



City of Bellevue

BELLEVEUE IT'S YOUR CITY

Fall 2023

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East Link starter line

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Hero's medal

Page 9



New reservoir

PRSTD STD
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City of Bellevue
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Bellevue, WA 98009-9012



The colorful Bellhop shuttles can zip up to five riders around downtown and parts of Wilburton and BelRed.

Bellhop shuttle offers electric, eccentric rides downtown

By LORIE HOFFMAN
Arts Manager

Bellhop, the Pacific Northwest's first free, all-electric shuttle service, offers quick rides around downtown Bellevue and selected spots in BelRed and Wilburton. Launched Aug. 1, the pilot program from Visit Bellevue is available to tourists, residents and workers at least through Dec. 31.

If Bellhop is successful, it would come close to fulfilling a dream nurtured by city leaders over

the past two decades. The city studied the concept of a downtown circulator several times. Although BellHop is "on-demand" instead of on a fixed route, it certainly makes getting around downtown easy. Bellevue Transportation staff are on the advisory panel for the Visit Bellevue pilot.

Electric and eccentric

By getting people riding in an electric car only a little bigger than a golf cart instead of driving their own vehicles, Bellhop is projected to cut carbon dioxide

emissions in Bellevue by over 100 metric tons annually.

About half the width of an average car, with extra-large windows, lots of signage and seats for five, Bellhop vehicles are eye-catching. According to an article in the Seattle Times, "depending on who you ask, [Bellhop vehicles] look like they might belong at a golf course, on a Mario Kart track or inside the Flintstones' garage."

BELLHOP
Continued on page 3

At last, permanent men's shelter opens in Eastgate

By BIANCA SIEGL
Assistant Director

Culminating decades of planning and temporary solutions, PorchLight (formerly Congregations for the Homeless) opened a permanent emergency men's shelter on Eastgate Way in July. With space for 100, the new 20,000-square-foot building helps to meet a desperate need in Bellevue and across the Eastside.

The shelter, with a vast mural on its front, is a welcoming, safe space for unhoused men to come inside, connect with support and services, get a hot meal and rest. Over the summer, PorchLight moved the shelter from temporary facilities on 116th Avenue Northeast in Wilburton.

"This beautiful facility, designed to meet local, unhoused men's immediate needs, is the result of Bellevue, alongside so many key partners, taking up the mantle of not only providing a 24-hour permanent shelter but creating a path to stable housing." Mayor Lynne Robinson said.

In addition to bunk rooms, PorchLight offers a day center, computers, laundry, and two meals each day. On-site services include case management, addiction support groups, mental health counseling, and housing and employment navigation services, services that have proven to



With a massive mural across its front, PorchLight's emergency men's shelter opened in July.

help people transition to housing and stability. The shelter has been full most nights since it opened.

According to the 2020 Count Us In report, the last tally of people experiencing homelessness on the Eastside, 446 unhoused community members were living in East King County, up from 337 in 2019. The current number of unhoused residents on the Eastside is likely higher; King County Regional Homelessness Authority's Point In Time count identified over 13,000 individuals

SHELTER
Continued on page 10

COUNCIL CORNER

Embrace difference for more inclusive community

By Councilmember
JEREMY BARKSDALE



First, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your support and electing me to serve our community on the City Council. Four years really flew by. I'm proud of the steps the city has taken to be more inclusive, data-driven, and transparent during my term on the council.

As a community, we've been through tough challenges that many of us have never faced in our lifetime – navigating a global pandemic and, for some, having to grapple with racial and social justice.

As a diverse community, it's important everyone in our community feels a sense of belonging. To that end, Councilmember Janice Zahn and I initiated the launch of the Bellevue Centers Communities of Color initiative. This racial equity initiative, driven by community members on the CCC team, will help the council identify ways to make Bellevue a more equitable and inclusive community.

When I ran for office, I committed to using my professional experience to improve engagement. I pushed for better integration and leveraging of our data to understand the latent needs in our community, and to make it easier for community members to understand our community and engage. While more work is needed to bring disparate data together, this work will continue as the council prioritizes using and sharing data to inform more city decisions and our community.

The pandemic highlighted economic disparities within our community. To help



Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale moderates a Juneteenth panel.

promote economic mobility for people who want to live in our community but can't afford to, I proposed the initial policy to require apprenticeships on the city's public works projects. These apprenticeships will increase access to living-wage jobs.

When I started on the council, we didn't have an explicitly defined process for introducing policy ideas. Using the apprenticeship effort as a guide, I proposed an explicitly defined legislative process that was refined and approved by the council – leading to a more equitable governing process that ensures every councilmember has a fair chance at getting their policy ideas considered.

Adoption of these initiatives would not have been possible without the support of city staff, community partners, and the council, and I'm grateful for their support.

If there's one message I want to leave with our community as I end my service on city council, it's to embrace difference. There are some who want to protect the status quo –

automatically assuming change is negative. I see differences as an opportunity to build a community that provides a richer experience for everyone.

Thank you to city staff, who work daily to balance the competing demands and interests of the community and keep our full-service city running day-to-day; and thanks to community members for your engagement – especially our nonprofit service providers who invest their emotional labor to support community members in need.

I'm grateful for the opportunity I've had to serve our community on the council over the past four years. I came into this role with a history of community service and passion for this work. I look forward to continuing to serve the community after my term and building on the relationships I've fostered while serving.

COUNCIL ROUNDUP

By CLAUDE IOSSO
It's Your City Editor

Emergency water plan advances

The City Council on Sept. 18 voted unanimously to adopt (at a later meeting) an emergency water supply plan designed to help ensure residents and businesses have access to clean and safe drinking water in the event of a natural disaster.

As in many cities, Bellevue's drinking water infrastructure is vulnerable to breakage during severe earthquakes, which could result in significant, monthlong disruptions in service to residents and businesses as repairs are made across the system.

To improve the resiliency of Bellevue's water distribution system, the 2023 Emergency Water Supply Master Plan recommends continued replacement of aging water mains, pump stations and reservoirs, along with new proposed spending for resilient "backbone" piping, improvements to the city's water supply wells and siting and construction of new, emergency-only wells.

Progress on more inclusive procurement

On Aug. 7, the last meeting before a monthlong recess, the City Council was briefed on a plan to make the city's procurement process more equitable and inclusive. Policy and process changes are intended to ensure small and diverse businesses have a fair shot at contracts to provide various services to the city.

