



PARKS COMMITTEE
CITY OF BELLEVUE, IDAHO
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026, 10:00 AM
CITY HALL MEETING ROOM
115 E. PINE STREET, BELLEVUE, IDAHO 83313

AGENDA

Agendas may be amended

JOIN TEAMS MEETING: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/252718732013900?p=WOexUQRtCyAMqwmQOa>

MEETING ID: 252 718 732 013 900

PASSCODE: GW2W79TK

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

1. **NOTICE OF AGENDA COMPLIANCE (PER IDAHO CODE §74-204): ACTION ITEM**
***Finding that** the regular meeting notice and agenda were posted in accordance with Idaho Code §74-204 within forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting at: the City of Bellevue City Hall, Post Office, and on the City's website on August 17, 2026. **Suggested Motion:** I move that the notice for the August 19, 2026, regular meeting was completed in accordance with Idaho Code, Section §74-204.)*
2. **CALL FOR CONFLICT (AS OUTLINED IN IDAHO CODE §74-404): ACTION ITEM**
3. **COMMITTEE & SECRETARY UPDATES**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** FOR ITEMS OF CONCERN **NOT** ON THE AGENDA – (**COMMENTS ARE LIMITED TO 3-5 MINUTES**)
5. **NEW BUSINESS: ACTION ITEM**
 - a. Memorial Park Reservations Noise Concerns – Kristin Fletcher, Chair
 - b. Howard Preserve Management Plan – Brian Parker, Community Development Director
6. **OLD BUSINESS: ACTION ITEMS**
 - a. Action Tracker
 - b. Parks Committee Scope, Name, and Purpose: Brian Parker, Community Development Director
7. **WORK SESSIONS: ACTION ITEM**
 - a. Past Memorial Park Recommendations: Kristin Fletcher, Chair
8. **NEXT MEETING: ACTION ITEM**
 - b. Next Regular Meeting: September 16, 2026
9. **ADJOURNMENT: ACTION ITEM**

**In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations during this meeting should notify the City of Bellevue, 115 East Pine Street, Bellevue, Idaho 83313, or phone number 208-788-2128 ext. 4, at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.



AGENDA

Las agendas pueden ser modificadas

ÚNETE A LA REUNIÓN DE EQUIPOS:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/252718732013900?p=WOexUQRtCyAMqwmQOa>

ID DE LA REUNIÓN: 252 718 732 013 900

CÓDIGO DE ACCESO: GW2W79TK

LLAMADA AL ORDEN

LISTA DE LISTA

1. **AVISO DE CUMPLIMIENTO DEL ORDEN DEL DÍA (SEGÚN EL CÓDIGO DE IDAHO §74-204): PUNTO DE ACCIÓN**
*Constatando que el aviso y la agenda de la reunión ordinaria se publicaron conforme al Código de Idaho §74-204 dentro de las cuarenta y ocho (48) horas previas a la reunión en: el Ayuntamiento de Bellevue, la oficina de correos y en la página web de la ciudad el 17 de agosto de 2026. **Moción sugerida:** Propongo que el aviso de la reunión ordinaria del 19 de agosto DE 2026 se completó conforme al Código de Idaho, Sección §74-204.)*
2. **LLAMAMIENTO AL CONFLICTO (SEGÚN LO ESTABLECIDO EN EL CÓDIGO DE IDAHO §74-404): PUNTO DE ACCIÓN**
3. **ACTUALIZACIONES DE COMITÉS Y SECRETARIOS**
4. **COMENTARIOS públicos: PARA ASUNTOS DE INTERÉS QUE NO ESTÁN EN LA AGENDA – (LOS COMENTARIOS ESTÁN LIMITADOS A 3-5 MINUTOS)**
5. **NUEVO NEGOCIO: PUNTO DE ACCIÓN**
 - a. Preocupaciones sobre el ruido en las reservas de Memorial Park – Kristin Fletcher, presidenta
 - b. Plan de Gestión de la Reserva Howard – Brian Parker, Director de Desarrollo Comunitario
6. **ASUNTOS ANTIGUOS: ELEMENTOS DE ACCIÓN**
 - a. Rastreador de acciones
 - b. Alcance, nombre y propósito del Comité de Parques: Brian Parker, Director de Desarrollo Comunitario
7. **SESIONES DE TRABAJO: PUNTO DE ACCIÓN**
 - c. Recomendaciones pasadas de Memorial Park: Kristin Fletcher, presidenta
8. **PRÓXIMA REUNIÓN: PUNTO DE ACCIÓN**
 - d. Próxima reunión ordinaria: 16 de septiembre de 2026
9. **APLAZAMIENTO: PUNTO DE ACCIÓN**

HOWARD PRESERVE MANAGEMENT



WOOD
RIVER
LAND
TRUST



Managing Partner Approved:

Christina Giordani
Mayor
City of Bellevue

Date

Amy Trujillo
Executive Director
Wood River Land Trust

Date

Florence Blanchard
President
Friends of the Howard Preserve

Date

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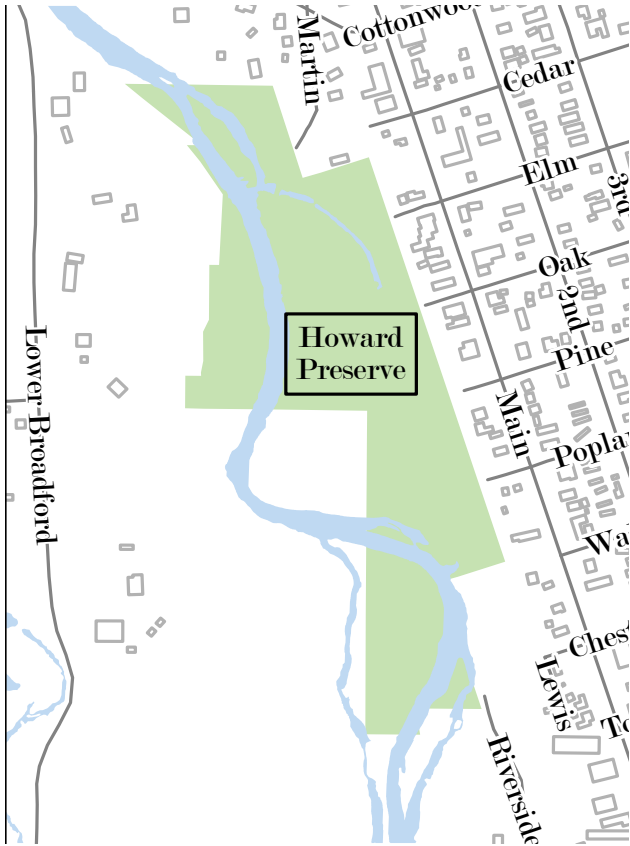
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Goals, Objectives, and Responsibilities

1.1 Preserve Values

1. Native Plants and Wildlife
2. Healthy riparian system
3. Natural aesthetic qualities
4. Public access and enjoyment
5. Historical features
6. Educational opportunities related to natural spaces

1.2 Preserve Goals



The 37.4-acre Howard Preserve is the largest tract of open space in the City of Bellevue and exists to protect the natural floodplain ecosystem around the Big Wood River while providing reasonable public access. Cooperative management of the Howard Preserve, as well as the Conservation Easement on the property (Exhibit F: Conservation Easement), will ensure that the values of the native landscape are protected in perpetuity.

This Management Plan will serve as a guiding document for managing and protecting the Howard Preserve. The Conservation Easement is a perpetual legal document, which is not open to modification except through legal amendment.

The Managing Partners intend to review and update this plan at least every five (5) years, but more often if necessary. Failure to update the plan within that timeframe will not negate the validity of the document. Furthermore, the Managing Partners intend to communicate regularly regarding ongoing management decisions. Consensus will be sought on decisions whenever possible, but in the event of disagreement between the Managing Partners, all Partners will have an opportunity to present to the Common Council, who will be the deciding body.

The Managing Partners will present to the Common Council annually and update the plan if needed at that time.



1.3 Management Objectives

1. Protect the natural floodplain ecosystem including plants and wildlife
2. Ensure that the public can safely and comfortably access and experience the Preserve
3. Comply with the terms of the Conservation Easement
4. Maintain water quality in the Big Wood River
5. Protect the riparian habitat
6. Maintain tranquility and natural beauty of the preserve
7. Control noxious weeds and invasive species
8. Maintain compliance with City ordinances, including floodplain regulations
9. Respect surrounding private property
10. Respect Irrigation District infrastructure within the Preserve
11. Prevent negative impacts on the irrigation districts' right of way
12. Comply with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requirements



1.4 Managing Partners & General Responsibilities

Management activities and public activities will be reviewed by and overseen by the following cooperating groups:

City of Bellevue (the “City”)

The City of Bellevue was founded in 1883 under a charter from the Idaho Territorial Legislature. Since then, Bellevue has grown to a population of around 3,000 citizens. The City is the last government in Idaho operating under a charter and is a full-service government, providing fire, Marshal, water, sewer, parks, planning and building services, and other services to the residents and businesses of Bellevue.

Responsibilities of the City for the Howard Preserve include:

1. Maintenance of improvements, such as the canal bridge, facilities shelter, interpretive signage, and entrance gates;
2. Providing basic services, such as collection of trash from approved receptacles and the seasonal portable toilet;
3. Trail clearing and maintenance;
4. Providing staff and equipment for management activities when practical;
5. Removing snow from designated parking area(s);
6. Enforcing posted regulations;
7. Inspecting the Brownfield site annually, and reporting to DEQ if disturbance occurs;
8. Maintaining compliance with the Conservation Easement on the property.

Friends of the Howard Preserve (the “FHP” or the “Friends”)

The FHP is a volunteer advocacy group formed in 2005 to ensure that public access and the conservation values of the Preserve are sustained for perpetuity. The prioritized values of the group include protecting native plants and wildlife, a healthy riparian system, aesthetic qualities, historical features, educational opportunities, public access to the Big Wood River, respect for private property, City Ordinances, and the Idaho District 45 canal right-of-way.

Responsibilities of the Friends of the Howard Preserve include:

1. Advocating for the conservation values
2. Participating in ongoing maintenance as volunteers
3. Recommending projects and improvements
4. Advise on educational opportunities, including fixed infrastructure such as interpretive signage.

Wood River Land Trust (“WRLT”)

The Wood River Land Trust mission includes to “protect and restore land, water, and wildlife habitat in the Wood River Valley and its surrounding areas by working cooperatively with private landowners and local communities.” In addition to owning 20 properties in fee title, WRLT holds conservation easements on nearly 50 properties in south central Idaho. Conservation easements allow for separate ownership and management of land that is subject to conservation restrictions which benefit the public. WRLT was involved in the acquisition of the Howard Preserve, the expansion of the project, and is the holder of the conservation easement which encumbers the property.

Responsibilities of the Wood River Land Trust on the Howard Preserve include:

1. Monitoring and enforcing the Conservation Easement;
2. Management of noxious and invasive weed control efforts, in conjunction with plans adopted by the managing partners;
3. Facilitation for workdays;
4. Support for ongoing stewardship, including trail maintenance.

