

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-09-045

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM RELATING TO LAND USE PLANNING AND UPDATING CHAPTER 7 OF THE BELLINGHAM COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, WITH THE NEW PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

WHEREAS, an updated Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PRO Plan) is required by state and federal agencies for the City to qualify for parks and recreation funding; and

WHEREAS, the City updates its Pro Plan every six years, and City Council last adopted an updated Pro Plan in 2008; and,

WHEREAS, the Pro Plan is included as Chapter 7 - Parks, Recreation and Open Space of the City's Comprehensive Plan; and,

WHEREAS, in July, 2013 the City Council held a public hearing and subsequently voted to include consideration of the proposal to update the Pro Plan and Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive Plan in the annual amendment process for 2013/2014; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department worked with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to oversee the PRO Plan update process, provide input, and evaluate recommendations; and

WHEREAS, other public participation opportunities in the PRO Plan update process included a statistically valid phone survey, a web-based survey, monthly public meetings, a public workshop and open house; and

WHEREAS, a Determination of Non Significance (DNS) was issued for the proposed update to the Pro Plan and Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive Plan on October 8, 2013, consistent with RCW 43.21 C; and

WHEREAS, as required by RCW 36.70A.106, notice of the City's intent to adopt an update to the Pro Plan and Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive Plan was sent to the Department of Commerce on January 22, 2014; and

WHEREAS, after mailed and published notice, the Bellingham Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposal to update the Pro Plan and Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive Plan on November 7, 2013 and a work session on November 21, 2013 to further review the proposal; and

WHEREAS, November 21, 2013, the Planning Commission found the proposal consistent with the Comprehensive Plan amendment criteria in BMC 20.20.040, and thereafter adopted Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Recommendations in support of adoption of the updated PRO Plan and Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on January 13, 2014, to consider the proposal, the staff report and recommendations, and the record and recommendations of the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the proposal satisfies the Comprehensive Plan Amendment requirements of BMC 20.20.040 and is consistent with the State Growth Management Act and the rest of the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council agrees with the Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Recommendations of the Planning Commission.

WHEREAS, in ~~February 2014~~ ^{January, 2014}, City Council adopted the updated 2014 PRO Plan by Resolution 2014-02 and

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. Chapter 7 - Parks, Recreation and Open Space of the 2006 Bellingham Comprehensive Plan is hereby repealed and replaced by the updated Pro Plan attached as **Exhibit A**.

Section 2. City Council adopts the Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Recommendations of the Planning Commission dated November 21, 2013, attached as **Exhibit B**.

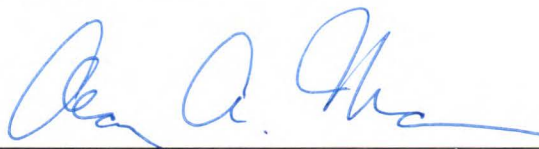
PASSED by the Council this 8th day of September, 2014.


Gene Knutson
Council President *Designee*

APPROVED by me this 18th day of September, 2014.


Heidi Lind
Mayor

ATTEST: 
Brian Homshaw
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM: 
Office of the City Attorney

Published: September 12, 2014

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
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PLAN

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

2014 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION
JANUARY 27, 2014

Acknowledgements

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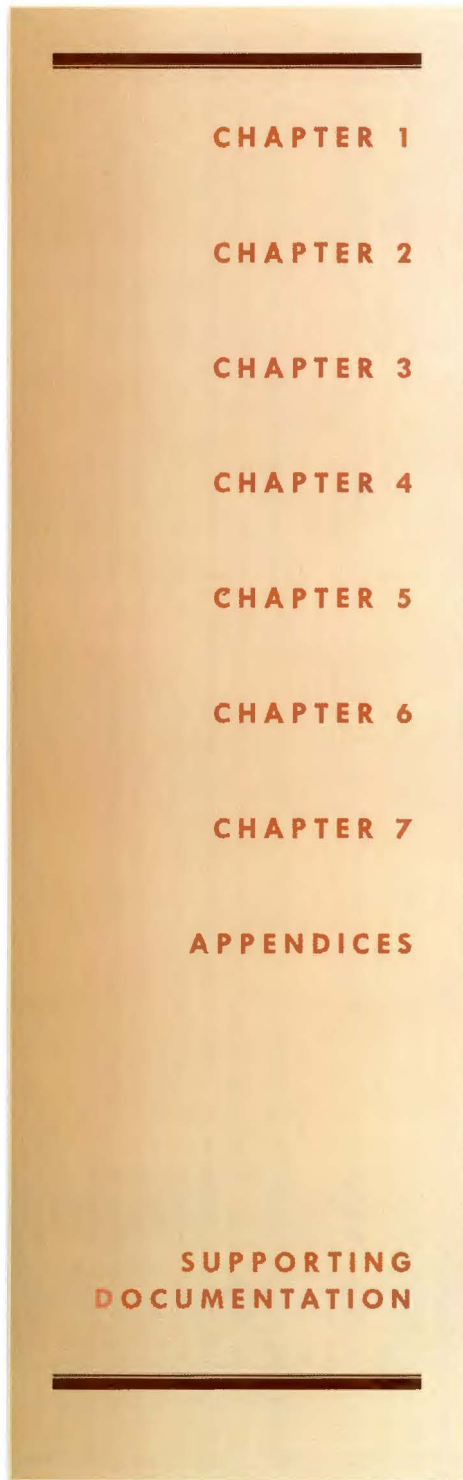
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Applied Research Northwest - survey

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Available at

<http://www.cob.org/government/departments/parks/index.aspx>

- Survey Results
- Public Meeting Summaries

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

The City's Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PRO Plan), an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, is the overarching document that guides the expansion of our park and recreation system as the community grows. The PRO plan must be updated every six years in order for the City to remain eligible for grants under the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. As an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, the PRO Plan undergoes a legislative review process, including Planning Commission and City Council approval. For consistency, minor modifications may need to be made with the full Comprehensive Plan update scheduled for 2016.

1.1 Growth Management Act

The Growth Management Act (GMA) establishes goals for cities and counties to assure that their quality of life is sustained as their communities grow. One of these goals is to "retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreational facilities" (RCW 36.70A.020(9)).

The parks and recreation element of a comprehensive plan must contain the following features:

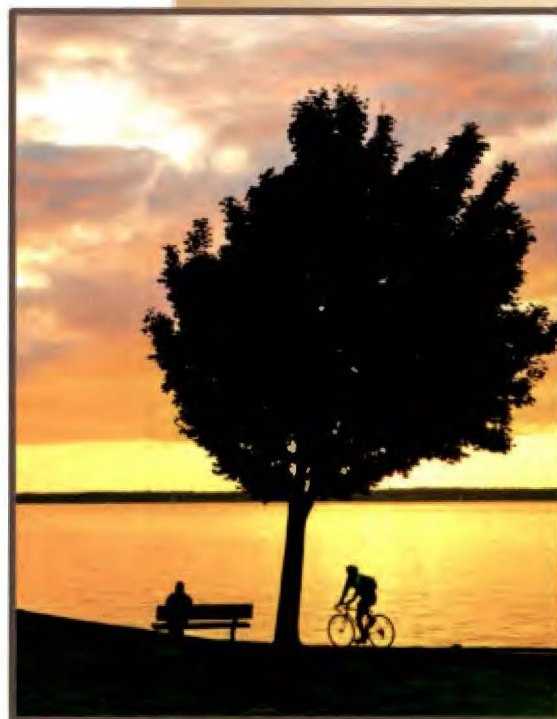
- Consistency with the capital facilities element;
- Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a 10 year period. This plan estimates demand for a 15 year period;
- An evaluation of facilities and service needs; and
- An evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities.

The plan includes urban growth areas to ensure that open space and greenbelt corridors are identified within and between urban growth areas, including lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of critical areas.

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Mission Statement:

*Support a healthy
community by promoting
high quality parks and
recreation services.*



Boulevard Park

Projects prioritized during the planning process are included in the City's six year Capital Budget, which is updated at least bi-annually.

1.2 Overall Vision

Mission Statement

The mission of the Bellingham Department of Parks & Recreation is to "Support a healthy community by promoting high quality parks and recreation services." A high quality park system should serve the needs of the community with a range of services and facilities for all age groups and abilities provided in a safe environment. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan outlines the steps to continue to achieve a quality parks system for the future.

Throughout the planning process themes emerged that set the vision for the coming years. These themes centered on:



Cornwall Park magnolias

- **Equal access to park facilities and programs** - all neighborhoods should be provided with access to parks and recreation facilities and programs. All residents should live within ½ mile of a park and trail.
- **Water Access** - Access to the water, for viewing, boating, fishing and general enjoyment is important and waterfront park development is a priority;
- **Environment** – A strong recognition of the value of and access to the natural environment as a core component of the Bellingham park system;
- **Newly Emerging Sports** – Recognition that Bellingham residents pride themselves on living outside the "recreation box" with strong interests in newly emerging sports such as mountain bike skills, pickle ball, lacrosse, rugby, paddle sports and others; and
- **Variety** – The desire for the system to continue to offer the variety of choices, for recreational activities of all types, for all ages and abilities.

1.3 Previous Plans

This PRO Plan, prepared in 2013-2014, builds on previous comprehensive planning efforts by updating the 2008 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan which is an element of the Comprehensive Plan for Bellingham. The PRO Plan considers parks, recreation and open space land, facilities and programs.

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Bellingham continues to grow and change as a community. Greater infill development is occurring within the central part of the city, while new development is expected in annexing areas. New types of recreation are emerging and activities once considered “extreme” are now “mainstream.” The park system also attracts a greater number of users than ever before and requires more flexibility of park resources to respond to new trends and increased population.

1.4 Objectives & Approach

The specific objectives of this planning effort are to:

- **Describe the Community Setting** – Establish the framework within which park, recreation, and open space facilities should be provided, including natural features, historical context, land use implications, current recreation trends and demographics.
- **Inventory the Existing Park System** – This includes lands owned and operated by the city or other public agencies, both within the planning area and beyond. The planning area is defined in section 1.6 of this chapter.
- **Analyze Needs & Opportunities** – Analyze the needs for future park, recreation, and open space facilities or programs and develop recommendations for meeting those needs.
- **Establish Goals and Objectives** – Identify the goals to be met and objectives to carry out those goals as the PRO Plan is implemented
- **Adopt a Level-of-Service** – Based on the existing park system and the recommendations of the community, establish proposed level of service standards to help guide development of the park system over the next 10 to 15 years.
- **Create an Implementation Plan** – Establish the overall estimated cost of achieving the proposed level-of-service, based on the community’s recommendations, prioritize those recommendations, and develop a plan to implement the priority recommendations through a six year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). In addition, develop general strategies to be considered for the projected population growth over the next 15 years.



Squalicum Creek in Cornwall Park. Photo by Kristen Krussow.

1.5 Public Involvement

Public input is important to a community-based parks and recreation plan. The citizen members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board served as the Steering Committee to help oversee the process, provide input and evaluate the recommendations. A random sample household phone survey, a web-based survey, a public work shop and a public meeting were also conducted to augment and inform the Committee's discussions. Public hearings were held with the Planning Commission and City Council prior to final adoption. The public involvement process included the following:

Meeting/Action	Topic	Month
2013		
Steering Committee/PRAB	Introduction, Process and Schedule	February
Steering Committee/PRAB	Population projection and Level of Service	March
City Council Update	Project status report	March
Steering Committee/PRAB	Ch. 5 Goals and Objectives, Facility Recommendations	April
Steering Committee/PRAB	Trail Recommendations	May
Steering Committee/PRAB	Visioning	June
Public Workshop	Visioning	June
Steering Committee/PRAB	Visioning Results and Public Opinion Survey	July
Steering Committee/PRAB	Survey Questions and Ch. 6 Recommendations	August
Telephone and Web Survey	Public Opinion Survey Conducted	August-Sept
Steering Committee/PRAB	Plan Review	September
Steering Committee/PRAB	DRAFT Plan Approval	October
Public Meeting	Plan Recommendations	October
City Council	Update	October
Planning Commission	Public Hearings and Work Sessions	November

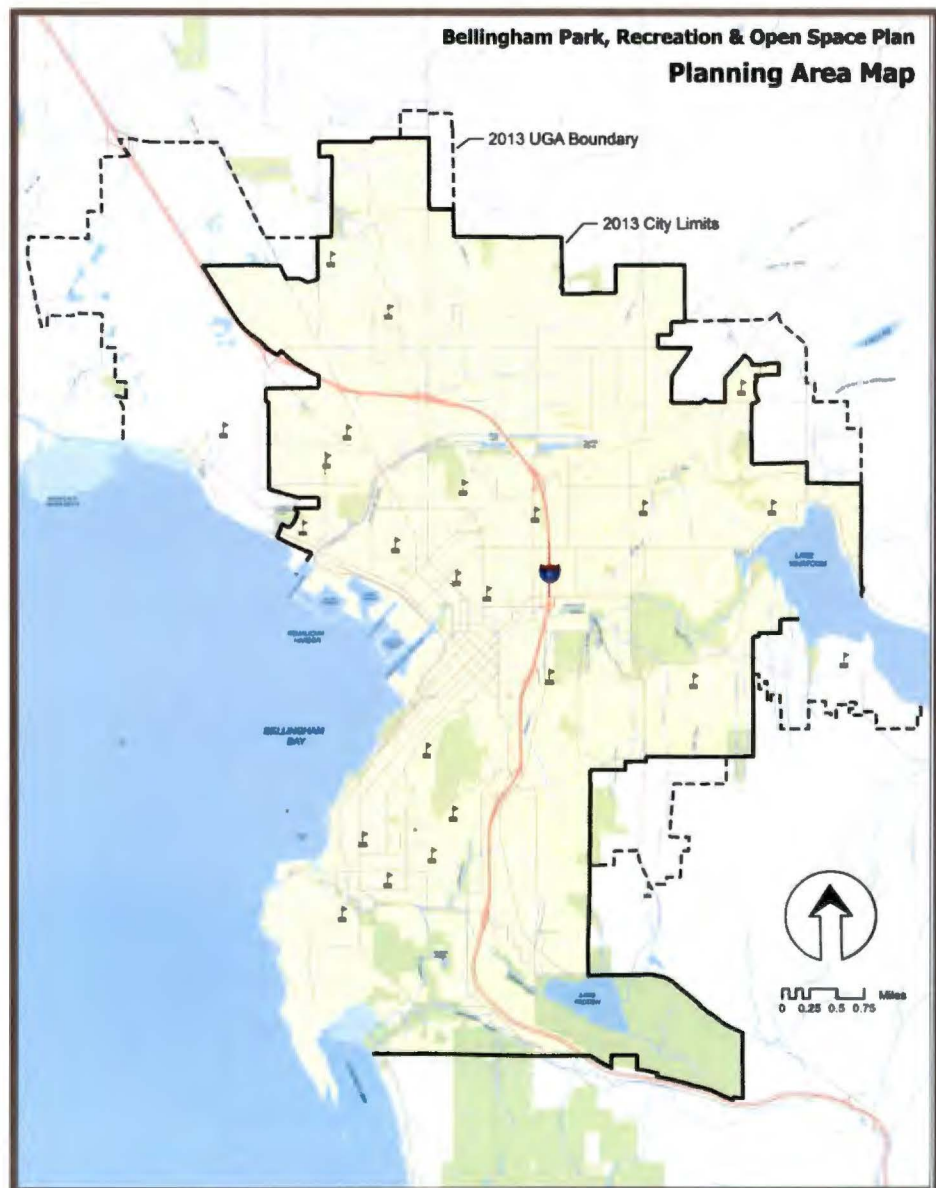
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Meeting/Action	Topic	Month
2014		
Steering Committee/PRAB	Final Plan Approval	January
City Council	Public Hearing	January
City Council	Preliminary Approval	February
City Council	Comp Plan Amendment	July

1.6 Planning Area Boundary

The planning area for this process includes the Bellingham City Limits and the adopted Urban Growth Area (UGA). The City recognizes the UGA boundary may change and if so, this chapter of the City's Comprehensive Plan will be modified.

Parks, recreation and open space facilities not owned or managed by the City and located outside of the planning area were inventoried and considered, but are not included in any specific calculations within the PRO Plan (level-of-service, cost estimates, implementation). Whatcom County is responsible for planning the area outside of the UGA; however, the planning efforts of each agency must be coordinated. Any areas added to the UGA in the future, or areas currently within the UGA that may be annexed will need to address parks, recreation and open space needs



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concurrent with that action. Also, for the purposes of the PRO Plan, it is assumed that by the end of the 15 year planning period, or 2029, all UGA areas will be incorporated into the City so the proposed facilities, population, level-of-service and any other recommendations projected to the year 2029 include both the existing City and the entire UGA. If all of these areas are not annexed, some of the recommendations would not be implemented.

1.7 Plan Documentation

This plan is organized into seven chapters including:

- Introduction and overview;
- Community setting;
- Inventory of existing facilities;
- Demand for new land and facilities;
- Goals and objectives in fulfilling those demands;
- Recommendations to meet the demand;
- Implementation of the recommendations.

Appendices include:

- Park type classifications;
- Detailed tables of existing and proposed park system facilities;
- North Bellingham Trail Plan;
- Capital Facilities Plan;
- Revenue Source Descriptions; and
- Public opinion survey results.

Chapter 2

COMMUNITY SETTING

Nestled between the mountains and the sea in northwest Washington State, Bellingham is at the center of a uniquely picturesque area offering a rich variety of recreational, cultural, educational and economic activities.

2.1 Location, Topography and Climate

Bellingham is located in northwest Washington on the shore of Bellingham Bay. The inland urban area is framed by the slopes of Stewart, Lookout, and Chuckanut Mountains, at the edge of the Cascade foothills with Mount Baker in the background.

Topography ranges from sea level to about 500 feet on the hilltops around Bellingham. Elevation increases to 3,050 feet at the top of Stewart Mountain, and eventually to 10,785 at the top of Mount Baker. The landform is generally flat to rolling within the urban growth area, though the plateau edge overlooking Bellingham Bay can drop off abruptly in slopes ranging from 40% to 75%.

Bellingham has a mild maritime climate. Mean temperatures vary from a high of 73 degrees in July to a low of 31 degrees Fahrenheit in January. Average annual precipitation is about 35 inches. Approximately 80% of the precipitation occurs from October through March with less than 6% falling during the summer months.

2.2 Natural Features

Bellingham citizens are blessed with living in an area of incredible natural beauty and have a long legacy of placing high value on the environment. The first Greenway Levy passed largely in response to citizen interest in protecting valuable wildlife habitat corridors, shoreline, riparian, wetland and unique upland areas and providing public access to those unique areas.

In 2005, Bellingham strengthened protection of wetland and streams by adopting the Critical Areas Ordinance which also protects steep slopes and frequently flooded areas. The Shoreline Master Program (SMP) was updated in 2013, adding more protection for shorelines and providing habitat restoration guidance while supporting public access.

In 2012, the City Council adopted a new Environment Element (*Chapter 9*) of the Comprehensive Plan to address environmental protection and ensure compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA).

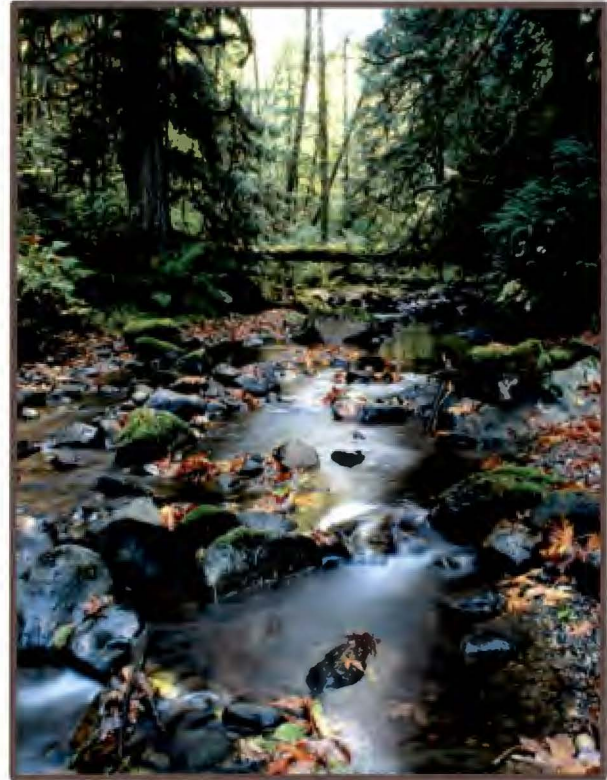
The City is in the process of developing a Habitat Restoration Master Plan for the city and urban growth area. The plan will develop a science-based prioritization framework for the preservation, restoration, and recovery of the City's terrestrial, aquatic and riparian habitats.

Enhancing and preserving existing habitats supports the City's adopted legacies regarding Clean, Safe Drinking Water and a Healthy Environment.

Following is a list of important environmental features with public recreation elements in and around the Bellingham area.

2.2.1 Creeks

Three major creeks and three minor ones drain the Bellingham area.



Whatcom Creek in Whatcom Falls Park

- **Squalicum Creek** – A major creek that starts in the Nooksack Valley and flows southwest to the mouth of Bellingham Bay. The Bay to Baker Trail is planned within the Squalicum Creek Greenway Corridor.
- **Whatcom Creek** – A major creek that drains from the northwest end of Lake Whatcom west into Bellingham Bay. Whatcom Creek Trail and Greenway generally follows the alignment of Whatcom Creek.
- **Padden Creek** – A major creek that drains from the Lake Padden west into Bellingham Bay. Upper and lower Padden Creek Greenway Trail follows the corridor.
- **Little Squalicum Creek** - A perennial stream northwest of Squalicum Creek that flows through Little Squalicum Park and into Bellingham Bay.
- **Connelly Creek** – A perennial stream that drains south from Sehome Hill into Padden Creek. The 26 acre Connelly Creek Nature Area preserves valuable habitat and provides walking trails.
- **Chuckanut Creek** – A perennial stream that drains from near Lake Samish west into Chuckanut Bay, through Arroyo Park.

2.2.2 Lakes, ponds and estuaries in and near Bellingham

Lakes are defined here as water bodies greater than 20 acres in size or more than 6 feet in depth.

- Lake Whatcom is 10 miles long with a surface area of approximately 5,000 acres. Since 1968, the City has relied on Lake Whatcom for its municipal water supply providing drinking water to approximately 100,000 residents. The lake is on the Washington State list of impaired water bodies. As of 2012, Lake Whatcom has at least eight aquatic invasive species and one invasive mollusk, the Asian clam. Preventing additional invasive species from entering the lake is important in ensuring that Lake Whatcom and the resources it provides to the community are not degraded. Public swimming and boating access to the lake is provided at Bloedel Donovan Park. Other public access within the UGA is available at the North Shore DNR lease property, Euclid Park, and several unimproved street rights of way.

- Lake Samish located south of the urban growth area, is 3 miles long with a surface area of approximately 809 acres. Most of the lake shoreline has been developed for private residential uses. Whatcom County has developed Lake Samish Park with swimming, fishing, and boat access.



Lake Padden

- Lake Padden is one mile long with a surface area of approximately 151 acres. The entire lake is within the boundaries of Lake Padden Park with a perimeter trail, swimming, boating and fishing access.

- Toad Lake is ½ mile long with a surface area of approximately 28 acres. Washington State Fish & Wildlife has developed swimming, fishing and boat access on the south end of the lake. The rest has been developed with primarily residential uses.

- Sunset Pond is a man-made freshwater retention pond at Sunset Pond Park with improved perimeter trails.
- Bug Lake is a man-made freshwater retention pond with informal walking trails.
- Padden Lagoon is a saltwater estuary at the inlet of Padden Creek into Bellingham Bay. The shoreline has been partially restored and preserved but has no on-water access.

Most of the other small ponds or lakes in the Bellingham urban area have either been developed for private residential use and/or are too small in size to support public access activities.

2.3 Park Development in Sensitive Areas

Intense park activities should be separated from sensitive areas by maintaining and enhancing buffers to protect habitat function. Access to select sensitive areas may be provided through low impact trails.

Where appropriate and consistent with City goals and policies, the PRO Plan should identify areas to preserve and enhance for open space and other low impact park uses. Mature shoreline trees, snags, and downed logs should be preserved where possible to allow wildlife species to coexist in urban areas.

When preserving or enhancing natural areas, the City should:

- **Remove** – invasive plant species that displace native materials and habitat,
- **Plant** – native trees and shrubs that support and retain native wildlife species, and
- **Cluster** – park improvements to preserve natural shorelines and contiguous open spaces.



Whatcom Falls. Courtesy of Whatcom Museum archives.

2.4 Historical Development

Lummi, Nooksack, and Samish Indians lived in and around the Nooksack River and Bellingham Bay area. These tribes fished in saltwater and the river. The tribes also exhibited some agricultural and hunting characteristics common to eastern or interior tribes. Village sites were located along Bellingham Bay and the Nooksack River.

In 1792, the first western exploration of Puget Sound was accomplished by British explorer Captain George Vancouver. Vancouver charted Bellingham Bay and named it in honor of Sir William Bellingham, Controller of the British Navy.

In 1852, Henry Roeder and Russell Peabody arrived from California and started the Roeder-Peabody-Page sawmill on Whatcom Creek Waterway to process virgin red cedar and Douglas fir.

By 1854, the towns of Whatcom, Sehome, Bellingham, and Fairhaven were settled around Bellingham Bay; the Washington Territorial Legislature established Whatcom County and the county seat. Whatcom was derived from an Indian term meaning “rough tumbling waters” – a reference to lower Whatcom Falls.

In 1903, the towns of Whatcom, Sehome, Bellingham, and Fairhaven were consolidated into the City of Bellingham. Tideland areas were filled and the Great Northern Railway constructed passenger and freight

depots in the Whatcom "Old Town" business district to service the rapidly expanding city. As Bellingham continued to expand the core business district gradually moved onto the hill overlooking Whatcom Creek and Bellingham Bay.

2.5 Population

2.5.1 Population Trends

The 2013 population for Bellingham was estimated to be 82,310. Bellingham's official census population for 2000 was estimated to be 67,171 and 80,885 in the year 2010, equal to an average annual increase of 1.88% per year over the 10 year period. The unincorporated Urban Growth Area (UGA) for Bellingham has an estimated 10,797 people for a total UGA population of 93,107 in the year 2013.

2013 City Population	=	82,310
2013 UGA Population	=	10,797
2013 Total Population	=	93,107
2029 Projected Population	=	111,761

2.5.2 Population Projections

According to the 2012 Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, the City's population will increase to 111,761 persons by the year 2029 assuming all UGA areas are incorporated, or by another 18,654 people. This is equal to an annual average increase of 1.17% per year over the 16 year period.

2.6 Demographics

The following demographic information was taken from the United States Census 2005-2007 3-year average, and 2007-2011 5-year average American Community Survey Demographic Profiles for Bellingham. Demographics are important to consider in reviewing various opportunities for specific recreation proposals or in evaluating new trends or interests in recreation programming or facilities.

