



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.

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.



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



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

