SALMON-SAFE INC.

REPORT OF THE SCIENCE TEAM REGARDING SALMON-SAFE CERTIFICATION OF THE BELLEVUE COLLEGE MAIN CAMPUS BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

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RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

In the judgment of the Salmon-Safe Science Team, the Bellevue College, main campus in Bellevue, Washington demonstrates a high level of environmental stewardship in accordance with Salmon-Safe standards. The Science Team is pleased to recommend that the Bellevue College main campus be certified Salmon-Safe, subject to the conditions detailed in this report.

Background

In 2000, Salmon-Safe expanded beyond agricultural land certification to apply the Salmon-Safe assessment and certification process to land and water management within the urban realm. This initiative significantly advanced restoration efforts in urbanized watersheds by developing urban aquatic protection guidelines and a citizen education campaign throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Working closely with independent scientists and technical experts, Salmon-Safe developed a comprehensive certification framework oriented towards reducing impacts on water quality and fish habitat from urban land and water management practices. Since 2005, more than 80 urban sites have transitioned to Salmon-Safe certification in Oregon and Washington, including Nike World Headquarters, Portland State University, Lewis and Clark College, University of Washington Bothell/Cascadia College, and other institutional, corporate, and residential development sites.

In 2014, Salmon-Safe developed certification standards for highly urbanized sites, which revised and updated the Campus Standards completed in 2005. These Urban Certification Standards (*https://www.salmonsafe.org/getcertified/development*) are applicable across a variety of urban development landscapes, ranging from high-density urban infill to corporate campuses. While the standards are designed as a stand-alone program, they can also complement other leading certification standards, such as LEED, Sustainable Sites, Envision and Earth Advantage, providing a water quality and habitat-focused bioregional overlay. *Version 3.1* of the Urban Standards went into effect in June 2023.

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OVERVIEW OF THE BELLEVUE COLLEGE MAIN CAMPUS AND OPERATIONS

Bellevue College was created in 1966 and is the third-largest institution of higher education in Washington (behind the University of Washington and Washington State University). The main campus covers approximately 100 acres just north of Interstate 90 at about 148th Avenue SE. The main campus has three entries, at the north, east, and southwest edges. The west edge of campus abuts a large multi-family development. Similarly, the north edge fronts residential areas. A smaller north campus (approximately 2 acres) is located near Washington State Route 520 at 148th Avenue NE. The north campus is not part of this assessment.

The main campus is primarily made up of two distinct types of environments with different degrees of exposure—heavily forested areas and open spaces with minimal to no large-scale vegetation (Figure 1). Areas that are open and exposed include the campus core, which consists of approximately 25 buildings generally located in the west portion of the campus, and the recreation fields. The south campus is pri-

