

ORDINANCE NO. 2002-03-017

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM ADDING SECTION 13.04.075 AND AMENDING SECTIONS 18.08.420 AND 20.08.020S.(17) OF THE BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE CREATING LAKE WHATCOM WATERSHED RESIDENTIAL ACCESS STREET STANDARDS.**

**WHEREAS**, Lake Whatcom is the drinking water source for the City of Bellingham and much of the surrounding community; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City has adopted policies to prevent pollution impacts to protect Lake Whatcom; and,

**WHEREAS**, water quality impacts from urban development, such as impervious street surfaces, have been detected in streams, storm drains and the near shore areas of Lake Whatcom; and,

**WHEREAS**, reducing the impervious surface on streets and sidewalks will have a positive effect on the flow demands of existing stormwater collection and conveyance systems and, therefore, on the protection of Lake Whatcom; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Ecology has been consulted and has concurred on the standards created in this ordinance; and,

**WHEREAS**, this ordinance is in the best interests of the City's residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:**

**Section 1. Intent.** The Council's intent in enacting this ordinance is to create a Lake Whatcom watershed residential access street standard for development in the Lake Whatcom watershed within the City of Bellingham. This standard is designed to minimize the amount of impervious surface and maximize the water quality opportunities within the right-of-way while also providing a street that addresses the myriad of residential and service provider needs.

**Section 2. The following new section is hereby added to the Bellingham Municipal Code as 13.04.075.**

**13.04.075 – Residential Access Streets, Lake Whatcom Watershed**

Standards for Lake Whatcom watershed residential access streets are as follows:

**A. Function/Applicability.** To provide access to residential property within the Lake Whatcom watershed boundaries within the City of Bellingham. This section shall also apply in an advisory capacity to all development subject to City of Bellingham interlocal agreements with Whatcom County and/or utility service zone ("USZ") contracts or USZ contract extensions within the Lake Whatcom watershed.

**B. Right-of-way.** 60' minimum;

**C. Driving Lanes.** 18' of pavement with minimum thickness as designated in section 4 of the Bellingham Development Guidelines, as may be periodically amended;

**D. Design Standard.** Concrete curbs and gutters and storm drainage to be provided; drainage slots shall flow to a 14' swale on one side of the road that shall be 2' deep, with a bottom width of 2' and a maximum 2:1 slope with approval of the City Engineer;

**E. Median.** None required;

**F. Sidewalks.** The City standard under this section shall be a 5' sidewalk on one side of the street; the City minimum standard under this section does not require a sidewalk but does require a 4' minimum grass bench on one side of the street.

**G. Access Conditions.** Intersections at grade with direct access to adjacent property;

**H. Traffic Features.** Traffic control measures as warranted to provide adequate sight distance and safety;

**I. Planning Features.** Residential access streets under this section should be designed to provide continuous or unobstructed flow of traffic through and within the neighborhood; Cul-de-sac shall be located only where dead-end streets are desirable consistent with subdivision regulations.

**Section 3. Bellingham Municipal Code 18.08.420 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**18.08.420 - Street**

"Street" means a right-of-way having a width of 30' or more which provides the principal means of access to abutting property. Any residential access street within the City of Bellingham's Lake Whatcom watershed shall also have the meaning and standards required in BMC 13.04.075.

**Section 4. Bellingham Municipal Code 20.08.020S.(17) is hereby amended to read as provided for in this Section 4. Except as specifically provided for herein, the remainder of BMC 20.08.020 shall remain unchanged.**


**20.08.020 – Specific Definitions**

**S.(17) Street:** A right of way having a width of 30' or more which provides the principal means of access to abutting property. Any residential access street within the City of Bellingham's Lake Whatcom watershed shall also have the meaning and standards required in BMC 13.04.075.

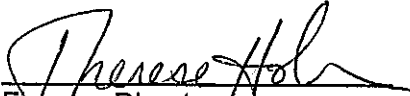
PASSED by Council this 11TH day of MARCH, 2002.

  
Council President

APPROVED by me this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2002.

  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Office of the City Attorney

Published: 3/22/02