



BRIDLE TRAILS COMMUNITY CLUB
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**BRIDLE TRAILS
 COMMUNITY CLUB
 MEMBERSHIP**

Please send **\$15.00** for annual dues and receive the BTCC newsletter three times a year

Send your \$15 payment to:
Bridle Trails Community Club
P.O. Box 1534
Bellevue, WA 98009

Address Corrections Requested

Complimentary "New Neighbor" newsletter sent upon request

**Letter from the Presidents:
 Preserving the Character of Bridle Trails**

By Ellen Kerr and Loretta Lopez, Co-Presidents

Bridle Trails is a unique residential area in the City of Bellevue. We are bounded by I-405 to the west, SR520 to the south, 148th to the east, and the Bellevue City limit to the north. We have maintained the natural beauty and equestrian and residential character of the area even though we are surrounded by major transportation corridors. Our goal is to continue to preserve the rural, equestrian and residential character of Bridle Trails.

We are fortunate to have the legal framework in place to assist us with our goal. The State Growth Management Act requires cities to adopt Comprehensive Plans. The City of Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan sets forth policies, including land use, planning, community design, circulation and open space policies, which apply to each area of the City. The **Bridle Trails Subarea Plan** is the Plan which governs our community.

The **Bridle Trails Subarea Plan** specifically sets forth the following policies:

Policy S-BT-1. Protect Bridle Trails from encroachment by more intense uses to ensure that the Subarea remains an area of residential

neighborhoods.

Policy S-BT-2. Support the existing character of the Bridle Trails State Park "natural area" as a regional park providing opportunities for equestrian, hiking, nature study and other passive activities only.

Policy S-BT-3. Preserve the wooded, natural, rural, and equestrian character of the Subarea and encourage horse-keeping in low density residential areas.

Policy S-BT-4. Encourage and support interjurisdictional agreements among Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond and King County to, among other things, ensure that land uses are compatible with Bridle Trails residential neighborhoods.

We can meet our goal of preserving the character of the Bridle Trails Area. We can work together as a community to assist the City of Bellevue in implementing both the letter and the spirit of the Bridle Trails Subarea Plan.

Call or email any of us on the Board to ask how you can help or get involved. Attend our meetings. All residents of the entire Bridle Trails Subarea are welcome as members of the Bridle Trails Community Club (BTCC).

Bel-Red Corridor Project Update

By Norm Hansen

As discussed in our Feb 2006 Newsletter, the Bel-Red Corridor Project will establish a long-term land use vision (through 2030) for the Bel-Red Corridor. This Project stretches from I405 to 156th Ave. NE, and south from SR520 to Bel-Red Road. The City of Bellevue is working with a Project Steering Committee and the Community to define a future direction for land use (type and intensity of development), transportation, and other amenities such as parks, trails and environmental improvements.

Key aspects for Project expectations are:

- Protect adjoining uses from impacts of future growth
- Evaluate the impacts and opportunities presented by a potential Sound Transit High Capacity Transit through the corridor and identify a preferred route with station locations
- Plan for transportation improvements including pedestrians, bicyclists, buses, cars and High Capacity Transit (Rail or Bus Rapid Transit)
- Determine future land use in a thoughtful, comprehensive manner with community amenities such as parks to support the vision
- Build on existing assets of the area, including successful business, while identifying opportunities for future business development and economic growth

This project is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2007. Timeline for public input is:

- Monthly Steering Committee Meetings at the New City Hall. First Thursday of each month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Citizens welcome and comments accepted
- Jun 2006 Approve alternatives for EIS analysis
- Oct 2006 **Community Meeting** and approve Preliminary Preferred Alternative
- Jan 2007 **Community Meeting** and approve final Preferred Alternative
- Apr 2007 Approve Implementation Plan and submit to City Council

For further information see the City's web site at www.ci.bellevue.wa.us or contact **Kevin O'Neil**, Strategic Planning Manager at 425-452-4064. Bridle Trails representatives on the Steering Committee are **Laurie Tish** and **Norm Hansen**.

General Meeting AGENDA

Thursday, May 18, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Cherry Crest School Library
 12400 N.E.32nd Street, Bellevue

Bridle Trails Park Foundation	Alice Prince
NE 24 project	Cindy Ludwig/Tricia Thompson
Bel-Red Corridor	Norm Hansen
Proposed spot re-zone on 140th	Loretta Lopez
Ebsworth Chapel	Drew Smith
Microsoft Expansion	Jim Binder
BTCC Website	Kim Carnesale Clarke
Refreshments!	

Bridle Trails Park Foundation Update

By Alice Prince

Off and Running

April 22nd saw supporters of Bridle Trails State Park come to pull non-native plants out of different areas of the park to celebrate Earth Day. Over 130 people turned out this year – double last year’s number. More than six dumpsters were filled with English Laurel, holly, ivy, old fence wood and other trash.