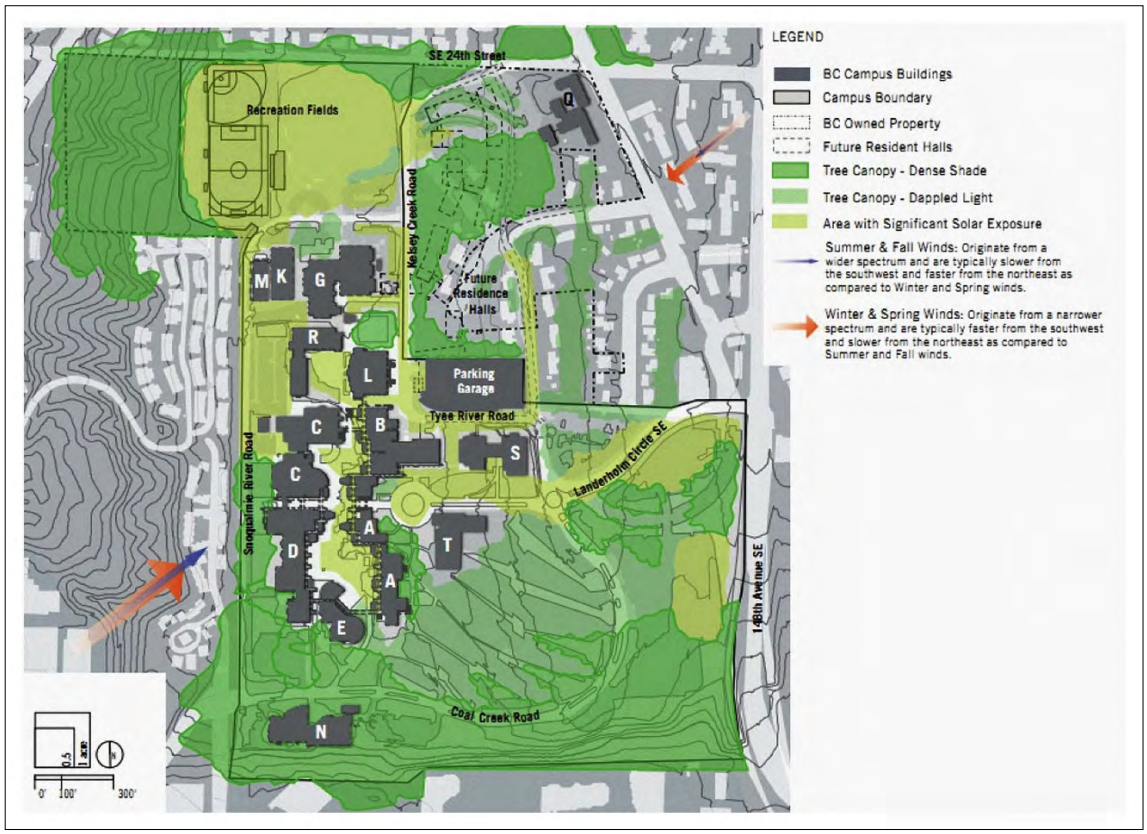


Figure 1. Campus climate/exposure assessment (adapted from *2017 Campus Master Plan*)

marily shaded with fully vegetated areas layered with understory and tree canopy. A multi-level parking garage is located at the edge of the developed area of campus. Surface parking lots are also present throughout the campus. Parking lots in the

southeastern portion of the campus are particularly large and are currently under-utilized. Mature trees are present in the medians of the southeastern lots. The 2017 campus master plan envisions a future transition to more multi-level parking garages as some surface parking lots are replaced with buildings.

The main campus of Bellevue College includes approximately 3,500 trees, approximately two thirds of which are designated significant or landmark.[1] Many different tree species are represented in Bellevue College's arboretum, which includes 56 species of native and non-native woody plants. Some of the trees on campus are reaching the end of their natural life span or have been stricken with pathogen-related diseases. Some of these trees will need to be removed in the near future so as not to create hazards. With the help of a certified arborist, Bellevue College has developed a careful and thoughtful approach for tree removal.

Bellevue College emphasizes environmental stewardship and sustainability and has compiled a list of sustainable practices in the campus master plan, including practices related to sustainable sites and water. Some of these practices are considered "must do's", including designing all new buildings for LEED Silver level certification or above and committing to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, as outlined in the 2024 Climate Action Plan. In 2008, the student government created a self-taxed fund called the Student Environmental Sustainability Fund, which provides $150,000 annually for projects and administration supporting sustainability across campus. The Bellevue College Office of Sustainability, which was launched in 2012, is responsible for drafting and implementing sustainability initiatives and programs and collecting and analyzing sustainability metrics.

The main campus of Bellevue College is almost completely within the Richards Creek basin. Richards Creek is a southern tributary to Kelsey Creek, which ultimately flows to Lake Washington via Mercer Slough. The creeks within the basin, including East Creek, are west of Bellevue College. East Creek comes within a quarter-mile of the western edge of campus. Salmonids known to occur within the Richards Creek basin include Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon, and cutthroat trout.

[1] A significant tree is at least 8 inches in diameter (25 inches in circumference), measured four feet above the existing grade. A landmark tree is at least 24 inches in diameter (75 inches in circumference), measured four feet above the existing grade, and at least 20 feet tall.

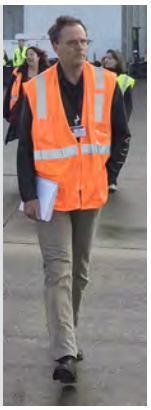
THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Salmon-Safe assessment process consisted of a document review and a site assessment, culminating in this certification report. These tasks were conducted by Salmon-Safe staff and the interdisciplinary Science Team with expertise in aquatic ecosystems, innovative stormwater management, and landscape design management, as summarized below.

Science Team

The Science Team for this project was composed of Tad Deshler, Dr. Richard Horner, and Chuck McDowell.