Other management entities:

1. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
2. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
3. Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR)
4. Flood Control District #9
5. Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)
6. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
7. Board of Control (Irrigation Districts)*

*The Managing Partners will cooperate with the Irrigation Districts which utilize and maintain the headgate and irrigation canal that runs through the Preserve. As of the writing of this document, those districts include Wood River Valley Irrigation District 45 and Triangle Irrigation District. (Collectively the “Irrigation Districts” which are managed jointly by a Board of Control).



1.5. Identified Ongoing & Future Management Priorities

1. Maintain effective communication between managing partners, including annual partner meetings;
2. Continue annual volunteer workdays on the Preserve, focusing on trail improvements, trash reduction, and noxious and invasive weed control;
3. Improve the management of Preserve entrances, including the enforcement of parking areas;
4. Promote, encourage, and cooperate on restoration projects in the Preserve;
5. Discourage dumping and other activities not consistent with the conservation easement or preservation of a quality natural environment;
6. Develop winter usage policies and a winter trail system.

1.6. Identified Future Capital Projects

Short Term:

1. Improve Preserve entrances with amenities such as suitable interpretive signage, usage rules, and bicycle parking;
2. Place a gate or other type of entryway at the Martin Lane entrance that accommodates pedestrian access as well as City maintenance vehicles, but restricts vehicular access within the Preserve;
3. Upgrade and beautify the Elm Street access to the Preserve including the entryway, alley paving, trash enclosures, and drainage improvements;
4. Revegetate all disturbed areas;
5. Prevent light pollution;
6. Develop emergency management policies for the Preserve and integrate into Blaine County Emergency Operations Plan

Long Term:

1. Move the City Public Works Shop and associated equipment to a more appropriate location;
2. Respond to opportunities that arise for the potential acquisition of additional parcels of conservation value and/or relevance to the Preserve;
3. Explore options for expanding Preserve connectivity, including through new pathways and additional means for crossing the canal and/or river;
4. Explore ways to expand the Preserve’s contribution to the physical, mental, and economic health of the community;
5. Relocate snow disposal and storage to a location that does not impact the Preserve;
6. Explore options for additional pedestrian access and parking at the southern end of the Preserve;

Preserve History

2.1 Historical Outlook

Water resources were an important part of Idaho's— and Bellevue's— native, agricultural, and mining history. Bannock and Shoshone tribes routinely traveled between the Snake River and the Sawtooth Mountains. As evidence, a jasper knife with quartz intrusions was discovered during an archaeological survey in 2003.

Bellevue thrived in the 1880s from the success of the Minnie Moore and Queen of the Hills mines. It was chartered in 1883 by the Idaho Territorial Legislature to bring municipal law and order to the booming and sometimes unruly mining town. The area of the Howard Preserve was part of an 1890 annexation, called the Bellevue Addition, when the town was the seat of Logan County (1890-1895). Mayor Oliver Glenn was named grantee of the property by President Benjamin Harrison through the public lands act for “the several use and benefit of the occupants of the Townsite... of Bellevue.”

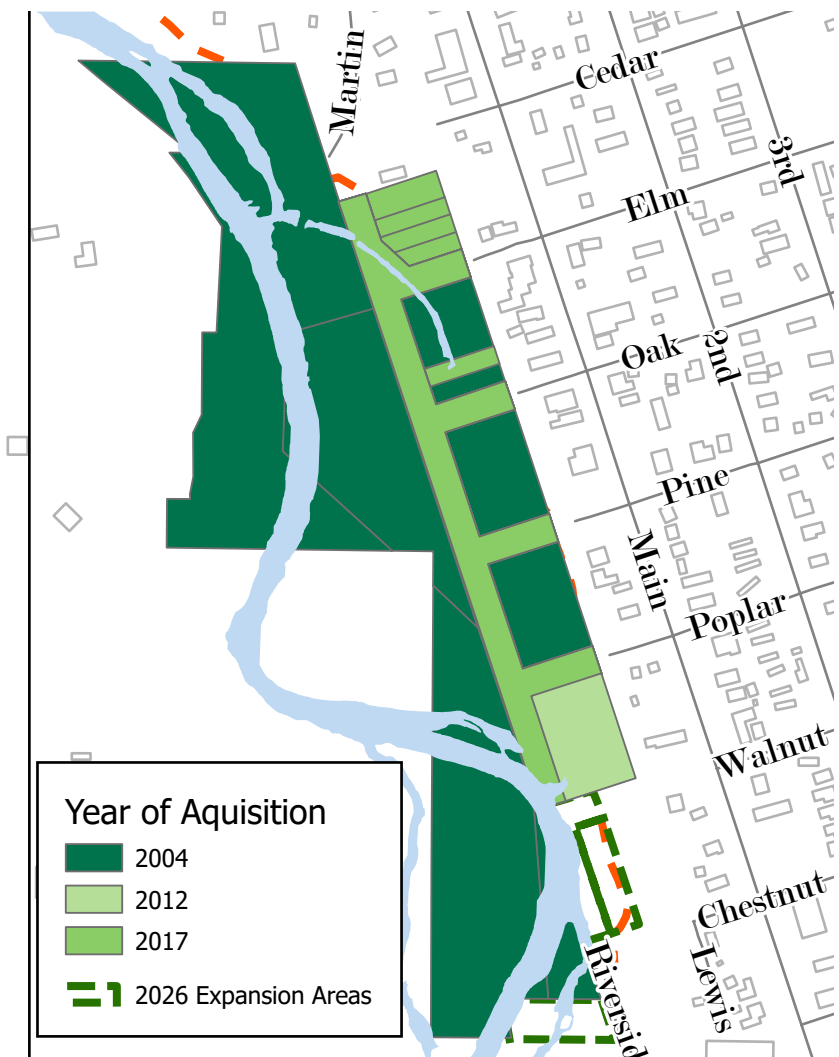
Chinese immigrants arrived in Idaho and the Wood River Valley in the 1880s to work in the surrounding mines and start businesses. Remnants of Chinese habitation have been unearthed in recent years in former encampment locations, including within the Preserve. Approximately 30 Chinese pioneers settled in small houses east of the pedestrian bridge that crosses the canal at the foot of Elm Street, and an 1890 Sanborn fire map references “Chinatown” and earth caves in the area. By the 1920's, most of Bellevue's Chinese inhabitants had been driven out of town.

