

City of Bellevue Parks & Natural Areas Levy

November 4, 2008 Voter Initiative



Background

With the city's existing parks levy expiring this year, voters are being asked to consider a new funding measure to provide additional investments in Bellevue's nationally accredited park system. The measure would replace the purchasing power of the expiring bonds. Following significant public input, Bellevue City Council approved the measure for the November 4 ballot.

The Parks & Natural Areas Levy

This measure includes funding to enhance and maintain the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System. If approved, the package would accomplish the following:

- Protect water quality in Bellevue's lakes and streams and preserve natural areas throughout the city;
- Enhance existing parks such as Bellevue Downtown Park, Surrey Downs, Crossroads Community Park and Bellevue Botanical Garden;
- Invest in sportsfields, trails, community parks, and neighborhood parks; and
- Maintain improvements consistent with Bellevue Parks' standards.

Specific project funding details are further described below:

Acquisition Opportunity Funding (\$10M)

Dedicate resources to obtain land that complements the existing parks system to increase public access to lake shores, preserve open space, protect water quality, increase trail connectivity and create opportunities for new neighborhood parks.

Eastgate Area Community Park (\$6M)

This 27-acre undeveloped site will be improved following a community-based plan to preserve natural areas and add new recreational amenities.

Neighborhood Park Development (\$5M)

Smaller-scale parks will be developed with amenities such as play equipment, open space, and trail connections. Proposed sites are along Lake Sammamish and in the Bridle Trails neighborhoods.

Downtown Park (\$5M)

Complete additional phase of the Downtown Park master plan, including completion of the circle around the waterfall and reflecting pond.

Surrey Downs Community Park (\$3.5M)

Transferred to the City from county ownership in 2005, this park will be improved to offer new sport and recreational amenities for the neighborhood and broader community.

Sports Field Improvements (\$3M)

Building on the expanded capacity of Robinswood Sports Fields, additional synthetic fields will be installed to improve safety and play at Wilburton Hill and Newport Hills parks.

Bellevue Botanical Garden (\$2M)

Planned improvements will expand opportunities for visitors to experience botanical displays and educational programs.

Expansion of Crossroads Community Center to Support Youth Performing Arts (\$2M)

A larger, improved facility will help meet the facility needs of the City's youth performing arts programs.

Lewis Creek Park Phase II (\$2M)

Group picnic areas and more trail connections will complete the planned improvements to this community park.

Trail and Natural Area Improvements (\$2M)

Investments within the City's 1,800-acre open space system will improve forest conditions and stabilize slopes to reduce erosion in the Coal Creek Natural Area, and create hiking and walking trails throughout the City.

Cost

If approved, this measure would cost a typical homeowner about \$71 per year for the next 20 years, or 12 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. This measure was set to replace the expiring 1988 Bellevue Park Bond which had an average property tax rate of 17 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Additional Information

If you have questions about the Bellevue Parks & Natural Areas Levy, please call the Bellevue Parks & Community Services Department at 425-452-2805.

Geographic Distribution of Levy Package