Tad Deshler: *Environmental Scientist, Coho Environmental*

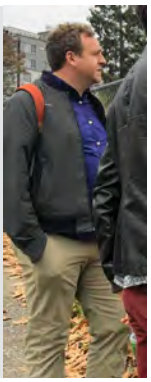


Mr. Deshler's practice focuses on environmental assessment and impact analysis, with particular focus on the interaction between built and natural environments. Much of his project work has centered around aquatic sites, or at the interface between aquatic sites and the adjacent upland environments, where understanding the transport mechanisms that connect upland and in-water environments is paramount. Tad earned a BA degree in Aquatic Biology from the University of California at Santa Barbara and an MS degree in Animal Science from the University of California at Davis. Tad also has specialized expertise in sediment assessment and management, risk assessment, and chemical transport and fate studies.

Dr. Richard Horner: *Stormwater Management Expert, University of Washington*

Dr. Horner received engineering BS and MS degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and a PhD in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Washington in 1978. Following 13 years of college teaching and professional practice, he joined the University of Washington research faculty in 1981, where he held appointments in Civil and Environmental Engineering, Landscape Architecture, and the Center for Urban Horticulture. His principal research interests involve analyzing the effects of human activities, especially in urban areas, on freshwater ecosystems and solutions that protect these resources. Dr. Horner founded the Center for Urban Water Resources Management in 1990 to advance applied research and education in these areas. He is now emeritus research associate professor and splits his time between private practice and some continuing university research.