An old city dump existed in the meadow southwest of the pedestrian bridge and was once accessed by an old canal bridge. Just north of the meadow is said to be the location of a house of ill-repute. Land adjacent to the north is the site of the original Bellevue City Park where townspeople socialized from the very earliest days.

The precursor to the current canal was identified in 1883 as the “Big Ditch” in minutes of the town's Common Council. In 1917 the Utah and Idaho Improvement Company built the existing canal. As of today, the canal is operated by the Board of Control for the Wood River Valley Irrigation District no. 45 and the Triangle Irrigation District.

2.2. Preserve Acquisition

In 1972, Lena and Ellis Howard and their son, J.B., purchased the original 12.57-acre property from Tinker and Ora Lee Disbennett. In March 2004, with the assistance of Wood River Land Trust, the City of Bellevue obtained the land from the Howard family to permanently protect this unique riverfront resource. The Howard Family, through the Howard Trust, sold this property to the City of Bellevue on February 17, 2004 at a price reduced to \$250,000 from the appraised value of \$475,000. The City of Bellevue held the title to the land while WRLT and FHP continued to actively manage the land. Funds to purchase the land and pay for improvements came primarily from a large grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF grant stipulated that the land “shall not be converted from public outdoor recreation use without the prior consent of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, its successors and assigns, and the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, its successors and assigns.” Additional funds were contributed by Idaho DEQ, The Conservation Fund – Greenway Award, and the Griffin Ranch in lieu Recreation Fund from Blaine County. Citizens to Protect the Bellevue Riverfront (now Friends of the Howard Preserve), additionally raised \$40,000 at a fundraising event.



The City of Bellevue completed the following requirements per the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant:

1. Constructed an American Disabilities Act (ADA) approved bridge over and trail along the irrigation canal
2. Designed and installed signage and completed a final audit
3. Began an archeological exploration of the old dump site

In 2012, WRLT acquired two lots along Main Street and one lot near the southern end of the Preserve. The intention was to incorporate the lower 1.38-acre lot into the Preserve, and to leverage the Main Street lots for further conservation value. In 2014, WRLT and the City jointly applied to the Blaine County Land, Water & Wildlife Levy Program (LWWP) for funding assistance to purchase 0.984 acres near the northern end of the Preserve, owned by Mick Halverson. The WRLT Main Street lots were used as matching contribution for the grant request. In 2016, the application expanded to include 0.23 acres owned by Robert Gardner, which was an inholding within the eastern portion of the Preserve. The total grant request from the LWWP was for \$174,600 to complete the purchase of the lots. The conditions for approval of the grant request included the vacation of the majority of unopened streets within the Preserve as well as a portion of Elm Street, the re-zoning of the Preserve as Recreation Green Belt, and that a Conservation Easement be established on the entire Preserve as well as the majority of the surrounding City-owned land. As part of the Preserve expansion, WRLT requested that the City also take ownership of the WRLT 1.38-acre lot, which they had acquired in 2012. The Conservation Easement, recorded on July 20th, 2017 as Instrument number 645094, protects the conservation values of the Preserve by restricting development and uses of the property that negatively impact those values. (See Exhibit F: Conservation Easement)

Natural Resources

3.1 Fish and Wildlife

The Big Wood River supports a complex aquatic community comprised of many species of invertebrates and fishes. Fish populations include game fish such as rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, cutthroat trout, and mountain whitefish as well as non-game species such as speckled dace, bridgelip sucker, and Wood River sculpin, which is listed by the State of Idaho's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy as a "Species of Greatest Conservation Need." Wood River sculpin are endemic to the Wood River drainage, and the United States Forest Service and BLM classify the Wood River sculpin as a "Sensitive" species, while it is classified by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) as a "Species of Concern." Wildlife reported on the Preserve include mule deer, elk, moose, bobcat, black bear, cougar, long-tail weasel, fox, coyote, mink, fox squirrel, shrew, vole, mice, and many species of birds including red tail hawk, turkey vulture, neo-tropical songbirds, and Bald eagles. Additionally, WRLT conducts annual breeding bird surveys. During the 2026 survey, 32 different species were observed.

3.2 Vegetation and Water Resources

The Howard Preserve sits along the low-lying edges of the Big Wood River and is primarily comprised of riparian vegetation and is dependent upon periodic inundations of floodwaters to maintain the habitat and ecosystem. It is primarily within the 100-yr flood zone designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA.) This floodplain habitat contains valuable riparian habitat and has been identified as "Idaho Priority Wetlands". Undeveloped land in the floodplain helps keep local water sup-



plies clean, assists with groundwater recharge, assists with flood control and provides valuable wildlife habitat for deer, elk, birds and other species.

