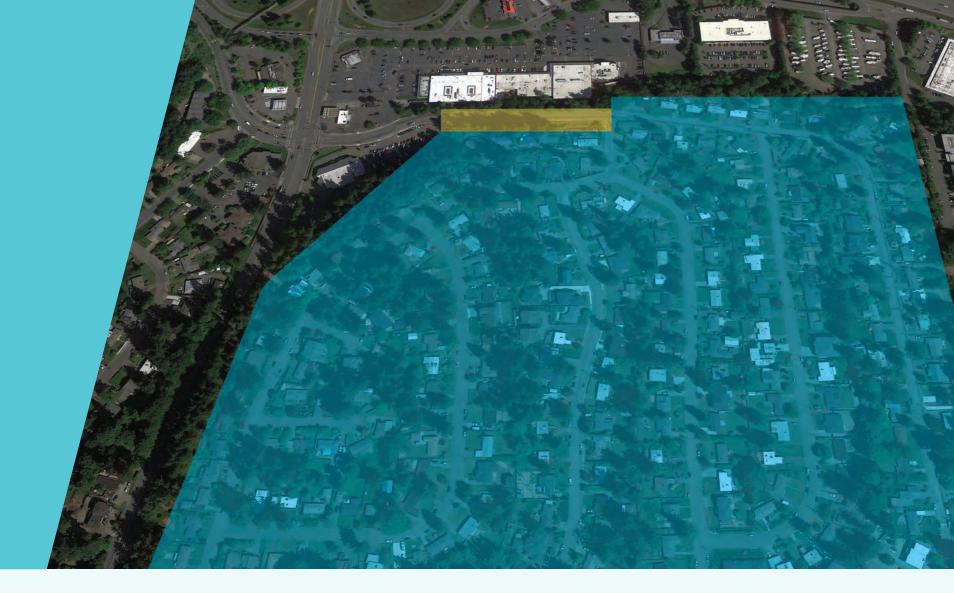


HEALTH ASSESSMENT OF A NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

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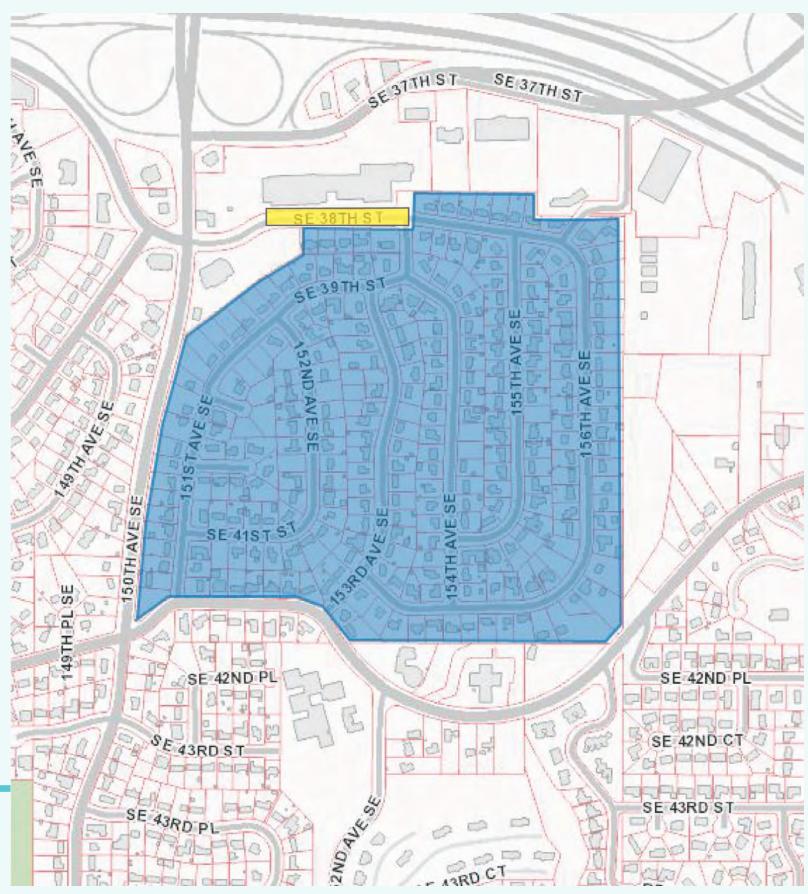


THE CHALLENGE

This study aims to assess individual- and community-level health impacts of a recently completed neighborhood enhancement project in the Eastgate neighborhood of Bellevue.

The project site is a one-block stretch of SE 38th Street, located just south of the Eastgate Plaza between 150th Avenue SE and 154th Avenue SE. The neighborhood enhancement work included blackberry and weed removal, trash clean-up, a sidewalk extension, and natural vegetation landscaping along the south side of the street.

The project is part of the City of Bellevue's Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP). Begun in 1988, the NEP provides opportunities for residents to propose and vote for improvements they would like to see in their neighborhood. Despite the long history of the program, the City has never done a formal assessment of an enhancement project to see what value it provides, or if it is what community members originally envisioned. This study provides the first such assessment of a NEP project, and will be used to inform future initiatives across the City.