The city's procurement diversity and inclusion plan includes outreach and networking, making processes more inclusive and tracking of utilization rates to influence the percentage of vendors for the city who are small businesses, women, veteran or minority-owned businesses, or federally disadvantaged businesses. Near-term enhancements under consideration are expedited payments to small businesses, streamlined data collection and reporting, and a more user-friendly roster system.

Staff with the Finance & Asset Management Department, which handles procurement, said they would collect community input in the fall regarding changes to the procurement program.

Curb Management Plan finalized

The council on July 22 voted unanimously to adopt the Curb Management Plan, which identifies practices for accommodating the increased demand for the curbside by delivery drivers, rideshare, transit, employer shuttles, short-term parking, placemaking and people walking, rolling and cycling.

The Transportation Commission recommended adopting the plan to the council at the July 17 council study session. At the council's request, the plan was modified to include an evaluation of the impact on neighborhoods adjacent to the urban core when the concept of paid on-street parking is further studied.

New faces in city's leadership

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



Joseph Todd
DEPUTY CITY
MANAGER



Lucy Liu
UTILITIES DIRECTOR



Michelle DeGrand
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER

City Manager Brad Miyake announced in August the selection of Joseph Todd, a tech expert with public- and private-sector leadership experience, as the city's newest deputy city manager. He also announced his selection of acting Utilities Director Lucy Liu to serve as Utilities' permanent director. Their predecessors had both retired.

In July, the city manager hired acting Chief Communications Officer Michelle DeGrand to lead the city's internal and external communications efforts on a permanent basis. DeGrand had been acting communications chief since December 2022.

Todd, one of three deputy city managers, manages internal services, including the Information Technology Department. He most recently was a senior director at payment tech firm Marqeta. Former positions also include leadership and technology roles at King County and the City of Tukwila, as well as with Boeing and Alaska Airlines.

"We were impressed not only with Joe's demonstrated ability to meaningfully resolve issues of community and political complexity but also his focus on innovating to improve service delivery for the benefit of the public, his deeply held passion for public service and his commitment to thoughtful and collaborative problem solving," Miyake said.

Liu has been with the City of Bellevue for 21 years, 11 in leadership roles with Bellevue Utilities, including most recently as deputy director for the department. She brings 30 years of managerial, financial and utilities-based experience, including 26 years in the public sector. She began her career in financial services with the state Department of Revenue and Ernst & Young LLP as an auditor and tax consultant, respectively. She later joined the finance team at the City of Bellevue, managing the tax division before transitioning to management in Utilities.

"Lucy is a strong, strategic leader in our organization with an impressive set of skills in finance, budgeting, utilities and people management," said Miyake. "She is committed to the long-term vision of stewardship and fiscal sustainability to ensure our utilities infrastructure is well managed for the Bellevue community well into the future. Just as important, she has the talent to lead our utilities teams through strategic initiatives and innovative approaches to best managing our water systems and supply while delivering exceptional service to customers."

Liu is a certified public accountant and has a bachelor's degree in business administration with an accounting concentration from the University of Washington. She is a member of a number of professional organizations including the American Water Works Association and the American Public Works Association.

As communications chief, DeGrand is the city's main spokesperson and oversees media relations, emergency public information and public outreach. She joined the city as deputy communications officer in September 2019.

DeGrand leads a seasoned team of public information officers in the Development Services, Fire, Parks & Community Services, Police, Transportation and Utilities departments.

Before joining the city, DeGrand spent more than a decade in corporate communications for mid-size manufacturers in the Puget Sound area. She earned a degree in communications from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and started her career in television journalism with CBS affiliates in Oregon and Idaho.

BELLHOP

Continued from page 1

How it works

Users download the Circuit app, drop a pin for their destination, and their driver will confirm they're on the way. People can also flag down the Bellhop cars, but riders using the app have priority.

Rides are available from one point to another within a six-square-mile service area that includes downtown, Bellevue Botanical Garden and the Spring District. Four-legged friends are welcome too as long as they sit on riders' laps or on the floor directly next to the rider.

Bellhop runs 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday to Thursday, and 10 a.m.-10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. More details about the service are available at visitbellevuewa.com/bellhop.

Four Council seats contested

Four City Council seats are being contested this year, with ballots required to be postmarked or returned to a ballot box by election day, Tuesday, Nov. 7.

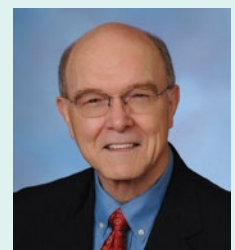
While most people in King County vote by mail, voters with disabilities can vote online or go to one of several special voting centers.

The information below is from the King County Voters Pamphlet, available on the King County Elections website (KingCounty.gov/depts/elections).

Position 1



Paul Clark
owner, Factoria Labs

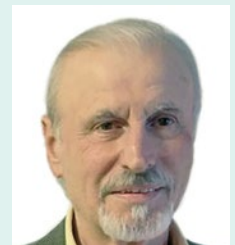


John Stokes (incumbent)
retired attorney

Position 3



Mo Malakoutian
senior program manager,
Amazon

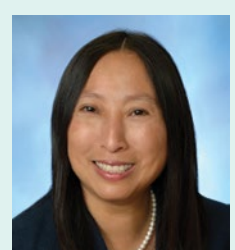


Alex Tsimerman
president,
Standup-America

Position 5



Betsi Hummer
retired from sales,
Seattle Lumber Company



Janice Zahn (incumbent)
chief engineer,
Port of Seattle

Position 7



Bill Hirt
retired Boeing engineer



Dave Hamilton
president, Delivery Express



Sound Transit cars run along the tracks in BelRed as part of Sound Transit testing.

Eastside light rail ‘starter line’ to launch in spring 2024

By JENNIE CAMPOS
Transportation Public Information Officer

While East Link light rail won’t connect to Seattle until 2025, Sound Transit will launch a “starter line” with service between the South Bellevue and Redmond Technology stations next spring.

The Sound Transit board will finalize initial service levels for the Link 2 Line (the name for East Link as it is integrated with the rest of the local light rail network) this fall as part of the agency’s 2024 service plan. An early proposal was two-car trains, running every 10 minutes, 16 hours a day, between approximately 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. At this level, about 6,000+ weekday boardings on average are estimated.

