

Quarterly Message

from the Mayor



Dear North Bend Residents,

This spring, I had the honor of celebrating the opening of a park nearly a decade in the making. It involved hard work and advocacy by councilmembers past and present and many project partners. It was made possible by grant funding and heartfelt support from a historic North Bend family, the Tennants.

Tennant Trailhead Park symbolizes our community's commitment to the preservation of green space, and our success in working together to honor history while creating new recreational opportunities. It's not every day that you get to open a city park, let alone an incredibly unique park that incorporates the indigenous language of the land's original stewards, the Snoqualmie Tribe.

As I wielded the massive ceremonial scissors that afternoon, ready to cut a bright red ribbon held high by community members and project partners, I took a moment, allowing this universal feeling of joy and appreciation to soak in. Local government is most successful when we hear our residents, and we work together to find solutions. As your mayor, I could not ask for anything better.



With that, let's look back at this last quarter's highlights, milestones and achievements.

Infrastructure and Transportation Improvements



Manager Jeff Leamon leading Mayor Miller, councilmembers, and the Citizens Academy on a WWTP tour.

In June, we will celebrate the completion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) High Priority Improvements. This critically important project raises our infrastructure to a whole new level of environmental standards by decreasing plant odor, improving safety, increasing the protection of the Snoqualmie River, and being prepared to accept new capacity. I invite you to tour the WWTP to

see your taxpayer dollars hard at work! Please stay tuned for opportunities to visit.

Local road restoration is another integral part of annual infrastructure improvement, and this year's work is well underway. The pavement overlay project on Ribary Way is now complete, and overlays are expected to start on Ballarat Avenue and Cedar Falls Way later this summer.

We have made great strides in increasing connectivity throughout town these past few years, and it's only getting better. In May, the Council approved a Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant agreement for the 2024 Sidewalk Gaps, Multiple Locations Project. This program connects areas with missing sidewalk segments that are less than two blocks in length, improving walkability.

Beginning this month, work will start on:

- North Bend Wy sidewalk, from the Snoqualmie Valley Trail to Tanner Rd
- Cedar Falls Wy sidewalk, from Mt. Teneriffe Dr. to Mt. View Blvd.
- Orchard Dr sidewalk across from Si View Park
- SE 140th St sidewalk, from North Bend Wy to Tanner Falls Frontage

Equally important to creating pedestrian connectivity is the work of maintaining it, keeping segments level and reducing trip hazards. On Orchard Street, we completed what ended up being a rather time intensive project, where we removed and replaced 23 severely rootbound maple trees that were pushing up grates and beginning to damage the sidewalk. Take a walk down Orchard Street now, and you will find beautiful Golden Belltower Ironwoods lining the sidewalk, just in time for the ever-popular Farmers Market and Summer Concert season at Si View Park.



Community Development Projects



We recognize the integral part parks and open spaces play in the lives of our residents. For the 13th year in a row, the Arbor Day Foundation recognized North Bend as a Tree City USA. Our work in preserving trees and taking care of natural resources involves implementing thoughtful policies that nurture and protect our trees, an asset our community deeply values.

Walking, biking or driving on Southeast North Bend Way, you have likely noticed continual activity just east of the Timberstone Condominium development. What you are seeing is Dahlgren Family Park, a four-acre space that will soon be open for mountain viewing, pickleball, volleyball, playground adventures, picnicking, and walking, with a new trail connection to King County's Tanner Landing Park. We are as eager as you are to get in there and test it out, but it's not quite ready yet. I am hopeful that by summer I will be wielding those giant scissors yet again and cutting that ribbon so that we can all fully enjoy another new city park.



Dahlgren Family Park is expected to open in the summer of 2024.

In addition to expanding outdoor recreation, we also continue our work in ensuring a diverse array of housing options here in North Bend. With the City's purchase of 230 Main Avenue, we are doing exactly that. The property will provide rental homes for local workers, affordable to families making not more than 60% of King County Average Median Income (AMI). With asbestos abatement and demolition of the two structures now complete, expect to see a Request for Proposals released this summer with proposals to the Council late this year.

And in May, I toured the now complete Traverse apartments, a new neighborhood at the corner of 436th Ave SE and SE 136th Street. Traverse offers 128 units along with a clubhouse and office space.



230 Main Ave, a future affordable homesite.



Traverse apartments, at 436th Ave SE.