Chuck McDowell: *Landscape Architect, Facet*

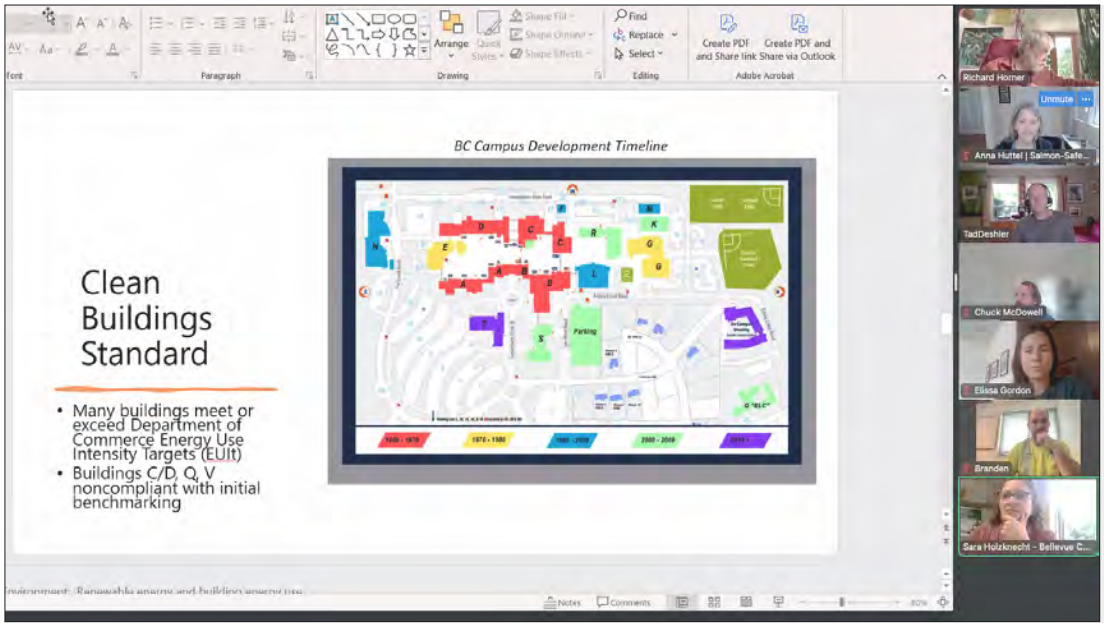


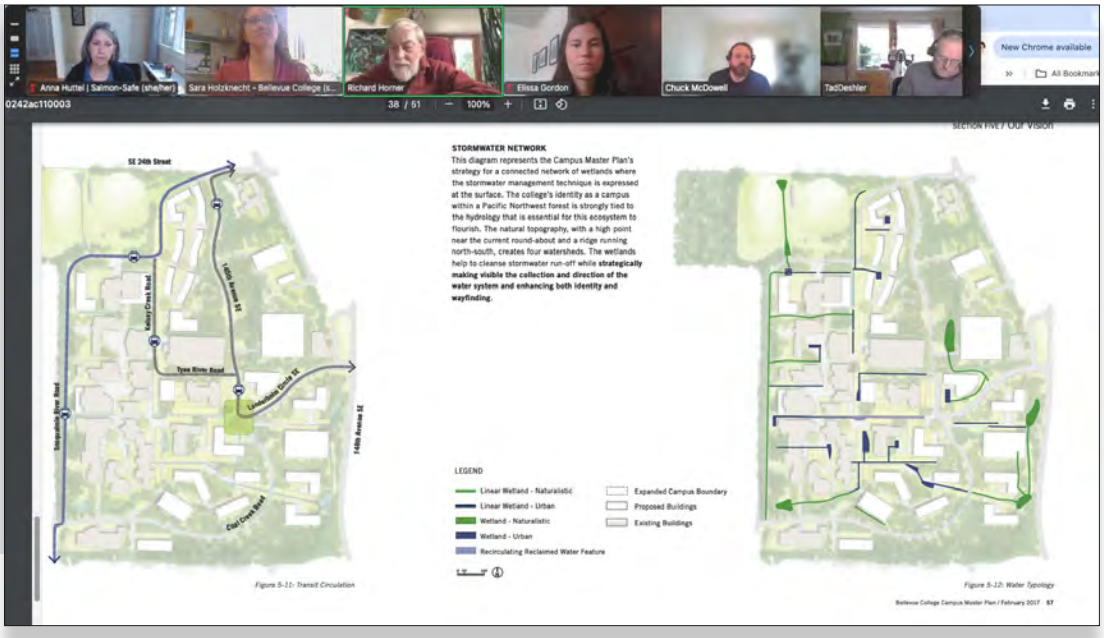
With a background in both design and aquatic sciences, Chuck's professional focus is on the integration of research into the design process in order to promote the balance between ecological function, user experience, and cultural context. Having worked in communities in the Midwest and along the West Coast, Chuck's previous work has ranged from community outreach, watershed planning, and environmental flows assessments, to campus, site and green infrastructure design. Chuck earned his MLA from Kansas State University and his MS in Conservation Ecology from the University of Michigan.

Site Assessment

The team from Bellevue College assembled documentation that was reviewed by Salmon-Safe Science Team members before, during, and after the site assessment. Members of the Science Team and Salmon-Safe staff met virtually with university staff on July 2, 2024, and had the opportunity to discuss specific campus attributes. The Science Team then visited the campus on July 3, 2024. The Science Team, supported by Salmon-Safe staff, met later on July 3, 2024, to review the certification criteria against notes taken during the process. The Science Team requested additional documentation from Bellevue College staff, which was reviewed in July 2024. On July 22, 2024, the Science Team and Salmon-Safe staff finalized conditions for certification and reached a final unanimous decision on certification.

Bellevue College grounds management and **sustainability staff** lead the **Salmon-Safe Science Team** on a tour of the campus.





(from top)

Sara Holzknecht (Bellevue College) describes campus-wide sustainability initiatives.

Dr. Rich Horner (Salmon-Safe) inquires about long-tem plans for campus stormwater management.

The Salmon-Safe Science Team tours an athletic field with Building & Grounds Manager, **Branden Ellsworth (Bellevue College)**.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

In the judgment of the Science Team, Bellevue College has demonstrated a high level of environmental stewardship in accordance with Salmon-Safe standards, particularly related to landscape management.

Given the variable age of the buildings on campus, stormwater management techniques are also quite variable. Many catch basins located throughout campus ultimately connect to the City of Bellevue stormwater mains located outside of campus. While some of the stormwater leaving campus is unmanaged for both water quality and quantity, particularly in the oldest areas of campus, there are many locations where stormwater may be transported—either by sheet flow or piping—into vegetated areas. A stormwater pond located in the southeastern corner of the campus captures stormwater draining from several large surface parking lots in that part of campus, which are currently underutilized. More recently constructed buildings make liberal use of green stormwater infrastructure in the form of rain gardens or swales. For example, the new residence hall, which has achieved LEED Platinum certification, is surrounded by large rain gardens. A large detention vault located under the soccer field, which was constructed in 2017 in the northwest corner of campus, captures not only stormwater from the field, but also stormwater from other upgradient areas of the campus. A large green roof on the T building also provides stormwater management functions for that building. Further work on evaluating additional opportunities for improving the stormwater system on campus is warranted, as described below in the Certification Conditions section.