The riparian area features black cottonwoods, willows, red osier dogwood and other plants typical of a cottonwood gallery forest, such as Wood's rose, serviceberry, morel, western black currant, cow parsnip, mountain alder, snowberry, Nebraska sedge, horsetail, chokecherry, and wild onion. (See Exhibit D: Plant Survey for a complete plant list.) This floodplain habitat supports numerous species of birds and mammals, including permanent and migratory residents. Forest trees (living, decaying, & dead) provide critical shelter and nesting & foraging sites for a variety of bird and mammal species, such as woodpeckers, owls, songbirds, mustelids, and bats.

There have been extensive efforts to control noxious and invasive weeds on the Howard Preserve, including annual volunteer weed pulling days, release of bio-control weevils for Dalmatian toadflax and knapweed, and discussion of controlled burning. Dalmatian toadflax and knapweed continue to be dominant noxious weeds. Other weedy species include bitter-sweet nightshade, common burdock, tansy, rush skeleton weed, and cheat grass.

3.3 Geology and Soils

Soil types underlying the Howard Preserve are: Balaam-Adamson-Riverwash, Balaam gravely-sandy loam and Riverwash. These soil types mainly consist of unstable loose sand, gravel and cobble, as well as a small percentage of contrasting inclusions of loam. The overall function of these soils is the drainage of the surrounding floodplain into the Big Wood River basin. A portion of the soils are a former dump site which was tested by DEQ and mitigated in 2010. The mitigation included the removal of 6-12 inches of topsoil within a 2,300 square foot area, the installation of an impermeable layer, and the import of clean topsoil. A buck and pole fence with warning signage was erected to prevent disturbance of the mitigated area.

Public Use

4.1 Public Access

Public access within the Preserve is intended to be for pedestrians and controlled, non-motorized, non-electric cycling. A bicycle rack is provided near the Martin Lane Parking Area, and others may be installed at other entrances in the future. Motorized vehicle use is prohibited in the preserve except by managing partners for maintenance or emergency access, or when authorized by managing entities.

4.2 Access Points

Parking areas include:

- Martin Lane Parking Area (ADA Accessible)
- Downtown Bellevue
- Riverside Drive, provided the travel lane and fire access are not blocked.

Pedestrian access points include:

- Elm Street west of Downtown Bellevue;
- A trail connecting from the Broadford Bridge to the Preserve via a public easement;
- Martin Lane Parking Area;
- Riverside Drive.

Bicycle racks should be installed at all pedestrian entrances in the future.



4.3 Use Regulations

Permitted and non-permitted uses are defined in Exhibit F: Conservation Easement. Language found in this Management Plan is intended to build upon the protections found in that document, and to support the conservation values while remaining flexible for changing future conditions.

Permitted Public Uses (per the Conservation Easement):

“...passive recreational activities that are non-commercial and non-motorized, such as hiking, fishing, cross-country skiing, wildlife observation, and photography, provided that such activities are conducted in a manner, frequency, and intensity that results in no adverse impact on the Conservation Values.”

Educational opportunities and other appropriate uses that do not impair the conservation values of the Preserve, as defined in the LWCF grant and Conservation Easement may also be allowed. Recreational uses not specified in the Conservation Easement or within this Management Plan will be evaluated by the Managing Partners, and WRLT will determine if they impair the Conservation Values protected by the Conservation Easement.

4.3.1 Customary Public Use

Permissible regular public access at the Howard Preserve currently allows for passive activities such as hiking, bird watching, fishing, cross country skiing, photography, and snowshoeing.

Prohibited and restricted activities include:

- Fireworks and fires are prohibited;
- Noise (e.g. amplified sound or music) is restricted so as not to disturb wildlife, visitors, or nearby residents;
- Camping is prohibited;
- Hunting is not allowed within City limits, including within the Preserve;
- Public use shall not interfere with the operations of the irrigation canal. Unauthorized access to improvements such as the head gate is considered trespassing;
- Typical hours shall be dawn to dusk. Nighttime uses, such as organized stargazing, may be allowed with approval by all managing partners;
- Removal or pruning of vegetation other than invasive nor noxious weeds is prohibited.



4.3.2. Organized Activities

Organized activities will comply with Management Goals and Objectives. Commercial and private events are prohibited with the following exceptions:

1. The Managing Partners reserve the right to authorize tours or educational programs that focus on the conservation values of the Howard Preserve such as stream ecology, plant identification, and geology.
2. The Managing Partners reserve the right to hold one annual picnic and one fundraising event per year with all fundraising profits going toward Howard Preserve maintenance under the following conditions:
 - a. Motorized vehicle access is prohibited;
 - b. The Preserve must remain open to normal public use during or in preparation for an organized event;
 - c. Notification and review of application for above events should take place 30-60 days prior to the public event to allow managing partners and Irrigation District to make recommendations for approval;
 - d. No fires may occur without a permit from Bellevue Fire Department;
 - e. All trash, equipment and other items must be removed within 48 hours;
 - f. Noise (i.e. amplified sound) is prohibited;
 - g. Alcohol is prohibited unless authorized by the Managing Partners.
 - h. Attendance is limited to 250 guests.

Improvements

5.1 Trails

A network of trails provides access through the riparian ecosystem and to the river, and a wide section of those trails follows the canal access drive. All trail surfaces are natural, either woodchip or soil, with the exception of the ADA pathway, which is compacted road mix.