Thanks to the group from **The Boeing Company**, the children and scouts from **Ben Franklin Elementary**, and all the moms, dads, and other adults who pitched in to help. The **City of Kirkland** provided staff to drive the heavy equipment and State Parks provided rangers from other parks to help supervise, while the Foundation provided pizza and salad for lunch.

Parking Fees Are Gone

The State has rescinded the day use parking fees at all State Parks with the hope of bringing people back into our parks. However, due to continued budget cuts, that revenue source was badly needed. Bridle Trails is no exception. As the Foundation’s agreement requires that we pay up to half of the uncovered operating costs of Bridle Trails, we really need your continued financial help to meet that growing commitment.

You Can Support Our Park in Several Ways

Purchase an inscribed brick in honor or in memory of a loved one or special pet. The first bricks will be inscribed in early

June, but we will continue to take orders and inscribing once or twice a year thereafter, depending on the orders we receive.

Join us on **Sat., June 3rd, from noon to 3:00 p.m.**, for a fabulous show put on by the **Seattle Knights** medieval equestrian troupe. If you like knights in armor and ladies in flowing dress, you’ll enjoy this group. There is no admission or parking fee, but donations are encouraged and will be gladly accepted with all proceeds going to the Bridle Trail Park Foundation

Sat., June 24th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is our annual **Party in the Park**. It includes a 5K and 10K run, pancake breakfast, pony rides and other activities for kids, entertainment featuring two mounted drill teams, doggie fly-ball, and this year we’ve added an equestrian vaulting team. There will also be a free shuttle to the Park n’ Ride at NE 70th from 8:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Bring the family for a good time, good food and a lot of fun in the Park. Again, all proceeds will help the Bridle Trails Park Foundation keep our Park open and thriving. For more information on all of the above, please visit our web site at www.bridletrails.org

STATUS UPDATES

140th Ave NE Pathway Project

The 140th Ave NE Pathway Capital Investment Project is a separated six-foot porous asphalt pathway along the west side of 140th Avenue NE from NE 40th Street to the north city limits. The key benefits of this project include pedestrian connectivity and safety along 140th Avenue NE.

The pathway design is complete and the job has been put out for bid with project award anticipated in May 2006. Construction will likely commence June 2006 and is expected to last 80 working days.

Ebsworth Chapel Project

By Drew Smith

On April 27, 2006, new information was received from **Kevin Kudo-King**, project architect for the Ebsworth Chapel site located at NE 24th Street and 134th Avenue NE in the Bridle Trails area. According to Mr. Kudo-King, **Barney Ebsworth** has purchased another piece of property outside of Bellevue as a site for the Ebsworth Chapel. His intention is to withdraw the existing Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application currently being processed by the Bellevue Planning Department. It is also Mr. Ebsworth’s intention to ultimately sell the current two-acre site. Mr. Kudo-King further stated that the continuing delay in the CUP application process created by the Bridle Trails community opposition was a pertinent factor in the decision to move the chapel site to another location.

The numerous letters and emails from Bridle Trails residents to the Bellevue Planning Department and Bellevue City Council along with other key contacts to oppose the Ebsworth Chapel project has shown, once again, that strong community action can be effective. Thank you everyone for your efforts!

If you are not already a member of the Bridle Trails Community Club, please join now, attend the general meetings and be actively involved.

Bridle Trails Tree Preservation Code Amendments Approved!

By Norm Hansen

The Bridle Trails Community has worked with the City of Bellevue to prevent clear cutting on large lots over the past five years. With strong community support this has resulted in the Bellevue City Council approving a Tree Retention Plan for Bridle Trails on March 20, 2006. The Plan applies to approximately 900 R1 lots (35,000 square feet minimum lot size) in the Bridle Trails Subarea. The Ordinance is intended to prevent arbitrary clear cutting while giving the homeowner flexibility for normal homeowner remodeling, equestrian projects, sport courts etc. The intent is to preserve the unique wooded character of Bridle Trails.

Key elements of the plan allow for cutting two significant trees (eight inches diameter at four feet) over a three year period. If more trees are desired to be cut, an alternate vegetation plan can be submitted to the city for review, which may involve some reforestation. Details and implementation of the plan will be forthcoming from the City. In the interim, questions may be referred to **Matt Jackson**, Senior Planner, 425-452-2729 or e-mail MJackson@ci.bellevue.wa.us

BTCC Important Dates

May 15	City Council Meeting for NE 24th St. Project	Call City for exact time	City Hall
May 18	General Meeting	7:00 pm	Cherry Crest Elementary School
June 1	Bel-Red Corridor Project Meeting	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	City Hall
June 3	Seattle Knights appearing in the Park	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Bridle Trails State Park
June 24	Party In The Park	8:00 am - 1:00 pm	Bridle Trails State Park
September TBD	BTCC Board Meeting	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Cherry Crest Elementary School
October TBD	BTCC General Meeting	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Cherry Crest Elementary School