The remaining portion of the 2 Line, crossing Lake Washington with stops in Judkins Park and Mercer Island, is slated to open later, possibly by spring of 2025. Delays were caused by construction

quality issues along the Interstate 90 portion of East Link.

For people who live, work and travel on the Eastside, the 2 Line segment opening in spring of 2024 will provide connections to stations at South Bellevue, East Main, Bellevue Downtown, Wilburton, Spring District, BelRed, Overlake Village and Redmond Technology, and the regional trail system.

Once the 2 Line opens across Lake Washington, connecting to the full regional system, Sound Transit will be able to increase service levels to meet rising demand.

Expect to see intensive testing of new vehicles, signals, systems and more in Bellevue starting in November.

For more information and to sign up for updates, visit BellevueWA.gov/east-link or SoundTransit.org/system-expansion/east-link-extension.

Phase 2 of Meydenbauer Bay Park expansion begins

By CHRISTINA FAINE
Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

With its distinctive curved pier and inviting beach, Meydenbauer Bay Park has been one of Bellevue’s most popular destinations since it opened in 2019. However, pedestrian access to the park, a steep drop down from Lake Washington Boulevard, remains limited.

Expanding the park’s connection to downtown, one of the objectives of the 2010 park master plan will be the focus of a second phase of the project starting now. With landscape architect Berger Partnership, the city will come up with designs later this year and in early 2024.



The map indicates which parts of the park will be improved for the second phase.

Community input will be key to the project, with multiple touch points planned. City staff is reaching out to the community now. The first open house will be in November.

While there are seven beach parks in Bellevue, including Meydenbauer, only about 11% of Bellevue’s shoreline is accessible to the public. In park surveys, residents have consistently rated expanding public access to the waterfront among their top three priorities.

The first phase of development added the public pier, expanded the beach at the old Meydenbauer Beach Park by eight times, restored the ravine and established the beginning of a pedestrian promenade. The park has a beach house with restrooms and showers. The historic whaling building just south of the beach was restored.

For phase 2, the park master plan adopted by the City Council provides the framework, planning and implementation principles for potential next steps. Design studies will consider a community building, an extension of the pedestrian promenade and marina reconfiguration, as well as parking and shoreline restoration. Access to Lake Washington and integration with Downtown Park and the Grand Connection corridor will also be studied.

This design phase will last about a year and a half, into the spring of 2025.

More details about the project and a way to sign up for Alerts updates are available at BellevueWA.gov/meydenbauerparkimprovements. Project manager Scott VanderHyden (svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4169) can also provide immediate information about the project.



People walk down the middle of Main Street during a Wine Walk in Old Bellevue on Thursday, Sept. 14. The street was closed to vehicles between 101st and 103rd avenues to allow for expanded dining areas and live music.

City ramps up environmental stewardship efforts

By JENNIFER EWING
Environmental Stewardship Manager

With record-breaking heat, floods and other climate impacts making headlines around the world this summer, the City of Bellevue is ramping up its efforts to support a vibrant, sustainable future for all residents. The city's sustainability programs include supporting deep discounts on heat pumps, adding charging stations for electric vehicles, handing out free trees and assessing the impacts of climate change in Bellevue.

To help scale up existing Environmental Stewardship programs and launch new ones, the city has added six people to its sustainability team.

In the midst of implementing the 2021-25 Sustainable Bellevue plan, the city is cosponsoring the Energy Smart Eastside program, which helps residents lower their energy use and save money by switching to heat pumps. In addition to providing efficient heating and cooling, switching to a heat pump is one of the most impactful actions individuals can take to reduce their carbon footprint. As part of Energy Smart Eastside, low-

income households may be eligible for the Boost Program, which covers 100% of heat pump and installation costs.

Qualifying moderate-income households are eligible for a \$1,500 fuel-switching incentive, plus an additional \$500 discount from our distribution partner Gensco. Puget Sound Energy has also released a new Electric Home incentive for households switching from natural gas heating to qualifying electric heat pumps. Learn more about these programs and how to apply at EnergySmartEastside.org.

Also in October, the city released the Climate Vulnerability Assessment, which highlights climate impacts Bellevue faces over the next decades and identifies strategies for increasing resiliency across the city.

The team is also developing an Electric Vehicle Roadmap, which will guide the city's transition to EV-centered infrastructure.

Residents can stay up to date on these projects and all sustainability updates in Bellevue by visiting BellevueWA.gov/environment and signing up for our newsletter.



Police officer Kealii Akahane gets the selfie treatment with friends and colleagues after receiving a Carnegie Medal on Sept. 18. He risked his life last year to save a 17-year-old boy from drowning in Phantom Lake. Friends from Officer Akahane's native Hawaii added to his honors with traditional leis.



Greener living for the holidays

By ERIN HISLOP
Conservation and Outreach Administrator

Winter holidays often involve gathering with friends and family for large meals and gift-giving. Bellevue Utilities is offering free, interactive Greener Living classes to help make your holidays eco-friendly and fun this year.

Learn how to eliminate wasted food and shop sustainably.

To register, email recycle@bellevuewa.gov or call 206-949-1787. More information at BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes.

In-person classes

Reduce Wasted Food

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 6-7 p.m.
Lake Hills Library

Responsible Reorganizing

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 6-7 p.m.
Bellevue Library

Sustainable Shopping

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6-7 p.m.
Newport Way Library

Virtual classes

Super Sorter

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 6-7 p.m.

Residents score big conservation wins

By ERIN HISLOP
Conservation and Outreach Administrator

Eastside BYOC (Bring Your Own Cup) campaign keeps 28,000 cups out of landfills

The Eastside BYOC (Bring Your Own Cup) pilot campaign, in partnership with 20 participating coffee shops in Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond and Bothell, reached over 2,000 consumers in person and over 6,000 via a digital campaign.

The campaign, in April and May, resulted in 28,440 cups, paper sleeves and plastic lids – totaling 1,244 pounds of waste – being diverted from landfills by consumers and coffee shop participants. The regional team has obtained a King County Re+ Grant to expand the campaign in 2023-2024, so don't forget your "Keys, phone, wallet...and cup!" when you head out to your local coffee shop!

Zero Waste Drinking Water Stations = 10,000 fewer single-use plastic bottles used

The city piloted touchless tap-free drinking water stations at this year's hot July 4 event at Downtown Park. More than 5,000 liters of healthy tap water was consumed—which

otherwise would have come in over 10,000 single-use plastic water bottles!

