

Meydenbauer Bay Park Summer 2024 Outreach Summary



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Executive Summary

During the process of planning the Phase 2 expansion of Meydenbauer Bay Park, the City of Bellevue engaged residents throughout summer 2024 to gather feedback on the community's priorities in the Park's design features and amenities. The team collected input through a variety of events such as multi-lingual pop-up events, a community meeting, partner collaboration, and an online survey. Feedback from these outreach methods reflected a desire for natural shorelines, views of the bay, increased seating, and improved connections to the park. This feedback will help inform design refinements and the sequencing of construction.

Engagement Schedule

In summer 2024, the City of Bellevue shared updated concepts for the expansion site for the community to provide input on. Our final phase of the project, which will begin in late 2024, will include a final design and recommendation for phasing and implementation and seek final input in this process.



Summer 2024 Community Participation

During our 2024 engagement to continue building project awareness and to understand community priorities for the park, the project team reached:

- Over 5,100 website viewers
- 820 survey respondents across 7 languages
- Over 380 total participants across 5 community events

Summer 2024 Key Feedback

Several themes emphasized in survey results include:

- Increasing natural plant features, views, and shade in the park and amenities
- Adding playground space and equipment for children and adults
- Incorporating multi-use paths in the park and surrounding area
- Improving lighting and restroom facilities in the park
- Including additional space and seating for the community to gather
- Balancing parking access with the desire for walkable and sustainable design

Summer 2024 Outreach Summary

Engagement Overview

The Meydenbauer Bay Park project team developed a survey, hosted on the [Engaging Bellevue website](#), to share updates and capture community feedback. This was the second Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2 Expansion survey opportunity. The survey was open from June 10 to July 15, 2024. The project team hosted both in-person and online engagement opportunities to offer broader feedback options with:

- **1 community meeting** in June 2024 at the Wilburton Instructional Service Center with 80 community participants. A [recording of the presentation](#) is available online
- **4 community pop-ups** with over 300 participants
 - **Bellevue Downtown Library** with Chinese interpretation for library goers and Chinese Book Club
 - **Mini City Hall** in Crossroads with Russian interpretation
 - **Meydenbauer Bay Park** to reach neighbors and park goers directly
 - **H Mart in Downtown Bellevue** with Chinese interpretation and diverse audiences



Project staff at the Bellevue Downtown Library talk to community members about the park's expansion and survey opportunity.

The engagement websites and surveys were translated in English, Chinese (Traditional), Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Russian. The survey received 820 total responses across different languages:

- **778** English
- **8** Traditional Chinese
- **7** Simplified Chinese
- **6** Japanese
- **1** Spanish
- **17** Russian
- **3** Korean

The Engaging Bellevue websites received a total of:

- **4,800** English visits
- **131** Traditional Chinese visits
- **38** Simplified Chinese visits
- **39** Japanese visits

- **10** Vietnamese visits
- **31** Spanish visits
- **8** Russian visits
- **60** Korean visits

Community Notifications

To ensure wide access to this outreach information, the Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2 Expansion project promoted the Engaging Bellevue website and survey via the following methods:

- **9,853 mailers** sent to neighbors
- **Partner toolkit emails** to 28 nearby properties, community-based organizations and businesses to provide resources and materials to reshare engagement opportunities
- **14 social media posts** with over 50,000 impressions, including:
 - 5 posts on Bellevue Parks and Community Services social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor)
 - 8 posts on City of Bellevue social media (Facebook, Instagram, X and Nextdoor)
 - A Bellevue-wide Facebook video advertisement, running for two weeks
- **8 English and in-language online and print display ads** published in Joy Seattle, Soy Source, Seattle Chinese Times, Chinese Radio Seattle, La Radio de Seattle, NW Vietnamese News, and Russian Town Center
- **3 unique radio advertisements:**
 - Mandarin advertisement on Chinese Radio Seattle
 - Spanish advertisement on La Radio de Seattle
 - Spanish radio interview between the DJ and project staff on La Radio de Seattle
- **6 E-newsletters** reaching 6,745 recipients from May to July 2024



Post promoting the survey on the Bellevue Parks and Community Services Facebook site.