TABLE 2.6.1

Economic Characteristics		
Census Year	2005-2007 ACS	2007-2011 ACS
Mean travel time to work in minutes	17.2	17.7
Median household income*	\$ 37,405	\$ 39,299
Median family income*	\$ 55,409	\$ 61,051
Per capita income*	\$ 21,797	\$ 24,396
Families below poverty level	9.3%	10.7%
* all income listed is in inflation-adjusted dollars		

TABLE 2.6.2

Housing Characteristics		
Census Year	2005-2007 ACS	2007-2011 ACS
Occupied Housing Units	93.9%	93%
Vacant Housing Units	6.1%	7%
Owner-occupied Housing Units	45.1%	45.8%
Renter-occupied Housing Units	54.9%	54.2%

TABLE 2.6.3

Age Characteristics		
Census Year	2005-2007 ACS	2007-2011 ACS
Median Age	29.7	30.6
Under 5 years	4.6%	4.8%
5 to 19 Years	19.0%	17.1%
20 to 34 Years	33.7%	33.5%
35 to 64 Years	31.3%	32.2%
65 Years and Over	11.4%	12.4%

TABLE 2.6.4

Ethnic Characteristics		
Census Year	2005-2007 ACS	2007-2011 ACS
White	89.3%	86.6%
Hispanic or Latino	5.5%	7.3%
Black or African American	1.1%	1.4%
Asian	5.4%	4.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.4%	1.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.1%
Two or More Races	2.5%	3.3%
Other	2.7%	2.1%
Language other than English at home	10.4%	11.9%

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2.7 Recreation Trends

Similar to the rest of Washington State, Bellingham has seen a steady increase in organized sports. In Bellingham, that increase has also included new types of activities, such as pickle ball, rugby, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee and disc golf. There is also an increased interest in emerging and extreme sports, such as mountain bike skills, paddle boarding and rock climbing.

A changing demographic and an increase in cultural diversity in the Bellingham area have brought new types of interests in recreational activities and programs. It has also brought a greater need for more general recreational activities and financial assistance to residents where needed for recreational program or facility fees.

Similar to trends across the nation, Bellingham residents continue to demand more off road walking and bicycling trails. As trails increase in popularity and the community grows, there are conflicts among trail users, with a high increase of dogs off leash in undesignated areas.

Nationally, there has been recognition of the importance of recreation and park systems to overall quality of life, especially as related to the growing obesity rate across the nation and in children. The relationship of park systems to quality of life has included research and recognition of the healing effect of parks and other natural areas.

The provision of a variety of recreation opportunities helps to fulfill several Bellingham City Council Legacies and Strategic Commitments including:

- *Access to Quality of Life Amenities*
- *Sense of Place*
- *Equity and Social Justice*
- *Vibrant Sustainable Economy*

See Chapter 5 for more about the Legacies and Strategic Commitments.



Disc Golf at Cornwall Park. Photo by Colin Morris.

Chapter 3

EXISTING FACILITIES

An extensive network of park, recreation and open space facilities is provided by the City and other agencies including County, School District, Port and State and is available to Bellingham citizens. The inventory of existing facilities is organized into all those that are owned or managed by the City along with other agency facilities available to the general public within the City/UGA planning area. These are included in the City's level-of-service. Non-City facilities that are located outside of the planning area but enhance the local recreation experience are inventoried to demonstrate the availability of additional recreational amenities in the area, but they are not included in the level of service. Level-of-service (LOS) is further defined in Chapter 4. School facilities provide an additional public benefit but are not included in the level-of-service as they are not available to the general public on a regular basis.

3.1 Facility Inventory Classifications

Included in Level-Of-Service

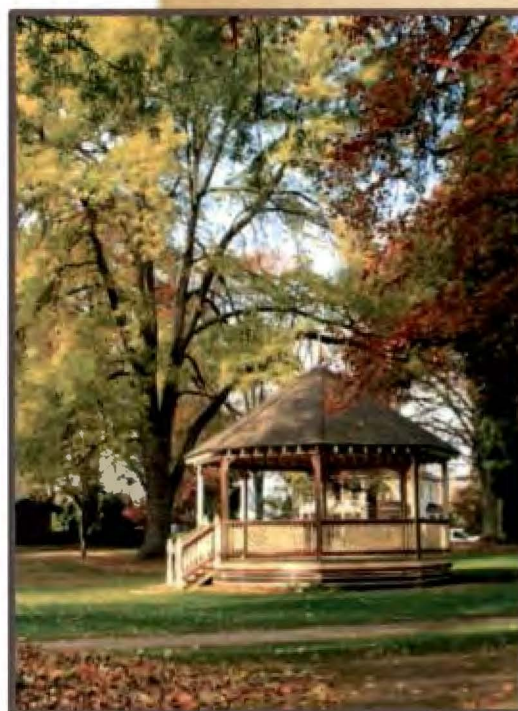
The inventory of existing facilities is divided into the following park classifications:

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Sites
- Open Space
- Trails

Each classification is described below, along with a map locating and identifying each facility. A detailed inventory of recreation activities within each facility, organized by ownership and classification, is also included in *Appendix B*. A more detailed description of each park classification type, including approximate size, service area, development, and acquisition guidelines is included in *Appendix A*.

*"The nation behaves well
if it treats its natural
resources as assets which
it must turn over to the
next generation
increased, and not
impaired, in value."*

- Theodore Roosevelt



Elizabeth Park. Photo by Kristen Krussow.

3.1.1 Neighborhood Park (NP)

Neighborhood parks are the basic recreational focus and center of neighborhoods. They should be developed with both active and passive recreation activities specifically for those living within walking distance of the service area, generally a ½ mile radius. Neighborhood parks should accommodate a wide variety of age and user groups, including youth, adults, seniors and special needs populations. Creating a sense of place by bringing together the unique character of the site with that of the neighborhood is vital to a successful neighborhood park.



Boulevard Park

3.1.2 Community Park (CP)

Community parks are generally larger than neighborhood parks and are intended to serve a broader range of activities and users. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of the larger community with more specialized activities, as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces or environmental features. They allow for group activities and offer other recreation opportunities, such as lighted programmed sports facilities not generally found at the neighborhood level. Due to their larger size, they are often designed to serve both as a neighborhood park function as well as having expanded and unique activities. The community park service area is approximately a one mile radius.

3.1.3 Special Use Site (SU)

The special use classification covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward a single-purpose use. They often fall into three general categories:

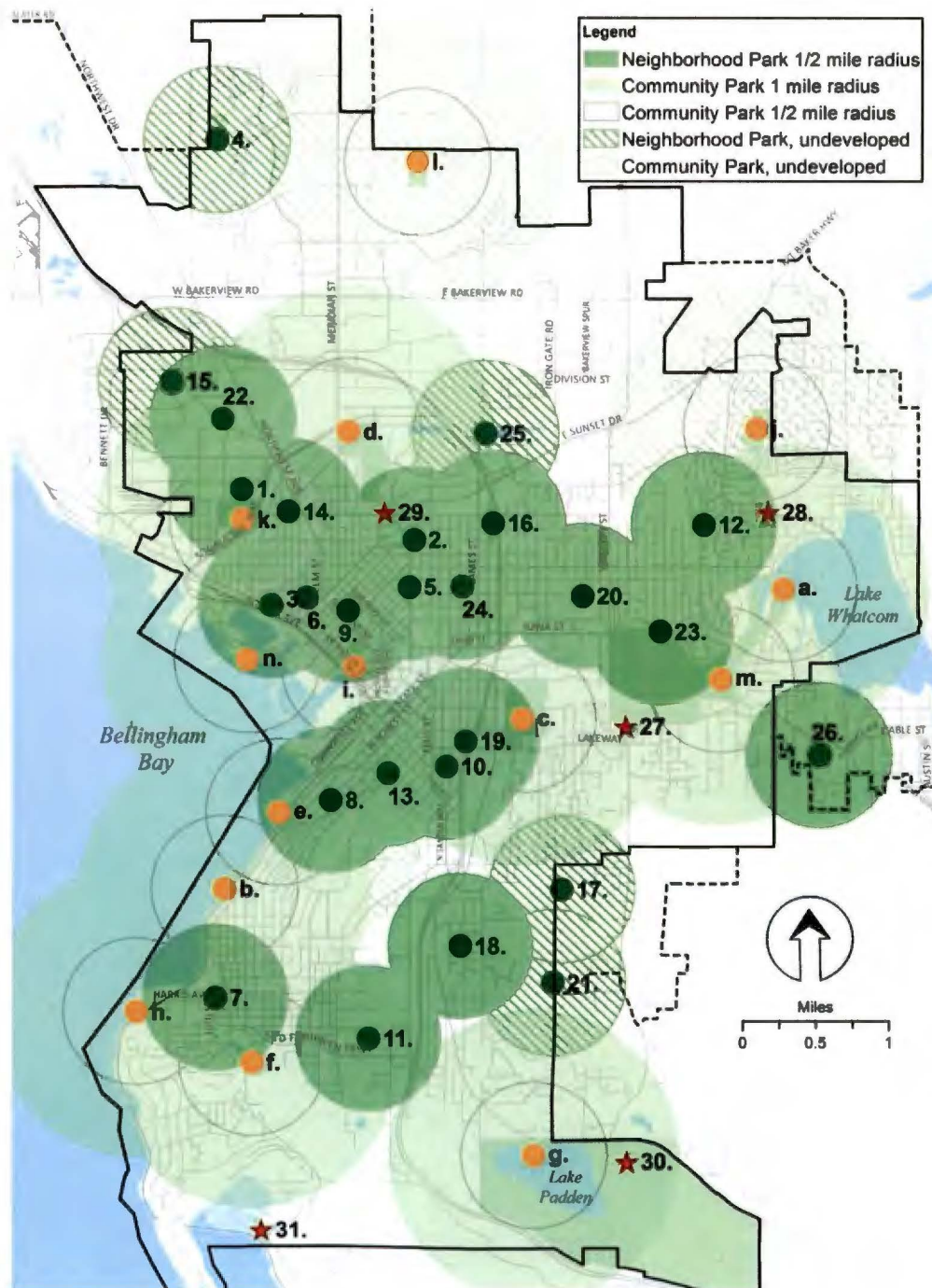
- **Cultural Facilities** – unique resources offering historical, educational, visual/performance art or other similar experiences. These include gardens, art displays, and historic sites.
- **Indoor Facilities** – focused toward indoor uses, such as gymnasiums, community centers, teen/senior centers, aquatic centers, ice arenas, etc.
- **Unique Sites** – generally a single use, but not necessarily of a significance that draws from a larger region. These may include arboretums, cemeteries, plazas, sports stadiums, golf courses, etc., especially when they are not in conjunction with other typical park amenities.



Fairhaven Village Green. Photo by Valerie Polevoi.

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EXISTING FACILITIES PLAN • PARKS AND SPECIAL USE SITES



Community Parks ●

- a. Bloedel Donovan Park
- b. Boulevard Park
- c. Civic Athletic Complex
- d. Cornwall Park
- e. Cornwall Beach Park
- f. Fairhaven Park
- g. Lake Padden Park
- h. Marine Port (Port)
- i. Maritime Heritage Park
- j. Northridge Park
- k. Squaticum Creek Park
- l. Van Wyck Park
- m. Whatcom Falls Park
- n. Zuanich Point Park (Port)

Neighborhood Parks ●

- 1. Birchwood Park
- 2. Broadway Park
- 3. Carl Lobe Park
- 4. Cordata Park
- 5. Cornwall Tot Lot
- 6. Elizabeth Park
- 7. Fairhaven Village Green
- 8. Forest & Cedar Park
- 9. Fouts Park
- 10. Franklin Park
- 11. Happy Valley Park
- 12. Highland Heights Park
- 13. Laurel Park
- 14. Lorraine Ellis Park
- 15. Maplewood McLeod
- 16. Memorial Park
- 17. N. Samish Crest Park
- 18. Ridgemont Park
- 19. Rock Hill Park
- 20. Roosevelt Park
- 21. S. Samish Crest Park
- 22. Shuksan Meadows Park
- 23. St. Clair Park
- 24. Sunnyland Park
- 25. Sunset Pond Park
- 26. Ted Edwards Park (County)

Special Use Sites ★

- 27. Bayview Cemetery
- 28. Big Rock Garden
- 29. Cornwall Rose Garden
- 30. Lake Padden Golf Course
- 31. Woodstock Farm

3.1.4 Open Space (OS)

Open space sites are generally lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, unique landscapes, or visually aesthetic or buffer functions. One of the major purposes of open space is to enhance the livability and character of a community by preserving as many of its natural amenities as possible, as well as providing wildlife habitat in urban areas. Examples include sites with steep slopes, old or second growth forests, wetlands, stream corridors, tidelands, meadows, agricultural lands, shorelines (salt or fresh water), storm water features, and/or watershed or aquifer recharge zones.

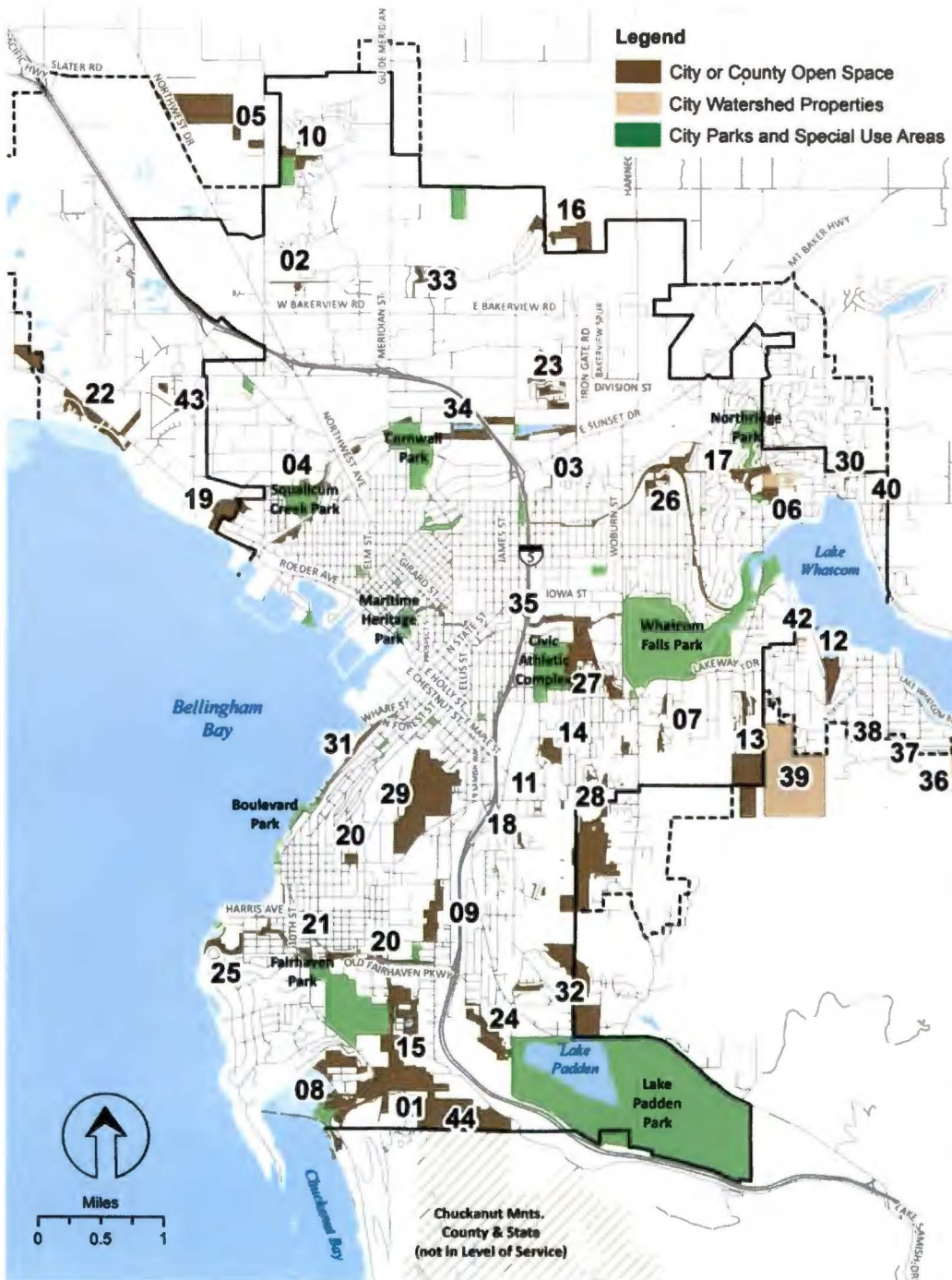


Sehome Hill Arboretum

Open space areas may be developed with trails, educational exhibits, picnic facilities or other similar activities with community benefit where public access is appropriate and is balanced with preservation goals.

In accordance with the Growth Management Act (GMA), Bellingham adopted a critical areas ordinance in 2005 to preserve and protect significant natural areas from development. The Bellingham Municipal Code defines the parameters within which a site with critical areas may be developed. These sites are often encumbered with an easement or covenant to ensure their protection. Preserved critical areas may be either public or private.

EXISTING FACILITIES PLAN • OPEN SPACE



- Legend**
- City or County Open Space
 - City Watershed Properties
 - City Parks and Special Use Areas

- Open Space**
1. Arroyo Nature Area
 2. Bakerview Open Space
 3. Barkley Greenway & Trail
 4. Bay to Baker Greenway
 5. Bear Creek Greenway
 6. Big Rock Open Space
 7. Cemetery Creek Greenway
 8. Chuckanut Bay Open Space & Tidelands
 9. Connelly Creek Nature Area
 10. Cordata Open Space
 11. East Meadow
 12. Euclid Park (City & County)
 13. Galbraith Open Space (City & County)
 14. Hawley Open Space
 15. Interurban Greenway & Trail
 16. King & Queen Mountain Open Space
 17. Klipsun Greenway & Trail
 18. Lazy E Ranch Open Space
 19. Little Squalicum Park
 20. Lowell Park Open Space
 21. Lower Padden Creek Open Space & Trails
 22. North Bay Open Space (City & Port)
 23. Orchard Estates Wetlands
 24. Padden Gorge
 25. Post Point Treatment Plant Open Space (Public Works)
 26. Railroad Greenway & Trail
 27. Salmon Woods Open Space
 28. Samish Crest Open Space
 29. Sehome Hill Arboretum
 30. Silver Creek Open Space
 31. South Bay Greenway & Trail
 32. South Samish Crest Open Space
 33. Spring Creek Nature Area
 34. Squalicum Creek Greenway
 35. Whatcom Creek Greenway & Trail
 36. Lake Geneva (watershed)
 37. Laplante (watershed)
 38. Macate & Wells (watershed)
 39. Oriental Creek (watershed)
 40. Silver Beach (watershed)
 41. Strobe (watershed)
 42. Zamowitz (watershed)
 43. Alderwood Open Space (County)
 44. Chuckanut Mountains (County)

3.1.5 Trails (TR)

While trails may be categorized into many different types, for the purpose of the PRO Plan, trails are generally limited to non-motorized off-road trails. Trails are intended to form a network of connections and linkages in and around the planning area, between neighborhoods, parks, schools, open space, civic facilities and commercial centers.

On-road systems (sidewalks and bike-lanes) are included in the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan. The City recently developed a pedestrian plan and is in the process of developing a bike plan. The community has expressed the desire for all non-motorized elements to be coordinated with an integrated system of directional signage and overlay maps.

Trails should be developed for a variety of uses including walking, biking, running, and horseback riding. Trail widths and surfacing varies depending on the type of use and location. While multi-use trails are generally desirable, not all trails are appropriate for all uses. Narrower trails or trails in sensitive areas may be suitable for pedestrians only. Trails in Bellingham are often located within greenway corridors that preserve native vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Trails that parallel established vehicular corridors or other transportation systems should be separated from them with a physical and/or visual barrier (vegetation, low walls, etc.). Trail corridors may include picnic areas, educational features or trailhead development located independently or shared with other types of park facilities.

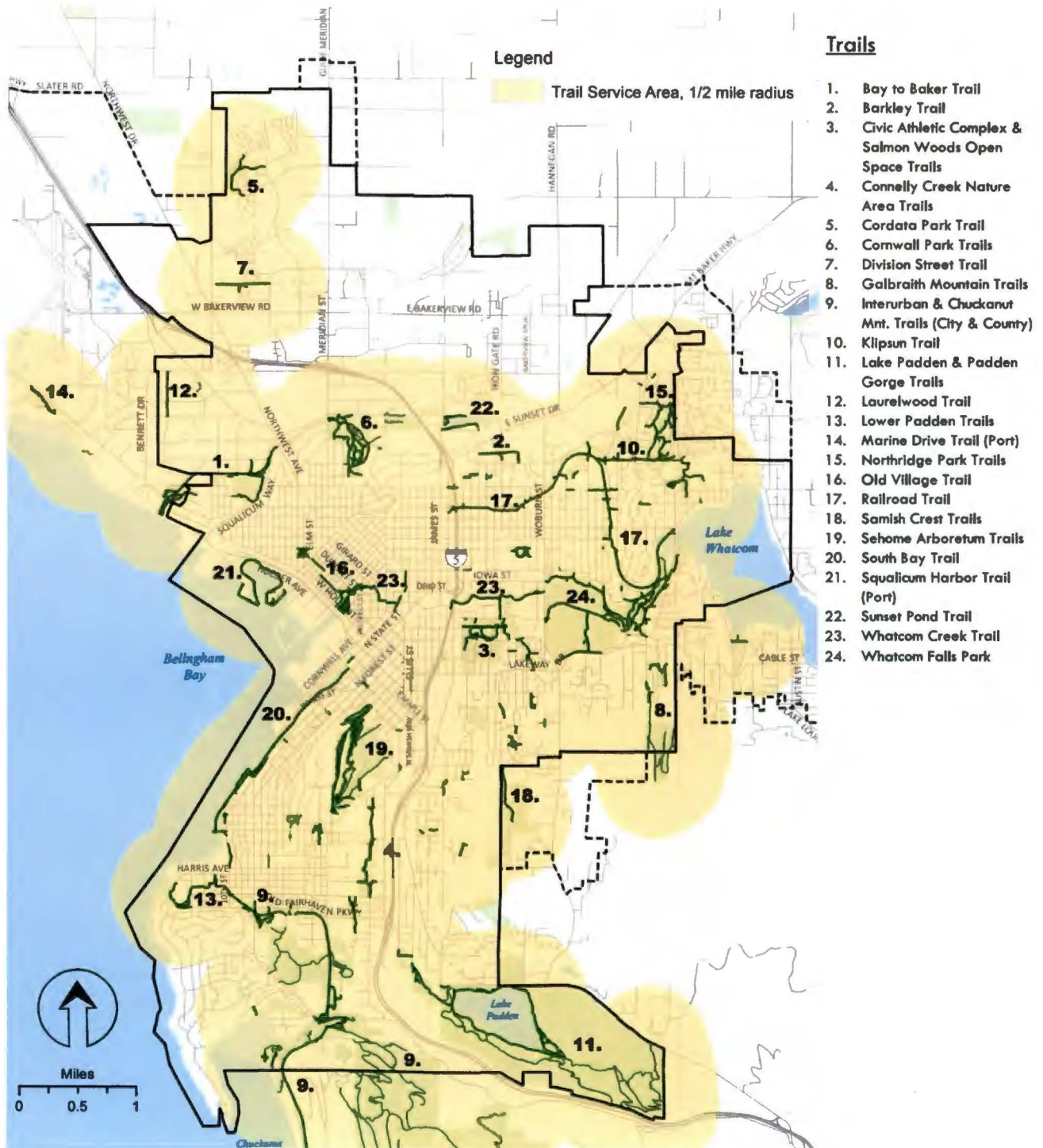


Old Village Trail



Old Village Trail signage

EXISTING FACILITIES PLAN • TRAILS



3.2 Outside the Planning Area

Not Included in Level-Of-Service

An inventory of existing facilities owned or managed by other agencies outside the planning area is listed in *Appendix B*. These facilities are not included in the level-of-service calculations or cost estimates associated with the PRO Plan. They are listed for reference only. They were considered during the planning process as facilities that provide additional service to area residents in the overall evaluation of opportunities available in the area. Ownership of these facilities includes:

- Washington State (WS)
 - Parks Department
 - Department of Natural Resources
 - Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Whatcom County (WC)

Also included in this category are existing school-owned facilities. Since these facilities are available on a limited basis during non-school hours, they are not included in the City's overall level-of-service calculations. The schools include:

- Bellingham School District (BSD)
- Whatcom Community College (WCC)
- Bellingham Technical College (BTC)
- Western Washington University (WWU)

Chapter 4

LAND AND FACILITY DEMAND

A community-based level-of-service is used in this process to more accurately depict local values, interests and populations.

Determining a level-of-service standard for park, recreation, and open space land and facilities can help a community plan and budget for the demands of a growing and changing population. In 2008, the City Council adopted a level-of-service of 35.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. This plan recommends retaining the same level-of-service for park acreage and used a community-based approach to develop specific land and facility demands through the 15 year planning period, or 2029. The ratio of land per population is based on the complete system City-wide and can be broken down by each type of park classification: neighborhood and community parks, special use sites and open space. For example, the proposed level-of-service for neighborhood parks is 1 acre per 1,000 people out of an estimated total of 35.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 people City-wide by the year 2029. See Table 4.5.1 for a breakdown by each classification.

4.1 Population Ratios

The demand for park, recreation and open space is often estimated using a ratio of a facility to a unit of population, such as 18 acres of community parks per 1,000 residents. The ratio method is

relatively simple to compute and can be compared with national or local park, recreation and open space measurements.

A community-based approach is recommended to respond to the needs, values and goals specific to Bellingham.

The most widely used facility ratios have been formulated by the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) using standards that have been developed over time by major park and recreation departments across the country. The NRPA recognizes the limitations of the population ratio methodology and recommends a community-based ratio be developed to reflect the specific conditions and unique nature of each community. The NRPA ratios are presented for comparison purposes only.

4.2 Community-Based Approach

This plan used a community-based approach to determine land and facility needs. Utilizing this approach allowed the citizens of Bellingham to influence the process through public meetings and surveys in which they were asked to evaluate the existing system and express demand for additional facilities. Level-of-service is expressed as a ratio of land to the population (acres per 1,000 people), an overall system dollar value per capita, and the proximity of facilities to the population (service area). The process considered the community expressed interests and needs for a park system and proposed improvements were based on these preferences.

The existing ratio of land to population level-of-service standard uses existing population estimates from the average American Community Survey Demographic Profiles. Proposed additions were then added and divided by the projected population for the life of the plan, as expressed per 1,000 people. This is detailed in Table 4.5.1.



Community input meeting at Bloedel Donovan Park

The Port of Bellingham and Whatcom County provide additional land for park, recreation and open space within the UGA planning area that is included in the level-of-service. School facilities are not included in the level-of-service as they are not always available. Non City owned facilities outside the urban growth area (and therefore not part of the City's purview,) are not included in the level-of-service calculation, but are inventoried in Appendix B. Other major recreational areas, such as the Mount Baker National Recreation Area, North Cascades National Park, and Mount Baker National Forest, also provide a variety of recreational opportunities at a more regional level.

4.3 Future Growth Implications

The forecast population for Bellingham and the Urban Growth Area (UGA) projects an increase from 93,107 people in 2013 to an estimated 111,761 people by the year 2029, an increase of 18,654 people for the 15 year planning period. This forecasted population will require all types of park, recreation and open space lands and facilities within the planning area. This also assumes all current UGA areas will be incorporated into the City within the planning period.