The Utilities and Parks & Community Services departments invested in this partnership to help protect human health, provide equitable access to safe drinking water and support the goal of Zero Waste.

Paper shredding event doubled recycling this year!

Approximately 33,750 pounds of sensitive paper documents were shredded for recycling at the Bellevue shred event on Aug. 19 – more than double what was collected last year! A total of 524 cars participated. Confidential Data Disposal did the shredding. Check ATG.WA.gov/community-shred-events for future events.

Fix is in at County Repair Fair

The city assisted with implementation and promotion of the King County Repair Fair in Bellevue on June 27, where volunteers fixed 63 household items and gave advice on many additional items for repair. Bellevue Utilities also created a new "Dare to Repair" class and associated strategy guide, to help residents continue repairing.



The fix is in at the King County Repair Fair in Bellevue this summer. Volunteers fixed 63 household items and gave advice on many additional items for repair.

Growth strategy key for new comp plan

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

After more than a year of gathering input and performing environmental review about growth options, city planners are now preparing to draft an update of Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan. When Bellevue 2044 is complete, likely in the fall of 2024, it will offer a blueprint for ordered growth in Bellevue over the next 20 years.

The City Council in July selected a "preferred alternative" among growth scenarios studied in a draft environmental impact statement. That option, to be studied in a final EIS, looks at analyzing impacts for policy and land use changes to accommodate 95,000 more housing units and 200,000 more jobs in Bellevue by 2044.

The preferred option – a variant of one recommended by the Planning Commission – would incorporate growth in mixed-use centers, areas with good access to transit and areas close to neighborhood centers, as well as in downtown, East Main and BelRed.

The council is not obligated to stay with this option when Bellevue 2044 is drafted; they can pursue one with different housing and job numbers, which may accommodate growth in other city zones.

Early in 2024, the city will release the final EIS, which will analyze the preferred alternative and respond to all comments received concerning the draft EIS.

In the fall and winter, the city will share draft policies for the new Comprehensive Plan with the community.

The updated plan will likely be released in late 2024. The city will also discuss findings from technical documents that are part of the Final EIS later this year and in early 2024.

Public input is an important part of each step in the process and community members are encouraged to get involved. Residents can consult BellevueWA.gov/comprehensive-plan or the interactive EngagingBellevue.com/bellevue-2044. They can also subscribe for email or text Alerts about updates in the process.



The city is studying ways to accommodate anticipated growth in housing and jobs in Bellevue over the next 20 years, with new apartment buildings and office buildings coming to BelRed.



A team of volunteers from FREIHEIT Architecture participated in the downtown cleanup on Aug. 12.

Keep Bellevue Beautiful monthly cleanups of 'Signature Streets'

By **SARINA MILLER**
Keep Bellevue Beautiful Coordinator

The Keep Bellevue Beautiful program launched successfully in August, with 135 volunteers from neighborhoods, businesses and civic groups participating in cleanups in downtown and Factoria. The community came together to collect 95 bags of trash in the public right of way and learned about ways to prevent waste and debris to keep our streets and streams clean.



Cleanups of "signature streets" are the next phase of the program, beginning with four areas this fall.

Signature Street Cleanups

Signature streets provide first and lasting impressions of Bellevue and are also frequent hot spots for reports of litter. Beginning this fall, the city will focus on key locations for monthly cleanups.

Register for the cleanup you plan to attend at BellevueWA.gov/keepbellevuebeautiful.

- **Saturday, Nov. 18**
BelRed: Start at Highland Community Center, BelRed Road.
- **Saturday, Dec. 16**
Crossroads: Start at Crossroads Park- Northeast Eighth Street.

More signature street cleanups will be happening in 2024.

Help shape Bellevue's new tree regulations

By **KRISTINA GALLANT**
Development Services Senior Planner

Do you want to help shape Bellevue's tree regulations? The city is updating land use and city code provisions related to trees and will share draft recommendations for feedback at an upcoming public meeting.

Bellevue's tree canopy is a critical environmental asset and central to the vision of a "City in a Park." To ensure city code supports citywide tree canopy goals while balancing the need for more housing, the City Council has launched a comprehensive review of all provisions related to trees in the Land Use Code and Bellevue City Code – and updates will be made where necessary.

Bellevue's code provisions regulate "significant trees," currently defined as healthy trees at least eight inches in diameter. These regulations clarify when permits are required to remove such trees, the share of these trees that must be retained as part of a

development project, when they must be replaced, how they must be protected from damage and more.

Earlier this year, staff began outreach to gather community perspectives on priorities for the update, including a questionnaire, public information session, and listening sessions. In June, the council reviewed staff's recommended scope of updates, incorporating this community feedback.

Since June, staff have been working to develop recommended code updates based on the council's guidance. In November the city will hold a public information session to share preliminary draft recommendations and gather feedback from the community. For information on the project and how to attend the meeting, go to BellevueWA.gov/tree-code-update. You can also reach out to project manager Kristina Gallant (kgallant@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6196) to share comments or ask questions.

New police-fire team to help people in crisis

Emergency response offers enforcement and counseling as needed

By **SETH TYLER**
Police Public Information Officer

After a successful trial run in 2021, the city in September began deploying a Community Crisis Assistance Team to provide specialized support to people in crisis.

Made up of specially trained police officers and mental health professionals from the Fire Department's CARES (Community Advocates for Referral and Education Services) program, the CCAT will likely mean fewer arrests and hospitalizations in Bellevue for a frequent kind of emergency call.

As the number of behavioral health calls continues to rise around the country, the city recognized the need for a more comprehensive approach than traditional responses such as arrest or hospitalization.

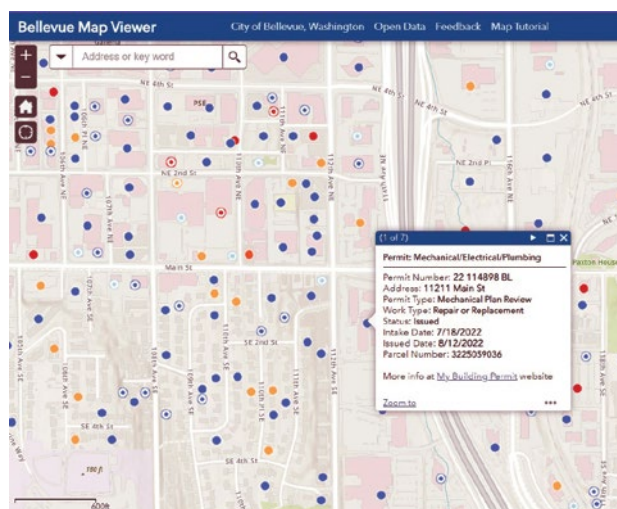
After exploring various response models in the CCAT pilot in 2021, Police and Fire adopted a co-responder model.