- **1 E-Newsletter** sent to nearly 74,000 Bellevue Parks and Community Services e-newsletter subscribers
- **10 fun fact posters throughout Meydenbauer Bay Park**, carrying over from previous engagement, to direct park users to the project website and summer 2024 survey
- **City of Bellevue It's Your City article** published June 2024, delivered to 167,000 residences and businesses in Bellevue
- **Press release by the City of Bellevue** published city-wide June 2024. Translated press releases were sent to 5 local in-language media outlets
- **Survey giveaway** in partnership with REI to offer six free kayak rentals to survey respondents who opted-in to the giveaway

Survey Background

Meydenbauer Bay Park, a Downtown Bellevue waterfront destination, offers some of the City's greatest views of Lake Washington. This space is one of Bellevue's oldest parks, evolving to create improved lake access for community members. The restored Whaling Building from 1919 is now home to the REI Boathouse with additional recreation opportunities for park users to enjoy Lake Washington.

The City of Bellevue received extensive community feedback through our second Meydenbauer Bay Park Expansion outreach effort. Our latest survey sought to better understand how the expansion of Meydenbauer Bay Park, guided by the 2010 [Park and Land Use Plan](#), could best reflect the diverse needs and desires of the Bellevue community. In our summer 2024 outreach, we shared design considerations in different areas of the park. The map below highlights the key areas of focus for the expansion and community feedback:



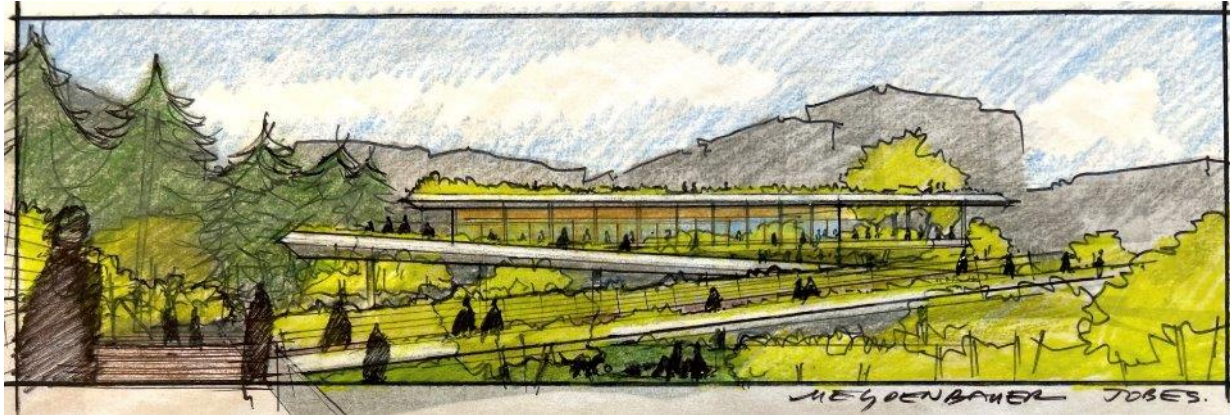
Outreach explored Kite Site and 100th Ave SE, Shoreline, Whaler Plaza, 99th Ave SE Corner, and Lake Washington Blvd NE, and parking options. Each area contains unique design features, amenities, and needs for consideration.

Kite Site and 100th Ave SE

Starting with the experience from Main Street, the refined design acknowledges the [Grand Connection](#) vision of creating an icon that anchors Main Street and cues the journey down to the water and to the Grand Connection terminus – the Phase 1 curved pier.



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Proposed Kite Site improvements include:

- An iconic pavilion at Main Street and 100th Ave SE
- Views of Meydenbauer Bay and the Cascades
- A plaza and covered gathering space, potentially partially enclosed for park enjoyment in inclement weather
- Integrated water elements such as art, simple fountains, small streams, or other
- An accessible walkway that connects to the street, parking levels, and the shore
- Planting and trees integrated into the pedestrian experience
- Parking spaces that will be mostly screened from pedestrian view
- Places to sit, rest, and gather
- New parking
- Traffic calming and pedestrian improvements to 100th Ave SE and Lake Washington Blvd NE

Shoreline

The shoreline experience emphasizes pedestrian connection, the beautiful surroundings, and amazing park experiences. Proposed Shoreline improvements include:

- A pedestrian experience connecting the Kite Site, the shore, and the existing park
- Universally accessible ramp bringing people over the water and down to the shore
- Seating areas
- Improved nearshore habitat including improved salmon habitat
- Continued emergency and maintenance access
- Unloading and accessible parking near the existing Whaler Building
- Improved non-motorized watercraft access to the beach