Landscaping on campus is irrigated primarily (86% of the area) by pop-up spray systems. Approximately 15 acres are irrigated. The remainder of the area is serviced by either a drip system or is watered by hand. Irrigation controllers allow staff to remotely monitor and control water outputs across campus based on weather patterns, thus greatly reducing water consumption. Turf areas on campus are periodically irrigated during the summer, but only enough to prevent die-off. The amount of irrigation water use is tracked for several areas within campus, but a comprehensive analysis of trends has not been conducted. Water used for irrigation on campus should be evaluated as part of a water management plan, as described below in the Certification Conditions section.

The landscaping design consists primarily of native and drought-tolerant species. Plants are maintained in part with periodic applications of mulch and compost, which is consistent with Standard U.5.7 of the *Urban Standards v3.1*. The landscaping staff have developed a thoughtful approach to landscape design and maintenance by emphasizing native species that are suitable for the environments in which they are planted. Invasive plant species are actively tracked and eradicated or controlled, as appropriate. Pesticide applications are made in the context of the Bellevue College's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. The IPM plan should be updated to reflect current practices,

as described below in the Certification Conditions section. It may be appropriate to document IPM practices within a broader landscape management plan, which could serve to document the landscaping design and maintenance strategies that are currently being implemented on campus.

One of the pesticides[2] that has been recently used on the Bellevue College campus includes active ingredients that are on Salmon-Safe's list of high hazard pesticides (Appendix E of the *Urban Standards v3.1*). Salmon-Safe standards restrict the use of any chemical on this list unless written documentation is provided in advance and approved by Salmon-Safe.

Bellevue College has prepared a document that thoroughly describes winter weather procedures, including deicing. This document is focused on operational details and lacks a discussion of environmental considerations, such as potential adverse effects from the chloride-based deicer that is being used and the manner in which it is applied on campus. Salmon-Safe has prepared a fact sheet describing alternatives to chloride-based deicers.[3] An update of the winter weather procedures document is warranted, as described below in the Certification Conditions section.

Although there are many relatively small grass areas on Bellevue College's campus, none have been fertilized in the past two or three years, nor has fertilizer been used in landscape beds. Grass areas are periodically mowed, but the landscaping crew has generally not needed to provide much other maintenance to many of these areas. This light touch has facilitated an increase of diversity for some of the lawns, often associated with an increased abundance of clover. Such increases are particularly beneficial for bees. Additional analysis of opportunities for increasing the diversity of lawn or other landscaped areas is warranted, as described below in the Certification Conditions section.

The soccer field was installed in 2017 with a crumb rubber base. There is a growing body of research documenting both human and ecological health impacts from the use of such materials in artificial turf fields.[4] During the field assessment, the Science Team learned that there are areas of the field where the artificial turf is failing. Apparently, repairs are made on an as needed basis, but there may be an impetus to replace the entire turf surface if maintenance of the existing turf becomes too difficult to do. The development of a policy that commits to the avoidance of crumb rubber as infill for any new and replaced athletic fields is warranted, as described below in the Certification Conditions section.

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[2] Candor contains both 2,4-D and triclopyr BEE, both of which are on Salmon-Safe's high-hazard list.

[3] *https://salmonsafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Salmon-Safe-Information-Sheet-A-Comparison-of-Alternative-Road-Deicers-Feb-2019.pdf*

[4] Murphy, Maire and Warner, Genoa R. "Health Impacts of Artificial Turf: Toxicity Studies, Challenges, and Future Directions", *Environ. Pollut.*, Oct. 1, 2022; 310:119841. Available for download from the NIH National Library of Medicine as PMID 35948114: *https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10262297/*

CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS

Certification Recommendation: The Science Team recommends that Bellevue College be certified Salmon-Safe subject to three pre-conditions and ten conditions listed below. All conditions are subject to annual verification by Salmon-Safe. Timelines for accomplishing objectives are measured from the official date of this Salmon-Safe conditional certification.

Pre-Condition 1: *Ensure environmental regulatory compliance*

Bellevue College shall provide a signed statement to Salmon-Safe stating that campus operations and any new construction activities are not in violation of national, state, or local environmental laws, or associated administrative rules or requirements as determined by a regulatory agency in an enforcement action, per *Urban Standards v3.1* pre-condition 1.

