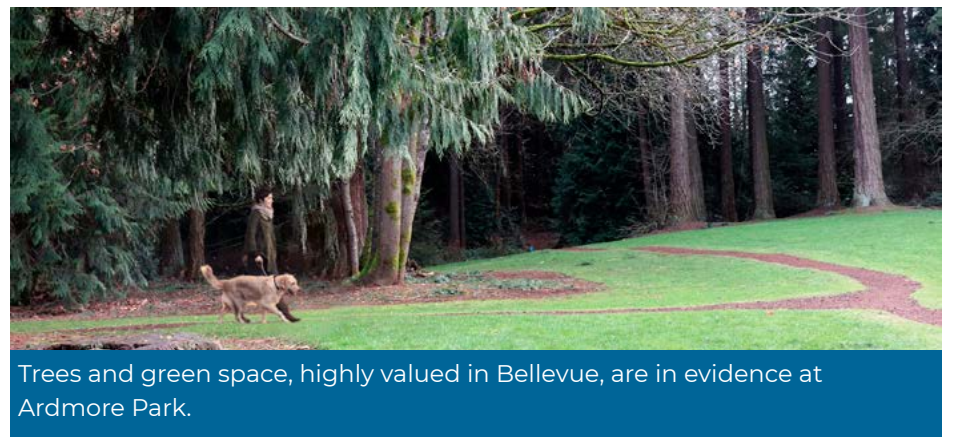
*By Brooke Brod, Community Development Outreach Lead*

The Great Neighborhoods program, a collaboration between the city and residents to ensure our neighborhoods are vibrant, livable and welcoming for years to come, is moving into the brainstorming phase.

The effort to draw up neighborhood plans for the Northwest and Northeast neighborhood areas, resumed early last year after a delay, has yielded draft vision statements. Residents are now invited to dig into the challenges and opportunities facing Northwest and Northeast Bellevue, and develop community-based approaches to addressing them.

### Brainstorming Sessions

On Feb. 3 and 4, residents shared ideas concerning affordability – how to make sure your neighborhood is affordable to people from diverse backgrounds and make it possible to age in place. On Feb. 17 and 18, residents considered mobility and access – how to make it easier for people to walk, bike and/or drive to stores, cafes, parks and other services close to home.



Trees and green space, highly valued in Bellevue, are in evidence at Ardmore Park.

The following sessions are coming up in March:

**Trees and Green Space:** Share ideas about how to help residents preserve and care for trees, ensure access to parks, trails and green space, and promote sustainable neighborhoods.

- March 3, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
- March 4, 5:30-7 p.m.
- RSVP - [GN-Brainstorming-Session-Trees.eventbrite.com](http://GN-Brainstorming-Session-Trees.eventbrite.com)

**Community Connections:** Share ideas about how to help create neighborhoods where people know one another, where people from diverse backgrounds can come together and where we create resilient communities.

- March 17, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- March 18, 5:30-7 p.m.
- RSVP - [GN-Brainstorming-Session-CommunityConnections.eventbrite.com](http://GN-Brainstorming-Session-CommunityConnections.eventbrite.com)

You can attend as many of these sessions as you'd like. We chose these topics based on what we've heard from the community are key issues. However, there will be additional opportunities to share and discuss other topics.