Whaler Plaza

There is a historic Whaling Building near the shoreline. This building, and the associated new plaza, creates another space for gathering. The Whaling Building already houses a kayak rental

vendor (REI Boathouse) that is expected to remain. Park redevelopment is also considering for this space:

- A "welcome station" to the park with maps of the area and a ranger station providing information about programs and amenities
- Food or beverage vendor
- Beach amenity rentals (for example umbrellas or sand toys)
- A small museum of the history of the site

Marina

Proposed Marina improvements include reconfiguring the visitor and monthly moorage, guided by the 2010 Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan. Adjustments to the 2010 proposal are needed to meet current codes and regulations. Influencing factors include City, State and Federal review and permission, Lines of Navigability, and development of the Nearshore Zone which is the most ecologically sensitive area of the Bay.

99th Ave SE Corner

99th Ave SE continues to be the primary access for loading at the marina and beach. 99th Ave SE itself may remain as it is today, but the adjacent corner of the park has some options for future development:

- Creating more accessible and less steep routes in the park
- Providing parking that is easier to find
- Offering more varied amenity spaces
- An activity building to support park programming and provide a space to enjoy the park during inclement weather

Parking

One of the priorities of the 2010 Park and Land Use Master Plan, and a top priority we heard in fall 2023 outreach, was parking. We heard there needs to be more parking that is easy to find and universally accessible. The 2024 survey and outreach explored this topic and design further.

Lake Washington Blvd NE

A priority conveyed in the 2023 outreach was improving citywide connections. The summer 2024 survey further explored the potential for bicycle and pedestrian connection improvements along the south side of Lake Washington Blvd NE.



Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Survey Results

The 820 survey responses are summarized and analyzed below, by areas of focus. Please note that for many of the questions, each respondent could select multiple options if desired.

Kite Site and 100th Ave SE

When asked what kid-friendly features this area of the park could have, respondents shared creative options for consideration.

Ideas for new playground elements include:

- Whale sculpture and nautical themed play elements
- Interactive toys and games
- Storytelling about nature and area
- Sandboxes or sand surfaces
- Sculptural climbing structures
- Slides with views and unique design
- Swings
- Zip line
- Bike or scooter tracks
- Fountain
- Splash pads

"I think Bellevue needs more playgrounds as the community grows and more people come to Bellevue for work and play"

General themes include:

- Covered area or shade near play elements
- Sensory experiences
- Safety considerations like soft surfaces and ground materials
- Sufficient distance from wastewater and trash areas
- Toddler-friendly features
- Fun nearby seating for both adults and kids
- Use of natural, sustainable elements and like logs and stones
- Open space for play
- Amphitheater for kids with music and theatre features
- Scavenger hunts, miniature golf, science lessons, and other activities

"I think all of the kid-friendly elements should teach them to respect nature... maybe the kid-friendly elements could all empower them to become stewards"

Considering what teen and adult-friendly play and movement park elements, respondents offered many unique ideas for the expansion.

Movement and activity themes include:

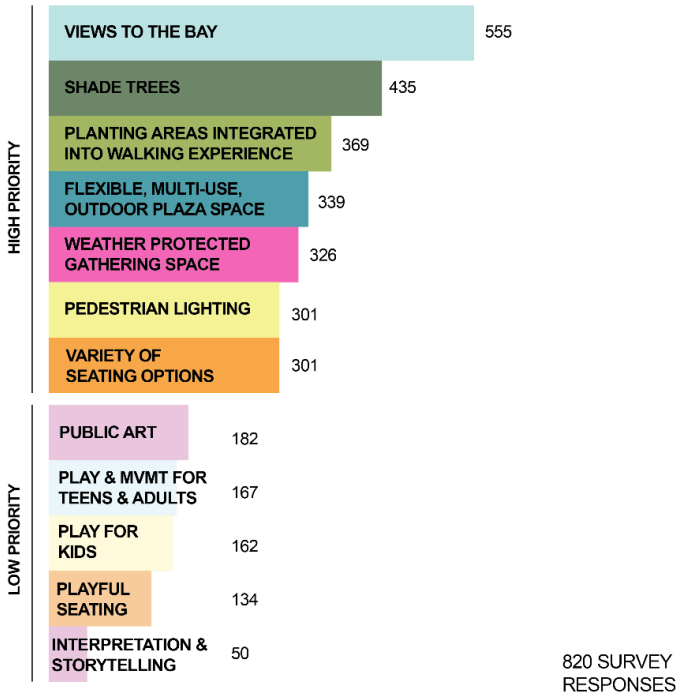
- Skatepark
- Hopscotch
- Permanent workout equipment (multi-use bars, ropes, elliptical, balance beams, box jumps, stretching tools, stairs)
- Obstacle course
- Yoga/meditation/dance area
- Sports amenities (volleyball, basketball, pickleball, ping pong, cornhole, tetherball, badminton, bocce, track)
- Adult-sized swings and zip line
- Adult-focused climbing features