TIMELINE

Compliance is a pre-condition of certification, then subject to annual verification by Salmon-Safe.

Pre-Condition 2: *Future development phases shall be consistent with Salmon-Safe standards*

Bellevue College shall submit a signed statement to Salmon-Safe indicating its commitment to adhere to Salmon-Safe standards for any future construction projects on campus, including the planned W building, per *Urban Standards v3.1* pre-condition 4. This pre-condition refers to both project design and construction. Examples of design elements that are consistent with Salmon-Safe standards include:

- new buildings—roof water harvesting for internal use, green roofs, bioretention, runoff dispersion on pervious areas;
- new or modified parking lots—biofiltration swales and filter strips, bioretention, pervious pavements;
- new sidewalk and plazas—bioretention, runoff dispersion on pervious areas, pervious pavements;
- new or modified roads—roadside biofiltration swales and filter strips, bioretention; and
- new landscaped areas—native and drought-tolerant plants, Silva cells.

Pre-Condition 2 continues on next page >

The focus of Salmon-Safe's construction standards is to eliminate storm-water runoff and the transport of sediment and other pollutants into surface waters during construction.

TIMELINE

Compliance is a pre-condition of certification, then subject to annual verification by Salmon-Safe.

Pre-Condition 3: *Eliminate use of high hazard pesticides*

Bellevue College shall not allow use of pesticides with ingredients listed on Salmon-Safe's high hazard pesticide list[5] unless such use is justified in a written variance request[6] approved by Salmon-Safe or as part of an IPM plan approved by Salmon Safe. Justification for use of a high hazard pesticide includes demonstrating a clear need for use of the pesticide, that no safer alternatives exist, and that the method of application (such as timing, location, and amount used) represent a negligible risk to water quality, fish, and fish habitat.

TIMELINE

Compliance is a pre-condition of certification, then subject to annual verification by Salmon-Safe.

[5] See Appendix E of the *Urban Standards v3.1, available for download at: https://salmonsafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/SS-Urban-Standards-v3.1-with-Revised-Appendix-I-May-2024.pdf*

[6] See Appendix A of the *Salmon-Safe Urban Implementation Workbook for Integrated Pest Management* for the variance request form. Available for download at: *https://salmonsafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Salmon-Safe-Urban-IPM-Workbook-September-2018-with-FILL-AND-SAVE-Forms.pdf*

Condition 1: *Complete feasibility study of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) retrofit opportunities and complete one or more projects*

Bellevue College shall conduct an inventory of all parking lots, roads, buildings, and associated stormwater infrastructure, and identify opportunities to modify existing pervious areas and create new ones according to GSI principles of soil amendment and vegetating to receive and treat stormwater runoff. The inventory shall consider rain gardens (i.e., bioretention), swales, filter strips (vegetated slopes receiving sheet flow), and pervious pavements. Upon completion of the inventory, Bellevue College shall prepare a feasibility report that outlines potential retrofit opportunities. Bellevue College shall then complete one or more retrofit projects.

TIMELINE

Bellevue College shall complete the feasibility study described above and submit it to Salmon-Safe for review within 18 months of certification. One or more retrofit projects shall be completed within the five-year certification cycle.

Condition 2: *Prevent stormwater from running in or out of maintenance material storage bins*

Bellevue College shall devise a way to prevent stormwater from draining in or out of the three-sided maintenance material storage bins. If berms across the entrances impede removing or adding materials, consider a solution such as placing berms farther out from the entrances with perpendicular wings extended to the bin side walls.

TIMELINE

Bellevue College shall design and implement a plan to restrict stormwater flow in or out of the maintenance material storage bins within two years of certification.

Condition 3: *Develop water conservation plan and track irrigation water usage*

The landscape management practices at Bellevue College include a number of water conservation features that are consistent with Salmon-Safe standards, as described above under General Observations. However, to ensure that Salmon-Safe practices are maintained over time, Bellevue College shall prepare a water conservation plan in accordance with Standard U.2.9 and Appendix K of the *Urban Standards v3.1*, which are focused on reducing the use of potable water for irrigation. The plan shall include a description of the existing site water infrastructure inventory (Standard U.2.1), an evaluation of the feasibility of various water use reduction strategies, including rainwater harvesting (Standard U.2.4), documentation of water conservation practices used during site maintenance (Standard U.2.6), and a description of water conservation strategies that will be implemented under drought conditions (Standard U.2.9).