4.4 Level-of-Service (LOS)

Table 4.5.1 shows the existing park acres per 1,000 and system cost per capita and the 2029 proposed acres per 1,000 and cost per capita within the Bellingham planning area.

2013 Value City Only = \$5,208/Capita

2029 Value All UGA = \$6043/Capita

The per capita value of the existing park system of \$5,208/person was derived by quantifying total land acres and total facility improvements for the existing park system and dividing by the 2013 City population. Proposed land and facility quantities were derived by applying average park sizes and facility improvements to the parks, open space, and trails identified through the community process. Specific recommendations such as the location of each proposed park or trail used to generate the base proposed level-of-service are described in greater

detail in *Chapter 6* and specific detail in *Appendix C*. The values are based on current dollar cost data developed from land sales information, land value data, bid documentation, and other local cost data. Raw land cost and facility improvement or construction costs are included.

The level-of-service standard is calculated by dividing the total City or UGA acres of land in each park classification by the respective population. The same calculation is used for existing or proposed (existing acres divided by existing population and proposed acres divided by proposed population). UGA population includes both the City and UGA 2013 estimated populations. A complete inventory of existing land and facilities is included in *Appendix B*.

The value per capita of the City-owned park system is the basis for the City's Park Impact Fee calculation. Cost data used to develop these estimates are defined by each activity type (i.e. cost per acre of land, ball field or playground) in the **Existing Facilities Table** in *Appendix B*. The total value of the existing system is then divided by the existing population. This is done for City-owned facilities only, since that is the basis of the Park Impact Fee. Likewise, the total value of the proposed recommendations is divided by the projected 2029 population to determine the proposed value per capita level-of-service standard. While the proposed value is included in this plan, only the existing, City-



St. Clair Park playground

01/27/2014

owned value is used in the Park Impact Fee calculation. A more detailed description of how these figures relate to the Park Impact Fee calculation can be found in the Bellingham Municipal Code, Chapter 19.04.

The existing UGA land ratio level-of-service standard of 39.9 acres per 1,000 people was arrived at by dividing the total UGA park acres, (including City, County and Port owned park lands) of 3,713.8 acres by the 2013 estimated UGA population of 93,107 divided by 1,000. The plan recognizes residents of the unincorporated UGA are already using existing parks and are therefore included in calculating the existing land ratio of acres/1,000.

In 2008, the City Council adopted a proposed level-of-service acreage ratio for City and UGA residents of 35.8 acres/1,000. Utilizing the Council adopted level-of-service standard, an additional 287.2 acres of parkland is needed if the projected total UGA population level of 111,761 is reached by the year 2029. Over the 15 year planning period, residents should not experience a noticeable reduction in the park level-of-service. Although the overall land acreage ratio is expected to decrease, the recommendations, if implemented will provide a balance of passive and active recreational opportunities that are well distributed throughout the community. Generally, all residential areas of the City should be served with a park and trails within walking distance (a ½ mile radius) and all residents should be within a mile of a community park. Special use sites and open space often reflect unique opportunities and environments and may not be equally distributed by neighborhood throughout the community. The current value per capita of the entire City-owned park system, including both land and facilities, is \$5,208 per person. By the year 2029, the value per person, in today's dollars, would be \$6,043.

4.5 Conclusions

The proposed recommendations, if implemented, will gradually result in a slight reduction in the level-of-service standard for land acreage per 1,000 people by the year 2029 partly due to annexation of existing UGA populations. The value per capita is expected to increase, largely due to projected higher land and development costs. The distribution of parks and trails throughout the community should improve to provide neighborhood parks and trails within a ½ mile radius of all residential areas. Since the PRO Plan is updated every six years, the growth, cost and budget implications can be monitored and adjusted based on revised community preferences and population projections with the 2020 plan update.

The City can use community input provided during the regular six year PRO Plan updates in combination with population forecasts to adequately plan for future growth. If the proposed level-of-service standard is not met, the City may experience a loss of public accessibility and lack of preservation of more sensitive and appealing environmental sites, particularly within the developing urban growth areas. Not implementing the recommendations of the PRO Plan could preclude the purchase and development of close-in, suitable lands for active recreation, such as playgrounds, picnic shelters, athletic fields and courts, and other land-intensive recreational facilities. This may result in crowding of existing recreational facilities, and reduce the availability of organized programs requiring travel to other jurisdictions outside the planning area to meet the demand.

The following Table 4.5.1 shows a comparison between the existing and 2029 proposed population and acres per 1,000 population if the recommendations are implemented.

01/27/2014

TABLE 4.5.1

2013 CITY Estimated Population	82,310
2013 UGA Estimated Population	93,107
2029 UGA Projected Population	111,761

Ownership	Total Land (acres)	Neighborhood Park (acres)	Community Park (acres)	Special Use Park (acres)	Open Space / Trail (acres)	Total Value/Capita
EXISTING PARK SYSTEM ACRES - CITY & UGA						
City of Bellingham	3306.4	79.3	1562.1	305.6	1359.4	\$ 5,208
City Watershed	239.1				239.1	
Port of Bellingham (UGA)	37.2		7.9	4.3	25	n/a
Whatcom County (UGA)	131.1	6.7		1.5	122.9	n/a
TOTAL EXISTING UGA	3713.8	86	1570	311.4	1746.4	\$5,208

PROPOSED PARK SYSTEM ADDITION ACRES - CITY & UGA*						
City of Bellingham (UGA)	287.2	21.6	45	1.6	219	\$ 835
City Watershed (UGA)						n/a
Port of Bellingham (UGA)						n/a
Whatcom County (UGA)						n/a
TOTAL PROPOSED CITY & UGA ACRES BY YEAR 2029	4001	107.6	1615	313	1965.4	

PARK SYSTEM STANDARD - CITY & UGA						
2013 CITY Existing / 1000	45.1	1.0	19.1	3.8	21.2	\$ 5,208
2013 City + UGA Standard/ 1000	39.9	0.9	16.9	3.3	18.8	n/a
2029 City + UGA Standard /1000	35.8	0.9	14.5	2.8	17.6	\$ 6043
NRPA LOS Standard/ 1000	34.5	2.0	8.0	n/a	6.0	

Chapter 5

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The mission of the Bellingham Department of Parks & Recreation is to "Support a healthy community by promoting high quality parks and recreation services."

The following goals and objectives of the Parks and Recreation Department have been organized under the Bellingham City Council Legacies and Strategic Commitments which were adopted in 2009 to insure that future generations will benefit from the work we do today.

Goals are broad statements of intent that describe a desired outcome. Objectives, on the other hand, are both measurable and specific. Objectives help define when a goal has been met.

5.1 Council Legacy: Sense of Place

Council Strategic Commitments

- Support sense of place in neighborhoods
- Encourage development within existing infrastructure
- Preserve historic & cultural resources
- Protect natural green settings & access to open space
- Support people-to-people connections

Parks and Recreation Related Goals and Objectives

5.1.1 GOAL

Provide a high quality, parks, recreation and open space system for a diversity of age and interest groups.

5.1.1.1 OBJECTIVES

- A. Provide Neighborhood and Community Parks.
 - a. Provide a system of neighborhood and community parks so that all residents live within one half mile walking distance of a developed park.
 - b. Emphasize acquisition and development of parks in underserved areas.
 - c. Provide parks with activities for all age groups and abilities, distributed throughout the community.

Bellingham City Council

Legacies and Strategic

Commitments:

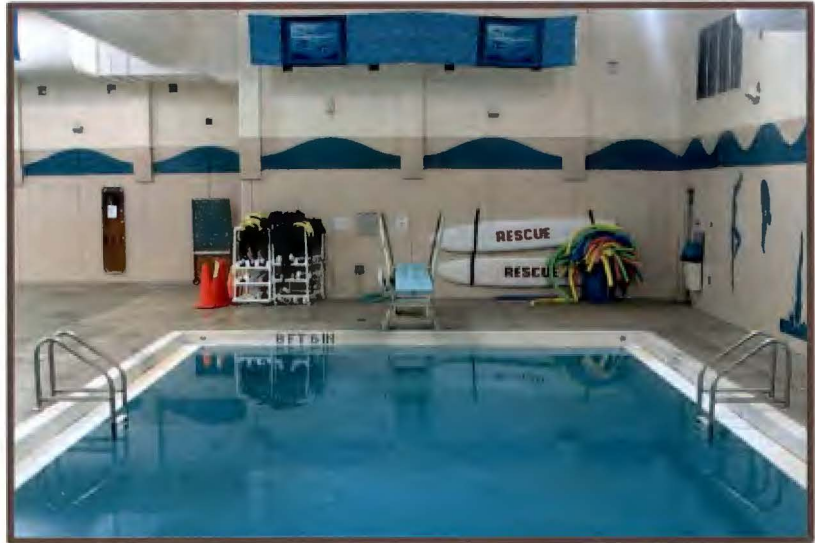
"We are working today so future generations will benefit from:

- Clean, Safe Drinking Water
- Healthy Environment
- Vibrant Sustainable Economy
- Sense of Place
- Safe & Prepared Community
- Mobility & Connectivity Options
- Access to Quality of Life Amenities
- Quality, Responsive City Services
- Equity & Social Justice"

- d. Add capacity to existing parks by expanding facilities or adding land to accommodate increased population.
- e. Identify potential park opportunities in redeveloping areas.
- f. Coordinate with other City departments, public and private agencies and private landowners to set aside land and resources on the most suitable sites.
- g. Acquire additional shoreline access where appropriate for waterside trails, waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, boating and other water related recreational activities.
- h. Develop athletic facilities that meet the playing standards and requirements for all age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests.
- i. Provide a mix of court and field activities like skateboard, basketball, tennis, volleyball, soccer, baseball, and softball that provide for a variety of user groups.
- j. In conjunction with the Bellingham School District, Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College and other public and private agencies, develop a select number of facilities that provide the highest competitive playing standard.
- k. Develop new or improved multi-use facilities to increase flexibility of use for new activities such as pickle ball, disc golf, lacrosse, cricket, rugby or other new recreation trends as demonstrated by community need.
- l. Where appropriate and as funding is available, incorporate art into park facilities such as railings, benches, buildings and other park amenities.
- m. Provide adequate funding and staff for operation and maintenance to insure safe, serviceable, and functional parks and facilities.

B. Provide Special Use Sites.

- a. Where appropriate and economically feasible, coordinate with other agencies to develop and operate specialized and special interest recreational facilities like boat launches, aquatic centers, ice arenas, mountain biking and golf courses.
- b. Develop indoor community spaces for activities such as arts and crafts, music, video, classroom instruction, and meetings serving all age groups on a year-around basis.



Arne Hanna Aquatic Center dive tank

- c. Maintain and expand multiple use indoor recreational facilities that provide aquatic, gymnasium, physical conditioning, recreational courts, and other athletic spaces for all age groups, skill levels and community interests on a year-around basis.
- d. Support development by the Bellingham School District, Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical College, Western Washington University and other organizations of special meeting, assembly, and other community facilities that serve school age populations and the community-at-large at schools and campuses within the Bellingham urban growth area.

- e. Develop and operate special indoor and outdoor facilities and programs that enhance and expand music, dance, drama, and other opportunities for the community-at-large.
- f. Develop a mixture of watercraft access opportunities including canoe, kayak, and other non-power boating activities on Lake Padden, Bellingham Bay and Lake Whatcom when not in conflict with drinking water protection mandates.
- g. Provide adequate funding and staff for operation and maintenance of existing and new special use sites.

5.2 Council Legacy: Mobility & Connectivity Options

Council Strategic Commitments

- Provide safe, well-connected mobility options for all users
- Maintain & improve streets, trails & other infrastructure
- Limit sprawl
- Increase infrastructure for bicycles, pedestrians & non-single-occupancy vehicle modes of transportation
- Reduce dependence on single-occupancy vehicles

Parks and Recreation Related Goals and Objectives

5.2.1 GOAL

Provide an interconnected system of accessible multi-use trails and greenway corridors that offer diverse, healthy outdoor experiences within a rich variety of landscapes and habitats, with connections to public facilities, neighborhoods and business districts.

5.2.1.1 OBJECTIVES

- A. Connect and unify the community with trail and greenway corridors.
 - a. Provide an interconnected system of trails so that all residents are within ½ mile of a trail.
 - b. Provide a comprehensive system of multipurpose off-road trails through public landholdings and cooperating private properties
 - c. Provide a system of trails that link residential areas to community facilities including parks, special use sites, the waterfront, downtown and other unique or frequented destinations.
 - d. Expand existing trail systems into new and growing neighborhoods.
 - e. Promote trail links to neighboring communities.
 - f. Work with other landowners including Whatcom County, WA Department of Natural Resources, private landowners and other appropriate parties to link and extend trails around Bellingham and with King, Stewart, Galbraith, and Chuckanut Mountains.
 - g. Provide adequate funding to maintain existing and new trails.



Cornwall Park trail. Photo by Sandi Heinrich.

- h. Coordinate with other City departments to identify opportunities for trail linkages through large development projects.
- i. Expand transportation options by connecting trails with transit stops, bike routes, and sidewalks to create a comprehensive network of non-motorized transportation throughout Bellingham.



South Bay Trail at Taylor Dock

- B. Provide opportunities for outdoor and local history education within trail corridors.
 - a. Collaborate with local education providers to create outdoor classroom opportunities for learning opportunities and programs.
 - b. Utilize interpretive materials to highlight features such as native flora and historic points of interest.
- C. Encourage outdoor recreation for a diversity of ages and ability levels.
 - a. Provide trails that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - b. Offer easy access to trails.
 - c. Provide a variety of trail experiences and trails that serve multiple uses.
- D. Promote healthy physical and mental well-being.
 - a. Where appropriate, encourage multiple uses of trails: walking, running, bicycling, and horseback riding.
 - b. Provide ample opportunity for rest and contemplation.
 - c. Site trails to take advantage of unique scenic lake, bay, mountain and regional views.
 - d. Offer recreational programs that utilize trails, including fun runs, bike rides and nature walks.
- E. Develop standards for trail amenities.
 - a. Develop trail improvements to a design standard that facilitates maintenance, security, and accommodates necessary personnel, equipment, and vehicles.
 - b. Furnish trail systems with appropriate interpretive, directory and mileage signage as well as rules and regulations for trail use.
 - c. Provide site furnishings such as benches, bike racks, dog waste stations, trash containers.
 - d. Locate trailheads in conjunction with parks, schools, and other community facilities to increase local area access to the trail system and to take advantage of access to restrooms and drinking water.
 - e. Use appropriate native vegetation where feasible.
 - f. Develop and implement a Low Impact Development trail standard.
 - g. Develop and implement a dog waste management plan for existing and new trails.

- F. Advance City-wide priorities to protect, rehabilitate and maintain functioning habitats and corridors in collaboration with other City departments.
- Develop trails and greenway corridors that protect, rehabilitate and maintain natural resources, including plant and animal habitats.
 - Complete trail connections along greenways corridors like Squalicum, Whatcom, and Padden Creeks to provide a high quality, diverse sampling of area environmental resources.
- G. Provide a safe trail environment.
- Utilize Crime Prevention through Environmental Design concepts.
 - Provide lighting in high-use areas and where appropriate.
 - Provide safe parking areas.
 - Avoid blind corners on trails.
 - Where appropriate, provide for surveillance of trails from adjacent property.
 - Provide safety education for trail users.
 - Provide safe crossings of roads, including grade separated crossings of major corridors such as I-5 and Guide Meridian Street.
 - Clearly mark dog off leash areas along trails and enforce on leash rules where they apply.
- H. Encourage community involvement and stewardship of trails.
- Continue and expand the Parks Volunteer Program.
 - Continue and expand the Adopt-a-Trail program.
 - Develop inter-local trail management agreements.
 - Encourage participation in community trail events.
 - Expand on existing relationships with schools, business and non-profit organizations to promote and provide trails throughout the community.

5.3 Council Legacy: Access to Quality of Life Amenities

Council Strategic Commitments

- Maintain & enhance publicly owned assets
- Foster arts, culture & lifelong learning
- Provide recreation & enrichment opportunities for all ages & abilities
- Ensure convenient access to & availability of parks & trails City-wide

Parks and Recreation Related Goals and Objectives

5.3.1 GOAL

Provide high quality recreational programs and services throughout the community that provide fun, educational, accessible and safe environments for people of all ages and abilities.



Summer day camp at Bloedel Donovan Park

01/27/2014

5.3.1.1 OBJECTIVES

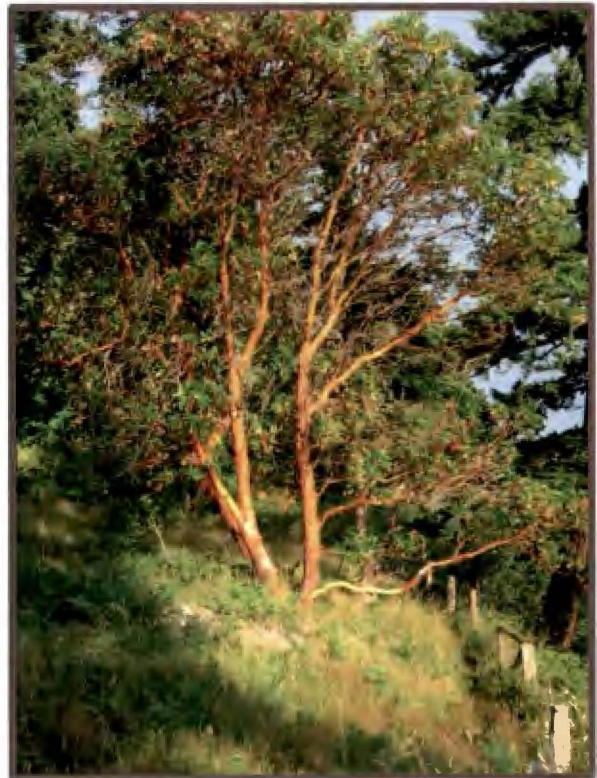
- A. Support arts and crafts, classroom instruction in music and dance, physical conditioning and health care.
- B. Provide meeting facilities, preschool, after school, and other program activities for all cultural, age, physical and mental capability, and income groups in the community.
- C. Support basketball, volleyball, tennis, soccer, baseball, softball, and other team sports, including instruction and programs for all age, skill level, and income groups in the community.
- D. Assist with programs and exhibits that document and develop awareness of Bellingham's heritage.

5.3.2 GOAL

Design and develop facilities that are sustainable, accessible, safe, and easy to maintain, with a consideration of City-wide long-term costs and benefits. Ensure that development is compatible with habitat protection and restoration goals and polices.

5.3.2.1 OBJECTIVES

- A. Design outdoor picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, courts, fields, parking lots, restrooms, and other facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income and activity interests.
- B. Design indoor facility spaces, activity rooms, restrooms, parking lots, and other improvements to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income and activity interests.
- C. Design and develop facilities that reduce overall facility maintenance, operation requirements and costs.
- D. Where appropriate, to the greatest extent possible, use low maintenance materials, or other value engineering considerations that reduce maintenance and security requirements, and retain natural conditions and experiences.
- E. Develop a maintenance management system to estimate and plan for life cycle maintenance and replacement costs.
- F. Implement the provisions and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other design and development standards that improve park facility safety and security features for park users, department personnel, and the public-at-large.



Madrona tree at Inspiration Point

- G. Develop and implement safety standards, procedures, and programs that will provide proper training and awareness for department personnel.
- H. Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that will protect user groups, department personnel, and the general public-at-large.
- I. Where appropriate, use Adopt-a-Park programs, neighborhood park watches, park police patrols, and other programs to increase safety and security awareness and visibility.
- J. Develop and utilize standardized identification, enforcement and wayfinding signage.

5.4 Council Legacy: Healthy Environment

Council Strategic Commitments

- Protect & improve the health of lakes, streams & bay
- Protect & restore ecological functions & habitat
- Reduce contributions to climate change
- Conserve natural & consumable resources

Parks and Recreation Related Goals and Objectives

5.4.1 GOAL

Contribute to a healthy environment in the selection of new properties, and the development and maintenance of park facilities.

5.4.1.1 OBJECTIVES

- A. Utilize efficient, ecological techniques to mitigate stormwater at developed park and trail facilities such as infiltration and natural dispersion, where feasible.
- B. Utilize Low Impact Development practices in the development and renovation of park facilities.
- C. Train staff on the best management practices to be incorporated in new development projects and in ongoing maintenance.
- D. Conserve natural and consumable resources by using environmentally friendly products and practices.
- E. Ensure that development is compatible with habitat protection and restoration goals and polices.
- F. Provide recycling opportunities and facilities at public parks and points along trails.



Marine wildlife at Maritime Heritage Park

5.4.2 GOAL

Provide a high quality, diversified open space system that protects and enhances significant and diverse environmental resources and features, including wildlife habitat, migration corridors, agricultural lands, natural meadows, urban forests, and water resources. Work with other City departments to achieve the following objectives:



Deer at Woodstock Farm

5.4.2.1 OBJECTIVES

- A. Define, maintain, and protect a system of open space corridors and buffers to provide separation between natural areas and urban land uses within the Bellingham developing area.
- B. Maintain, conserve and restore natural area linkages for trails.
- C. Maintain land for the reestablishment, protection and enhancement of ecological functions and habitat.
- D. Protect significant environmental features including wetlands, woodlands, prairies, meadows, shorelines, waterfronts, functioning urban forests, and hillsides that reflect Bellingham's natural character.
- E. Balance the demand for public access and interpretive education with protection of environmentally sensitive areas and sites that are especially unique to the Bellingham area.
- F. Identify and conserve wildlife habitat including nesting sites, foraging areas, and migration corridors within or adjacent to natural areas, open spaces, and the developed urban area.
- G. Restore, protect and improve habitat sites, including creeks and streams, that support threatened species and urban wildlife.
- H. Maintain and restore unique environmental features or areas in future land developments and increase public use and access. Cooperate with other public and private agencies and with private landowners to set aside unique features or areas as publicly accessible resources.
- I. Provide operation and maintenance resources for forestry management, habitat protection and code enforcement in existing and new open space areas.
- J. When necessary for mitigation, develop, maintain and monitor wetland enhancement sites for successful establishment.
- K. Involve the community in on-going habitat restoration and maintenance activities through the Parks Volunteer Program.
- L. Limit access by people and pets at high priority habitat protection, restoration and enhancement sites.
- M. Cooperate with ongoing City-wide habitat restoration efforts.

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5.5 Council Legacy: Vibrant Sustainable Economy

Council Strategic Commitments

- Support a thriving local economy across all sectors
- Promote inter-dependence of environmental, economic & social interests
- Create conditions that encourage public & private investment
- Foster vibrant downtown & other commercial centers
- Preserve farmland & the agricultural economy

Parks and Recreation Related Goals and Objectives

5.5.1 GOAL

Meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. Make decisions today that sustain our activities and the natural environment for the future.

5.5.1.1 OBJECTIVES

- A. Promote sustainable landscapes to protect, maintain and restore ecological functions of natural areas. Protect park and open space lands by reducing adverse impacts to the environment during development and long term use.
- B. Reduce emissions, pollution, and toxic materials to protect water and other natural resources. Mitigate the use of fossil fuels by reducing energy and vehicle use. Promote multi-modal transportation by developing trails and locating parks on bus routes or within walking distance of residents.
- C. Foster environmental stewardship through education programs and activities.
- D. Provide safe and convenient access to public lands, conservation areas, and water that does not damage critical areas.
- E. Instill a love of nature and a commitment for caring for our resources through the Park Volunteer program.
- F. Choose durable products to promote human health in a safe environment and consider life-cycle analysis of material options. Incorporate green building technology including nontoxic materials and sustainable development practices. Select local products where feasible. Consider environmental as well as economic impacts.
- G. Provide scholarships for low income families to participate in recreation activities.
- H. Maintain a world class park system that attracts tourism and benefits the local economy.



"Dirty Dan Harris" at Fairhaven Village Green. Photo by Kenni Merritt.

- I. Foster volunteer groups that support special use facilities such as the Woodstock Farm Conservancy and Friends of Big Rock Garden.
- J. Provide spaces for community events such the Farmer's Market and the outdoor cinema at Fairhaven Village Green.

5.6 Council Legacy: Quality, Responsive City Services

Council Strategic Commitments

- Deliver efficient, effective & accountable municipal services
- Use transparent processes & involve stakeholders in decisions
- Provide access to accurate information
- Recruit, retain & support quality employees

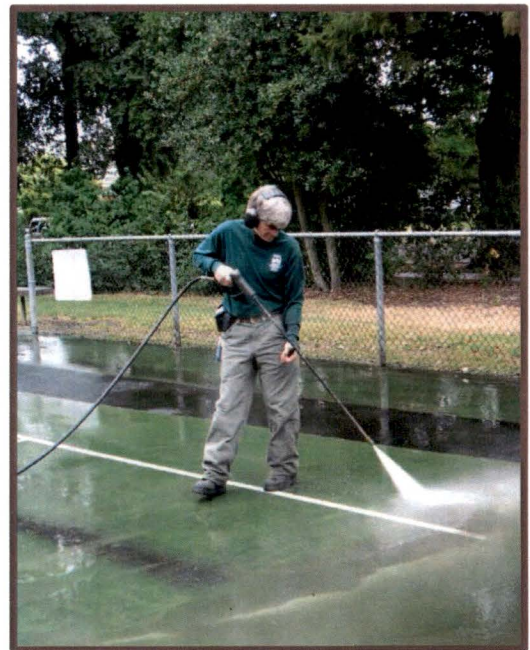
Parks and Recreation Related Goals and Objectives

5.6.1 GOAL

Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining facilities and programs that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.

5.6.1.1 OBJECTIVES

- A. Investigate innovative means to finance maintenance and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase facility services.
- B. Consider joint ventures with other public and private agencies such as the Bellingham School District, Whatcom County, Port of Bellingham, Whatcom Community College, regional, state, federal, and other public and private agencies including for-profit concessionaires, where feasible and desirable.
- C. To best serve and provide for area residents' interests, create a comprehensive and balanced park, recreation, and open space system that integrates Bellingham facilities and services with resources available from the Bellingham School District, Whatcom County, Port of Bellingham, Whatcom Community College and other state, federal, and private park and recreational lands and facilities.
- D. Coordinate with the Bellingham School District, Whatcom County, Port of Bellingham, Whatcom Community College and other public and private agencies to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, and reduce costs through joint planning and development efforts.
- E. Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining park and recreational facilities that accurately distributes costs and benefits to public and private user interests - including the application of impact fees where new developments impact level-of-service standards.



Elizabeth Park tennis court maintenance

- F. Develop and operate lifetime recreational programs that serve the broadest needs of the population, while recovering program and operating costs with a combination of registration fees, user fees, grants, sponsorships, donations, scholarships, volunteer efforts, and the use of general funding.
- G. Where appropriate, provide recreational programs, like golf and boating facilities, for user groups willing to finance the cost through donations, registration fees, volunteer efforts or other means and methods.

5.6.2 GOAL

Develop, staff, train, and support a professional Parks and Recreation Department that effectively serves the community.

5.6.2.1 OBJECTIVES

- A. Employ a diverse, well-trained work force that is knowledgeable, productive, courteous, responsive and motivated to achieve department and City-wide goals.
- B. Encourage teamwork through communication-, creativity, positive image, risk taking, sharing of resources, and cooperation toward common goals.
- C. Provide staff with education, training, equipment and supplies to increase personal productivity, efficiency, and pride.
- D. Monitor work load and staffing needs to maintain an adequate, efficient work force.