General themes include:

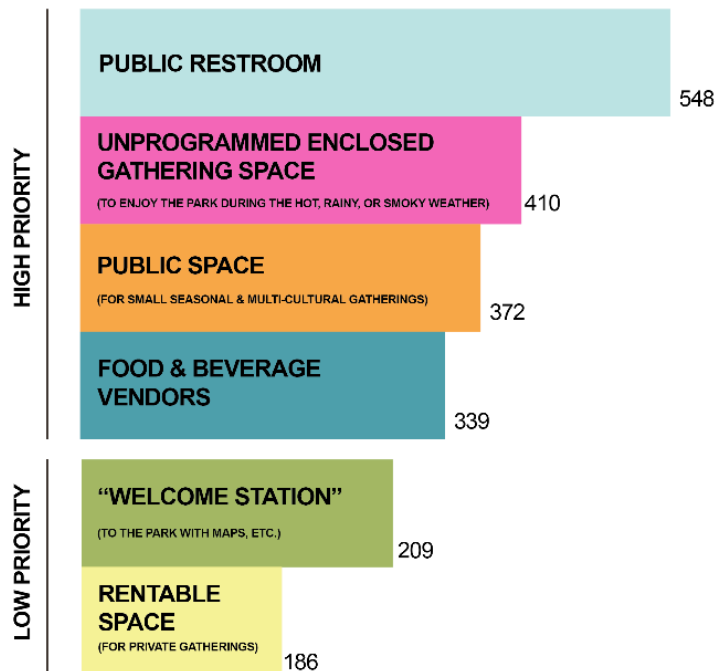
- Additional multi-use paths
- Additional tables, barbeques, and food/drinks near activity locations
- Nearby musical elements and art
- Accessible and safe for elderly and people with disabilities
- Non-exercise games (chess, checkers, puzzles, scavenger/storytelling activities)
- Nearby water features to cool off
- Nearby bike racks
- Rentable equipment at park
- Emphasis on art, nature, and views

A desire for art and “world geography elements demonstrating diversity of Bellevue’s population”

When asked what the highest priorities at the Kite Site were, responses indicated the following community wants and needs:

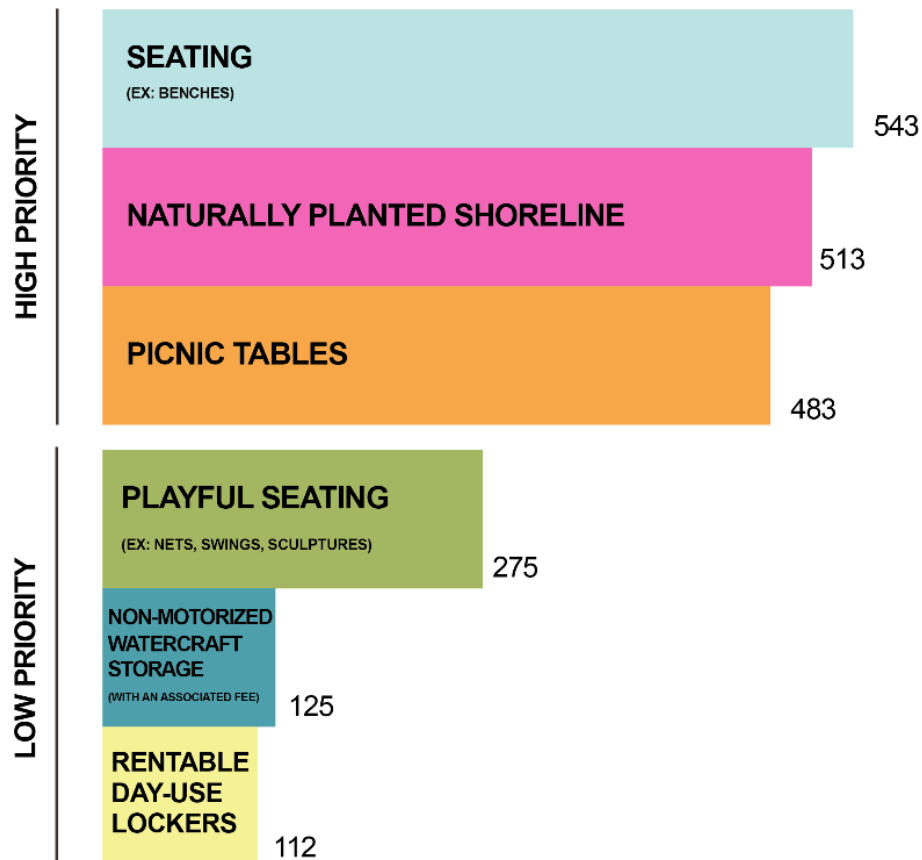


When asked what should take place in the Kite site plaza and covered gathering space, responses indicated the following community wants and needs:



Shoreline

When asked what the highest priorities at the Shoreline were, responses indicated the following community wants and needs:



The survey asked the community their preferred options for the space inside and surrounding the Whaling Building. Priorities varied greatly. For the existing Whaling Building, the majority of respondents indicated preferences for:

- Food or beverage vendor (388 respondents ranking above 4)
- Public space for small seasonal and multi-cultural gatherings (342)
- Beach amenity rentals (323)

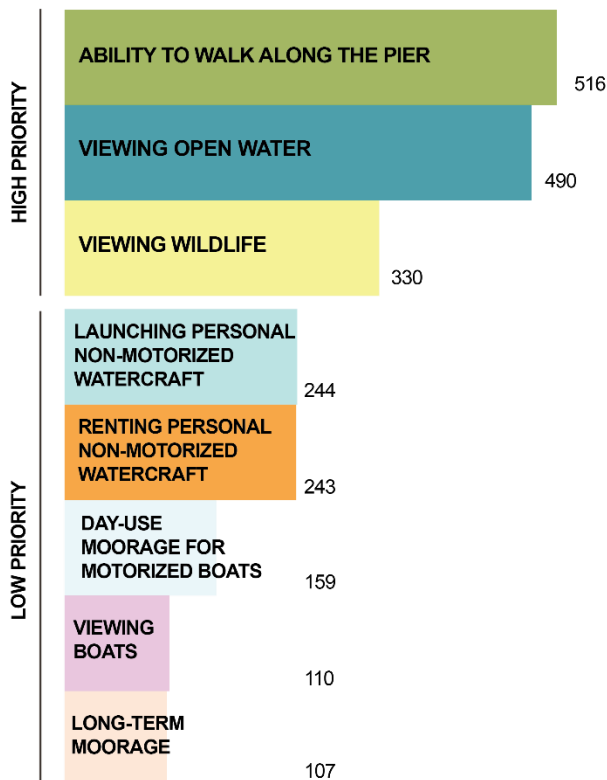
Slightly less important were:

- A small museum of the history of the site (293)
- A “welcome station” to the park with maps.... (234)

Marina

Survey respondents indicated that non-boat functions of the future marina space were of higher importance to them, followed by non-motorized watercraft uses. Motorized boat uses were the lowest ranking priorities.

When asked about community's priorities near the marina, respondents selected the following:



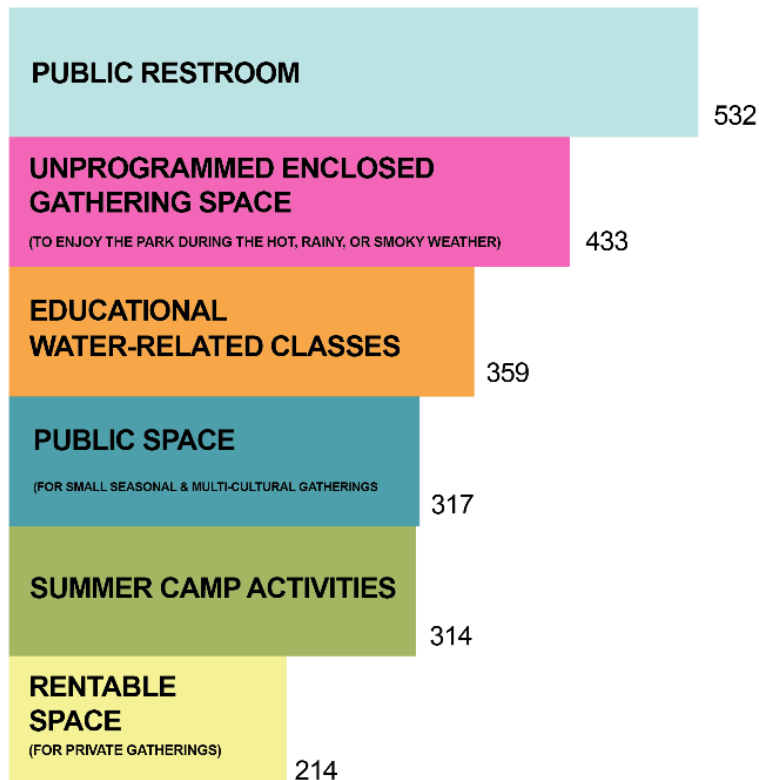
99th Ave SE

In addition to the new parking stalls proposed at the Kite Site, there are different options for added parking off of 99th Ave SE, each with implications on type of access, amenity, cost, and carbon footprint. When asked for the preferred parking option off of 99th Ave SE, survey respondents indicated the following:

- No additional parking (304)
- Covered parking garage (280)
- Uncovered parking garage (228)

The 2010 Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan indicated an activity building at the corner of 99th Ave SE and Lake WA Blvd. This activity building is to support park programming and provide a space to enjoy the park during inclement weather. The community responses on the preferred location for an activity building showed a small preference for it to be located midway down 99th Ave SE. Other options included near Lake Washington Blvd, at the Phase 1 park walkway, no preference, and none of the locations.

The following reflects priorities on programming at the activity building:

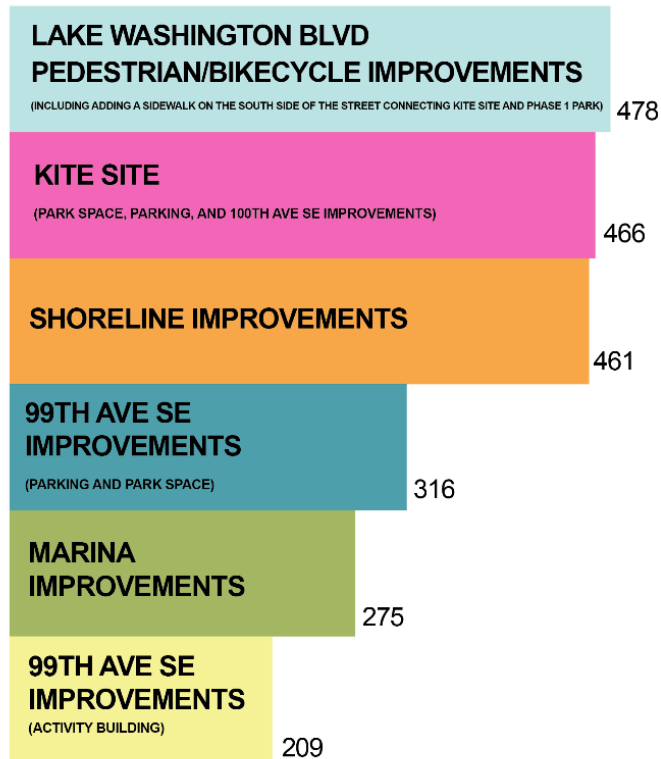


Additional Parking

The existing shoreline parking lot will be removed and replaced with a pedestrian-centric experience. When asked where they would prioritize new parking, respondents prioritized putting parking at both 99th Ave SE and 100th Ave SE (314), followed by only 100th Ave SE (181), then 99th Ave SE (136). Some indicated neither location (97).