Map of neighborhood enhancement work (yellow) and survey distribution area (blue). Surveys were distributed to households within the neighborhood and were followed up with a reminder postcard one week later.

RICK THOMAS

METHODS

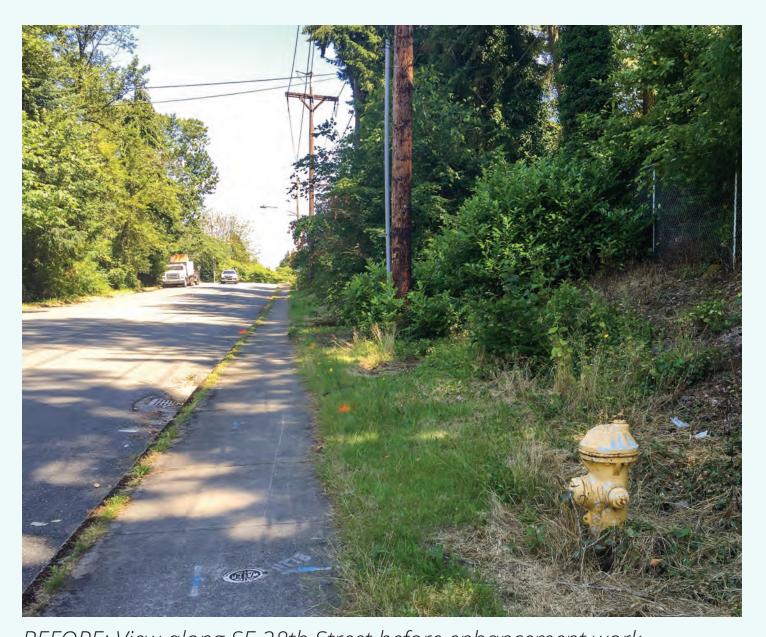
To guide our inquiry, the Livable City Year team consulted urban planning and public health literature to identify common health impacts that have arisen from similar

projects. From there, the team spoke with both City officials

and leaders of the newly formed Eastgate Neighborhood Association to determine which impacts were most relevant to this particular project. Using this information, the team created a short survey for residents to complete online or by mail.

Given the localized nature of the enhancement work, we chose to direct our survey distribution towards residents of the adjoining neighborhood. Surveys were distributed to households within the neighborhood and were followed up with a reminder postcard one week later.

The UW team will conduct additional outreach at the kick-off meeting of the Eastgate Neighborhood Association. This will be an opportunity to survey Eastgate residents who live outside the survey distribution area but still felt impacted by the enhancement work.



BEFORE: View along SE 38th Street before enhancement work. CITY OF BELLEVUE

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

While the data collection process is still underway, initial survey results suggest that a number of benefits have arisen within the community.

As a result of the neighborhood enhancement work:

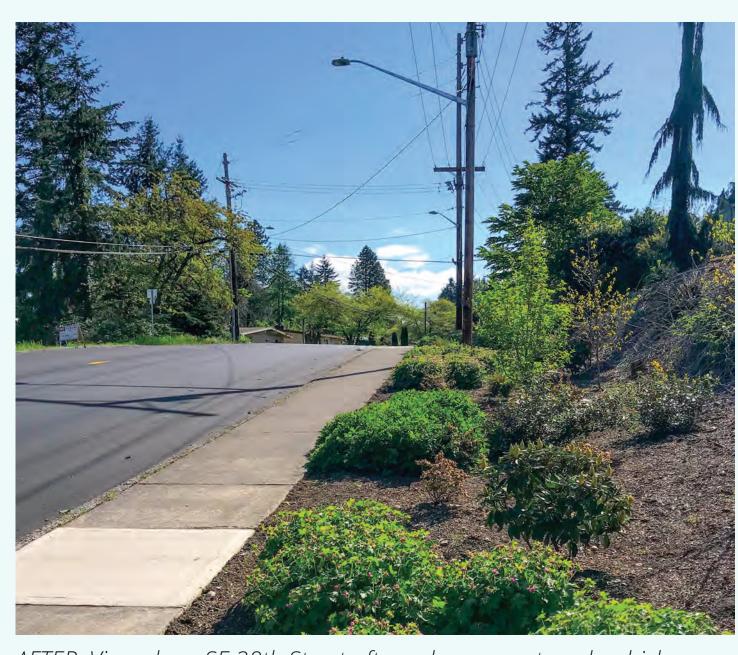
44% of residents are now more likely to walk or bike along SE 38th Street to nearby commercial destinations

85% of residents feel that SE 38th Street has become a more pleasant place to pass by 62% of residents report feeling happier when passing by SE 38th Street

56% of residents feel that there is a greater sense of community in the neighborhood

The two most valued enhancement activities along SE 38th Street include the removal of RVs and other street parking, and the accompanying landscaping work.

While the majority of residents experienced some type of benefit, there are still neighborhood improvements they would like to see. The two most frequently-mentioned suggestions are for the City to further disincentivize RVs and motorhomes from parking (as this is still an issue), and to coordinate with homeowners adjacent to the enhancement work to remove the remaining weeds on private property.



AFTER: View along SE 38th Street after enhancement work, which included blackberry and weed removal, trash clean-up, a sidewalk extension, and natural vegetation landscaping along the south side of the street. RICK THOMAS