5.7 Council Legacy: Clean, Safe Drinking Water

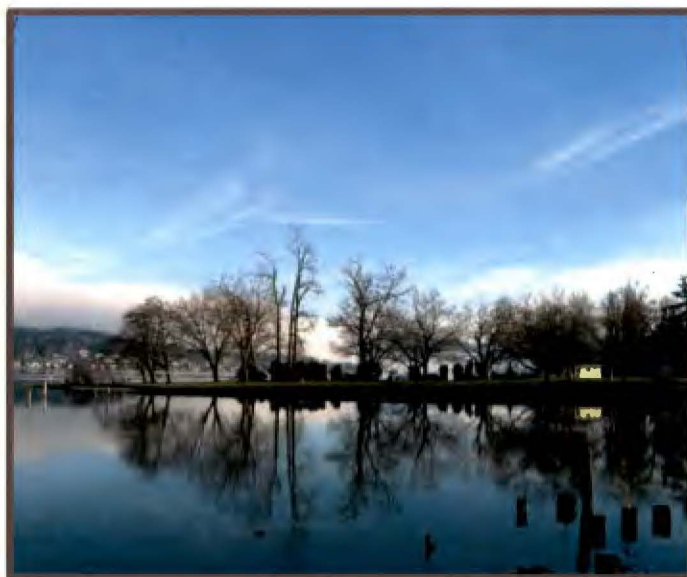
Council Strategic Commitments

- Protect & improve drinking water sources
- Limit development in Lake Whatcom watershed
- Use efficient, ecological treatment techniques
- Maintain reliable distribution system
- Promote water conservation

Parks and Recreation Related Goals and Objectives

5.7.1 GOAL

Protect our drinking water source by appropriately protecting, restoring and managing park lands in the Lake Whatcom Watershed.



Bloedel Donovan Park on Lake Whatcom.

5.7.1.1 OBJECTIVES

- A. Mitigate public demand for recreation in the watershed with appropriate protection measures through design and maintenance. Limit access where impacts to water quality may occur.
- B. Manage dog off-leash areas to reduce impacts.

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- C. Implement on-site stormwater infiltration to reduce runoff.
- D. Maintain and enhance the forested condition of park properties in the watershed.
- E. Work with private organizations to promote non-motorized boating on Lake Whatcom.
- F. Cooperate with boater education, safety and inspection programs.

5.7.2 GOAL

Promote water conservation at all park facilities.

5.7.2.1 OBJECTIVES

- A. Utilize drought tolerant plants where appropriate.
- B. Reduce irrigation of established lawns.
- C. Incorporate programmable irrigation systems which are operated by a central computer system at ball fields and at Lake Padden Golf Course.
- D. Provide non-irrigated landscape demonstration sites.

5.8 Council Legacy: Safe and Prepared Community

Council Strategic Commitments

- Prevent and respond to emergencies
- Prevent and respond to crime
- Ensure safe infrastructure
- Increase community readiness and resilience

Parks and Recreation Related Goals and Objectives

5.8.1 GOAL

Contribute to making Bellingham a safe and prepared community.

5.8.1.1 OBJECTIVES

- A. Assess and manage risks associated with trees and vegetation on City property.
- B. Incorporate crime prevention through environmental design and maintenance.
- C. Consider emergency access in trail and open space design and maintenance.
- D. Promote safe and fun recreational opportunities that are deterrence to crime.
- E. Provide lifeguard and water safety programs at Arne Hanna Aquatic Center.



Park Arborist

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- F. Provide First Aid/CPR/AED certification classes and training through Arne Hanna Aquatic Center.
- G. Cooperate with agencies in providing park property for emergency response training.
- H. Hire and retain professionally certified, trained staff to design, inspect and maintain park infrastructure.

5.9 Council Legacy: Equity and Social Justice

Council Strategic Commitments

- Provide access to problem-solving resources
- Support safe, affordable housing
- Increase living wage employment
- Support services for lower-income residents
- Cultivate respect & appreciation for diversity

Parks and Recreation Related Goals and Objectives

5.9.1 GOAL

Provide park and recreation facilities and services to all residents of our community.



Park Volunteer Program work party

5.9.1.1 OBJECTIVES

- A. Provide parks that create places for people to elevate their mental, physical and spiritual health.
- B. By providing a variety of programs, foster social problem-solving, teamwork, cooperation, volunteerism, respect and stewardship.
- C. Support social service providers with outlets to distribute information to the community.
- D. Utilize Community Development Block Grant funds and other resources to provide parks in low income neighborhoods.
- E. Provide scholarships for low income families and individuals.
- F. Offer and support integrated recreation programs for people of all abilities and resources.
- G. Provide public gathering areas where people can assemble for social interaction and to exercise freedom of speech.

Chapter 6

RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall Vision

- *More Trail and Trail Connections*
- *Equal Access to Park Facilities and Programs*
- *Water Access*
- *Environment*
- *Variety*

The following recommendations for park, recreation and open space facilities in Bellingham are based on the results of existing inventories, needs analysis (trends, population, level-of-service), public input, workshop, and surveys. The recommendations outline the vision developed for the park system within the Bellingham urban growth area through the year 2029, although the PRO Plan is scheduled to be updated again in 2020. A detailed list of each proposed facility is included in Appendix C.

The recommendations, proposals and projects outlined in the PRO Plan are conceptual and subject to further study, feasibility and funding. It is specifically NOT the intention of this plan that any recommendation included here limit the City's ability to act on an opportunity that may arise provided the opportunity supports the overall vision, goals or objectives of the Parks and Recreation Department in Bellingham as discussed in the PRO Plan.



Bloedel Donovan Park Playground

Coordination with other public or private entities that may be affected by or interested in the final outcome of any particular project, such as adjacent residents or funding partners, may influence the final outcome of a particular recommendation. As a result, all recommendations presented here are done with the understanding that they will only be implemented as opportunity, funding, and feasibility allow. All land acquisitions and capital projects are subject to further approval by the City Council.

6.1 Overall Vision

Throughout the process to develop the PRO Plan, several themes emerged reflecting the high value Bellingham residents place on the park system and how they see themselves using parks, recreation and open space facilities in the years ahead. These include:

- **More Trail and Trail Connections** - More people use trails in Bellingham than any other recreation facility and trails are mentioned more frequently than other facilities when asked what we need more of.
- **Equal Access to Park Facilities and Programs** - All neighborhoods should be provided a minimum level-of-service access to park and recreation facilities and programs. All residents should live within ½ mile of a park and a trail. Priority should be given to projects in underserved areas within the City boundary;
- **Water Access** - Access to the water, for viewing, boating, fishing and general enjoyment is important. Waterfront park development is a priority;
- **Environment** – A strong recognition of the value of the natural environment as a core component of the Bellingham park system;
- **Variety** – The desire for the system to continue to offer a variety of choices, for recreational activities of all types, for all ages and abilities. Some specific ideas suggested during the planning process included more programs for youth, seniors and people with disabilities and more recreation opportunities including kayaking, pickle ball, mountain bike skills, lacrosse, rugby, and others.

6.2 Neighborhood Parks (NP)

Neighborhood parks should be developed to provide both active and passive recreation for neighborhood residents, children and families. Neighborhood parks should be located within easy walking distance of residential development with a service area of a ½ mile radius. Neighborhood parks may include playgrounds, picnic facilities, trail systems, natural areas, and other amenities as outlined in *Appendix A*, to create an accessible neighborhood service system in the Bellingham urban area.

Neighborhood parks may be independent properties or combined with other sites including trail corridors, community parks, special use sites or other public facilities.



Birchwood Park

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Specific Recommendations

As a result of the public process and needs analysis, specific recommendations for neighborhood parks in Bellingham include:

- Acquire and develop new neighborhood parks in the City limits to be located in the general vicinity shown on the following map including in the Cordata, Bakerview, Barkley, Yew Street and the Waterfront area;
- Develop master plans and/or subsequent improvements at existing undeveloped parks including Cordata Park, Sunset Pond Park and North Samish Hill Park;
- Improve or add restrooms at neighborhood parks where feasible and provide a guide to restrooms that are available during winter months;
- Actively pursue the creation of a centrally-located town square in downtown Bellingham; and
- Provide more small gathering spaces, especially in the urban area as infill occurs, potentially accomplished through development regulations and guidelines.

6.3 Community Parks (CP)

Community parks provide a wide variety of active and passive recreational opportunities. In general, community parks are larger in size and serve an area of at least a one mile radius. Community parks may also provide programmed indoor facilities and lighted competitive athletic courts and fields including tennis, soccer, football, rugby, lacrosse, softball, and baseball. Adequate off street parking is usually needed to accommodate larger events that occur at community parks. Other community park amenities are outlined in *Appendix A*. A community park will often serve a neighborhood park function as well, increasing the use of the park and the overall efficiency of the system.

Specific Recommendations

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for community parks in Bellingham include:

- Master plan and develop Cornwall Beach Park and Van Wyck Park;
- Acquire and develop one new community park in NW Bellingham;
- Complete all master plan improvements at Squalicum Creek Park;
- Complete identified stormwater and shoreline improvements at Bloedel Donovan Park;



Lake Padden Park

- Complete identified shoreline improvements at Boulevard Park
- Replace natural field surfaces with synthetic surfaces to maximize use, where feasible at Joe Martin, Geri Fields, Squalicum Creek Park and other sites;
- Improve drainage conditions at Lake Padden Park;
- Improve restrooms and allow winter access at selected park sites with a guide to those restrooms available in winter months;
- Improve and add off-leash dog areas in existing and new parks to provide a variety of dog areas (fenced, open, water) with appropriate regulatory signage;
- Implement recommendations for improving Maritime Heritage Park;
- Provide larger event spaces such as enclosed meeting rooms and outdoor shelters suitable for family gatherings, weddings, festivals, charity and corporate events;
- Provide some covered activity areas, such as benches, playgrounds or courts for more year-around use;
- Develop parking and transportation alternatives, such as shuttle routes, safer and more visible bike or trail routes and more convenient public transportation service— especially during group events, festivals or other special activities; and
- Develop improvement plans to enhance and add capacity at existing community parks, such as expanding play areas; and
- Complete a master plan for the Chuckanut Ridge property (a.k.a. Fairhaven Highlands).



Lake Padden Park

6.4 Special Use Sites (SU)

Special use sites may be independent properties or portions of other sites that include trail corridors, neighborhood parks, community parks, open spaces or regional facilities.

Special use sites may be acquired or developed to provide activities for a variety of ages or interests. Special use facilities may include historic or natural interpretive centers, marina and boating activities, golf courses, or similar facilities. Special use sites also include maintenance yards, plant nurseries, and administrative offices necessary to support park and recreation programs and facilities.

A community or recreation center is another type of special use site, as are many other types of indoor recreation facilities. Community centers may be developed to provide indoor activities for day and

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evening use on a year-around basis. They may utilize the existing municipal, county, and school facilities by providing space for gymnasiums, physical conditioning, arts and crafts, class and instruction rooms, meeting facilities, teen and senior centers and other resource activities for special populations. Community centers may also incorporate visual or performing arts, historic and interpretive exhibits, and other specialized activities and be developed as stand-alone facilities or jointly with administrative or maintenance activities.

Specific Recommendations

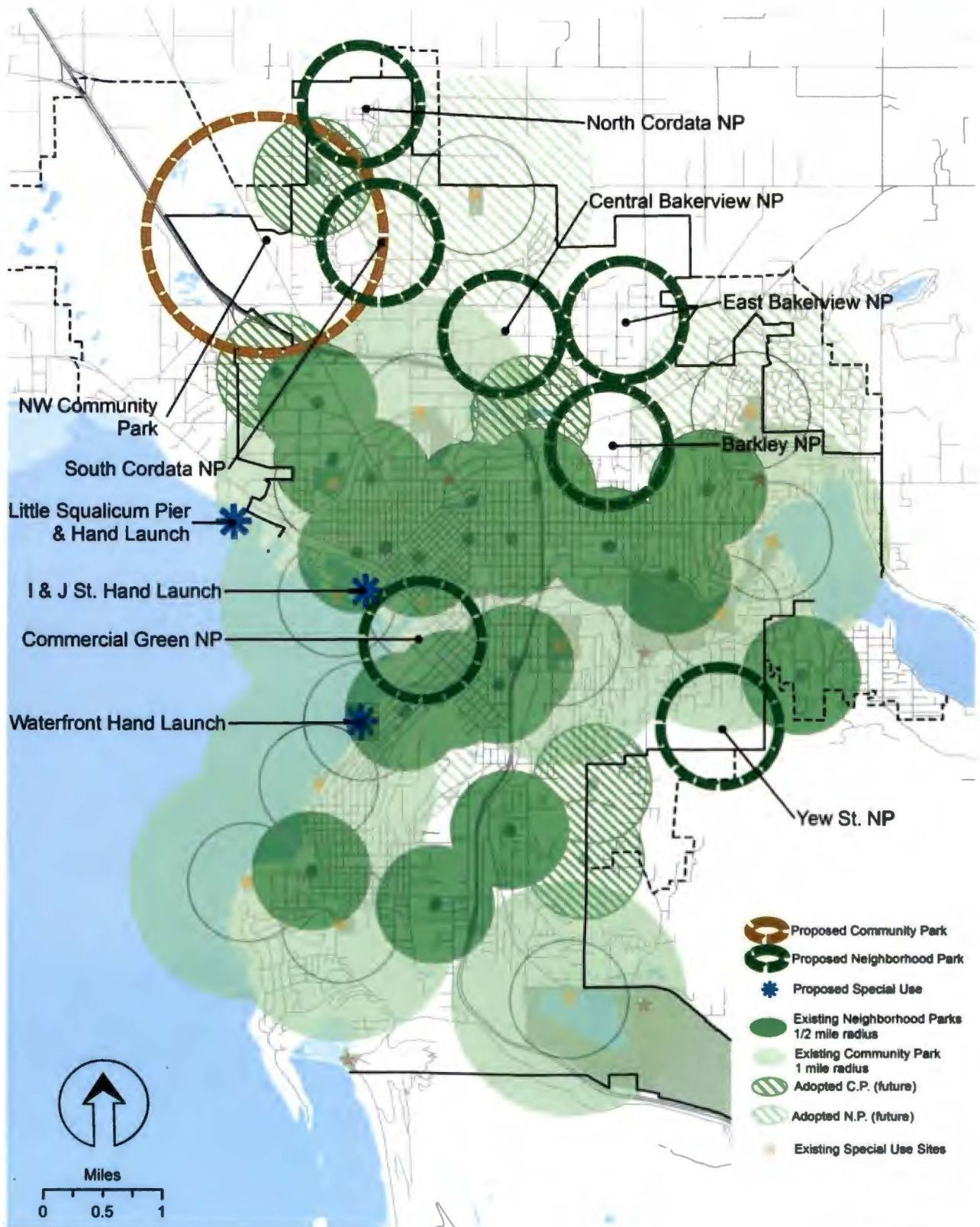
As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for special use sites in the Bellingham park system include:

- Implement improvements at Woodstock Farm to include parking and a trail access plan and other improvements as feasible. Develop a long range maintenance plan for the site;
- Implement improvements at Big Rock Garden;
- Provide environmental education opportunities such as interpretive signage and/or other educational and stewardship related activities or programs to promote the value of the natural environment throughout the park system;
- Acquire or develop new or improved town square or plaza space downtown and in urban villages such as Old Town, Samish and at Fountain Plaza;
- Acquire and develop new hand-carry boat launch or landing facilities in conjunction with park development in the Waterfront District and at other locations shown on the map on page 48; and
- Acquire and renovate the pier for public access at Little Squalicum Park.



Woodstock Farm

RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • PARKS AND SPECIAL USE SITES



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6.5 Open Space (OS)

Open space is generally acquired to protect, restore and provide access where appropriate to wetlands, woodlands, meadows, agricultural lands, foraging and nesting areas and other sensitive or unique ecological features. New open space areas should link to existing open spaces to create a network of wildlife migration corridors and greenway trail corridors. These linked areas visually define and separate developed areas in accordance with the objectives of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). The linked areas should lead to open space anchors: larger open space sites that help visually break up development patterns and preserve large tracts of ecologically important areas.

Open space may include trails and interpretive facilities that increase public awareness and appreciation of significant and visually interesting ecological features. Depending on site specific conditions and feasibility, supporting services such as wildlife viewing areas, trailheads, parking lots and restrooms may also be developed.

Open space may be located on independent properties or include portions of other sites provided for parks, recreation, trail corridors or other public facilities. Open space may also be preserved on privately-owned land, subject to public use agreements or easements, or on land acquired for public purposes such as stormwater management, and wastewater treatment sites.

Specific Recommendations

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for open space in Bellingham include:

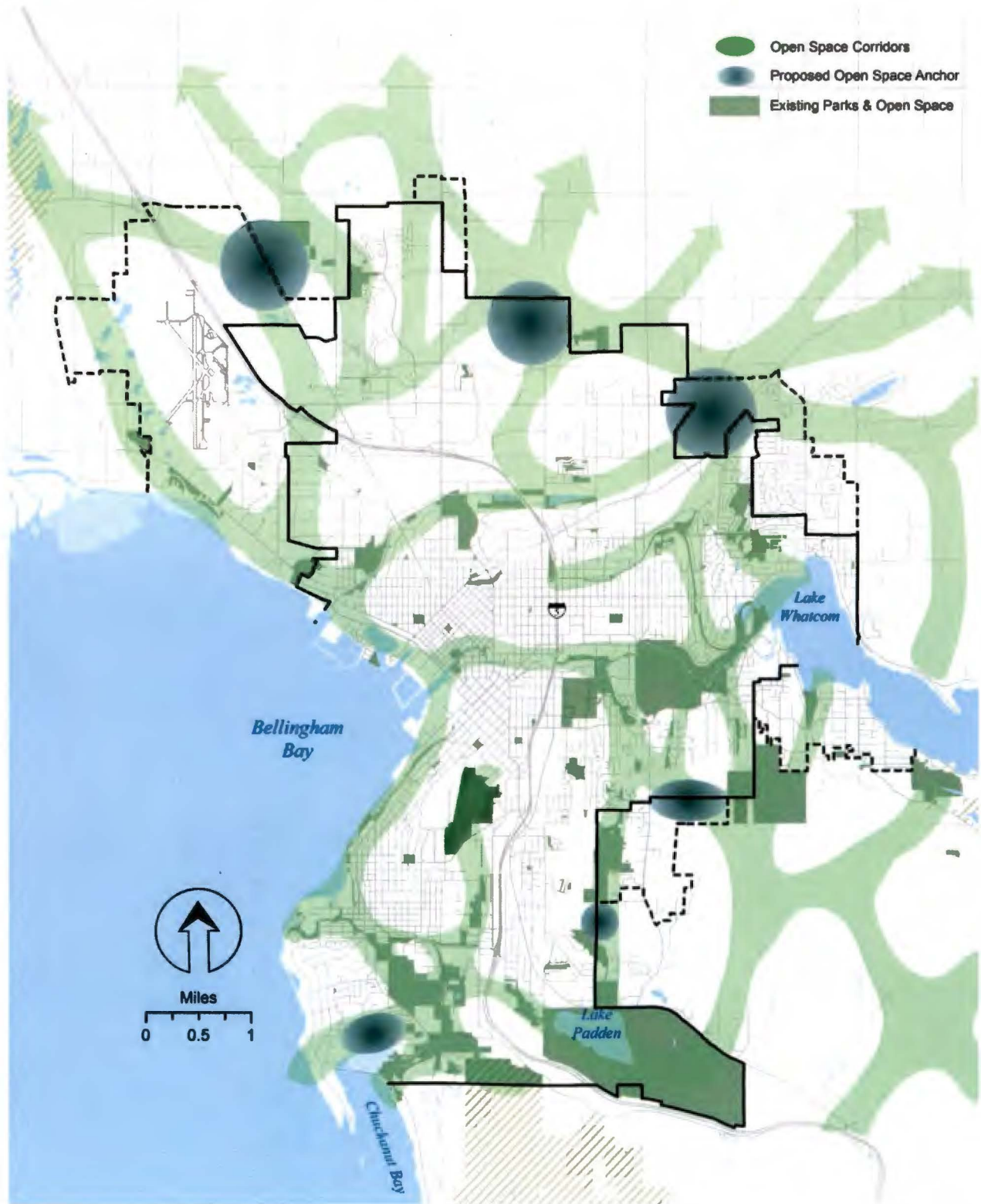
- Acquire additional greenway corridors as identified on the map following this section;
- Acquire additional open space anchors in the general vicinity of the areas identified on the following map;
- Provide environmental education opportunities such as interpretive signage and/or other educational and stewardship related activities or programs to promote the value of the natural environment throughout the park system;
- Acquire additional salt waterfront land and tidelands to expand the network of open space and public access along Bellingham Bay; and
- Acquire additional lakefront and creek side land whenever possible to provide increased protection and appropriate access to Bellingham water resources.

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General Open Space Guidelines:

- *Protection may occur through acquisition or easements, development rights and other similar non-fee simple arrangements;*
- *Provisions for public access and interpretive use should be included where appropriate;*
- *Conservation of wildlife migration corridors and critical habitats should be considered; and*
- *Tax incentives, density bonuses, transfer rights and other methods should be encouraged.*

RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • OPEN SPACE



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6.6 Trails (TR)

While trails may be categorized into many different types, for the purpose of the PRO Plan, trails are generally limited to off-road trails. Trails should be developed for a variety of uses including walking, biking, and horseback riding. Trails may be developed to link park and recreational facilities, open spaces, community centers, neighborhoods, commercial and office centers, schools, and other major destinations in the Bellingham area. Trail widths and surfacing may vary depending on the type of use and location. While not all trails are appropriate for all uses, multipurpose trails are generally preferred and should be developed to provide for one or more modes of non-motorized travel.

General Trail Guidelines:

- *Conserve natural features;*
- *Define urban identities;*
- *Link community facilities;*
- *Ensure safety/security along trail corridors;*
- *Provide identification, way-finding and directional signage along routes;*
- *Serve people with varied abilities;*
- *Promote commuter and other non-motorized transportation.*

Trails should be developed within corridors separated from vehicles or other motorized forms of transportation. Trails may be located in separate easements or within parks and open spaces. In some instances when other alternatives are not available, trails may be developed within the right-of-way of vehicular or other transportation corridors, but should be separated by vegetation or other features.

Multipurpose trails should generally be developed to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) trail standards. Trails may be concrete, asphalt or a fine crushed rock base, provided the material meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and is usable by all age and skill groups. Select trail corridors, including those within the Waterfront District, should be concrete or asphalt to allow for a greater flexibility of use and accessibility.

Off-leash dog use should not be allowed on multi-purpose trails but designated only on trails specifically developed for that use. This may be accomplished through physical designations (i.e., only certain trail corridors) or through time limitations (i.e., late evenings or other non-peak times).

Trail corridors may be improved with trailhead services including benches, parking lots, restrooms, drinking water or other facilities. Where the trail is located in association with another park and recreation improvement or public facility, the trailhead may be improved with picnic, playgrounds and informal lawn areas.

Shoreline trails may be unimproved and may cross over tidelands. Trails may also include boardwalks developed over wetlands, other water bodies or on top of jetty breakwaters to provide access to waterfront activities and viewpoints along lakes, natural areas, or Bellingham and Chuckanut Bays.

Multipurpose trail corridors may be independent properties or include portions of other sites provided for parks, open space or other public facilities. Linked with open space areas and greenways, multipurpose trails create a system of corridors to integrate and define the developed portions of the urban area from each other in accordance with the Growth Management Act's (GMA) provisions for urban separators.



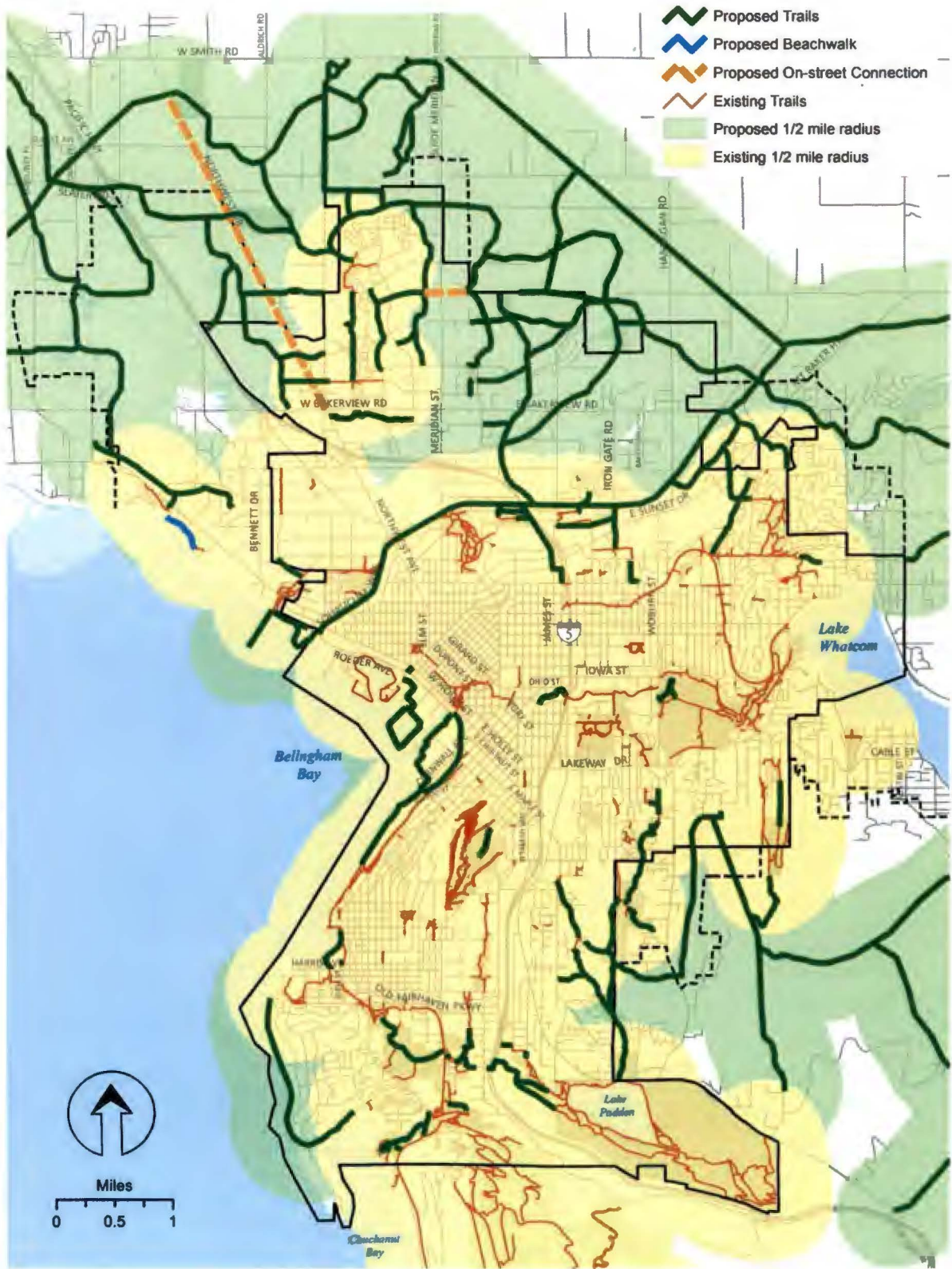
Northridge Park trail

Specific Recommendations

As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for multi-purpose trails in Bellingham include:

- Acquire and/or develop new trail connections as shown on the following map in order to provide an off-street trail within a half mile of every resident in Bellingham;
- Coordinate with Public Works to identify opportunities for better trail, sidewalk and bike route connectivity;
- Continue to explore new trail surface alternatives that balance the natural character of Bellingham's trail system with accessibility requirements, long-term maintenance, sustainable development practices and availability of local materials;
- Institute a maintenance replacement program to monitor, maintain, improve and/or replace trail features, including bridges, boardwalks and stairs;
- Acquire and/or develop trailheads (parking, signage, restrooms, picnic areas, etc.) at Whatcom Falls Park, Galbraith Mountain area, Woodstock Farm and North Chuckanut Trailhead;
- Acquire and develop safe multimodal crossings of Guide Meridian Street and Interstate 5 in key locations generally located on the following map.

RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • TRAILS



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Chapter 7

IMPLEMENTATION

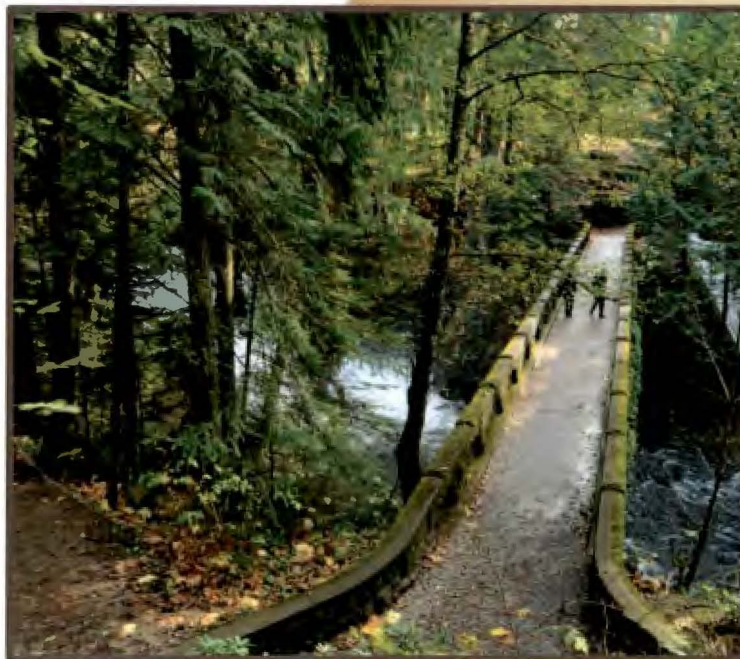
The financial strategy for Bellingham Parks and Recreation for the next six to 15-year period should generate sufficient revenue to maintain existing facilities, provide recreational program services, renovate facilities, and implement priority projects from the proposed recommendations.

The following forecasts are based on average trends in capital facility fund expenditures by the City during recent years. However, it should be noted that priorities shift over time, responding to new interests, opportunities, and community decision making processes. The City's six year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) is updated at least bi-annually in part to reflect these changes.

Recommendations outlined in Chapter 6 total approximately \$93 million in today's dollars. This includes improvements to existing facilities, as well as additional land and facilities to serve new growth. Projected revenue sources for park system improvements through the year 2029 could provide enough funding for the priority projects with traditional funding sources as estimated with the assumptions shown in the following table. Detailed costs for proposed recommendations are included in Appendix C. The 2013 and 2014 approved six-year Capital Facilities Plans are included in Appendix E.

7.1 Revenue and Expenditures

Table 7.1 outlines options for capital revenue sources and projected expenditures through the year 2029, and corresponds with the adopted level-of-service discussed in Chapter 4 and the recommendations included in Chapter 6. A detailed description of the projects and costs is in Appendix C. A description of the funding sources and assumptions made for each item in the tables is listed on the following pages.



Whatcom Falls Park

Priorities and proposed recommendations implemented may change over time based on new interests, feasibility and/or opportunities that may arise.

TABLE 7.1 PRO Plan Funding and Expenditures

Revenue	Funding Estimates for 2014-2029				Notes
REET				\$5,000,000	Estimated REET funding for park projects
LIFT				\$5,000,000	Estimated Park Project share of Waterfront Area LIFT funding
Greenway III Levy				\$16,000,000	Existing balance plus remaining collection
4th Greenway Levy				\$22,200,000	2017-2029 Levy amount needed to complete PRO Plan recommendations
Grants				\$10,000,000	Estimate based on 5 year history
Park Impact Fees				\$3,000,000	Existing balance
Park Impact Fees ^a	35%	\$1,822/capita	18,654	\$33,987,588	Assumes continued 35% fee with added population of 18,654
Total				\$95,187,588	

Expenditures	Acres	Cost in Millions (rounded)		
		Land	Facilities	Total
Neighborhood Park	21.6	\$1,900,000	\$8,100,000	\$10,000,000
Community Park	45.0	\$4,100,000	\$19,500,000	\$23,600,000
Special Use Site	1.6	\$100,000	\$900,000	\$1,000,000
Open Space & Trails	219.0	\$19,800,000	\$39,000,000	\$58,000,000
Total	287.2	\$25,900,000	\$67,500,000	\$93,400,000
Existing Acres/1000 City	45.1			
Existing Acres/1000 UGA	39.9			
Proposed Acres/1000 UGA	35.8			

As this is a long range strategic plan and not a financing plan, both revenues and expenditures are in estimated 2013 dollars and do not include inflation, assuming that both expenditures and revenues will increase over time and that projects will be implemented as funding becomes available rather than through any specific financing system. As each project is scheduled for implementation, costs and revenues will be updated. Project improvements (acquisition or facilities) will be adjusted as needed to match available revenue sources concurrent with the annual Capital Facilities Plan budget process. The PRO Plan is updated every six years with an updated forecast of revenues and expenditures.

Any potential difference between the total revenue and the actual cost of improvements could be made up through a variety of means including an increase in the park impact fee, bonding for specific project improvements, decreasing the level-of-service, or through the use of development agreements requiring land dedications or improvements as a condition of annexation or rezones.

7.2 Maintenance and Operation Needs

The additional park acres and improvements associated with the recommendations will also require additional maintenance and operations costs. The existing 3,306 acres of City managed parks, open space and trails is maintained by 26 full time and 24 part time or seasonal staff with a full time equivalence (FTE) of 40.6. Using general numbers, in 2013 the ratio of park acreage to maintenance staff is 81.4 acres per full time equivalent staff member. This is an increase from the last plan update of 14 acres per FTE. Using the 2013 total maintenance budget of \$4,389,717, the cost to maintain parkland is \$1,327.80 per acre per year and



Whatcom Creek

the estimated additional annual overall cost for maintenance and operations by the year 2029, if all recommendations are implemented, is estimated to be \$381,344 (287.2 acres x \$1,327.80), expressed in 2013 dollars.

An additional 3.6 FTE staff members would be needed to maintain current service levels for the recommended additional parks and facilities. To bring staffing back up to the 2008 levels an additional 4.3 FTE's are needed if all of the recommendations are implemented. The estimates are based on a general analysis of the 2013 budget. An increase or decrease in the intensity of maintenance needed based on the type of park or facility would affect the actual costs.

One way to help fund maintenance needs is to increase the amount available in the Greenway Maintenance Endowment and allow for earnings to be used for all types of park maintenance. As the amount needed from a new levy for land acquisition and develop decreases, the amount dedicated for maintenance of facilities can increase.

7.2.1 REET Real Estate Excise Tax

REET revenue has been down in the last few years and has been used to pay off the Civic Field Bond and set aside to fund future waterfront development projects, including parks and roads. As the economy picks up, and bonds are paid off, more REET revenue may be available for capital projects, including development of waterfront parks. A recent change in State law allows more flexibility for using REET funds for maintenance.

7.2.2 Greenway Levies

Bellingham citizens have approved three levies at a rate of \$0.57 per 1,000 property valuation. Included in the table are existing levy balances as well as future revenues, with no growth in valuation assumed. A voter approved fourth levy in 2017 would be needed to achieve funding to complete the plan recommendations. In the household phone survey undertaken for this plan, 78% of respondents indicated a willingness to approve another levy. A larger percentage of the levy collection could be set aside in a maintenance endowment fund to insure the City's ability to take care of our valuable park resources.

7.2.3 Grants

The City has received an average of \$1 million annually over the last five years from various sources, including Washington Recreation and Conservation Office grant programs, federal Transportation Enhancement grants and Department of Ecology grants. This plan estimates a total of \$10 million in grant funding over a 15 year period.



Maritime Heritage Park Amphitheatre

7.2.4 CAO/SEPA/Mitigation

Land or improvements as a result of the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) and associated mitigation are used by the City to help offset park system improvements. Based on past trends, the City has projected the estimated value of land or improvements as required through development process for protection of wetlands, SEPA or impact mitigation based on historical trends to be approximately \$1 million by the year 2029. Because of the uncertainty, this value was not included in the revenue forecast.

7.2.5 Donations

Donations include park system land and improvements received by the City from private individuals as well as other agencies or organizations. While donations have been on the decline with the downturn in the economy, special interest groups are still willing to assist with projects that they feel are important. Based on recent

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trends, the City estimates the total value of future donations to be approximately \$1 million over the next 15 years. Because of uncertainty regarding the ability of the community to make park system donations, this amount was not included in the revenue forecast.

7.2.6 Park Impact Fee

In 2006, the City began assessing a Park Impact Fee on new residential units. Future funding from Park Impact Fees is estimated based on future City population projections. The City expects an additional 18,654 new residents by the year 2029, the difference between the current and projected urban growth area/City population. This calculation assumes that all urban growth areas will incorporate into the City during that time frame. The existing park system value is \$5,208 per person. Maintaining the current park impact fee assessment of 35% will result in projected revenues of approximately \$34 million by the year 2029. The fee may be adjusted over time for changes in land and facility costs.

7.2.7 LIFT - Local Infrastructure Financing Tool

Bellingham waterfront capital improvement projects, including parks and roads, are eligible to receive up to \$1 million per year for 25 years. Receipt of State funds is subject to the amount of additional tax received by the State and matching local government contributions.

7.3 Priorities

The proposed funding strategy is based on a major assumption that current funding sources will continue into the future, at or near their current rate. While this may be a reasonable assumption, there is no guarantee of future funding. As such, the following general priorities for park system improvements in Bellingham are recommended based on community input. In all cases, the highest priority identified was to complete currently funded projects and improvements on the waterfront, as well as continue to acquire land in the north Bellingham area. Beyond that, trail improvements, in general, were identified as a higher priority than parks and recreation or open space elements.

7.3.1 Priority Park and Special Use Site Projects

The following priorities have been identified and categorized into relative order from highest (Priority 1) to lowest (Priority 3), though items identified within each category are listed in no particular order.

Priorities Currently Funded

- Develop Cordata Park Phase 1
- Complete Squalicum Creek Park Phase 3
- Make improvements at Lake Padden Park

Priorities

Highest priority projects were determined to be those that were currently funded, trails and greenway projects and project centered on the north Bellingham area. Waterfront projects were also a high priority.

Priority 1

- Acquire Central Bakerview Neighborhood Park
- Develop Cornwall Beach Park Phase One
- Develop Whatcom Waterway Park Phase One
- Make improvements at Woodstock Farm
- Develop and expand Sunset Pond Park
- Acquire a community park in NW Bellingham



Van Wyck Park

Priority 2

- Acquire and refurbish Little Squalicum Pier
- Provide more hand launch boat sites
- Renovate existing parks as appropriate to improve capacity and/or generate multi-use functions
- Add urban plazas and gathering spaces in the downtown and urban villages, generally in combination with new or redevelopment opportunities
- Develop Van Wyck Park
- Complete a master plan for the Chuckanut Ridge property (a.k.a. Fairhaven Highlands)

Priority 3

- Acquire East Yew St. Neighborhood Park
- Acquire East Bakerview Neighborhood Park

7.3.2 Open Space

The following priorities have been identified and categorized into relative order from highest to lowest priority, though items identified within each category are listed in no particular order.

Priorities Currently Funded

- Open space corridors associated with funded trail priorities below

Priority 1

- Open space corridors associated with other trail priorities below
- Open space anchors in King Mountain area



Samish Crest Trail Phase I

Priority 2

- Open space anchor between Samish Crest Open Space and Lookout Mountain
- Open space anchor in Dewey Valley

7.3.3 Trails

The following priorities have been identified and categorized into relative order from highest to lowest priority, though items identified within each category are listed in no particular order.

Priorities Currently Funded

- Overwater Walkway
- Bay to Baker Greenway & Trail
- Samish Crest Trail corridor
- Chuckanut to Woodstock Trail corridor

Priority 1

- Cordata Park to Division Street Trail corridor
- Cordata to King Mt. Trail corridor
- All Waterfront trails
- Bay to Baker to King Mt. Trail corridor
- Whirlwind Beach trailhead and trail improvements



Future Waterfront Trail

Priority 2

- Trail connection from Cordata Park north to Bear Creek Area
- King Mountain Trails

Priority 3

- Samish Crest to Lookout Mt. Trail corridor
- Northridge Park to Bay to Baker Trail connection
- Trail connection from Little Squalicum Park northwest to Alderwood/Airport area

7.4 Revenue Source Description

A general description of the different types of revenue resources that may be used to fund park, recreation and open space programs or facilities is presented in *Appendix F*. Some are restricted to development only while others may be used for operations and maintenance. These are listed in no particular order and with no reference to the feasibility or recommendation of implementing each revenue source. Included are:

General Fund
Special Revenues

01/27/2014

Debt Service Funds

- Councilmanic (limited or non-voted) Bonds
- Limited General Obligation Bonds
- Unlimited General Obligation Bonds

Enterprise Funds

Special Legislation

Unlimited General Obligation Bonds

General Levy Rate Referendums

Environmental Impact Mitigation – Subdivision Regulations

Growth Impact Fees

Inter-local Agreements

User Fees and Charges

Special Funding Sources

- REET (Real Estate Excise Tax)
- Greenway Funds
- LIFT (Local Infrastructure Financing Tool)

State Grants

- Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP)
- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)
- Salmon Recovery Funding
- Capital Projects Fund for Washington Heritage
- Boating Facilities Program
- Washington State Public Works Commission
- Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)
- Non-Highway & Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA)
- Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program (FARR)

Federal Grants

- NPS (National Park Service) grants
- Transportation Enhancement Grants
- National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP)
- Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)

Recreation Service Districts (RCW Chapter 36.69)

Metropolitan Park Districts (SB 2557)

Chuckanut Community Forest Park District was established in 2013 for the specific purpose of raising funds to pay back the loan used to acquire Fairhaven Highlands.

Special Use Agreements

Public/Private Service Contracts

Public/Private Concessions

Public/Private Joint Development Ventures

Self-help Land Leases

Self-help Contract Agreements

Appendix A

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The intent of parks and recreation classifications is to aid in making acquisition and design decisions for park sites, facilities and the organization of recreation space which is responsive to public needs, creates quality recreational experiences and facilities that can be effectively maintained.

Park classifications are primarily based on National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) guidelines and consider types of uses, size and relative service area of each park. The classifications used in Bellingham include:

1. Parks & Recreation
 - a. Neighborhood Parks
 - b. Community Parks
 - c. Special Use Sites
2. Open Space
3. Trails

The guidelines below are for general purposes only. Actual acquisition and/or development of a park site will depend on several factors which should be considered in connection with classification guidelines when making planning decisions. These can include goals or needs for a given area, usually defined through a community process, or site-specific information such as topography, critical areas, access, zoning regulations, etc., that may limit the use of a given site.

Park classifications establish several essential elements for park land based generally on the types of recreational uses and services to be provided. The following describes the park classifications for Bellingham, generally modified from the NRPA standards to reflect the Bellingham community preferences. In all cases, the approximate size of each park type shown below is a general parameter only. Actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate desired uses. Service areas shown may also vary as physical characteristics, such as topography or major roadways, may reduce the service area if access is limited by these factors. Park lighting and general crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles should also be considered during the design process to promote safety and security within park settings.

Neighborhood Parks

1. **General Description:** A neighborhood park is the basic recreational focus and center of a neighborhood. They should be developed for both active and passive recreation activities geared specifically for those living within the service area. They should also accommodate a wide variety of age and user groups, including children, adults, seniors and special populations. Creating a sense of place by bringing together the unique character of the site with that of the neighborhood is vital to successful neighborhood park design.
2. **Approximate Size:** 2 to 10 acres.
3. **Service Area:** ½ mile radius.
4. **Acquisition Guidelines:** Neighborhood parks should be centrally located within the neighborhood it serves. Vehicular access may be provided through arterial roadways or local neighborhood streets. Citizens should be able to walk to these parks without having to cross a major arterial street. Some portion of the total acreage should be upland "developable" land of a size sufficient to support the desired uses for that neighborhood.
5. **Development Guidelines:** Since each neighborhood is unique, neighborhood input should be used to determine the development program for the park. In general, development should provide a balance between active and passive recreation uses and should represent the characteristics and context of the community in which it is located. Where active recreation is provided, it should be intended for primarily informal, unstructured activities, or smaller programmed activities that will not overburden the supporting infrastructure (parking, restroom, etc.). The following activities are intended to serve as a general guideline only:
 - a. *Parking* - generally limited to around 2-10 stalls. While the intent is for neighborhood parks to be walkable to most residences in the area it serves, parking may still be needed to support those uses that need greater assistance, such as seniors or those with disabilities. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements should be met in all cases. On street parking may be used to meet these criteria.
 - b. *Site Furnishings* - such as bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, park signage, picnic tables and drinking fountains.
 - c. *Restrooms* - may be provided where space and funding allow. This could include permanent, semi-permanent or portable facilities.
 - d. *Play Area* - with climbing structures, swings or other similar elements, designed for a variety of ages and abilities.
 - e. *Picnic* - tables, barbecue and/or small group shelters.

-
- f. *Open grass lawn areas.*
 - g. *Sport facilities* - compatible with neighborhood setting and park site constraints, such as:
 - Basketball: half court or full court
 - Volleyball, tennis, bocce ball, pickleball
 - Softball/baseball field (informal or youth)
 - Soccer field (informal or youth)
 - h. *Other* - features as need or site conditions allow that may help create diversity and a unique character to each individual park. These may include public art, skateboard elements, climbing walls, or other similar elements. Where provided, these should generally be smaller in nature to fit the scale and context of the neighborhood park setting.

Community Parks

1. **General Description:** Community parks are larger in size and are intended to serve a broader range of activities and users. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods with more specialized activities, as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces or environmental features. They allow for group activities and offer other recreation opportunities not generally found at a neighborhood level. Due to their larger size, they are often designed to serve a neighborhood park function as well and generally include all of the same neighborhood park activities as well as additional unique characteristics described above.
2. **Approximate size:** 20-60 acres.
3. **Service Area:** 1 mile radius.
4. **Acquisition Guidelines:** The land available for anticipated uses and the quality of the natural resource base should play a defining role in locating potential community park sites. They should be located adjacent to a major arterial or other collector street to provide easy vehicular as well as pedestrian and other multi-modal access. The proximity of other park types should also be considered as the types of activities found in a community park may overlap with other park functions. Some portion of the total acreage should be "developable" land of a size sufficient to support the desired uses for that park.
5. **Development Guidelines:** Surrounding neighborhood and larger community or city-wide input should be used to determine the development program for a community park. In general, development should provide a balance between active and passive recreation uses and should represent the characteristics and context of the community in which it is located. Where active recreation is provided, it is generally intended for larger programmed activities such as sports league practices, games and/or tournaments. Active recreation, such as sports fields, in community parks may have additional support facilities not found at a neighborhood level, such as bleachers,

fencing, dugouts, concessions, synthetic turf and/or lighting. The following activities are in addition to neighborhood park guidelines and are intended to serve as a general guideline only:

- a. *Parking* - generally larger in size to support more organized activities and larger group events. May be anywhere from 20-80 or more stalls depending on the intended uses.
- b. *Restrooms* - should generally be provided and should provide permanent facilities where feasible. Additional portable facilities may be needed during peak season or for special organized events.
- c. *Picnic* - larger group shelters that can be programmed and/or rented out for special events.
- d. *Specialized Uses* - that may not be feasible to provide in every neighborhood park. These may include:
 - Spray park
 - Skateboard Park
 - Off leash area
 - Fishing docks or piers
 - Waterfront access
 - Regional trail connections
 - Education/demonstration areas
 - Outdoor stage/amphitheater
- e. *Concessions/Vendors* - for food, beverage, rentals, etc. as feasible and demand allows.

Regional Parks

1. **General Description:** Regional parks are generally the largest in size and serve the greatest geographical area, often extending beyond the city or urban growth area limits to include county and/or other adjacent jurisdictions. Their focus is on providing specialized activities, as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces or environmental features. They allow for group activities and offer other recreation opportunities not generally found at a community or neighborhood park level. They may also be designed to serve a community or neighborhood park function as well, but are often of a more specialized nature. Bellingham currently has not parks with this designation.
2. **Approximate Size:** 80 acres or more.
3. **Service Area:** 5 mile radius or more (as needed).

-
4. **Acquisition Guidelines:** Regional park facilities, because they span many jurisdictions, should be acquired jointly with other agency support when feasible, such as county, school district, port authority, preservation groups and/or other adjacent jurisdictions. They should be situated such that sufficient infrastructure could be developed or already exists to support a large number of visitors, including major arterials, buses and other mass transit capabilities. They should also have access to multi-modal connections.
 5. **Development Guidelines:** Regional parks should be developed to maximize their intended uses, whether for sports fields, mountain biking trails, camping, unique natural or environmental features, or extreme sport venues. They may include the same activities as those found in community and neighborhood park guidelines, but are often intended for a more single, specialized use that requires a larger space than can be supported through a typical community or neighborhood park type. Activities provided will depend solely on the type of intended uses for the park and the influence of the community or region as expressed through a public process, so are not listed individually with this section.

Special Use Sites

1. **General Description:** The special use classification covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward a single-purpose use. They often fall into three general categories:
 - *Cultural Facilities* - unique resources offering historical, educational, visual/performance art or other similar experiences. These include museums, theaters, galleries, libraries and other civic sites.
 - *Indoor Facilities* - geared toward indoor uses, such as gymnasiums, community centers, teen/senior centers, aquatic centers, ice arenas, etc.
 - *Unique Sites* - generally a single use, but smaller than a regional park and not necessarily of a significance that might draw from a larger regional base. These may include arboretums, cemeteries, plazas, sports stadiums, farmer's markets, marinas, etc. - especially when they are not in conjunction with other typical park amenities.
2. **Approximate Size:** Varies.
3. **Service Area:** Varies.
4. **Acquisition Guidelines:** As specialized, single use facilities, special use parks should be selected based on the function that they are intended to serve. They should be situated such that sufficient infrastructure could be developed or already exists to support the intended use, including major arterials, buses and other mass transit capabilities as necessary. They should also have access to multi-modal connections.

-
5. **Development Guidelines:** Special use parks should be developed to maximize their intended uses. They generally do NOT include the same activities as those found in other park types. Activities provided will depend solely on the type of intended uses for the park and the influence of the community or region as expressed through a public process, so are not listed individually with this section.

Open Space

1. **General Description:** Open space sites are generally lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, landscapes, open space and visual aesthetic or buffering functions. One of the major purposes is to enhance the livability and character of a community by preserving as many of its natural amenities as possible, as well as providing wildlife habitat in urbanized areas. These may include both individual sites that exhibit natural resources, or lands that are unsuitable for development but that offer other natural resource potential. Examples include sites with steep slopes, old or second growth forests, wetlands, stream corridors, tidelands, shorelines (salt or fresh water), storm water features, and/or watershed or aquifer recharge zones.
2. **Approximate Size:** Varies.
3. **Service Area:** Varies.
4. **Acquisition Guidelines:** The quality of the natural resource should play a defining role in locating potential open space sites and may be quite different than other park classifications. For example, they may not necessarily need good access, vehicular or multi-modal, if they are intended for preservation purposes. Limited access in this case may be more desirable. For the same reason, there is not the same need for "developable" land unless the site is intended for regional trailheads, interpretive facilities, environmental learning center, conference/retreats or other similar auxiliary uses. Therefore, acquisition guidelines are much more flexible to respond to opportunities as they may become available.

Sites that connect to other parks, open space or natural features should be considered, as well as those that provide wildlife corridors through urban or urbanizing areas, though no priority is intended in these guidelines, unless stated otherwise in other sections of this plan.

Preservation techniques beyond simple fee acquisition should also be considered, such as preservation easements, dedications, conservation grants or programs, trusts, development regulations and zoning codes. Tax incentives, density bonuses and other "trade-offs" should be considered to help encourage these types of alternative preservation techniques.

5. **Development Guidelines:** Because open space sites serve primarily a preservation function, development should be limited. Access, where provided, may include trails, minor trailhead and/or educational features. Because of the limited nature of development on these sites, specific activities are not listed individually in this section.

Trails

1. **General Description:** While trails may be categorized into many different types, for the purpose of this plan, trails is limited to generally include off-road multi-use trails only. Trails within parks are shown in individual park development plans and on-street non-motorized facilities (sidewalks and bikeways) are included in the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan. Trails in this context are intended to form a network of connections in and around the planning area, between neighborhoods and parks, schools, open space, civic facilities and commercial centers.
2. **Approximate Size:** Varies (linear); generally 25'-50' wide.
3. **Service Area:** ½ mile radius.
4. **Acquisition Guidelines:** Trails should be located within open space or greenway corridors whenever possible. They may also be located adjacent to streams, stream corridors or within utility right-of-ways, abandoned railroad corridors or expanded roadway networks where they can be separated from vehicular traffic by landscape or other natural features. Larger areas may be needed at key locations along trail corridors to support trailhead development as outlined below. Trails should be considered an integral part of the transportation network.
5. **Development Guidelines:** In general, trail development should meet local and state departments of transportation of public works standards, as needed. They should also consider AASHTO guidelines and ADA accessibility requirements. Consideration should be given to the trail surfacing and drainage patterns early in the design process. The following activities may be included with supporting trailhead development, as feasible, and is intended to serve as a general guideline only:
 - a. ***Parking*** - generally limited to around 2-5 stalls unless at a major trailhead location when more parking may be anticipated. On street parking may be used to meet these criteria.
 - b. ***Site Furnishings***- such as benches, trash receptacles, wayfinding signage, picnic tables and drinking fountains.
 - c. ***Restrooms*** - may be provided where space and funding allow. This could include permanent, semi-permanent or portable facilities.
 - d. ***Other*** - features as needs or site conditions allow.

Appendix B

EXISTING FACILITIES TABLES

See the attached tables of Existing Facilities, both within and outside the planning as referenced in Chapter 3 of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan.