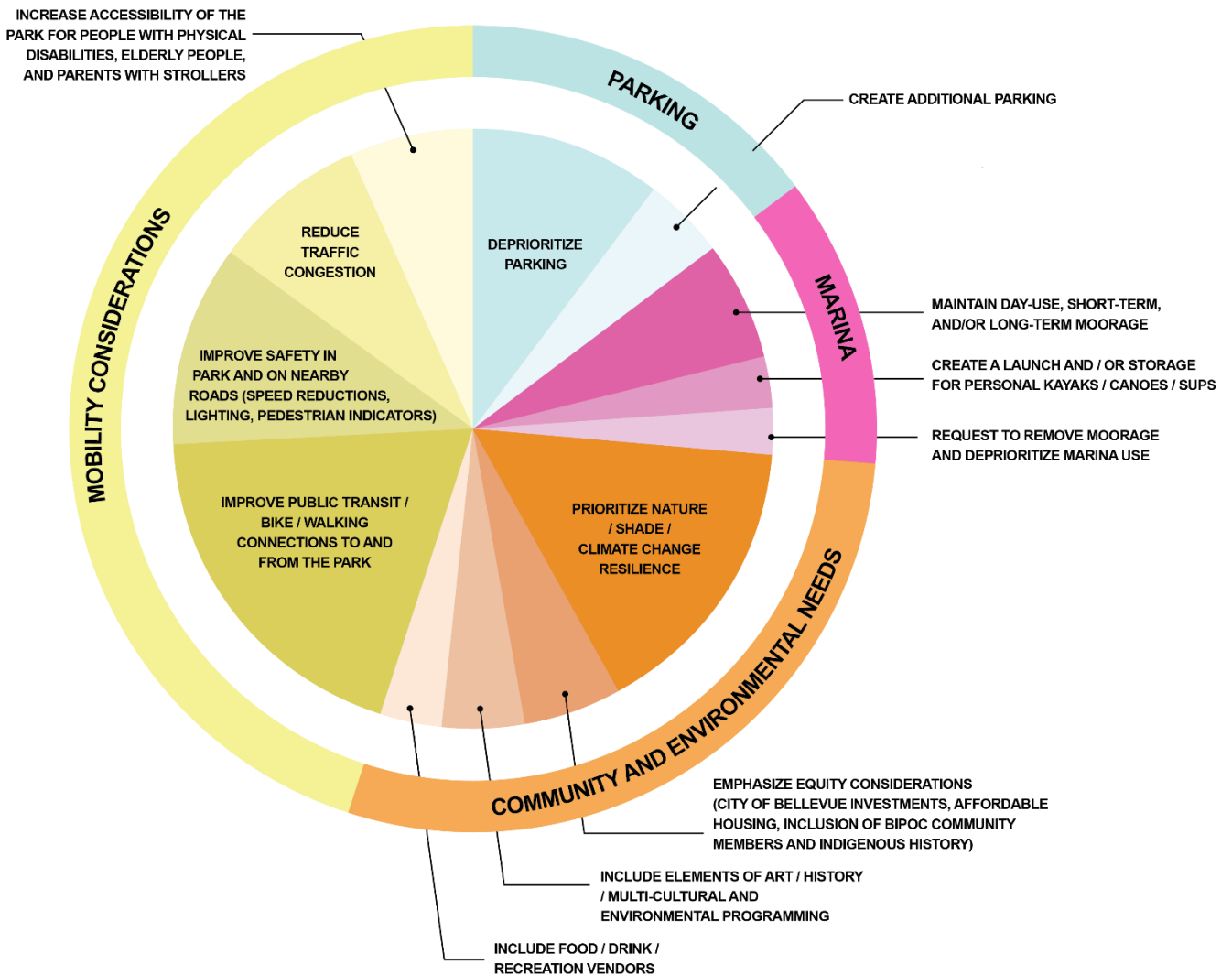
Overall Prioritization

When asked to help prioritize the order in which different elements of the Phase 2 Expansion should be built out, the priorities from the community were as follows:



Other Priorities

The following reflect the themes of write-in answers throughout the survey. Many of these priorities are reflected in the multiple-choice survey questions:





Conclusion

Diverse outreach methods produced a wide base of feedback to help refine the design and provide a recommendation on implementation phasing. Feedback showed that respondents are particularly interested in environmental improvements, such as a naturally planted shoreline, shade trees, and continued opportunities to view the bay and wildlife.

Some topics had mixed responses, such as whether to prioritize or deprioritize new parking in different areas. There were mixed responses regarding the moorage, with many respondents prioritizing additional walkways along the pier and experiencing nature, while others noted the need to keep current long-term moorage space. The Meydenbauer Bay Park team will use this feedback, City planning principles, and feasibility to refine the design. We will ask for further community input in winter of 2024.