The plan shall also include an annual estimate of the volume of water used for landscaping. The volume estimates shall be expressed in both volume units and as a function of the area over which irrigation occurs. Additional context related to the establishment of new planting areas and weather patterns, such as monthly average or maximum temperatures, would also provide important information for interpreting the water usage data.

TIMELINE

A water conservation plan shall be submitted to Salmon-Safe for review and implemented within one year of certification. Estimates of water usage for irrigation shall be made annually and submitted to Salmon-Safe for review.

Condition 4: *Commit to avoidance of crumb rubber for any new or replaced athletic fields*

Bellevue College shall establish a written policy that commits to the avoidance of crumb rubber as infill for any new and replaced athletic fields.

TIMELINE

Bellevue College shall draft a written policy for Salmon-Safe review within six months of certification.

Condition 5: *Increase compliance with Salmon-Safe's deicing guidelines*

Bellevue College shall assess how the campus can increase compliance with Salmon-Safe's deicing guidelines, with an emphasis on evaluating alternatives to chloride-based deicers, deicer removal from runoff (e.g., by green stormwater infrastructure), reductions in the area treated and quantity of applications, and the timing of application. Bellevue College shall then update their winter weather procedures document to reflect these environmental considerations.

TIMELINE

Bellevue College shall update their winter weather procedures document, as described above, and submit it to Salmon-Safe for review within one year of certification.

Condition 6: *Update IPM plan*

Bellevue College's IPM plan is generally consistent with Salmon-Safe standards. However, the Science Team identified several topics which could be addressed more completely in the plan, as described in Appendix D of the *Urban Standards v3.1*. Accordingly, Bellevue College shall make the following changes to the existing IPM plan:

- **A list of pesticides approved for use on campus shall be developed and included in the IPM plan. This list shall be reviewed annually and amended as needed. This list shall not include any chemical on *Salmon-Safe's High Hazard Pesticide List* (Appendix E of the *Urban Standards v3.1*) unless written documentation, including timing and location, is provided in advance and approved by Salmon-Safe.**
- **Add additional documentation on procedures (e.g., application rate, schedule, equipment) that apply to fertilizer and pesticide application on the Bellevue College campus and specific conditions under which such applications are warranted. Currently much of this information is undocumented institutional knowledge residing with members of the grounds crew.**
- **Describe restricted use zones, such as waterways and buffer areas.**
- **To prevent the spread of invasive and nonnative plant and other species, include procedures for decontaminating personal gear**

***Condition 6** continues on next page >*

(e.g., boots and chest waders) and equipment used in areas where such species occur, or when applying pesticides, particularly if such gear or equipment is also used for other purposes or other areas.

- The IPM plan shall apply to all areas on campus including athletic fields.

TIMELINE

The revised IPM plan shall be submitted to Salmon-Safe for review within one year of certification.

Condition 7: *Update tracking of invasive plant species*

Bellevue College has prepared a comprehensive inventory of invasive plant species on campus, which includes suggested treatment methods, treatments that have been used on campus, and control status as of 2019. Bellevue College shall update this useful tool to reflect current conditions and commit to regular updates, as needed. Bellevue College shall also consider supplementing the inventory with maps to indicate known locations of the invasive plant species.

TIMELINE

Bellevue College shall update their existing invasive plant species inventory to reflect current conditions and submit it to Salmon-Safe for review within one year of certification.

Condition 8: *Improve urban ecological habitat on campus*

Bellevue College shall identify opportunities to increase urban ecological habitat in the landscaped areas on campus. Emphasis shall be placed on opportunities that could reduce the need for inputs (e.g., fertilizer, water) to sustain viability, such as eco-lawns. Bellevue College shall then complete at least one project within the five-year certification cycle.

TIMELINE

Bellevue College shall identify opportunities to increase urban ecological habitat in the landscaped areas on campus within one year of certification and complete at least one project within the five-year certification cycle.