Various sources and data are used to calculate existing and proposed land and facility costs including:

- Recent public land acquisition costs
- Real estate digest database of Bellingham area recent vacant land sales
- Professional Real Estate Appraisal services
- Land valuation comparisons - Whatcom County Assessor information
- Public agency bid data including Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Washington State Department of Transportation
- Building Industry Association of Washington construction data
- Means Construction Cost data
- Independent Cost Estimators
- Consultant cost databases
- Contractor information
- Construction trend information

The following abbreviations are used in the tables:

*	Facility not shown on maps in plan
AC	Acre
AQ	Aquatic Land
BSD	Bellingham School District
BTC	Bellingham Technical College
COB	City of Bellingham
CP	Community Park
EA	Each
LF	Linear Foot
NP	Neighborhood Park
N/A	Not Applicable
OS	Open Space
PRI	Private
POB	Port of Bellingham
ROW	Right-of-Way
ROS	Right-of-Way Streetscape
SU	Special Use Site
SF	Square Foot
TR	Trail
X	Facility Exists but is not quantitatively defined
UGA	Urban Growth Area
WCC	Whatcom Community College
WWU	Western Washington University
WA	Washington State

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis/Pickleball (ea)	Football/Soccer/Field & Restrooms (ea)	Multi Use Field (ea)	Baseball/Softball lighted (ea)	Baseball Stadium incl. Field & Restrooms (ea)	State Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres), X = designated, not developed	Beach (ea) x=unimproved access	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch	Swimming/Aquatic (ef)	Community Center / Meeting Room (ef)	Informal Lawn Area (acres)	Docks/Pier (ft)	Parking Lot (number indicates striped lots) (otherwise gravel)	Auditorium/Amphitheater/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (ef)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramcar parking (ea) X=included with other facilities	Disc Golf 9 hole(ea)	Spray Park (ea)					
Bloedel Donovan Park (land)	28.4	CP	0.2		1		1	1			1				X	1	1	1		10,800	4.4		243											
Bloedel Donovan Park (water)	12.1	AQU																																
Boulevard Park	14.9	CP	1.8		1	2										1		1				2	195	0.5	2,161		X							
Boulevard Park (water)	5.6	CP/AQU																				2,172												
Civic Athletic Complex	83.0	CP	1.3		1	4				1		6	1	1.5					20,003				938				X							
Comwall Park	69.0	CP	3.4	2	2	2	1		4		1										5		186						1	1				
Comwall Beach Park	14.0	CP																																
Fairhaven Park	136.9	CP	0.6	1	1	1	1		2		1								1,200		2.5		91			X				1				
Lake Padden Park (land/not Golf)	575.0	CP	9.8	2	1	3	1		2			2			2.2	1	1	1			1.4	208	367					1						
Lake Padden Park (water)	151.0	CP/AQU																																
Lake Padden Golf Course	285.0	SU				1																	157		4,252									
Maritime Heritage Park	13.0	CP	1.5																	1,600	1.5		27	1										
Northridge Park	38.8	CP	2.2																				3											
Squalicum Creek Park	35.5	CP	0.7			1						1										1	66				X							
VanWyck Park	19.9	CP	0																															
Whatcom Falls Park	365.0	CP	6.8	2	2	2	1		2						X						3	11	104				X							
Birchwood Park	4.0	NP	0.2	1	1	1	1														2		11											
Broadway Park	8.8	NP	0.1		1	1	1					1										4.3												
Carl Lobe Park	0.6	NP			1							1																						
Cordata Park	19.0	NP	0.7																															
Comwall Tot Lot	0.3	NP			1																													
Elizabeth Park	4.5	NP	0.4		1	1	1		2																0.5									
Fairhaven Village Green	0.4	NP		3		1																0.1			0.5									
Forest and Cedar Park	1.6	NP	0.1		1	1	0.5																											
Fouts Park	1.2	NP			1																													

2013 City population 82,310
 2013 UGA population 93,107

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis/Pickleball (ea)	Football/Soccer/Baseball incl Field & Restrooms (ea)	Multi Use Field (ea)	Baseball/Softball lighted (ea)	Baseball Stadium incl. Field & Restrooms (ea)	State Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres), X = designated, not developed	Beach (ea) X=unimproved access	Boat Launch (temp)	Hard Boat Launch	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Community Center / Meeting Room (sf)	Informal Lawn Area (acres)	Docks/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot (number indicates striped lots) (otherwise gravel)	Auditorium/Amphitheater/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Transfer Parking (sf) X=included with other facility	Disc Golf 9 hole(ea)	Spray Park (ea)
Franklin Park	2.0	NP	0.4	1	1									0.25							0.7								
Happy Valley Park	5.1	NP	0.3	1	1																	0.5							
Highland Heights Park	1.1	NP			1		1															0.7							
Laurel Park	2.1	NP			1		0.5															0.6	7						
Lorraine Ellis Park	0.5	NP			1																	0.5							
Maplewood/McLeod Park (Potts)	5.8	NP	0.1																			0.7							
Memorial Park	6.2	NP					0.5															0.7							
N. Samish Crest Park	0.0	NP	0																										
Ridgemoor Park	1.0	NP			1		1															0.4							
Rock Hill Park	1.2	NP			1		0.5																X						
Roosevelt Park	7.2	NP	0.5		1	1	1				1			0.25								2.8	9						
S. Samish Crest Park	0.0	NP	0																										
Shuksan Meadows Park	0.7	NP			1																	0.1	6						
St. Clair Park	3.7	NP			1	1																0.6	7						
Sunnyland Park	0.8	NP			1																	0.3							
Sunset Pond Park	2.8	NP	0.3												X							0.5	X						
Arroyo Nature Area	85.9	OS	2.6												X								X				X		
Bakarview Open Space	7.0	OS	0.6																										
Barkley Greenway & Trail	4.9	TR/OS	0.7																										
Barkley Woods*	0.2	OS	0																										
Bay to Baker Greenway & Trail	7.4	TR/OS	1.3																										
Bear Creek Greenway	63.6	OS																											
Bellingham High School trail easement *	0.1	OS																											
Big Rock Open Space	10.9	OS	1																										
Cemetery Creek Greenway	6.4	OS	0																										

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EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Baseball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis/Pickleball (ea)	Football/Track/Stadium incl Field & Restrooms (ea)	Multi Use Field (ea)	Baseball/Softball lighted (ea)	Baseball Stadium incl Field & Restrooms (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres). X = designated, not developed	Beach (ea) x=unimproved access	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Community Center/ Meeting Room (sf)	Informal Lawn Area (acres)	Dock/PIer (ft)	Parking Lot (number indicates parking spaces) (otherwise green)	Auditorium/Amphitheater/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramcar/Ramway (ea)	X=included with other facilities	Disc Golf 9 hole(ea)	Spray Park (ea)				
Chuckanut Bay Open Space & Tidelands (land)	48.7	OS	0.1													1		1																
Chuckanut Bay Open Space & Tidelands (water)	78.1	AQU																																
Connelly Creek Nature Area	29.5	OS	1.2																															
Cordata Open Space	14.0	OS																																
East Meadow Park *	0.9	OS	0.1																															
Euclid Park (land)	17.8	OS	0.2													x							X											
Euclid Park (water)	3.1	AQU																																
Galbraith Mountain	51.4	OS	1.2																				9			1								
Hawley Open Space*	15.0	OS	0																															
Interurban Greenway & Trail	112.9	TR/OS	3																				17			1								
King/Queen Mountain Open Space	37.0	OS	0																															
Klipsun Greenway & Trail	18.1	TR/OS	1.2																															
Laurelwood Trail Open Space*	0.6	TR/OS	0.4																															
Lazy E Ranch	2.3	OS	0																															
Lenora Court Open Space *	0.1	OS																																
Lincoln Creek Open Space*	1.3	OS	0																															
Little Squalicum Park	25.8	OS	1.2												X	x							14			x								
Lowell Open Space	5.5	OS	0.3																															
Lower Padden Creek Open Space & Trails	19.6	TR/OS	0.7																															
Mian Shores LLA Tract*	0.4	OS	0																															
Miscellaneous Tracts*	0.2	OS																																
North Bay Open Space (land)	30.0	OS	0.1																															
North Bay Open Space (water)	7.5	OS/AQU																																
Old Village Trail*	0.2	TR	0.5																															
Orchard Estates Wetlands	14.5	OS																																

2013 City population 82,310
 2013 UGA population 93,107

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis/Pickleball (ea)	Football/Track/Stadium Incl Field & Restrooms (ea)	Multi Use Field (ea)	Baseball/Softball High School (ea)	Baseball Stadium Incl. Field & Restrooms (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	OIL Lash Area (acres), X = designated, not developed	Beach (ea) x unimproved access	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Community Center / Meeting Room (sf)	Informal Lawn Area (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot (number indicates striped lots) (otherwise gravel)	Auditorium/Amphitheater/Stages (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Transmission tower X=included with other outfalls	Disc Golf 9 holes(ea)	Spray Park (ea)	
Other Right-of-Way*	12.9	OS/ROS	1																											
Padden Gorge	33.0	OS	0.8																											
Padden Lake Hills Open Space*	0.7																													
Peabody Plaza *	6.4	OS	0																											
Post Point Treatment Plant Open Space	15.8	OS	0.7											X														X		
Railroad Greenway & Trail	90.4	TR/OS	4.7																											
Salmon Woods Open Space	45.1	OS	1																											
Samish Crest Open Space (note 1)	119.6	OS	1.1																											
Setone Hill Arboretum	137.2	OS	6.4											X								4								
Silver Creek Open Space (land)	1.3	OS	0												X															
Silver Creek Open Space (water)	0.9	AQU																												
South Bay Greenway & Trail	16.8	TR/OS	1.7																											
South Samish Crest Open Space	66.9	OS																												
Spring Creek Nature Area	5.3	OS	0.1																											
Squalicum Creek Greenway & Trail	71.4	TR/OS	0.4																											
Sylvan Pond Open Space *	6.4	OS	0																											
Whatcom Creek Greenway & Trail (land)	40.3	TR/OS	2																											
Whatcom Creek Greenway & Trail (water)	0.3	AQU																												
Bayview Cemetery	73.0	SU	0																			5								
Big Rock Garden	2.7	SU	0.5			1																7					X			
Broadway Overlook *	0.3	SU																												
Community Garden - Fairhaven *	0.4	SU	0																							1				
Community Garden - Happy Valley *	0.4	SU	0																							1				
Community Garden - Lakeway *	1.8	SU	0																							1				
Cornwall Rose Garden	0.5	SU	0																											

2013 City population 82,310
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**EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
(Within Planning Area)**

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis/Pickleball (ea)	Football/Track/Stadium Incl Field & Restrooms (ea)	Multi Use Field (ea)	Baseball/Softball lighted (ea)	Baseball Stadium Incl. Field & Restrooms (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres), X = designated, not developed	Beach (ea) X=improved access	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Community Center / Meeting Room (sf)	Informal Lawn Area (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot (number indicates striped lots) (otherwise gravel)	Auditorium/Amphitheater/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramper Parking Use/ X=Included with other auditorium	Disc Golf 9 hole(ea)	Spray Park (ea)
Fountain Plaza*	0.1	SU																											
Gibson Plaza *	0.2	SU	0																										
Gossage Gardens Plaza *	0.2	SU																											
Lee Memorial Park*	1.1	SU																			0.3								
Park Admin Office-Cornwall	0.0	SU	0																										
Park Shop Buildings - Woburn *	5.5	SU	0																				15						
Woodstock Farm (land)	13.0	SU	0.4																				2						
Woodstock Farm (water)	1.4	AQU																											
TOTAL EXISTING CITY	3,306.4		68.6	13.0	27.0	24.0	13.0	1.0	12.0	1.0	6.0	9.0	1.0	2.0	2.2	4.0	2.0	4.0	20,003.0	13,600.0	36.8	2,391.0	2,390.0	2.5	6,413	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.0

2013 City population 82,310
2013 UGA population 93,107

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis/Pickleball (ea)	Football/Track/Stadium incl Field & Restrooms (ea)	Multi Use Field (ea)	Baseball/Softball lighted (ea)	Baseball Stadium incl. Field & Restrooms (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres), Y = designated, (not developed)
Total Acres in value/capita	3,306.4														
Facility Unit Cost Avg.	\$ 90,328		\$ 500,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 14,000,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 150,000
Existing Total Facility Cost	\$ 298,864,783		\$ 34,300,000	\$ 1,755,000	\$ 4,725,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 975,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 14,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 8,975,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 330,000
Existing Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 3,629		\$ 417	\$ 21	\$ 57	\$ 73	\$ 12	\$ 0	\$ 18	\$ 170	\$ 36	\$ 85	\$ 73	\$ 10	\$ 4
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.18)	\$ 7,910		\$ 908	\$ 46	\$ 125	\$ 199	\$ 26	\$ 1	\$ 40	\$ 371	\$ 79	\$ 185	\$ 158	\$ 21	\$ 9

2013 City population
 2013 UGA population

82,310
 93,107

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Beach (ea) xunimproved access	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch	Swimming/Aquatics (sf)	Community Center / Meeting Room (sf)	Informal Lawn Area (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot (number indicates striped lots) (otherwise gravel)	Auditorium/Amphitheater/Sage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea) X-included with other parking	Disc Golf 9 hole(ea)	Spray Park (ea)	TOTAL COSTS
Total Acres in value/capita															
Facility Unit Cost Avg.	\$ 400,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 800	\$ 400	\$ 90,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 500	\$ 150,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 250,000	
Existing Total Facility Cost	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 16,602,400	\$ 5,440,000	\$ 3,312,000	\$ 8,368,500	\$ 5,975,000	\$ 3,000,000	3,296,500	\$ 450,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 428,704,153
Existing Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 19	\$ 5	\$ 4	\$ 194	\$ 66	\$ 40	\$ 162	\$ 73	\$ 36	39	\$ 5	\$ 11	\$ 2	\$ 6	\$ 5,208
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.18)	\$ 42	\$ 11	\$ 8	\$ 424	\$ 144	\$ 88	\$ 222	\$ 158	\$ 79	85	\$ 12	\$ 24	\$ 5	\$ 13	\$ 11,354

2013 City population
 2013 UGA population

82,310
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EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM RIGHT-OF-WAY
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football (ea)	Soccer (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Gymnasium (sf)	Community Center (sf)	Neighborhood Park (acres)	Community Park (acres)	Regional Park (acres)	Special Use Park (acres)	Open Space (acres)	Notes	
EXISTING																												
11th & Finnegan	0.00	ROS	ROW	0.00																							0.00	Landscaping
11th Street Oval	0.30	ROS	ROW																								0.30	Lawn
12th & Finnegan	0.14	ROS	ROW	plaza																							0.14	Flag Pole Plaza
19th St Connector	0.14	ROS	ROW	0.03																							0.14	Trail
19th Street Stairs	0.17	ROS	ROW	0.02																							0.17	Wood and gravel stairs
Bellingham Sign	0.11	ROS	ROW																								0.11	Sign and landscaping
Bill McDonald / Byron / 34th	0.79	ROS	ROW	0.04																							0.79	Trail and remainder undeveloped
Blvd Park Sign Bed	0.04	ROS	ROW																								0.04	Landscaping
Broadway Strips / Islands	2.07	ROS	ROW																								2.07	Lawn & Mature trees
Chestnut / Ellis	0.10	ROS	ROW																								0.10	Lawn
Clearbrook Median	0.10	ROS	ROW																								0.10	Lawn & Trees
Consolidation / 46th Triangle	0.24	ROS	ROW	0.02																							0.24	Trail
Comwall Islands (Triangles)	0.01	ROS	ROW																								0.01	Bus stop
Elizabeth Island	0.03	ROS	ROW																								0.03	Landscaping
Elwood / Samish Way Triangle	0.24	ROS	ROW																								0.24	Landscaping
Fieldstone Road Piece	0.04	ROS	ROW																								0.04	pavement
Garden & Cedar Row	0.10	ROS	ROW																								0.10	Landscaping (WWU sign)
Garden Terrace Row	0.39	ROS	ROW																								0.39	Undeveloped Forest

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM RIGHT-OF-WAY
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football (ea)	Soccer (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (af)	Gymnasium (sf)	Community Center (sf)	Neighborhood Park (acres)	Community Park (acres)	Regional Park (acres)	Special Use Park (acres)	Open Space (acres)	Notes	
Henry St	0.09	ROS	ROW																							0.09	Lawn & Holly Tree	
Iowa Pl Trail	0.09	ROS	ROW	0.01																							0.09	Trail
Ivy St. Connector (Lower)	0.13	ROS	ROW																								0.13	Landscaping
Ivy St. Connector (Upper)	0.18	ROS	ROW																								0.18	Lawn
Knox / 20th St. Triangle	0.07	ROS	ROW																								0.07	Undeveloped Forest
Lakeway Medians	0.08	ROS	ROW																								0.08	Landscaping
Laurel St Trail	0.40	ROS	ROW	0.12																							0.40	trail & landscaping
Laurelwood Tr	2.31	ROS	ROW	0.40																							2.31	trail & landscaping
McLeod Rd. Medians	0.47	ROS	ROW																								0.47	landscaping
Nevucky Treil	0.36	ROS	ROW	0.07																							0.36	trail
Newell / Myrtle / Abbott Triangle	0.09	ROS	ROW	0.04																							0.09	Undeveloped Forest
Northwest Triangles (3)	0.64	ROS	ROW																								0.64	landscaping & lawn
Peters Street Trail	0.36	ROS	ROW	0.06																							0.36	Trail and remainder undeveloped
Rr Chesnut-Holly	0.08	ROS	ROW																								0.08	Trees
Rr Holy-Magnolia	0.08	ROS	ROW																								0.08	Trees
Rr Magnolia-Champion	0.08	ROS	ROW																								0.08	Trees
Taylor Street Stairs	0.36	ROS	ROW	0.06																							0.36	Concrete stairs
Tech School Berms	0.18	ROS	ROW																								0.18	landscaping & parking
Unity St Island	0.09	ROS	ROW																								0.09	lawn, landscaping, occasional public art

**EXISTING FACILITIES
WATERSHED PROPERTY**
(Within UGA)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football (ea)	Soccer (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Gymnasium (sf)	Community Center (sf)	Neighborhood Park (acres)	Community Park (acres)	Regional Park (acres)	Special Use Park (acres)	Open Space (acres)	Notes	
EXISTING																												
Lake Geneva Preserve (outside UGA)	7.7	WS	COB																									2013 Lake Whatcom Watershed Properties within or adjacent to City UGA and managed by COB Public Works Department
Laplante (outside UGA)	2.0	WS	COB																									
Macatee & Wells (outside UGA)	4.6	WS	COB																									
Oriental Creek Preserve (outside UGA)	198.7	WS	COB																									
Silver Beach Preserve (in City Limits)	22.1	WS	COB	0																								
Strode (in City Limits)	1.0	WS	COB																									
Zarnowitz (in UGA)	3.1	WS	COB																									
TOTAL EXISTING COB WATERSHED	239.1			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	234.4	

EXISTING FACILITIES
WHATCOM COUNTY
 (Within and Outside UGA)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football (ea)	Soccer (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Gymnasium (sf)	Community Center (sf)	Neighborhood Park (acres)	Community Park (acres)	Regional Park (acres)	Special Use Park (acres)	Open Space (acres)	Notes				
EXISTING WITHIN UGA																															
Alderwood-Redwood Property	0.5	OS	WC																							0.5	Lawn & tables				
Bellingham Senior Center	1.0	SU	WC																						1						
Chuckanut Mountain/City	100.0	OS	WC	1.3			1																			100	Inside of the UGA.				
Cottonwood Park	3.0	NP	WC																			3.0					undeveloped				
Euclid Park Parcel	2.1	OS	WC																							2.1	undeveloped, tidelands				
Galbraith Mountain	20.3	OS	WC	x																						20.3	Just outside UA				
Roeder Home	0.5	SU	WC																						0.5	Historical Registry					
Ted Edwards (Truax) Park	3.7	NP	WC		1	1																3.7					Neighborhood Park				
COUNTY UGA SUBTOTAL	131.1			1.3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.7	0	0	1.5	122.9	
EXISTING OUTSIDE UGA																															
Chuckanut Mountain	890.0	OS	WC	X			1																				890				
																											0.0	Mountain bike trails			
Lake Whatcom Park North	192.0	OS	WC	X												1											192	Trails, undeveloped			
Plantation Rifle Range	25.0	SU	WC																						25						
Samish Park	39.0	CP	WC	X			1								1	1				1			39					Fishing dock, canoe rentals, concessions			
Smith & Northwest Sports Complex	80.0	CP	WC	X							12	5											80					Whatcom Soccer Association (WSA); Boys & Girls Club; Bellingham Gun Club - skeet trap			
Squires Lake	80.0	OS	WC	X			1																				80				
Stimpson Family Nature Preserve	190.0	OS	WC	X																							190				
Teddy Bear Cove Park	13.0	OS	WC	X											1												13				
TOTAL	1,640.1			1.3	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	12	5	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	6.7	119	0	26.5	1,487.9					

EXISTING FACILITIES
PORT OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within UGA)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football (ea)	Soccer (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Gymnasium (sf)	Community Center (sf)	Notes
Airport - Marine Drive Trail	18.0	OS	POB	0.4																		trail
Fairhaven - Marine Park	1.9	CP	POB		1	1	1									1						picnic shelter, sand beach, restrooms
Fairhaven - Padden Creek Lagoon Boat Launch	0.8	SU	POB														1					boat launch
Squalicum - Inner Harbor Promenade	2.0	TR	POB	1.7																		lighted 1.5 mile, 12 wide paved trail with harbor view and ornamental plantings.
Squalicum - Harbor Boat Launch	3.5	SU	POB														1					boat launch
Squalicum - Tom Glenn Commons	1.6	CP	POB																			plaza stage & viewpoint
Squalicum - Zuanich Point Park	4.4	CP	POB	X	1	1												1			1	transitory moorage, public art, Playground
Little Squalicum Beach	5.0	OS	POB													1						undeveloped beach and gravel parking
TOTAL EXISTING PORT	37.2			2.1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	

EXISTING FACILITIES
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
(Within UGA)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Ownership	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis (ea)	Football (ea)	Soccer (ea)	Baseball/Softball (ea)	Skate Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Gymnasium (sf)	Community Center (sf)	Notes
Alderwood ES + Early Childhood Center	10.8	SU	BSD			2		1				1	1							1		school garden
Battersby Field	3.8	SU	BSD				1				1	1	2									track
Bellingham HS	17.0	SU	BSD							5	1	1	2							1		track (non-traditional)
Birchwood ES	4.1	SU	BSD		1		1															school garden
Carl Cozier ES	4.0	SU	BSD		1		1.5															
Columbia ES	3.0	SU	BSD		2		1				1	1								2		school garden
Cordata ES	19.8	SU	BSD		1		1.5				1	1								1		
Fairhaven MS	14.0	SU	BSD					2			1	1								2		track (non-traditional), school garden
Geneva ES	8.8	SU	BSD		1		1				1	1								1		school garden
Happy Valley ES	7.4	SU	BSD		2		1				1	1								1		track (non-traditional), school garden
Kulahau MS	10.0	SU	BSD					3			1	1								1		track (non-traditional)
Larabee ES	1.2	SU	BSD		2		1				1	1								1		school slated to close
Lowell ES	2.2	SU	BSD		2		2													1		
Northern Heights ES	15.6	SU	BSD		2		1				1	1										
Parkview ES	4.2	SU	BSD		2		1.5				1	1								1		school garden
Roeder Admin Building	n/a	SU	BSD																			no recreational facilities
Roosevelt ES	14.2	SU	BSD		2		1				2	2								1		school garden
Sehome HS	40.0	SU	BSD							6	1	1	1							2		
Shuksan MS	16.0	SU	BSD					2		6	1	2	1							1		school garden
Silver Beach ES	10.0	SU	BSD		2		1				1	1								2		
Squalicum HS	45.4	SU	BSD	0.1						5	1	1	2							1		track
Sunnyland ES	2.9	SU	BSD		2		1				1	1								1		
Wade King ES	15.6	SU	BSD		1		1				2											
Whatoom MS	4.2	SU	BSD					2					2							3		
Whatoom Hills Waldorf ES	2.0	SU	PRI																			
Whatoom Community College		SU	WCC							6	1											
Bellingham Technical College		SU	BTC																		1	
Western Washington University	182.7	SU	WWU							8	1	3	1								1	All WWU land. Excludes 38.3 acres of Sehome Arboretum.
WWU - Recreation Center		SU	WWU																1	1	1	fitness center, hockey court, climbing wall
WWU - Carver Gym		SU	WWU																1	2		4 racquetball courts, fitness center
WWU - Lakewood	9.8	SU	WWU																			crew facility, kayak & canoe rentals
WWU - Hannegan Environmental Center	23.2	SU	WWU																		1	
TOTAL EXISTING EDUCATION	472.0			0.1	0	25	1	26.5	0	36	8	26	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	27	4

Appendix C

PROPOSED FACILITIES TABLES

See the attached tables of Proposed Facilities, including recommendations as referenced in *Chapter 7* of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan.