5.2 Bridge

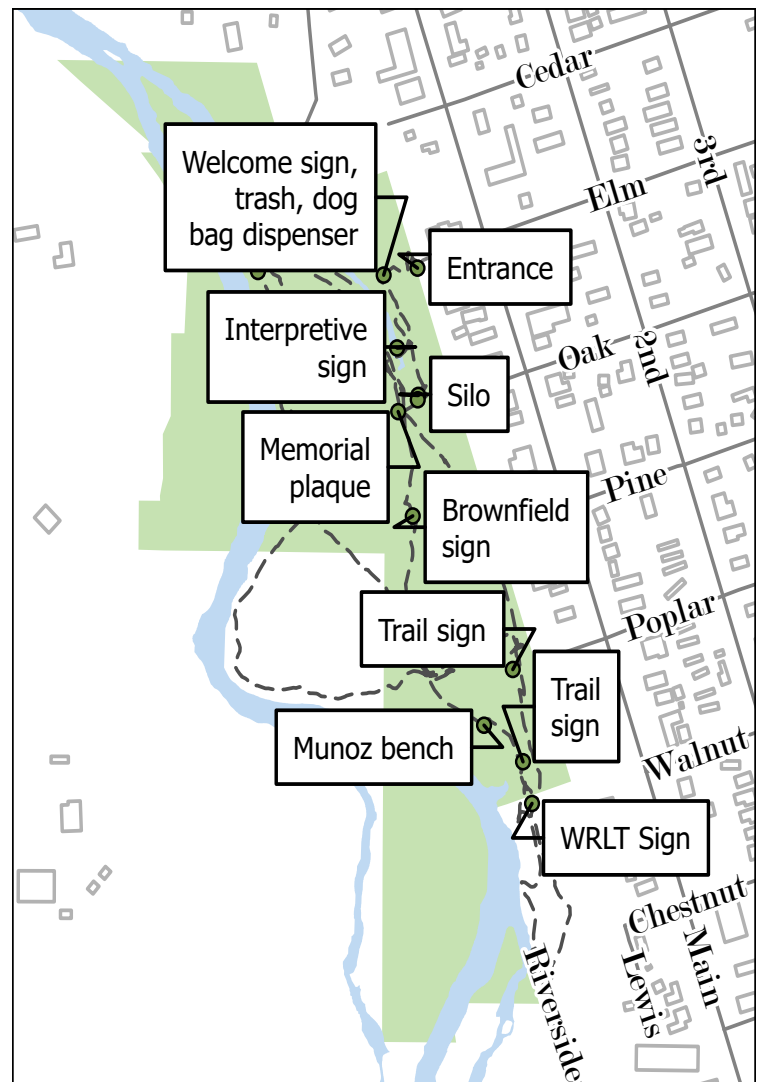
The bridge was constructed to allow for pedestrian access on lands west of the canal and to provide wheelchair/ADA access to the ADA-approved trail.

5.3 Signage

Signage is utilized to clearly delineate preserve entrances and trails, to provide interpretive services to important features, and to recognize contributions made by various entities towards the establishment and growth of the Preserve. Current interpretive signage exists on the east side of the pedestrian bridge. Additional signage may include interpretive displays and limited regulatory signs necessary to protect Preserve values and the public.

5.4 Irrigation Canal

Near the northern end of the Howard Preserve, a headgate diverts water from the Big Wood River into a canal, which is carried south through the Preserve and beyond to provide irrigation water to many agricultural properties in the Bellevue Triangle area. The water in the canal is allocated to many water right holders downstream, and is managed by a Board of Control. As of 2026, the two irrigation districts represented by the Board of Control include Wood River Valley Irrigation District no. 45 and the Triangle Irrigation District. The canal is approximately 25 feet wide for much of its length through the Preserve, and the associated Right of Way is as wide as is reasonably necessary to maintain it, per



Idaho statute. Presently, there is a two-track drive along the west side of the canal that provides access for maintenance equipment.

Under Idaho statutes, the canal managers have the right to maintain the canal and the Right of Way in order to ensure the delivery of water rights, and to protect the integrity of the Improvement. Maintenance tasks can include, but are not limited to, activities such as dredging deposited silt from within the canal, controlling noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation along the banks, and removing trees and other vegetation from within Right of Way. These maintenance tasks are completed to maintain effective delivery of water through the system and to protect the canal from becoming structurally compromised. Accomplishing this routine and sometimes emergency maintenance often requires large equipment to utilize the Right of Way. As such, the Irrigation Districts have emphasized that the infrastructure associated with the irrigation Right of Way (the head gate and the canal) are not to be used or accessed by the public.

The Managing Partners of the Howard Preserve acknowledge the responsibilities that the Board of Control has to maintain the canal, as well as their rights to do so under Idaho statute. It is the intention of the Managing Partners to work cooperatively to allow for the effective delivery of water through the canal, while minimizing negative impacts to the conservation values of the Preserve whenever practical. The Managing Partners look forward to working with the Board of Control toward the mutual benefit of all parties.

5.5 Other Improvements

Currently, a small shed is located near the City Shop, west of Martin Lane, but on the Howard Preserve. An open-sided shelter is also located in this area to cover the portable toilet and trash can. A 20-foot wide unpaved access drive connects from the Elm Street gate and crosses the former Halverson parcels along the eastern boundary to the private property immediately north of the Preserve.

5.6 Non-permitted Improvements

To maintain Preserve values, permanent picnic tables, barbeques, playground equipment, labyrinths, natural structures, and memorials will not be allowed. Exceptions, such as public art and benches, are permitted only with approval of all management entities.

5.7 Future Improvements:

The Conservation Easement (Exhibit F) describes permitted and non-permitted improvements and alterations to the property, as well as the Notice and Approval process to implement such changes. Any new improvements on the Preserve also require the approval of the managing partners.