Unlike standard patrol units, the CCAT is given the flexibility to invest as much time as needed to listen and problem-solve with individuals in crisis. The team then can discern whether the person in crisis would benefit most from speaking to an officer or a mental health professional. The CCAT can provide connections to relevant resources.

After the 2021 pilot showed more people diverted from jails and hospitals and a drop in the number of times force was used when the CCAT approach was used, the City Council approved funding for CCAT in the 2023-24 budget.



Police officer George Graham and mental health care professional Lauren Stava from Bellevue Fire CARES are part of the Community Crisis Assistance Team.



The dots on the permit map layer indicate development projects. Users can click on a dot and see a flyout summary of the project.

City online map now tracks development permits

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

Bellevue Map Viewer, an interactive online map with layers for parks, capital projects, utilities infrastructure and other data, now features a permit layer that offers residents information about development and construction throughout Bellevue.

The Bellevue Map Viewer has been a valuable resource for the community. With the addition of the permit layer, residents and other users can access information about permits issued by the city by clicking on points on the map. Each point on the map can be expanded to show

a summary of the project with a link to [MyBuildingPermit.com](https://mybuildingpermit.com), where more details about the project are available.

Looking to explore the new data layer? Access the Map Viewer from BellevueWA.gov/development-activity or on the city's main Maps and GIS page at BellevueWA.gov/maps. A short video is available on how to use the interactive map.

To access permit data, select the "Permits" layer in Map Viewer and zoom in to see all active permits in the city. Interested in more permit data? There is more information in the city's Open Data Portal at Data.BellevueWA.gov.

Utilities seeks input on Lake Washington sewer line plan

By **MICHAELENE FOWLER**
Utilities Public Information Officer



The lake line runs along the Lake Washington shore.

Bellevue Utilities is developing a long-range plan for maintenance of its aging Lake Washington wastewater line. The plan, which will designate sections of the 15-mile pipeline for either upkeep, repair or replacement, will support reliable wastewater services and protection of the lake's ecosystem.

With community input, the city is conducting an environmental review for the management plan that helped determine viable alternatives for management of the

lake line. Utilities is now asking residents to provide input on those alternatives.

Utilities will have an information table at local events, parks and trails within the project area over the next few months to gather community feedback. To find out more about where you can share your thoughts about the lake line plan, visit BellevueWA.gov/lake-line-project.

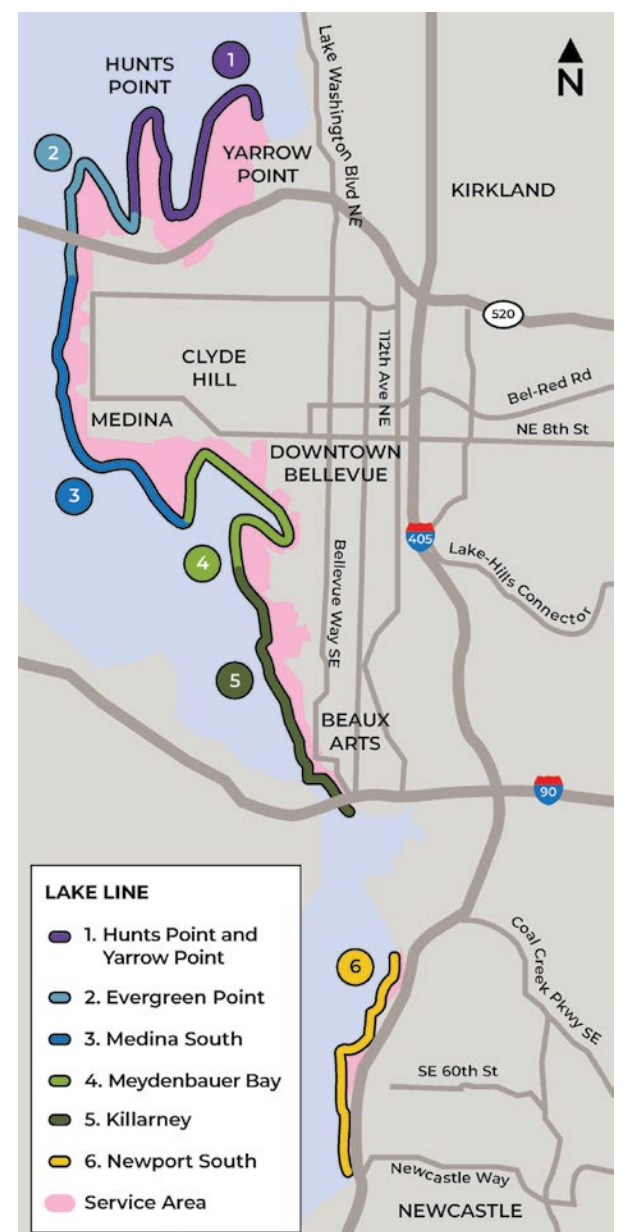
Background

The "lake line" is made up of connected pipes installed under Lake Washington or on land adjacent to the lake in the 1950s and '60s. They are aging, and the city is planning ahead to maintain services to residents and protect the sensitive lake environment.

How to stay involved

Visit BellevueWA.gov/lake-line-project to sign up for email or text updates and find more details about the management plan. Questions or comments? Reach out to project manager Angela Chung (LkWaLakeLine@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4320).

Bellevue's aging Lake Washington wastewater line runs along the eastern shore for 15 miles.



Please keep streetside vegetation trimmed and leaves out of streets



Make way for the street sweeper!

By **Transportation and Utilities**
Public Information Officers

Fall is here, which means sweaters, pumpkins and falling leaves. Although the changing leaves are beautiful, they also can clog our storm drains and slow down our street sweepers.

So, after the pumpkin spice latte is drained, please rake up the leaves and put them in the compost bin. Also, to prevent flooding when there's a rainstorm, please keep an eye on storm drains near you and rake them clear of leaves and other debris when you have the chance.