Various sources and data are used to calculate existing and proposed land and facility costs including:

- Recent public land acquisition costs
- Real estate digest database of Bellingham area recent vacant land sales
- Professional Real Estate Appraisal services
- Land valuation comparisons - Whatcom County Assessor information
- Public agency bid data including Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Washington State Department of Transportation
- Building Industry Association of Washington construction data
- Means Construction Cost data
- Independent Cost Estimators
- Consultant cost databases
- Contractor information
- Construction trend information

The following abbreviations are used in the tables:

*	Facility not shown on maps in plan
AQ	Aquatic Land
CP	Community Park
NP	Neighborhood Park
OS	Open Space
SU	Special Use Site
TR	Trail

PROPOSED FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
(Within Planning Area)

(updated 10/25/2013)

Name	Acres	Designation	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelter (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Baseball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis/Fishball (ea)	Multi Use Field unlighted	Baseball/Softball Lighted (ea)	Baseball (ea)	DT-Leach Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Bench (ea)	Band Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch	Ferret Plaza (ea)	Community Center / Meeting Room (sq)	Informal Lawn (acres)	Backfill (ft avg rise and penetration)	Parking Lot Stalls	Amphitheater (ea, outdoor)	Cenosis (sq)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (9 holes ea)	Spray Park (ea)	All Other Misc.-Capital Mfrs \$	Notes	
BLUEDEL DONOVAN PARK	n/a	CP												1													800,000	Stormwater, shoreline, boat house		
BOULEVARD PARK	n/a	CP												1																
CIVIC ATHLETIC COMPLEX	n/a	CP																									1,500,000	Joe Martin synthetic turf		
CORNWALL BEACH PARK	n/a	CP	0.5	2	2	2		2						2	1		800	1				1	1000				0.5			
CORNWALL PARK EXPANSION	5.0	CP																						1	1				Expand park	
FAIRHAVEN PARK	n/a	CP	1																						1			200,000	Drainage, entry improvements; Chuckanut Ridge Trails and Trailhead parking	
LAKE PADDEN PARK	n/a	CP																										800,000	Drainage, field improvements	
MARITIME HERITAGE PARK	n/a	CP			1																								Improve playground restroom - year-around access	
NORTHTRIDGE PARK	n/a	CP	0.2	1	2	1	1					0.25																	Develop existing park	
NW COMMUNITY PARK	40.0	CP	1	2	2	2	1		1	1	2	0.5	1					800	2		60					1	0.5			
SQUALICUM CREEK PARK	n/a	CP	0.5	2	2	2	1					2	0.25	2				800	1		60								Phase 2 per master plan	
VAN WYCK PARK	n/a	CP	0.5	2	1	2	1			1			1					1200	2		60			1						
WHATCOM FALLS PARK	n/a	CP	0.5			1																								
BARKLEY PARK	3.0	NP	0.25	1	1		0.5												0.5										Expand existing open space	
BROADWAY PARK	n/a	NP			1																								Improve restroom - year-around access	
CENTRAL BAKERVIEW PARK	3.0	NP	0.25		1	1	0.5						0.5						1		10									
COMMERCIAL GREEN PARK	2.0	NP			1																									
CORDATA PARK	n/a	NP	0.2	1	1	1	0.5					0.25							1		20								Develop existing park	
DOWNTOWN SQUARE & PLAZAS	1.0	NP															2												To be determined with redevelopment	
E. YEW STREET PARK	3.0	NP	0.2		1	1	0.5					0.25	0.5						1		20									
EAST BAKERVIEW PARK	3.0	NP	0.2	1	1	1	0.5					0.25																		
N CORDATA PARK	3.0	NP	0.2	1	1	1	0.5														10									
N BAMSH CREST PARK	n/a	NP		1	1	1	0.5						0.5							2	10								Develop part of existing open space	
SUNSET POND (Expansion)	0.8	NP	0.5	1	1	1							0.5		1				0.5	40									Expand existing open space	
WEST BAKERVIEW PARK	3.0	NP	0.2		1		0.5						0.5							1	10									
ARROYO PARK	n/a	OS																							1				Improve N. Chuckanut trailhead	
BIG ROCK Open Space	n/a	OS																												
GALBRAITH GREENWAY AND TRAILS	4.0	OS	2			1																			1				Jointly with County	
LITTLE SQUALICUM PARK	n/a	OS				1							0.5		1						1000	20							Expand Parking, renovate pier	
OPEN SPACE ANCHOR ADDITIONS	40.0	OS																											Varies, generally north Bellingham	

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.
AQ = Aquatic Lands
2.15 = average # people per household

PROPOSED FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
(Within Planning Area)

(updated 10/25/2013)

Name	Acres (new)	Designation	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis/Racquetball (ea)	Multi Use Field unlighted	Baseball/Soccer Lighted (ea)	Shade Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch	Paved Plaza (ea)	Community Center / Meeting Room (sq ft)	Informal Lawn (acres)	Deck/Pier (sq ft) new and renovation	Parking Lot Skills	Amphitheater (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sq ft)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Bike Corridor (miles ea)	Spicy Park (ea)	All Other Misc. Capital Meter \$	Notes		
WATERFRONT/TIDELANDS	6.0	OS/AQ																											Varies		
I-5 TRAIL CROSSINGS *	0.6	OS/TR	0.25																										Tunnel, bridge, etc. - assumes three: Padden, Squallicum, & Bakerview		
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAILS	10.0	OS/TR	5																										Locations vary		
WHATCOM WATERWAY PARK & TRAIL	4.3	OS/TR	0.3														2		1										Phase 1-3		
BAY TO BAKER GREENWAY & TRAIL*	15.0	OS/TR	4																										Complete trail		
BAY TO BAKER TO KING MTN GREENWAY AND TRAILS	5.0	OS/TR	2																												
CHUCKANUT TO WOODSTOCK GREENWAY & TRAIL*	1.0	OS/TR	0.5																						1						
CORDATA TRAILS	5.0	OS/TR	5																												
INTERURBAN GREENWAY & TRAILS	n/a	OS/TR																													
KING MTN GREENWAY AND TRAILS	20.0	OS/TR	5.7																												
N BELLINGHAM GREENWAY & TRAILS (OTHER)	75.0	OS/TR	5																								3		Other trails in City and UGA not listed in other projects		
NORTH BAY GREENWAY & TRAILS	6.0	OS/TR	2																										North-south connection, assumes two		
OVER WATER WALKWAY	n/a	OS/TR	0.6																	2400											
S. BAY GREENWAY & TRAIL*	3.0	OS/TR	1																												
SAMISH CREST GREENWAY & TRAIL*	10.0	OS/TR	3																											Trailheads assumed with Samish Crest Park (north and south)	
PADDEN TO I-5 GREENWAY AND TRAILS	2.4	OS/TR	1																												
SAMISH CREST TO LOOKOUT MT. GREENWAY & TRAIL*	2.4	OS/TR	1																												
SEWOME BLUFF TRAIL - DOWNTOWN TO CORNWALL BEACH	0.2	OS/TR	0.5																												
OTHER WATERFRONT TRAILS	3.0	OS/TR	1.5																											ASB	
WHATCOM CREEK GREENWAY & TRAIL*	1.0	OS/TR	0.5																											Complete system	
YEW GREENWAY & TRAIL*	5.0	OS/TR	0.5																												
SAND J WATERWAY PARK	1.0	SU													1				0.25											Phase 4	
BIG ROCK GARDEN	n/a	SU	0.2																		10									Improvements per master plan	
COURTHOUSE PLAZA	0.3	SU														1														Per Old Town Neighborhood Plan	
DEPOT PLAZA	0.3	SU														1														per Old Town Neighborhood Plan	
FOUNTAIN SQUARE PLAZA	n/a	SU														1														300,000	
WOODSTOCK FARM	n/a	SU	0.2			1																								10	Improve access, hand boat landing (no launch)
																														2,950,000	
TOTAL PROPOSED COB	287.2		48.0	15.0	21.0	20.0	8.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	4.0	1.8	7.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	9.0	2,700.0	16.3	4,240.0	320.0	1.0	1,000.0	2.0	9.0	1.0	1.0			Capital Maintenance	

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.
AQ = Aquatic Lands
2.16 = average # people per household

**PROPOSED FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
(Within Planning Area)**

(updated 10/25/2013)

Name	Land (acres)	Trail (miles)	Picnic Shelters (ea)	Playground (ea)	Restrooms (ea)	Basketball (ea)	Volleyball - sand (ea)	Tennis/Pickleball (ea)	Multi Use Field unlighted	Baseball/Softball lighted (ea)	State Park (ea)	Off-Leash Area (acres, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch
TOTAL PROPOSED COB	287.2	48.0	15.0	21.0	20.0	8.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	4.0	1.8	7.0	4.0	0.0	4.0
Facility Unit Cost	\$ 90,328	\$ 500,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 75,000
Proposed Total Facility Cost	\$ 25,938,096	\$ 23,975,000	\$ 2,025,000	\$ 3,675,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 1,600,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 232	\$ 215	\$ 18	\$ 33	\$ 45	\$ 5	\$ 0	\$ 1	\$ 9	\$ 28	\$ 6	\$ 9	\$ 14	\$ -	\$ 3
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.16)	\$ 506	\$ 468	\$ 39	\$ 72	\$ 98	\$ 12	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ 20	\$ 60	\$ 14	\$ 20	\$ 31	\$ -	\$ 6

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.
AQ = Aquatic Lands
2.16 = average # people per household

**PROPOSED FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
(Within Planning Area)**

(updated 10/25/2013)

	Paved Plaza (ea)	Community Center / Meeting Room (sf)	Informal Lawn (acres)	Dock/Pier (if avg new and renovation)	Parking Lot Stalls	Amphitheater (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (9 holes ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Notes
TOTAL PROPOSED COB	9.0	2,700.0	16.3	4,240.0	320.0	1.0	1,000.0	2.0	9.0	1.0	1.0	
Facility Unit Cost	\$ 100,000	\$ 400	\$ 90,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 500	\$ 150,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 250,000	TOTAL COSTS
Proposed Total Facility Cost	\$ 900,000	\$ 1,080,000	\$ 1,462,500	\$ 14,840,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 2,700,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 93,370,596
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 8	\$ 10	\$ 13	\$ 133	\$ 7	\$ 11	\$ 4	\$ 3	\$ 24	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 835
Proposed Total Facility Cost / Household (2.18)	\$ 18	\$ 21	\$ 29	\$ 289	\$ 16	\$ 23	\$ 10	\$ 6	\$ 53	\$ 4	\$ 5	\$ 1,822

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.
AQ = Aquatic Lands
2.18 = average # people per household

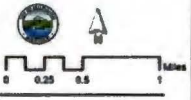
Appendix D

NORTH
BELLINGHAM
TRAIL PLAN

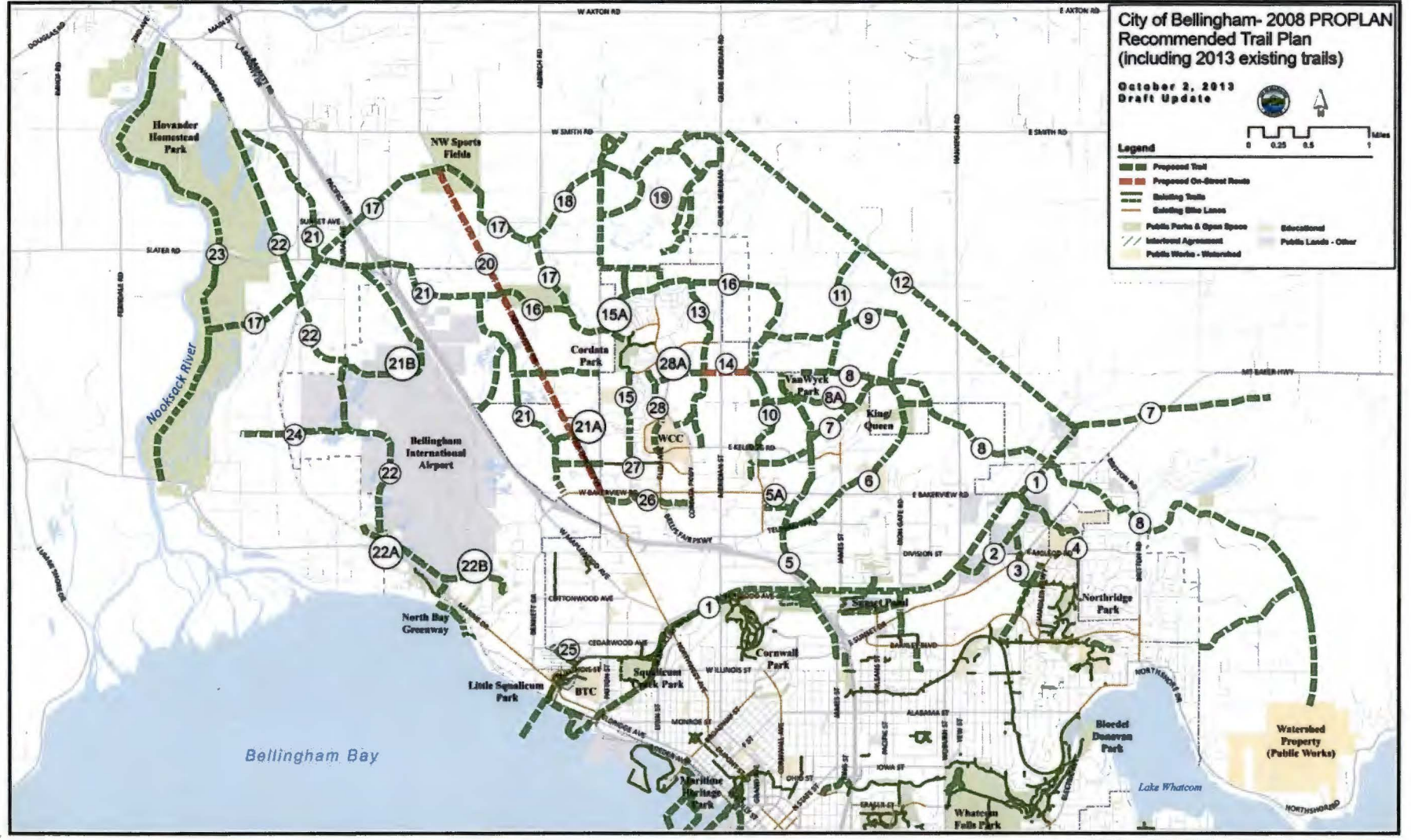
See the attached map and route descriptions.

**City of Bellingham- 2008 PROPLAN
Recommended Trail Plan
(including 2013 existing trails)**

October 2, 2013
Draft Update



- Legend**
- Proposed Trail
 - Proposed On-Street Route
 - Existing Trails
 - Existing Bike Lanes
 - Public Parks & Open Space
 - Educational
 - Interlocal Agreement
 - Public Lands - Other
 - Public Works - Watershed



North Bellingham Trail Plan Route Descriptions

Map No.	Trail Name	Route Description	Length
1	Bay to Baker Trail	Multi-purpose trail from Roeder Avenue to City Limits on railroad right of way	5.18
2	Dewey Valley Loop	Loop trail off main Bay to Baker Trail through wooded hillside on DNR property	0.87
3	Railroad Trail Connector	Connection from Railroad Trail to Bay to Baker Trail through subdivision open space areas	1.03
4	Bay to Baker - Northridge Link	Multipurpose connector from bay to Baker Trail (1) to northern Northridge Park	1.44
5	Bay to Baker - King Mountain Link	Connector from bay to Baker Trail north to Kellogg Road and King Mountain	1.42
5A	Deemer Trail	Neighborhood connector to Deemer Road	0.27
6	Queen Mountain Trail	Connector from (Trail 5) to King Mountain Trail Hub	1.77
7	Spring Creek to King Mountain Trail	Connector from Spring Creek Trail (10) to King Mountain Trail Hub	3.01
8	King Mountain East-West Trail	East-West Trail connecting Cordata Trails by way of Guide Meridian Overpass (14), crossing Spring Creek Trail (10), going over King Mountain to Bay to Baker Trail (1), and eastward to Squalicum Mountain	4.33
8A	King Mountain Trail	Trail from Van Wyck Park to Spring Creek to King Mountain Trail (7)	0.60
9	North King Mountain Trail	From Spring Creek Trail (10) east to King Mountain Trial Hub	1.76
10	Spring Creek Trail	From Bakerview north to North Bear Creek Trail (16)	1.35
11	Upper Spring Creek Trail	From King Mountain Trail (8) north to Power Line Trail (12)	1.13
12	Power Line Trail	From Smith Road, southeast to Bay to Baker Trail (1) and eastward along upper Squalicum Creek	3.80
13	Cordata East Trail	From WCC north to North Bear Creek Trail (16) at Klein Road	1.71
14	Meridian Overpass	Bike/Ped Overpass from Meridian av Van Wyk/Thomas Roads	0.10
15	West Cordata Trail	From Division Street Trail (27) north to North Bear Creek Trail (16) near Aldrich Road, through proposed Aldrich Elementary School property	1.29
15A	West Cordata Trail Link	From Cordata Park through County property to Cordata Parkway	0.30
16	North Bear Creek Trail	From Bear Creek Trail (21) east to Spring Creek Trail (10)	2.75
17	Old Silver Creek Trail	East-west connector from Cordata area west to Dike Trail (23), passing through NW Soccer Fields and crossing under I-5	4.67
18	Silver Springs Trail	From Silver Creek Trail (17) to Silver Springs at Smith Road	0.82
19	Larabee Springs Trails	As per Larabee Springs Master Plan, tying Silver Springs Trail (18) to Power Line Trail (12) and North Bear Creek Trail (16)	6.36

North Bellingham Trail Plan Route Descriptions

20	Northwest Road Trail	Bike/Ped trail or sidewalks & bike lanes from I-5 north to Old Silver Creek Trail (17) at NW Soccer Fields	3.03
21	Bear Creek Trail	From Bakerview Road north to Coast Millennium Trail (22) under I-5 at Slater Road, to Hovander Park in Ferndale	4.66
21A	Cordata to Brear Creek Trail	From west Cordata Trail to Bear Creek Trail	0.50
21B	Bear Creek to Coast Millennium Trail	From Slater Road through north Airport property to Lost Lake area	1.72
22	Coast Millennium Trail	From Marine Drive south of Bellingham Airport north to Hovander Park in Ferndale	4.76
22A	West Extension of Coast Millennium Trail	From Coast Millennium Trail (22) west to Wynn Road	0.36
22B	East Extension of Coast Millennium Trail	From Coast Millennium Trail (22) east to Alderwood School	0.61
23	Nooksack Dike Trail	(see County Trail Plan)	4.40
24	Marietta to Coast Millennium Trail	Extension of Coast Millennium Trail (22) to to west at Skagit Street	0.90
25	Laurelwood Trail	Extension south to Bay to Baker Trail (1) near Little Squalicum Park	0.26
26	Belleau Woods Trail	From Northwest Road Trail (20) to Cordata Parkway/Bellis Fair Mall	0.74
27	Division Street Trail	From Eliza Street west to Northwest Road Trail (20)	0.59
28	Cordata Pond Trail	From Kellogg Road north to Horton Road	0.77
28A	Cordata to Meridian Trail	Connector trail from Cordata Pond Trail (28) east to Meridian Overpass and on to King Mountain East-West Trail (8)	0.31
Total Trail Miles			69.58

Appendix E

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN (6 YEAR)

See the City's adopted 2014-2019 Parks and Recreation Department 6 year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) on the following pages. Expenditures for 2014 were authorized after budget adoption by the City Council. Expenditures identified for years beyond 2014 are included for information and review of potential future needs. Their inclusion is not a request for approval or budget authorization.

Capital Budget 2014-2019

PARK DEPARTMENT			-----Estimates Subject to Revision and Council Approval-----					
Funding Sources and Projects/Purchases	Prior Years	2014 Request	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total Through 2019
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from Multiple Funds:								
Bellingham Waterfront Commercial Green								
Parks Impact Fund	-	-	-	-	-	200,000	200,000	400,000
Unfunded	-	-	-	-	-	-	600,000	600,000
Boulevard Park Cleanup - South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant								
Environmental Remediation Fund	2,383,816	22,449	22,942	23,450	23,974	24,513	19,068	2,520,212
Judgments and Settlements	(251,417)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(251,417)
State Grant	(46,268)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(46,268)
Greenways III Fund	880,673	-	-	-	-	-	-	880,673
Judgments and Settlements	(560,529)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(560,529)
State Grant	(114,004)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(114,004)
Unfunded	-	-	-	8,000,000	-	-	-	8,000,000
Boulevard Park Shoreline								
Greenways III Fund	564,441	-	-	-	-	-	-	564,441
Parks Impact Fund	350,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	350,000
Unfunded	-	-	575,000	-	-	-	-	575,000
Boulevard to Waterfront Park Boardwalk								
1st 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fu	182,344	-	-	-	-	-	-	182,344
Greenways III Fund	2,301,046	-	3,900,000	-	-	-	-	6,201,046
Federal Indirect Grant	(671,481)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(671,481)
Parks Impact Fund	-	-	600,000	-	-	-	-	600,000
Unfunded	-	-	2,200,000	-	-	-	-	2,200,000
Cordata Neighborhood Park								
Parks Impact Fund	400,000	-	50,000	250,000	1,000,000	-	-	1,700,000
Unfunded	-	-	-	2,300,000	-	-	-	2,300,000
Cornwall Beach Park Development								
Parks Impact Fund	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
Unfunded	-	-	200,000	700,000	-	-	-	900,000
Samish Crest Trail								
Beyond Greenways Fund	343,336	-	-	-	-	-	-	343,336
Unfunded	-	-	-	-	500,000	-	-	500,000
South Bay Trail Crossing and Boulevard Park								
Transportation Benefit District Fu	-	200,000	-	-	-	-	-	200,000
Greenways III Fund	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Parks Impact	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	50,000

Capital Budget 2014-2019

PARK DEPARTMENT - Continued			-----Estimates Subject to Revision and Council Approval-----					
Funding Sources and Projects/Purchases	Prior Years	2014 Request	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total Through 2019
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from a Multiple Funds (continued):								
Squalicum Creek Park								
Greenways III Fund	669,760	4,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	4,669,760
Parks Impact Fund	10,390	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	510,390
Unfunded	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000,000	5,000,000
Whatcom Creek Bridge Replacement								
Transportation Benefit District Fu	-	250,000	-	-	-	-	-	250,000
Greenways III Fund	-	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	150,000
Whatcom Falls Park West Entry								
Olympic-Whatcom Falls Park Addl Fund	25,000	200,000	-	-	-	-	-	225,000
Greenways III Fund	100,000	400,000	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
Whatcom Waterway Park								
1st 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fu	750,000	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,250,000
State Department of Commerce Grant	(750,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(750,000)
Unfunded	-	-	1,082,500	-	1,000,000	-	-	2,082,500
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from a Single Fund:								
1st 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fund								
Annual Boundary Surveys	-	-	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	-	24,000
Annual Park Playground Equipment Parts	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	120,000
Annual Park Sign Replacement	-	-	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	75,000
Big Rock Garden Park Fence Replacement	-	-	45,000	-	-	-	-	45,000
Birchwood Neighborhood Park Restroom	-	-	-	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Bloedel Donovan Facility Improvements	-	-	45,000	-	-	-	-	45,000
Boulevard Park North Restroom Renovation	-	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Fairhaven Park Entry Columns Replacement	-	-	-	-	160,000	-	-	160,000
Forest and Cedar Park Fence Replacement	-	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	15,000

Capital Budget 2014-2019

PARK DEPARTMENT - Continued			-----Estimates Subject to Revision and Council Approval-----					
Funding Sources and Projects/Purchases	Prior Years	2014 Request	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total Through 2019
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from a Single Fund (Continued):								
1st 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fund (Continued)								
Park and Sports Field Lighting	-	8,000	93,000	24,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	155,000
Park Irrigation System Renovations	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000
Roof Replacements	-	28,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	78,000
Sidewalk & Curb Replacement	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	150,000
Sports Lighting Replacement at Geri Fields 2 and 3	-	-	-	320,000	-	-	-	320,000
Trail Surface/Drainage Repairs	-	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	210,000
2nd 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fund								
Annual Playground Repairs and Improvements	-	-	125,000	-	150,000	-	-	275,000
Parks Facility Asphalt Patching and Resurfacing	-	50,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	175,000
Greenways III Fund								
Greenway Land Acquisition	-	3,880,000	-	5,270,000	-	-	-	9,150,000
Interurban Trail - Chuckanut	120,000	120,000	-	-	-	680,000	-	920,000
Lake Padden Park Improvements	50,000	85,000	-	165,000	700,000	-	-	1,000,000
Parks Impact Fund								
Joe Martin Turf	-	1,438,200	-	-	-	-	-	1,438,200
State Grant	-	(1,438,200)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,438,200)
Land Acquisition - Park in Developing Area	-	500,000	-	500,000	300,000	300,000	-	1,600,000
Miscellaneous Community Parks Construction	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	300,000
Neighborhood Park Improvements	-	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	250,000
Sidewalks, Paths and Trails	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	-	250,000
Sunset Pond Parking	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Capital Plan Total Estimated Expenditures	9,230,806	12,626,649	9,184,442	18,068,450	4,189,974	1,560,513	6,019,068	60,879,902
Less Unfunded Expenditures	-	-	(4,057,500)	(11,000,000)	(1,500,000)	-	(5,600,000)	(22,157,500)
Less Anticipated Revenue	(2,393,699)	(1,438,200)	-	-	-	-	-	(3,831,899)
Net Outlay Capital Projects/Purchases	6,837,107	11,188,449	5,126,942	7,068,450	2,689,974	1,560,513	419,068	34,890,503

Appendix F

REVENUE SOURCE DESCRIPTIONS

The following is a general description of the different types of revenue sources that may be used to fund park, recreation and open space programs or facilities. Some are restricted to development only while others may be used for operations and maintenance. These are listed in no particular order and with no reference to the feasibility or recommendation of implementing each revenue source.

General Fund

The General Fund is derived from property taxes, licenses and permits, intergovernmental revenues including state and federal grants, service charges and fees, fines and forfeitures, and other miscellaneous revenues. General funds are used to finance most government operations including staff, equipment, capital facility and other requirements. Park, recreation and open space programs and operations are funded primarily from general fund accounts.

- Sales Tax - is the City's largest single revenue source and may be used for any legitimate City purpose. The City has no direct control over this source; it is collected and distributed by the State and may fluctuate with general economic and local business conditions.
- Property Tax - under Washington State's constitution, cities may levy a property tax rate not to exceed \$3.60 per \$1,000 of the assessed value of all taxable property within incorporation limits. The total of all property taxes for all taxing authorities, however, cannot exceed 1.0% of assessed valuation, or \$10.00 per \$1,000 of value. If the taxes of all districts exceed the 1.0% of \$10.00 amount, each is proportionately reduced until the total is at or below the 1.0% limit.

In 2001, Washington State law was amended by Proposition 747, a statutory provision limiting the growth of regular property taxes to 1.0% per year, after adjustments for new construction. Any proposed increases over this amount are subject to a referendum vote.

The statute was intended to control local governmental spending by controlling the annual rate of growth of property taxes. In practice, however, the statute can reduce the effective property tax yield to an annual level far below a city's levy authorization, particularly when property values are increasing rapidly.

Special Revenues

Special revenues are derived from state and local option taxes dedicated to specific expenditure purposes, such as the motor vehicle

tax, motor excise tax, real estate excise tax, motel and hotel tax, public art, criminal justice, paths and trails, convention center and the like. Some special revenues may be used to finance limited capital facilities, such as roads or parks, where the local option allows - such as the local real estate excise tax (REET).

Debt Service Funds

Debt service funds are derived from a dedicated portion of the property tax or general fund proceeds to repay the sale of general obligation (voted) and Councilmanic (non-voted) bonds. Both types of bonds may be used to finance park facility improvements - but not maintenance or operational costs.

- **Councilmanic (limited or non-voted) bonds** - may be issued without voter approval by the Council for any facility development purpose. The total amount of all outstanding non-voted general obligation debt may not exceed 1.5% of the assessed valuation of all city property.

Limited general obligation bonds must be paid from general governmental revenues. Therefore, debt service on these bonds may reduce the amount of revenue available for current operating expenditures and the financial flexibility of the Council may need to fund annual budget priorities. For this reason, Councilmanic bonds are usually only used for the most pressing capital improvement issues. This method was used to fund the 2006 improvements at Civic Athletic Complex.

- **Unlimited general obligation bonds** - must be approved by at least 60% of resident voters during an election which has a turnout of at least 40% of those who voted in the last state general election. The bond may be repaid from a special levy, which is not governed by the 1.0% statutory limitation on the property tax growth rate. Total indebtedness as a percent of the assessed valuation that may be incurred by limited and unlimited general obligation bonds together, however, may not exceed:
 - 2.5% - provided that indebtedness in excess of 1.5% is for general purposes,
 - 5.0% - provided that indebtedness in excess of 2.5% is for utilities, and
 - 7.5% - provided that indebtedness in excess of 5.0% is for parks and open space development.

Monies authorized by limited and unlimited types of bonds must be spent within 3 years of authorization to avoid arbitrage requirements unless invested at less than bond yield. In addition, bonds may be used to construction but not maintain or operate facilities. Facility maintenance and operation costs must be paid from general governmental revenue or by voter authorization of special annual or biannual operating levies or by user fees or charges.

Enterprise Funds

Enterprise funds are derived from the user fees and charges levied for utility operations including water and sewer, storm drainage, regional water, solid waste and cemetery. The enterprise revenues are used to pay operating costs, retire capital facility debt and plan future replacement and expansion projects. Enterprise funds may be created for a park or recreation activity that has a revenue source sufficient to finance all costs. Enterprise funds have been used on a limited basis for golf courses, marinas and similar self-financing operations.