Condition 9: *Document habitat value and drought tolerance of proposed landscaping species*

Standards U.2.5 and U.5.4 of the *Urban Standards v3.1* require specification of the drought tolerance and habitat value, respectively, of each proposed landscaping species. Accordingly, Bellevue College shall include this information in the planting schedule for the projects currently under construction, such as the W building, and all additional construction projects to be constructed within the five-year certification cycle. Resources that document habitat value for Pacific Northwest plant species are maintained by the Land Bird Johnson Wildflower Center[7] and the Xerces Society.[8] Most plant lists include information on drought tolerance.

TIMELINE

The revised planting schedule for the W building shall be submitted to Salmon-Safe for review within three months of certification. Subsequent project planting schedules shall be submitted to Salmon-Safe once available throughout the five-year certification cycle.

[7] NPIN, a searchable native plant database listing commercially available native plant species, is maintained by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (University of Texas at Austin). The "Special Collections" list of native species recommendations for the State of Washing ton can be found at: *https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=WA*

[8] Xerces Society Pollinator Conservation Resource Center. A searchable database of pollinator conservation resources for the Pacific Northwest Region can be found at: *https://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/pnw*

Condition 10: *Evaluate campus resiliency in face of ongoing climate change*

There have been numerous studies evaluating potential future changes to climate in the Pacific Northwest.[9] Standard U.6.1 requires that the site design related to these potential climate change impacts is considered. Accordingly, Bellevue College shall prepare a memorandum that documents potential adaptive management strategies for addressing climate change, such as monitoring and metrics that can be used to guide when site characteristics related to stormwater, irrigation, and vegetation should be adjusted. Specifically, the memorandum shall evaluate whether current plant selection and maintenance activities are appropriate given the projection of longer dry periods in the summer months and increased evapotranspiration resulting from increased temperatures.

TIMELINE

The memorandum evaluating the climate resiliency of the existing campus infrastructure and landscape design shall be provided to Salmon-Safe for review within 18 months of certification.

Continuing Improvement Recommendations

In addition to the conditions for certification listed above, Salmon-Safe offers the following continuing improvement recommendations, adoption of which is not mandatory to achieve certification, but is considered Salmon-Safe best practice:

- ### Devote additional resources to landscape maintenance

  Bellevue College is committed to promoting the ecological function of the landscaping on the main campus. The Science Team learned during their field visit that the landscaping department is understaffed relative to the amount of work they are being asked to do, particularly in light of the additional effort that will likely be associated with achieving Salmon-Safe certification. We recommend that Bellevue College devote additional resources to the maintenance and enhancement of landscaping on campus. Ideally, those additional resources would be in the form on new staff positions. Alternatively, or in combination with additional staffing, Bellevue College could contract with one or more organizations that provide landscape maintenance services or facilitate additional volunteer work parties.

[9] Snover, A.K., et al., January 2013. *Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in Washington State: Technical Summaries for Decision Makers*; Mote, P, et al., 2014. *Climate Change Impacts in the United States*. Chapter 21: "Pacific Northwest"; Dalton, M., et al., 2013. *Climate change in the Northwest: Implications for Our Landscapes, Waters, and Communities, Island Press.*

- ### Create educational signage

  We recommend creating signage that celebrates Salmon-Safe certification and placing it where it is visible to the Bellevue College community and visitors. In addition, given the many examples of environmental practices on campus that are consistent with Salmon-Safe standards, we recommend creating educational signage that describes these features.

- ### Document landscaping philosophy in updated master plan

  The Science Team was impressed with the landscaping philosophy that is being implemented on the main campus. However, this philosophy is apparently undocumented in written format. We recommend that when the campus master plan is next updated, it includes a written description of the landscaping philosophy for the campus and includes an inventory of past and ongoing landscape projects. This would provide current and future landscaping staff, as well as the campus administration, the appropriate context within which to make decisions about the continued improvement of landscaping and ecological habitat on campus.

- ### Further institutionalize water quality protection

  Incentivize Salmon-Safe accredited contractors in large-scale campus construction. When creating contractor RFPs, consider including five points for Salmon-Safe contractors to ensure ongoing best practices in pollution prevention in construction projects.

CONCLUSIONS

Salmon-Safe and the Science Team commend Bellevue College for their commitment to implement the conditions listed in this report, and to manage the campus to continue to improve water quality and salmon habitat over the next five years. We extend appreciation and congratulations to the Bellevue College team for their work in preparing for the certification assessment and assisting the Science Team in its assessment.

Additional Credits

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Cover photo : ***Bellevue College***

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