Finally, so our street sweepers can clean all the way to the curb, please trim back tree branches and shrubs that overhang the street or sidewalk. Encroaching vegetation can damage the sweepers.

The Transportation Department keeps our streets clean with two street sweepers that operate every day, unless there

is snow or ice on the roads. The goal is to sweep signed bike lanes twice a month, main arterials once a month and residential streets twice a year.

In addition to trimming back trees and bushes, there are several other ways you can help the city keep our streets clean.

- Remove branches, large sticks and other debris from the road if you are safely able to do so. The sweepers can't pick up these items.
- Keep the street clear of garbage and recycling containers, cars and other objects if possible, so the sweepers can clean all the way to the curb.
- Please do not dump or blow leaves into the street. Large piles of leaves can clog the sweeper, or necessitate it being emptied more frequently, which means less sweeping.

Regarding the leaves, your help is important since Bellevue Utilities faces a big job keeping our more than 20,000 storm drains clear. Tips for clearing storm drains include:

- Clear drains only if it is safe to do so.
- Stay out of the street and work from the sidewalk if possible.
- Don't put grass clippings, leaves or other debris into drains, ditches, creeks, culverts, gutters or ravines.

If a storm drain appears blocked below the street surface, call 425-452-7840.

Accessible changing tables available at park facilities

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

To expand access to city parks and other facilities for children, older adults and people with disabilities, the city has installed accessible changing tables at eight locations around Bellevue.

The tables, which can be electrically raised and lowered to meet the needs of the user, are in the men's and women's restrooms in the following locations:

- Bannerwood Park Stadium
- Crossroads International Park
- Downtown Park (Inspiration Playground)
- Highland Community Center (inside building)
- Meydenbauer Bay Park
- Newcastle Beach Park
- North Bellevue Community Center (nurse's office)
- Wilburton Hill Park

During outreach for the development of Inspiration Playground in 2014 and again during the 2019 update of the city's Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, residents requested accessible changing tables at park facilities.

"We listened to those with disabilities who want to access our parks," said Parks & Community Services Director Michael Shiosaki. "Meeting the needs of this population is central in our city's commitment to equity and inclusion."

In 2021, the state Department of Commerce awarded the city a \$97,000 grant to purchase and install accessible changing tables in restrooms throughout the Bellevue parks system.

Input wanted on transportation demand plan

By **AMANDA MANSFIELD**
Transportation Demand Management Manager

The city is seeking feedback on its 2024-2033 Transportation Demand Management Plan. This plan informs the implementation of the city's TDM program, which encourages sustainable alternatives to driving alone such as transit, carpooling, vanpooling, walking, bicycling or telework.

Input from Bellevue employers, property managers, workers and residents can be provided at [EngagingBellevue.com/tdm-plan-update](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/tdm-plan-update). Residents can comment on the current TDM plan (2015-2023) now, and on the draft update when it is released for comment in late 2023 or early 2024.

TDM emphasizes the movement of people rather than vehicles. The TDM plan guides activities directed toward:

- employers
- property owners and managers
- employees
- residents
- commuters and other travelers

The city will release a draft plan update for review and comment in late 2023 or early 2024. Details about the program are available at [BellevueWA.gov/tdm](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/tdm). Questions about the process can go to amansfield@bellevuewa.gov.

Prepare now for winter weather travel

By **GILLIAN HAGSTROM**
Transportation Public Information Officer

Now's the time to get prepared for winter! Every year, city staff are fully prepared for snow by the start of November. The city has 17 trucks that can be configured with plows and sanders and 60 staff from multiple departments ready to respond in the event of a snowstorm.

The following tips and information will help you and your family be ready for snow, ice and extreme cold:

Get prepared:

- Practice putting on your tire chains at home before you need them and put on traction tires if you have them.
- Check your anti-freeze levels, washer fluid and wipers, and ensure that your heater and defroster work properly.
- Have an ice scraper/snow brush and other essentials for your car. The state Department of Transportation ([WSDOT.gov/winter](https://www.wsdot.gov/winter)) offers a checklist of other items to have in your car to be prepared.
- Purchase a snow shovel. Clearing your sidewalk of snow helps keep people who are walking and rolling safe!

Who to contact in an emergency:

- For life-threatening emergencies, call 911.
- To report flooding, blocked or hazardous streets and sidewalks, fallen trees and similar problems, call the city's 24-hour response line at 425-452-7840.
- Call Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773 to report a power outage.
- Non-emergencies can also be reported through the MyBellevue app, available in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

How to stay informed:

- During significant weather events, information is posted on the city's homepage at [BellevueWA.gov](https://www.bellevuewa.gov).
- Check the city's X (Twitter) pages – @BellevueWA and @BvueTrans – and Facebook ([Facebook.com/bellevuewashington](https://www.facebook.com/bellevuewashington)) for the latest developments.
- Check [WSDOT.wa.gov](https://www.wsdot.wa.gov) and X (@WSDOT) for highway information.

During a winter storm, staff work 24/7 in 12-hour shifts to clear roads. Streets are prioritized for plowing based on a snow response map that considers access for emergency services, transit, traffic volume and other factors. These major routes may require repeated plowing and sanding before crews are able to clear neighborhood streets.

Completed Transportation, Parks and Utilities projects around Bellevue

These projects, all completed or slated for completion this year, are listed by neighborhood. For more information about projects, please contact the project manager listed.