Approximately 28 of the new apartments are designated as affordable housing for households earning 80% or less of the King County Area AMI. I enjoyed immersing myself in this new neighborhood and look forward to meeting more of you.

Demolition of an old building has wrapped up on the site of the future 121-room Wyndham La Quinta/Hawthorn hotel, located at the North Bend Premium Outlet Mall. The site is right now going through inspection in preparation for construction. I donned my hardhat and toured the site at the start of demolition this spring. Upon meeting demo superintendent Rob Christensen, I must say that I second his sentiments: this is a long-awaited and much-needed project in our community.



Mayor Miller and demolition superintendent Rob Christensen.

The outlet mall will continue being open and operational throughout this work, and I am confident it will add life and beauty to our town. Pedestrian and street improvements in this area will also encourage visitors to take the short – and soon to be improved – stroll downtown.

New Businesses



I enjoyed celebrating the grand opening of Snoqualmie Valley Real Estate's new office in May. It is located at 101 Park Street and it is full of locally curated art and of course smiling faces. I hope you will join me on June 13 for another ribbon cutting celebrating the Hartwood Café'!

Also open now is the Discount Liquidation Depot, just down Bendigo, at the North Bend Premium Outlet Mall, and opening in July in the outlet mall will be the local nonprofit, Treasures in Heaven Thrift Store.

Budget



Finance Director Martin Chaw shared a budget overview at Citizens Academy.

Our Fiscal Sustainability and Economic Development Initiatives study continues to make headway. With the support of an economic development consultant, this study is establishing a holistic strategy to further develop our economy and strengthen our finances for long-term, local economic development. The study involves a series of

scenarios that are presented to the Council throughout the year, which serve as an evaluation tool to see what direction a policy may lead with respect to our finances. The study's third scenario will be presented to the Council in a Workstudy this month.

Staff has also begun the important work of developing the City's next biennial budget, for 2025 through 2026. Finance Director Martin Chaw will be submitting the Mayor's proposed budget to Council in the fall for review. The new budget will be adopted in December.

Public Safety



Police Chief Lynch and Fire Chief Lane at Chat with the Chiefs on March 7.

It has been a busy spring, and public safety is certainly an important part of it. In fact, we are working right now on the renegotiation of our contract with our neighbor city, Snoqualmie, for police services. Our current contract will end on December 31. Ensuring public safety and this local level of service meets your expectations is essential to my role as your mayor.

Another fresh add to public safety is a satellite police station

that will be moving into the North Bend Premium Outlets this summer! Thanks to collaborative work between outlet mall owners Simon Properties, Snoqualmie-North Bend Police and the City, you can expect to see more local police presence in this area.

Community Engagement



Citizens Academy graduates connected with councilmembers at the April 8 recognition event.

In April, we celebrated 17 North Bend Citizens Academy graduates. Now its second year in operation, the eight-week course guided people through various aspects of city operations, including administration and history, legal, public records and information, parks, finance, fire and police, public works and infrastructure, and community and economic development. Participants were deeply engaged in learning throughout the process, and we look forward to seeing how they choose to engage with the City moving forward.

We've had some downright exquisite (and wild) spring weather this year. Whether it is community litter clean-up with the Downtown Foundation, or landscaping and winter clean-up at home, residents are busy preparing for another beautiful North Bend summer. Your city is ready, too! We brought back the useful North Bend Yard Waste Program on select Saturdays at the North Bend Public Works building. Funded by the King County Waste Reduction and Recycling Program, this event is an appreciated service that will continue through October.



NBDF Meet-Up Clean-Up monthly event.

Community spirit and support for our local businesses and organizations is alive and growing here in our mountain town. I saw so many of you enjoying live music downtown at the JazzClubsNW's Jazz Walk in April, and businesses were packed last month at the North Bend Downtown Foundation's Sip Suds and Si event.



Sip Suds and Si and Art Off the Rails are two spring events that bring community out to play.

June 15 will mark North Bend Art and Industry's second Art Off the Rails festival here at Taylor Park, and July 20 will bring you another community-filled Downtown Block Party. I very much look forward to celebrating local businesses, art, music and more with you. Events such as these enliven our streets and parks, and they support our local businesses.

So, please keep up the good work! Your participation, feedback and input make North Bend the highly livable community that it is.

Sincerely,

Mayor Mary