A Phase I Environmental Assessment conducted on the 1.2 acres added to the Preserve in 2017 (parcels RPB0000091004A, RPB00000910030, RPB0000091002A, RPB0000091001A, and RPB00000920020) did not provide assurances against potential contamination similar to that which was remediated on the Brownfields site on the west side of the irrigation canal. In light of this, no new improvements are permitted in that area unless a Phase II Environmental Assessment is conducted on those parcels, which finds that no Recognized Environmental Conditions are present.

The existing, informal recreation areas may be improved in the future with picnic tables, a vault toilet, dam safety infrastructure, bicycle racks and other components intended to encourage active use of the Preserve within small, identified areas.

Preserve Management

6.1 Vegetation Management

Removal or pruning of vegetation other than invasive nor noxious weeds is prohibited except:

1. For canal or city infrastructure maintenance;
2. By recommendation of the Managing Partners and in compliance with the Conservation Easement;
3. For typical trail maintenance;
4. Restoration projects, such as stream bank stabilization, utilizing the best available science;
5. Fire risk mitigation, utilizing the best available science.
6. Hazard tree mitigation when approved by an Arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture with a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification.

6.2 *Brownfield Site Management*

A portion of the Howard Preserve was used as an unregulated landfill prior to the 1960's. As a result of this DEQ provided a cost-free assessment of the area of the Preserve that was affected by this use. In July 2008, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed to identify potential environmental concerns. This was followed by a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment in September 2008, which identified lead contaminated surficial soils in limited areas that exceeded certain regulatory maximums.

Since the City was committed to maintaining the area as a nature preserve, eliminating the potential for residential or active recreation use exposure scenarios, a mitigation plan was crafted accordingly. DEQ recommended the removal of six inches of topsoil in the area of highest contamination levels (2,300 square feet), the placement of an impermeable barrier, and the capping of the site with clean topsoil. This mitigation work was completed in the fall of 2010, and a buck and pole fence with interpretive signage was erected to keep the public from disturbing the site. DEQ also recommended that the City place an Environmental Covenant on the site which the City did, and conduct monitoring (See Exhibit G: References: (a) Environmental Covenant and (b) Brownfields Operations and Management Plan)

Since the restoration work was completed in 2010, no disturbances of the site have been noted. Should annual monitoring identify concerns with disturbance of the site, the City will notify DEQ to determine the best course of action. As of this writing, the restoration of this site is considered complete, and the only management activities will include ongoing monitoring for disturbance.

6.3 *Fire Management*

Natural fire hazards exist on the Preserve due to the native vegetation in the area. This natural hazard may be exacerbated by human activities, including illegal campfires, the illegal use of fireworks, and fire hazards created by adjacent landowners. The priority of the Managing Partners is to protect the Preserve and adjacent landowners from fires originating from any source.

To prevent fires on the Preserve:

1. All City ordinances related to fires apply;
2. Fireworks and unauthorized fires are prohibited;
3. The City will utilize communications and prevention resources such as signage, patrols, and social media to prevent the use of fireworks and inform the community on defensible space and emergency preparedness.
4. Fuels mitigation projects, such as thinning or controlled burning must be reviewed by the Managing Partners and Bellevue Fire Chief, and appropriate permits must be received. Any controlled burn to reduce fire risk or restore native plant communities must be approved by the Bellevue Fire Chief. A burn plan must be submitted to City departments for review.

6.3 *Weed Management*

6.3.1 Goals

The floodplain ecosystem within the Howard Preserve contains both noxious and non-noxious weeds that threaten the native plant community. By definition, noxious weeds "...can directly or indirectly injure crops, other useful plants, live-stock, or poultry or other interests of agriculture, including irrigation, or navigation, or the fish or wildlife resources of the United States or the public health" (Federal Noxious Weed Act, 1974; Public Law 93-629).

Annual efforts to control and decrease the influence of weeds have been and will continue among other stewardship activities. Since the establishment of the preserve, weed control efforts have combined mechanical, chemical, and biological control (biocontrol) methods. Moving forward, noxious weeds found on the Howard Preserve will be managed using a variety of control methods. Invasive weeds not considered noxious also degrade natural ecosystems and will be controlled

using similar methods. Weed control will be carried out by the Friends of the Howard Preserve, Wood River Land Trust, volunteers, and other partnering organizations as resources are available.

The Board of Control that manages the irrigation canal may also remove weeds and other vegetation within their right of way. To accomplish this, they employ various methods of control, which may include the use of herbicides. Acknowledging that this section of the canal is closely integrated with the Howard Preserve, the Managing Partners will encourage the Board of Control to minimize the use of herbicides whenever practical.

6.3.2 Objectives

1. Identify and locate noxious and invasive weeds on the Howard Preserve;
2. Use a combination of control methods to decrease abundance of weeds;
3. Monitor extent of weed coverage to evaluate control effectiveness;
4. Prevent new infestations by encouraging pedestrian use of trails and enhancing native vegetation.

6.3.3 Weed Control Summary

There are a number of species of noxious and invasive weeds that have been identified on various parts of the Howard Preserve. The Managing Partners have implemented several methods of control in the past with good success. Biocontrol releases have been carried out to combat Dalmatian toadflax and Spotted knapweed. Bio-control for Diffuse knapweed, Canada Thistle and Tansy Ragwort should be researched to ensure these methods are used if weed populations grow unwieldy for mechanical control. Multiple partnerships in planning, executing and monitoring bio-control will be explored. Infestations of Dalmatian toadflax have decreased significantly since control efforts began in 2005. Additionally, annual mechanical control has been implemented during workdays in areas where biocontrol agents were not applied or observed. Biocontrol releases were carried out again during 2014-2016, and were used as educational opportunities with local elementary students.