BelRed

124th Ave NE: NE 12th St to Spring Blvd: Widened 124th Avenue Northeast from Northeast 12th Street to Spring Boulevard. Includes turn pockets and pedestrian and bicycle facilities on each side of the street, separated from vehicle traffic with a buffer. Southbound bicycle and pedestrian facilities will be completed by the developer. Anticipated completion November (\$21.3 million).
Marina Arakelyan, marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov



NE Spring Blvd: 130th - 132nd aves NE, Zone 4: Constructed new Northeast Spring Boulevard roadway between 130th and 132nd Avenues Northeast. Features of the project include one new eastbound and one westbound travel lane on Spring Boulevard, a new traffic signal at the intersection of Spring Boulevard and 130th Avenue and a buffered bike lane and a sidewalk in each direction, along with landscaping. Completed spring (\$12 million).
Kyle Potuzak, kpotuzak@bellevuewa.gov

Valley Creek at NE 21st St Flood Control: Replaced and enlarged the culvert at Northeast 21st Street and restored Valley Creek between 20th and 21st streets to mitigate flooding. Anticipated completion December (\$3.2 million).
Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@bellevuewa.gov

136th Ave NE Inlet Station: New water inlet station with underground vaults and pipes to supply water from the Seattle Public Utilities Tolt Eastside Supply Line. A unique feature includes a hydro turbine that generates electricity from the flow of water through the station. Estimates suggest this could save the city up to \$25,000 per year in energy costs. Completed spring (\$8.5 million).
Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov



Bridle Trails

Bridle Trails 140th Ave NE Neighborhood Park: New 1.65-acre park features a playground, picnic shelter, restroom, walking trails and natural areas. Anticipated completion October (\$3 million).
Scott VanderHyden, svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov

Pikes Peak Reservoir Replacement: Replaced the aging, 1-million-gallon steel facility with a 1.25-million-gallon, concrete, earthquake-resilient reservoir. The reservoir provides essential water to all of Bellevue and supports fire protection for the residents of the Bridle Trails, Pikes Peak and Cherry Crest neighborhoods. Completed June (\$9.5 million).
Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov



Citywide

Citywide Pavement Preservation: Resurfaced streets – included grinding, fresh asphalt, new pavement markings, upgraded curb ramps and new sidewalks – included portions downtown, Eastgate, West Lake Sammamish, Northwest Bellevue and Lake Hills, with attention to Main Street. Program highlights include 31.6 lane miles of repaved streets, over 80 curb ramps replaced to improve accessibility for people who walk and roll, and several bridge surfaces repaved. A map of all 2023 resurfacing projects is available at : BellevueWA.gov/pavement.
Isack Habte, ihabte@bellevuewa.gov



Phase 2 AC Water Main Replacement: Replaced approximately 10,000 linear feet of asbestos-concrete water main with new ductile iron pipe and replaced one pressure reducer valve assembly. Completed August (\$5.7 million).
Paige Young, pyoung@bellevuewa.gov

Phase 3 AC Water Main Replacement: Replace approximately 9,000 linear feet of asbestos-concrete water main with new ductile iron pipe. Completed August (\$5.2 million).
Paige Young, pyoung@bellevuewa.gov

Downtown

110th Ave SE Sidewalk: Added sidewalk on the west side of 110th Avenue Southeast between Southeast First Street and Main Street. Completed October 2022 (\$178,000).
Olivia Aikala, oaikala@bellevuewa.gov



Lake Hills

Bellevue Transit Center Raised Intersections: Constructed new raised intersections downtown at Northeast Sixth Street and 108th and 110th avenues to provide a seamless street crossing for people traveling from the East Link light rail station and the Bellevue Transit Center. Completed October (\$3.2 million).
Chris Masek, dakers@bellevuewa.gov

Newport

119th Ave SE Speed Cushions, Phase 2: Installed three sets of speed cushions on 119th Avenue Southeast between Southeast 48th Street and Southeast 54th Place. Completed in the spring (\$96,000).
Rohit Ammanamanchi, rammanamanchi@bellevuewa.gov



Newport Sewer Capacity Improvements: Built sewer force main along Cascade Key to improve sewer capacity in the Newport neighborhood. Completed July (\$4.4 million).
Paige Young, pyoung@bellevuewa.gov

Somerset

Decommissioned Somerset Reservoir: To improve safety in the event of an earthquake, the decommissioned Somerset reservoir's east wall and soil behind it were stabilized with steel braces. Structural fill was installed to replace the weight of the reservoir roof and walls. The remaining reservoir structure was buried, and the hillside was regraded and landscaped. Completed spring.
Dwight Smith, dbsmith@bellevuewa.gov

West Bellevue

98th Ave SE (97th Pl SE) and SE 11th St Slope Stabilization: Stabilized the slope on the southwest corner of the intersection of 98th Avenue Southeast (97th Place Southeast) and Southeast 11th Street by constructing a new wall and barrier. Anticipated completion October (\$2.3 million).
Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

experiencing homelessness countywide in 2022, a 14% increase over 2020.

The city has been partnering with the team at PorchLight since 2008 to operate emergency men's shelters in Bellevue, beginning with temporary winter shelter spaces and shifting to a 24/7 year-round shelter in 2019.

Bellevue came together with a number of peer cities, King County and many other partners to cooperatively plan for and offer housing and emergency shelter for all types of people experiencing housing instability on the Eastside, from families to couples to single people.

Community-building has been key as PorchLight and the city have worked to ensure minimal impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. A Good Neighbor Advisory Committee was formed during the permitting process to support communications between PorchLight and surrounding businesses and residents. An agreement developed with the committee sets expectations for the role and operations of the shelter in the neighborhood.

The PorchLight shelter is on the 10-acre Eastgate Housing Campus, which is also home to Plymouth Crossing's 92 units of permanent supportive housing (housing and on-site services for single adults with a history of chronic homelessness) and Inland Group's soon-to-be completed Polaris at Eastgate, offering 353 units of affordable housing.

The campus offers a spectrum of critical housing and support services for community members experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Already, several unhoused clients from PorchLight have been selected for permanent housing in Plymouth Crossing – demonstrating the power of collaboration.

Community members interested in volunteering at PorchLight's Eastgate shelter should email volunteer@cfhomeless.org for more information. Community members in need of assistance can visit BellevueWA.gov/homelessness for a list of resources.

"This is a significant milestone for PorchLight," wrote the organization's executive director, Troy Christensen, in a message on the PorchLight website. "We could not be more excited about the journey ahead or more grateful to those (community partners, donors, staff and volunteers) who did so much to make it possible."



The annual Bellwether arts festival featured live performances over three weekends in September, including this one by the Sustain Music Project, featuring live music and video projections in the Spring District.

Be in the know with Alerts!



To help you keep up to date about city news, jobs, events, codes and programs, Bellevue offers free Alerts. Whenever new information is posted on the city web pages you choose, you will receive an email or text summarizing those changes, with a link to the page. You may also sign up for alerts concerning topics of interest, which are not associated with city web pages.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October

Monster Mash Halloween Dance



Friday, Oct. 27, 5:30-8 p.m.

Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th St.

All ages. Free.

Dance party with live DJ. Contests, games, crafts and story time. Costumes encouraged.

