



**Bellevue City Council Oral Communication**  
**Update to the Aquatics Center Feasibility Study**  
**October 18, 2021**

Good evening [Council Members](#)

My name is Susan Pappalardo, [I live in Kirkland, WA](#)

I am the Co-Founder and Board President of *SPLASHForward*

On behalf of *SPLASHForward* and the wide range of community stakeholders we represent, I share these comments as you review tonight's recommendations for the preferred aquatic facility concept plan, site, and next steps.

I hope you have enjoyed hearing from diverse community members with their personal stories around the importance of having access to aquatics and their strong support for a new public aquatic facility in Bellevue. I have sent you additional letters of support from organizations that are in your council packet.

Tonight, Parks staff presents a unified facility concept plan that we have refined together over the past year at our weekly meetings. The 130,000 sq ft facility encompasses the HOPES AND DREAMS of all user groups to meet today's needs and for generations to come.

The preferred site recommendation of Bellevue Airfield Park is exciting because of the OPPORTUNITIES it creates not only in the breadth of complimentary RECREATIONAL AND FITNESS SCENARIOS, but also in the PROCESS to update the 2012 Master Plan. The process INVITES THE PUBLIC IN and the GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES will be explored that integrate both indoor and outdoor uses unique to this site.

Imagine FAMILIES using the soccer or ball fields followed by FAMILY SWIM TIME in the leisure pool.

Imagine ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN taking a SUMMER CAMP where the morning is swim lessons and the afternoon a soccer clinic or nature hike on the local trails.

Imagine ARRIVING BY BIKE OR TRAIL from surrounding neighborhoods or the Lake to Lake trail, or even the FUTURE LIGHT RAIL STOP at the Eastgate Park and Ride.

Imagine HIGH SCHOOL swim, dive, and water polo players from all SCHOOLS arriving at the facility to practice and compete under one roof.

Imagine EVERY COMMUNITY MEMBER having access to learning WATER SAFETY SKILLS.

Imagine the COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS that will be fostered because there is a SAFE INCLUSIVE SPACE where everyone feels THEY BELONG.

This state-of-the-art facility will be a CROSS CULTURAL PORTAL that unites us. It will provide opportunities to CROSS PATHS, FOSTER COMMUNITY, HOST EVENTS, and learn more about one another in shared space.

As Bellevue expands and develops its transportation INFRASTRUCTURE, its vibrant pathways, and continues as an INNOVATION CITY for local businesses, I encourage you to INCLUDE AMENITIES that INVEST in the RESILIENCY of our COMMUNITY as HIGH PRIORITY IN YOUR BUDGET PLANNING.

*SPLASHForward* is COMMITTED to REDUCING BARRIERS TO AQUATICS, building PARTNERSHIPS, ASSESSING THE PRIVATE FUNDRAISING CAPACITY and leading a PRIVATE FUNDING campaign while working with the CITY to IDENTIFY and DEVELOP THE FULL RANGE of FUNDING SOURCES.

There is great momentum for PRIVATE FUNDING demonstrated by the just over \$291,300 in seed funding already raised. This includes sizable donations from AMAZON and Pacific Northwest Swimming.

*SPLASHForward* looks forward to hearing your feedback and urges you to provide direction to Parks Staff on the outlined next steps that move this effort forward. COMMITMENT TO UPDATE AIRFIELD PARK'S MASTER PLAN is critical in SECURING PRIVATE INTEREST AND PARTNERSHIPS.

Let's make Bellevue be the CITY WHERE YOU WANT TO BE with an extraordinary state of the art amenity that will attract and retain our diverse and growing community.

Thank you.

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