Spotted and diffuse knapweed, common burdock, and common mullein continue to be pulled during workdays. Infesta-



tions of Canada thistle have been minimal. Mechanical removal has proven effective, as it has been consistently applied on an annual basis. Herbicide applications have been minimal, and were conducted by WRLT in conjunction with the Blaine County Weed Control Department from 2012-2014.

Exhibit A: Preserve Map

Exhibit B: Legal Description

Exhibit C: Irrigation and Drainage Rights of Way

Exhibit D: Plant Survey

Exhibit E: Weed Descriptions, Control Methods & Historical Control Efforts

Exhibit F: Conservation Easement

Exhibit G: References

Exhibit H: Preserve Management Efforts 2004-2025

Re: List of Parks Committee Requests

From Casey McGehee <cmcgehee@bellevueidaho.us>

Date Thu 7/23/26 16:33

To Carter Bullock <cbullock@bellevueidaho.us>

Cc Brian Parker <bparker@bellevueidaho.us>; Chris Johnson <cjohnson@bellevueidaho.us>; Christina Giordani <cgiordani@bellevueidaho.us>

Hi,

Thank you for sending the Parks Committee's list of maintenance concerns. We appreciate the Committee's continued involvement in helping identify issues within our parks and understand the importance of maintaining these public spaces. Below are responses to each item.

1. Leaking sprinkler head – O'Donnell Park

We will have our irrigation contractor inspect the leaking sprinkler head on the south side of O'Donnell Park and provide the City with a cost estimate for the necessary repair.

2. Memorial plaque

Rather than simply removing the memorial plaque, I believe it would be worthwhile to consider replacing the tree that originally accompanied the memorial or relocating the plaque to another appropriate tree. This would preserve the intent of the memorial while maintaining the park's appearance. I would welcome the Committee's thoughts on the preferred option.

3. Sprinklers spraying Elm Street

The sprinklers along Elm Street are currently set to provide adequate coverage for the turf area. Reducing the spray pattern would likely result in dry spots and damaged grass. Approximately two years ago, our irrigation contractor submitted a proposal to relocate several sprinkler heads to eliminate overspray onto the roadway. Due to the associated cost, that project was not approved. If the City would like to revisit that option, we can obtain updated pricing.

4. Weeds around the baseball infield

The weed growth along the back edge of the infield is related in part to the irrigation coverage required to keep the surrounding turf healthy. Simply reducing sprinkler coverage would likely create areas of dead grass. We can certainly obtain estimates for weed treatment, reducing the size of the infield, and installing additional turf to create a more traditional infield configuration. Given current budget limitations, however, projects of this nature may require future budgeting, grants, or community fundraising efforts. If the Parks Committee has ideas regarding donations or fundraising opportunities, I would certainly welcome that discussion.

5. Strahorn Drainage Parcel irrigation

It's my understanding from previous discussions with both the property donor and the City was that it was decided this parcel will be and is intended to contain native, drought-tolerant vegetation that would not require irrigation. Based on that original intent, I would recommend

removing the remaining lone tree rather than investing resources into restoring an irrigation system for a single tree. If the City's long-term vision for the parcel has changed, we can certainly revisit those options.

6. Weeds in the Memorial Park playground

While weeds should certainly be addressed, I am not comfortable having City staff apply herbicides in an area where children regularly play. We are not licensed pesticide applicators, and I believe treatment should be performed by a qualified contractor using products and application methods appropriate for playground environments. We will obtain a cost estimate for this work. As with several of the other identified projects, funding may need to be identified through future budgets, grants, or donations.

Again, thank you for forwarding these concerns. We are committed to maintaining our parks as effectively as possible while balancing available resources and ensuring work is completed safely and responsibly. Please let me know if the Parks Committee would like to discuss any of these items further or prioritize projects for future budgeting.

Thank you,

Casey McGehee

From: Carter Bullock <cbullock@bellevueidaho.us >
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 9:03 AM
To: Casey McGehee <cmcgehee@bellevueidaho.us >
Cc: Brian Parker <bparker@bellevueidaho.us >
Subject: List of Parks Committee Requests

Hi Casey,

Hope you're having a good morning. Below, you'll see a list of items identified by the Parks Committee in their last few meetings. I have been meaning to get these to you – apologies for dumping them all at once. Many of these are likely Clearwater's responsibility to address.

- A sprinkler head on the south side of O'Donnell Park, near the edge of the baseball diamond and the new trees, is leaking.
- There is a small memorial plaque on the south side of O'Donnell Park, near the new trees. This memorial plaque was placed near a prior tree that is long gone, and should be removed.
- The sprinklers on the south side of Memorial Park are reportedly spraying Elm Street.
- The infield of the baseball diamond at O'Donnell Park is facing weed issues, especially the back edge. Either the overspray of sprinklers should be adjusted, or the infield should be reduced to a more typical size in the future and new turf added. This area may or may not require spraying at this point.
- It is unclear whether the irrigation system at the Strahorn Drainage Parcel (east of O'Donnell Park, where the lone aspen tree still stands) is functioning. This system will need to function if the lone tree, and any future plantings, are to survive.
- The playground area at Memorial Park is facing a large number of weeds and should be sprayed. This may require cordoning off this area and closing sections of the playground for a time.

Call me if you have any questions about these items.

Best,



[Learn More About the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Update](#)

[Get Involved!](#)

Carter Bullock

Planner – Community Development

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