425-452-4106

"Zombies!"

Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre



Oct. 27, 28, Nov. 3, 4 at 7 p.m.;

Oct. 29, Nov. 4, 5 at 2 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th St.

All ages. \$12 per ticket

425-452-7155 or BellevueWA.gov/byt

Halloween on the Hill



Saturday, Oct. 28

South Bellevue Community Center,
14509 SE Newport Way

Pumpkin Races

Oct. 28,

Session #1, 10 a.m.-noon.

Session #2, noon-2 p.m.

Ages 6 and up

Free; registration required at
Register.BellevueWA.gov or by calling
425-452-4240

Pumpkin racer supplies kit (\$25) required
unless you already have supplies.

Pumpkin Race Workshop

Receive helpful instructions on how to
prepare your pumpkin for race day with a
tutorial from an experienced racer. Tools
and pumpkin racer kits will be available.

Oct. 25, 6:30-8 p.m.

SBCC Community Room

Carnival and Kids Fun Zone

Oct. 28, noon-3 p.m.

Games, food, rock wall and inflatables.

All ages. Free and paid activities.

Magician/Comedy

Oct. 28, 3-4 p.m.



Kids and parents root for their respective entries in a Halloween on the Hill pumpkin race.

November

"Ghost Girls"

Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre



Nov. 10, 11, 17, 18 at 7 p.m.;

Nov. 12, 18, 19 at 2 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th St.

All ages. \$12 per ticket (Age 10 and up)

425-452-7155 or BellevueWA.gov/byt

December

"Frozen Jr."



Snow Cast Performs:

Dec. 1, 2, 8 at 7 p.m.

Dec. 2, 3, 9 at 2 p.m.

Ice Cast Performs:

Dec. 8, 15, 16 at 7 p.m.

Dec. 10, 16, 17 at 2 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th St.

All ages. \$12 per ticket

425-452-7155 or BellevueWA.gov/byt

Holiday Ships Beach Event

Dec. 16

Meydenbauer Bay Park
9899 Lake Washington Blvd NE

Ship arrives off-shore at 8:40 p.m.

Enjoy the onboard performances from
onshore and keep warm with a beach fire!

Free

425-452-4106 or nwac@bellevuewa.gov

Bellevue Magic Season

Garden d'Lights

Nov. 25 to Dec. 31, 4:30-9 p.m.

Special \$5 nights (4:30-8 p.m.)

Nov. 27-30 and Dec. 4-7

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St.

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

\$8 Admission.

Free for children 10 and under.

Free parking at Wilburton Hill Park.

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

Tickets online starting Oct. 16.

425-452-2750 or GardendLights.org

Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink

Nov. 18-Jan. 8

Open daily, hours vary

Downtown Park

One block south of Bellevue Square at NE
1st Street and 100th Avenue NE

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

Admission includes skate rental.

\$13 Monday-Thursday,

\$16 Friday-Sunday, holidays.

BellevueIceRink.com

Snowflake Lane

Nov. 25-Dec. 24

Nightly at 7 p.m. along Bellevue Way
between NE 4th Street and NE 8th Street

The region's most festive holiday scene on
the sidewalks between Bellevue Square and
Lincoln Square.


Nightly parade at 7 p.m.

425-454-8096 or

BellevueCollection.com/snowflakelane

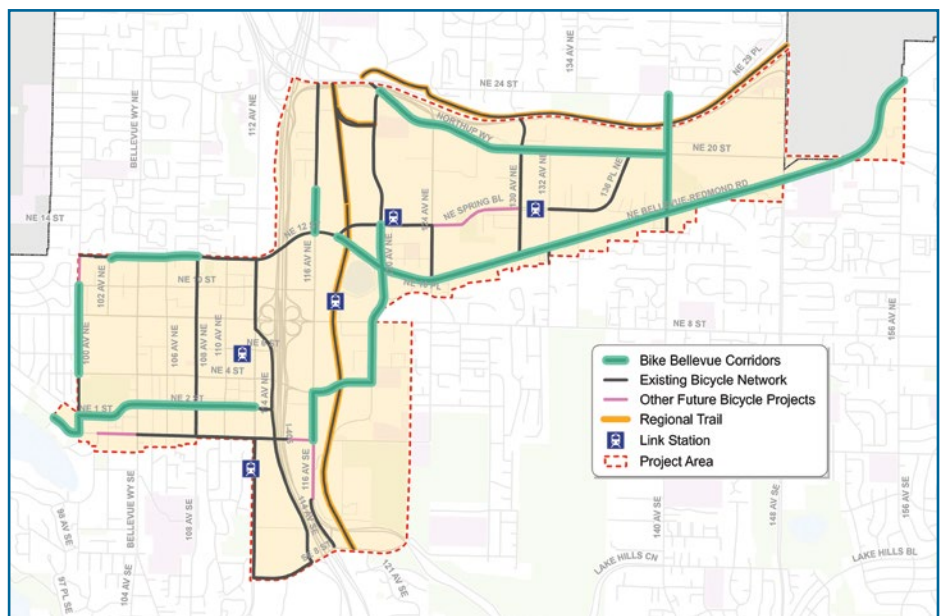
CITY CONTACTS

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

 For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4448 (voice) or email ciosso@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

It's Your City is published for people who live or work in Bellevue. For questions or comments about this publication, contact Claude Iosso, 425-452-4448 or ciosso@bellevuewa.gov.
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CITY COUNCIL



Interactive site makes it easy to weigh in on proposed Bike Bellevue projects

By GILLIAN HAGSTROM
 Transportation Public Information Officer

Bellevue's Transportation Department is taking input for the Bike Bellevue initiative, which will add bike lanes to streets in the urban core areas of downtown, Wilburton and BelRed. The goal is to create a network of safe and comfortable cycling connections for people of all ages and abilities.

Until Friday, Nov. 17, residents can share their thoughts on the proposed designs for each Bike Bellevue corridor using an interactive, online feedback tool. At BikeBellevue.konveio.com, users can see comments from other people, add a response and agree or disagree.

For more information on Bike Bellevue and to sign up for project alerts, visit BellevueWA.gov/bike-bellevue. A guide with proposed corridor designs is available on the webpage.



Stay Connected with Bellevue Television

Live and recorded community meetings and special programming

youtube.com/BellevueWashington
BellevueWA.gov/btv