Special Legislation

Local government representatives can seek state enabling legislation authorizing new or special revenue sources. Senate Bill 5972 (RCW 82.46) is an example of one possible legislative solution. The 1982 bill gave city governments the option of adding an additional 0.0025% increment to the real estate excise tax (REET) for the sole purpose of financing local capital improvement projects including parks, utilities and other infrastructure except governmental buildings.

Like bonds, Senate Bill 5972 funds may not be used to finance operation and maintenance requirements.

Unlimited General Obligation Bonds

Bellingham may come to depend on voter referendums as a means of financing a larger portion of the capital improvement program, since unlimited obligation bonds are not paid from the property tax subject to the 1.0% limitation.

Voter approved capital improvements may be more representative of actual resident priorities than some other methods of validating capital expenditures, and will at the least, ensure referendum submittals provide widespread benefits. However, bond revenue cannot be spent for maintenance and operational issues - and bond referendums must be approved by a margin over 60% of the registered voters who participated in the last election.

General Levy Rate Referendums

Proposition 747, the statutory provision limiting the growth of regular property taxes to 1.0% per year, can be waived by referendum approval of a simple (50%) majority of Bellingham's registered voters. Voters can be asked to approve a resetting of the property tax levy rate that would adjust the amount of revenue the city can generate. The new total revenue that can be generated by a resetting of the rate would be subject to the same 1.0% limitation, however, and the total amount of revenue and the resulting property tax rate would start to decline again in accordance with the Proposition.

However, the adjusted rate and revenue could finance specific capital improvement projects - or programs that involve construction, maintenance and operations aspects that a majority of the voters are willing to pay for under the adjusted rate.

The resetting of the rate can be permanent, subject to the provisions of Proposition 747. Or temporary, where the rate is adjusted until a specific amount of revenue has been generated to finance a project or program - whereupon the rate reverts to the original or a specified amount defined in the referendum.

Bellingham voters have passed three levy rate referendums, to the fund the Greenway Program acquisitions, improvements and maintenance endowment. The current levy will expire in 2016.

Environmental Impact Mitigation - Subdivision Regulations

City subdivision policies require developers of subdivisions within the City, or on lands that may eventually annex to the City, to provide suitably designed and located open spaces, woodland preserves, trail systems, playgrounds and other park or recreational facilities. Such facilities may include major components of the park or recreational system that may be affected by the project's location or development. The City may

also consider requiring developers to provide acceptable long-term methods of managing and financing maintenance requirements. Attractive management systems could include:

- Ownership by a private organization - like a tennis, swimming or golf club, who assumes responsibility for all maintenance responsibilities and costs,
- Ownership by a homeowners or common property owners association - who may contract maintenance responsibilities and assess property owner's annual costs.
- Dedication of property - to an adjacent city or school district who assumes maintenance responsibilities using local city or school funds, or
- Creation of a special recreation service district - where locally elected district representatives manage maintenance requirements and select a local method of financing.

The City should not accept title and maintenance responsibilities unless the land or facility will be a legitimate community park or recreation element that may be supported using public financing. The City may be contracted by any of the other agencies to provide or oversee a maintenance contract on the owner's behalf provided all City costs are reimbursed by an approved method of local financing.

Growth Impact Fees

Bellingham has adopted a growth impact fee provision in accordance with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). A park impact fee is applied to all proposed residential developments within the city as a means to maintaining park, recreation and open space levels-of-service. The ordinance makes provisions for setting aside the resources, including lands or monies, necessary to offset the impact new residential development project has on park, recreation and open space facilities.

Land contributions can be accepted in lieu of impact fees if they will be suitable sites for future facilities. Land and fees accumulated under the ordinance must be invested within a reasonable time of impact assessment or be returned to the contributing developer.

Inter-local Agreements

Bellingham could work with Whatcom County to determine an equitable means whereby growth mitigation park impact fees can be collected for residential developments occurring within the urban growth area outside of existing city limits, but within the area the city eventually expects to annex.

A joint growth impact fee should be collected where the county and city maintain the same local and regional or citywide level-of-service (LOS) presently existing within the incorporated (city) and unincorporated (county) sections, and for the urban growth area in total. A common fee could be collected by each agency, then shared on a project by project basis for improvements benefitting local neighborhoods (and potential residents of proposed subdivisions) or residents of the community and urban growth area-at-large.

The City should also work with the Bellingham School District to determine to what extent the City could cooperatively finance shared or common facility improvements. Such improvements could use co-located school and park sites, commonly improved and scheduled fields and facilities, and the sharing of park and school growth impact fees - among other options.

It is to Bellingham's advantage to assist the school district with the development and operation of common facilities since these facilities serve residents of the entire city.

In return, however, the city and school district must determine some equitable means whereby the city and school district perform or reimburse each other for some of the added facility maintenance and operational impacts that users create on each agency's facilities.

User Fees and Charges

The City may increase the number of activities subject to user fees and charges and use the proceeds to purchase land, develop, operate and maintain facilities where all costs are reimbursed by the revenue obtained. Essentially, the City has become a facility developer/operator providing whatever facilities or services the market will support from user revenue.

User fees have been and could be used to provide facilities for park and recreation activities whose profit margins are too low to sustain commercial operations or whose benefiting user group may extend beyond county boundaries. Possible user fee financed facilities include indoor tennis and racquetball facilities, golf courses, horse stables and equestrian centers, boating resorts, recreational vehicle parks and any other facility where demand is sizable enough to warrant a user fee financing approach.

In essence, the market determines which facility's revenues equal costs, and thereby, which programs the City would provide on a direct costs/benefit basis. To date, City user fee revenues provide a significant source of operating funds for recreational programs. While important, this source of finance will likely never pay full costs for all programs, or any operation, maintenance or development costs.

Special Funding Sources

Bellingham has approved or could submit for approval the following special financing options.

- **REET (Real Estate Excise Tax)** - RCW 82.46 gives city governments the option of adding up to two 0.0025% increments to the real estate excise tax (REET) for the sole purpose of financing local capital improvement projects. REET funds may not be used to finance operation and maintenance requirements.

Bellingham has adopted both REET options.

REET remains a viable financing tool for park, recreation and open space acquisition and development projects. However, REET funds are to be used for all city capital requirements, not just park purposes.

- **Greenway Funds** - in 1990, 1997 and 2006, Bellingham voters approved property tax levies to fund the acquisition and development of park, recreation and open space projects. The most recent levy, which represented an annual cost of \$57.00 per \$100,000 in property value, will expire in the year 2016. The three levies combined will generate a total of \$71 million in funding.

State Grants

Washington State funds and administers a number of programs for non-motorized transportation and trails purposes using special state revenue programs.

- **Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP)** - provides funds for the acquisition and development of conservation and recreation lands. The Habitat Conservation Account of the WWRP program provides funds to acquire critical habitat, natural areas and wildlife categories. The Outdoor Recreation Account of the WWRP program provides funds for local parks, state parks, trails and water access categories.
- **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Act (ALEA)** - uses revenues obtained by the Washington Department of Natural Resources from the lease of state owned tidal lands. The ALEA program is administered by the IAC for the development of shoreline related trail improvements and may be applied for up to 50% of the proposal.
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA)** - a Department of Ecology administered water quality program provides grants for up to 75% of the cost of water quality/fish enhancement studies. Referendum 39 monies can be applied to park developments that propose to restore, construct or otherwise enhance fish producing streams, ponds or other water bodies.
- **Capital Projects Fund for Washington Heritage** - provides funds for the restoration and renovation projects for historical sites and buildings by local governments and nonprofit agencies. The program is administered by the Heritage Resource Center (HRC).
- **Boating Facilities Program** - approved in 1964 under the state Marine Recreation Land Act, the program earmarks motor vehicle fuel taxes paid by watercraft for boating-related lands and facilities. Program funds may be used for fresh or saltwater launch ramps, transient moorage and upland support facilities.
- **Washington State Public Works Commission** - initiated a program that may be used for watercraft sanitary pump-out facilities.
- **Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)** - provides grants to cities, counties and qualified nonprofit organizations for the improvement and maintenance of existing, and the development of new athletic facilities.
- **Non-Highway & Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA)** - provides funding to develop and manage recreation opportunities for users of off-road vehicles and non-highway roads. An allocation (1%) from the state Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax (MVFT) and off-road vehicle (ORV) permit fees fund the program. NOVA funds may be used for the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of off-road vehicle and non-highway road recreation opportunities.
- **Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program (FARR)** - provides funds to acquire, develop and renovate public and private nonprofit firearm and archery training, practice and recreation facilities. The program is funded from a portion of the fees charged for concealed weapons permits.

Federal Grants

Federal monies are available for the construction of outdoor park facilities from the National Park Service (NPS) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) administers the grants.

- **National Park Service (NPS) grants** - usually do not exceed \$150,000 per project and must be matched on an equal basis by the local jurisdiction. The IAC assigns each project application a priority on a competitive statewide basis according to each jurisdiction's need, population benefit, natural resource enhancements and a number of other factors. In the past few years, project awards have been extremely competitive as the federal government significantly reduced the amount of federal monies available to the NPS program. The state increased contributions to the program over the last few years using a variety of special funds, but the overall program could be severely affected by pending federal deficit cutting legislation.

Applicants must submit a detailed comprehensive park, recreation and open space plan to be eligible for NPS funding. The jurisdiction's plan must demonstrate facility need, and prove that the jurisdiction's project proposal will adequately satisfy local park, recreation and open space needs and interests. Due to diminished funding, however, IAC grants have not been a significant source of project monies for city or other local jurisdictions in recent years.

- **Transportation Enhancement Grants** - can be used to finance on and off-road non-motorized trail enhancements along major and minor arterial collector roads or sometimes, within separate trail corridors. The program was adopted in 1993 and is administered by the Regional Transportation Organization on behalf of the US Department of Transportation.

Applicants must demonstrate the proposed trail improvements will increase access to non-motorized recreational and commuter transportation alternatives.

- **National Recreational Trails Program (NRTTP)** - is the successor to the National Recreational Trails Act (NRFTA). Funds may be used to rehabilitate and maintain recreational trails that provide a backcountry experience. In some cases, the funds may be used to create new "linking" trails, trail relocations and educational programs.
- **Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)** - supports development and renovation of areas for non-trailer-able recreational boats over 26 feet and related support elements on US navigable waters. Funds may be used to produce and distribute information and educational materials. The federal program compliments the state-funded Boating Facilities Program (BFP) administered for smaller vessels.

Recreation Service Districts (RCW Chapter 36.69)

State legislation authorizes the establishment of recreation service districts as special units of government that may be wholly independent of any involvement with a county or any other local public agency or jurisdiction. Districts may provide recreational facilities that are specific to the district's boundaries in return for the district residents' agreement to pay the special development, operation and maintenance costs utilizing special financing devices.

Special recreation service districts must be initiated by local jurisdiction resolution or citizen petition following hearings on feasibility and costs studies of the proposed district's facility development or operation costs. The proposal must ultimately be submitted for voter approval including all provisions relating to any special financing agreements. The voters must initially approve the formation of the district and may designate existing elected officials, or a body appointed by existing elected officials, or elect district commissioners or officers solely responsible for park and recreation policy. Separate voter approvals must be sought for 3-year operating levies providing maintenance, repair, operating costs and facility acquisition and development projects.

A recreation service district can be flexible and used to provide local recreational facilities in the same variety of custom service choices with the exception that the governing board may be separately elected. There are no limitations on the number of separate recreation service districts that can be established within a county, provided no district overlaps another.

Metropolitan Park Districts (SB 2557)

In 2002, the state legislature authorized the establishment of metropolitan park districts as special units of government that may be wholly independent of any involvement with a city, county or any other local public agency or jurisdiction. Like recreation service districts, metropolitan park districts may provide recreational facilities that are specific to the district's boundaries in return for the district residents' agreement to pay the special development, operation and maintenance costs utilizing special financing devices.

Metropolitan park districts must be initiated by local government resolution or citizen petition following hearings on feasibility and costs studies of the proposed district's facility development or operation costs. The proposal must ultimately be submitted for voter approval (50%) including all provisions relating to any special financing agreements. The voters must initially approve the formation of the district, and may designate existing elected officials, or a body appointed by existing elected officials or elect district commissioners or officers solely responsible for park and recreation policy.

Unlike recreation service districts, voters must also approve the establishment of a continuous levy as a junior taxing district - compared with 3 year levies under a recreation service district to provide maintenance, repair, operating costs and facility acquisition and development projects.

Like the recreation service district, a metropolitan park district can be flexible and used to provide local recreational facilities in the same variety of custom service choices with the exception that the financing levy may be as a junior taxing district with a continuous levy.

There are no limitations on the number of separate recreation service districts that can be established within a city, county or as a combination of multiple cities and counties provided no district overlaps another.

The Tacoma Metropolitan Park District was established in 1909 and is the largest and oldest recreation park district in the State of Washington. The Chuckanut Community Forest Park District was established in 2013 for the specific purpose of raising funds to pay back the loan used to acquire the Fairhaven Highlands development property.

Special Use Agreements

Special property agreements can often be used instead of property purchases to secure public use rights for land or property at no cost or a nominal fee, particularly where the possible public use is of benefit to the private landowner. Some forms of special use agreements can provide favorable tax benefits if the use agreement can be shown to have an assigned value.

The City could expand the use agreement concept to include complete development, operation or maintenance responsibilities. Package lease agreements will usually provide more effectively maintained facilities than possible where the City must staff specialized, small work crews.

Sometimes package lease agreements covering use and maintenance aspects may be the only way of resolving an equitable agreement with the private ownership. This may include trails on utility corridors where the ownership may prefer to control development and maintenance activities, and the City may prefer to avoid any implied responsibility or liability for the utility worthiness which the City's maintenance of a trail system could imply.

Public/Private Service Contracts

Private market skills and capital may be employed in a variety of ways including the use of public/private services contracts where a private party can be contracted to operate and maintain a facility for a fixed fee cost. Service contracts can be very efficient where the activities are small, scattered in location, seasonal, expert or experimental. Service contracts are also relatively easy to initiate or terminate if area demand fails to provide sufficient use or revenue to justify continued operation.

Service contracts may be very flexible and can include agreements with city, school district or local user groups who can or would be interested in sustaining the activity on a subsidized or sweat-equity basis in exchange for the facility.

Public/Private Concessions

The City could lease a portion of a site or facility to a private party in exchange for a fixed fee or a percentage of gross receipts. The private operator assumes operation and maintenance responsibilities and costs in exchange for a profit. For certain types of facilities, such as enterprise fund account facilities like golf courses, the City's portion of the profits may be used to pay facility development and/or operation and maintenance costs at the same or for similar facility developments.

The City may save considerable monies on concessions where the activities are specialized, seasonal, experimental or unproven. Concessions can be easily initiated, provide direct user benefit/cost reimbursements and relieve the City of a capital risk should market or user interest fail to materialize to at least break-even levels.

Concessionaires could operate a wide variety of park and recreational facilities including horse stables and equestrian centers, boating and bicycle rentals, special group and recreational vehicle compounds, athletic field and court facilities, swimming pools and beaches, shooting ranges and ORV tracks among others.

Public/Private Joint Development Ventures

The City can enter into an agreement with a private or public developer to jointly own or lease land for an extended period of time. The purpose of the venture would be to allow the development, operation and maintenance of a major recreational facility or activity in exchange for a fixed lease cost or a percentage of gross receipts.

The developer assumes development, operation and maintenance responsibilities, costs and all market risks in exchange for a market opportunity providing a profitable return not otherwise available. The City realizes the development of a facility in exchange for a low minimum capital return and no or very little capital risk.

Joint development agreements represent an ultimate benefit/cost resolution that may also provide public revenue that the City could use for other development opportunities. Examples include the possible joint development on City lands of equestrian centers, marinas, hostels, recreational vehicle campgrounds, seminar retreats, special resorts, indoor racquetball courts and athletic clubs, swimming pools and water parks, golf courses, gun and archery ranges and ORV competition tracts, among others.

Self-Help Land Leases

There are instances where an activity is so specialized in appeal or of a service area so broad in scope that it cannot be equitably financed using general public funds. Specialized user groups should be provided options for developing or maintaining facilities in ways that account for equitable public cost reimbursements. Examples include the use of land leases where the City may lease land at low or no cost where a user group or club assumes responsibility for the development, operation and maintenance of the facility. The club could provide volunteer help or use club finances to develop, operate and maintain the facility as a means of meeting user benefit/cost objectives.

Land lease agreements could accommodate organized athletics like soccer, baseball, football, softball and rugby; or very specialized facilities like shooting ranges, archery fields, ORV trails and ultra-light aircraft parks, among others.

Self-Help Contract Agreements

The City can purchase land, develop, operate and maintain a specialized facility under a negotiated contract agreement where a special interest group agrees to defray all costs in addition to or in lieu of a user fee as a means of meeting user benefit/cost objectives. The agreements can be quite flexible and could contract the City, the user group, another public agency or a private operator to be developer/operator.

Contract agreements could accommodate a range of more expensive special purpose facility developments including high quality athletic competition facilities for league organizations and specialized facility developments like shooting ranges and ORV tracks when and where the user organization can provide financial commitments.

Appendix G

SURVEY RESULTS

The City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department contracted with Applied Research Northwest (ARN) to conduct a telephone survey of 300 Bellingham residents. In addition, an online survey was made available on the City's website for anyone. The purpose of the survey was to help identify people's priorities and preferences for parks and open space in Bellingham.

See the attached survey report from Applied Research Northwest.

REPORT

City of Bellingham
Department of Parks and Recreation
Park, Recreation, Planning Survey

September 2013

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Bellingham Department of Parks and Recreation contracted with Applied Research Northwest (ARN) to conduct a survey of Bellingham residents. This survey was conducted as a part of the planning process for updating the Department's six-year Park Recreation and Open Space Plan.. The purpose of the survey was to help identify people's priorities and preferences for parks and open space in Bellingham.

Included in the survey were questions about current park usage, satisfaction with park facilities, and attitudes towards potential park projects and funding.

The survey was administered by phone to random sample of households in Bellingham and was also made available on the web for those who wanted to contribute their feedback. Three hundred (300) residents responded to the phone survey. Their responses are summarized here and compared to findings from the last survey in 2008. Many more also contributed to the online survey. Their feedback has been summarized in a separate report.

Frequency of park visits

Just over half of respondents said that they have used park facilities more than 40 times in the past year, with a sizable portion (45%) saying that they have visited parks more than 60 times. The frequency of park visits was similar to that in 2008. Younger respondents (under 55) and those with children in the house were more likely to be high frequency visitors to the parks.

Participation in recreational programming

Just over one-third of respondents (34%) said that they had participated in some sort of programming (sponsored by the city or otherwise) in the past year. This is essentially unchanged from 2008

Just over one-quarter (27%) of respondents indicated that there were other types of recreational programs (in addition to the ones they already know are available) they would like to see offered. The most common opportunity mentioned involved water activities; primarily kayaking or, to a lesser extent, general boating or stand up paddle-boarding.

Facilities use

When asked what types of park facilities they and other members of their household have used in the past year, top mentions included walking and biking trails (75%), playgrounds (50%) and both indoor (36%) and outdoor (35%) swimming areas. The facilities used by the smallest proportion of respondents were disc golf courses and boat launches for motorized boats (both 18%).

Three types of facilities showed significant change in usage since 2008. Findings indicated decreased usage of walking/biking trails and mountain biking trails but showed an increase in usage of disc golf courses

Just over one-fifth (21%) said there are types of park facilities that they would like to use that don't currently exist in Bellingham. The most frequently mentioned types of facilities were walkways and trails, waterfront or beach access, and swimming facilities (primarily swimming pools).

Specialty facilities: Pickleball, off leash dog areas, non-motorized boat launch

New this year, the survey explored familiarity with pickleball and demand for pickleball courts. Just over one-quarter of respondents (27%) said that they have played a game of pickleball or seen it played and 11% said that they would like to see additional pickleball provided in the city

Two-thirds said they would support the Parks department in designating certain trails for off leash dog walking (48% indicated *strong support*) Twenty-three percent (23%) said they would object to this type of effort and ten percent (10%) said they didn't have an opinion.

Respondents were asked about the possibility of the city adding non-motorized boat launch sites to shorelines and waterways. Half of respondents (52%) said it was at least *somewhat important*. Respondents with children living in the household were especially likely to say this is *extremely important* (27% vs. 15% of all respondents).

Park facilities satisfaction

Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with each of the facilities that they had used in the past year. Top rated facilities (highest proportion of *completely satisfied* ratings) included walking and biking trails, playgrounds, and non-motorized boat launches. Greatest dissatisfaction went to boat launches for motorized boats, off-leash dog areas and swimming pools, but even those lowest rated areas garnered relatively high ratings (82%+ *satisfied*).

Satisfaction ratings were compared to 2008 findings and a couple of changes are worth noting:

- Satisfaction with playgrounds went up (62% *completely satisfied*, up from 50% in 2008)
- Ratings of indoor pools slipped overall with 16% *dissatisfied* (9% in 2008)

Respondents less than *completely satisfied* with athletic fields were asked to comment on their rating. Top reasons for dissatisfaction included the condition of fields (over half the comments), field availability and lighting.

Respondents who were *dissatisfied* with the off-leash dog areas were asked to comment on their rating. Top reasons for dissatisfaction included maintenance issues, other dogs and their owners, and a lack of off-leash areas.

Thirteen percent of respondents said there were types of facilities that they did not use in the past year because they were previously dissatisfied with them. The most frequent response referred to indoor swimming pool facilities (18%). A slightly smaller proportion mentioned walking and biking trails (15%) and off-leash dog areas (13%)

Open space for wildlife habitat

Respondents were asked about the amount of natural open space available for wildlife habitat in the city. Less than half (41%) said they were *completely satisfied*, though a much smaller proportion (15%) said they were *dissatisfied*, either *somewhat* or *completely*.

Possible parks project ratings

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of eight different possible park projects. Improving trail connectivity led the list with 62% calling this *extremely* or *very important*. Other top ranked projects were improving water access, adding a park downtown, and providing community gardens (all three with roughly 45% *extremely* or *very important*). Disc golf trailed at the bottom of the list with only 12% calling it *very* or *extremely important*.

Of the eight potential park projects tested in 2013, three were also rated in 2008. Analysis found some indication of decreased importance ratings of the top two ranked projects: improving water access and trail connectivity

Respondents who said that improving water access would be an important project were asked to choose how they would like to see this happen. The most popular type of water access was more places to wade or swim in the water (38%). This was followed by views of the water (27%) and more access for small boats (26%). This was slightly different than 2008 when the top priority was parks and trails with views of the water, followed by places to wade or swim.

Respondents who said that developing existing parks would be an important project were asked to specify one or two ways they would like to see the current parks improved. Most common mentions had to do with maintenance (like landscaping or issues with trash and recycling) or amenities (such as parking and very specific park facilities). Other themes included trail connectivity, updated playgrounds and safety.

When asked to prioritize three areas of importance that the public identified through meetings and discussions, forty-one percent preferred developing new trails and trail connections throughout the city. A slightly smaller proportion (35%) identified the priority of new parks and trails in areas where there aren't any. Just under a quarter (24%) preferred adding activities, playgrounds and athletic facilities to existing parks.

Funding: Likelihood of support for new bond; support for replacement levy

Respondents were asked how likely they would be to support a bond or levy to cover the costs of high priority projects that are not already included in current funding. Very similar to the 2008 findings, three-quarters (75%) said they would be *somewhat* or *highly likely* to support such funding

- Frequent visitors of the parks were significantly more likely to say they were *highly likely* to support a bond or levy
- Women and off-leash dog walkers (as a proxy for dog owners) gave slightly more favorable ratings than their counterparts
- There were no differences detected between age groups or between those who have children in the household and those who do not.

Respondents were also asked about the current Greenways levy that will expire in 2017. Over three-quarters of respondents (78%) said that they would *approve* a new levy that replaced the existing one at the same level. Twelve percent said they would *reject* a levy like this while 10% did not know how they would vote.

- Highly frequent visitors of the parks were significantly more likely to say they would approve

- Young respondents (under 35) were also especially likely to approve the levy (84% vs. 76% of those 35 and older).
- Families with children and off-leash dog walkers (as a proxy for dog owners) were also more likely than their counterparts to say they would approve a replacement levy.

Conclusion

Five years have passed since the last Bellingham Parks Planning survey. The broad strokes of these survey findings have not changed: Bellingham loves their trails and their water. These two elements of parks continue to dominate the feedback

Some of the most striking findings this year:

- The usage of walking trails (while still very high) decreased since 2008. Along with this finding, the proportion who said trail connectivity is *not important* increased. There may be a bit of a backlash against the extreme popularity of trails in Bellingham.
- Swimming pools are ranked relatively high in terms of usage (third most used type of facility) but lowest in terms of satisfaction ratings. Indoor pools were also the number one mentioned type of facility that was avoided because of prior dissatisfaction.
- Respondents indicated especially strong support for designating off leash trails for dogs
- Even after a low period in the economy, Bellingham residents want to support their parks. Respondents, especially frequent park users, showed that they are likely to support a bond or levy to cover costs for park projects such as those mentioned in the survey. When asked specifically about replacement of the Greenways levy in 2017, over three-quarters of respondents said that they would approve a new levy that replaced the existing one at the same level

Bellingham residents are actively engaged with parks. They visit the parks with high frequency, are generally satisfied with the facilities, have strong feelings about the future of the parks and are willing to support the parks into the future.

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Bellingham Department of Parks and Recreation contracted with Applied Research Northwest (ARN) to conduct a survey of Bellingham residents. This survey was conducted as a part of the planning process for updating the City's six-year Park Recreation and Open Space Plan. The purpose of the survey was to help identify people's priorities and preferences for parks and open space in Bellingham. It followed several public discussions and meetings to gather initial input from city residents.

The survey consisted of fifty items, including ten open ended questions. The questions were about current park usage, satisfaction with park facilities, and attitudes towards potential park projects and funding.

The telephone survey of randomly selected listed-phone households in Bellingham resulted in 300 completed surveys. There were 929 valid phone contacts, yielding a response rate of 32%. The margin of error for this research is 5.7%, meaning that the response frequencies should resemble that of the population, plus or minus 5.7%.

In addition to the random sample of listed households, the survey was made available online to any other members of the public who wanted to provide input to the Parks Department. The survey was made accessible through a link on the City of Bellingham website and was publicized in a press release by the city. A total of 542 residents responded. Their feedback has been summarized in a separate report.

A complete description of the methods used in for the telephone survey research is included in Appendix A. The frequency report, which includes the survey questions and the distribution of respondent answers, can be found in Appendix B. The verbatim responses given to the open-ended questions can be found in Appendix C.

This report uses the convention of *italicizing* any verbatim response option from the survey in an effort to fully convey the voice of the residents' survey responses.

FINDINGS

This section of the report summarizes the responses for each survey item using text and graphics. The data are compared to 2008 findings where possible. Additionally, subgroup differences are presented where relevant. Subgroup analysis involved comparing smaller groups of interest to see if their responses differed significantly from one another. The primary groups of interest were defined by these survey items:

- Frequency of park use (frequent/moderate/infrequent users)
- Age (Under 35/Ages 35-54/55+)
- Children in the household (yes/no)
- Gender (male/female)

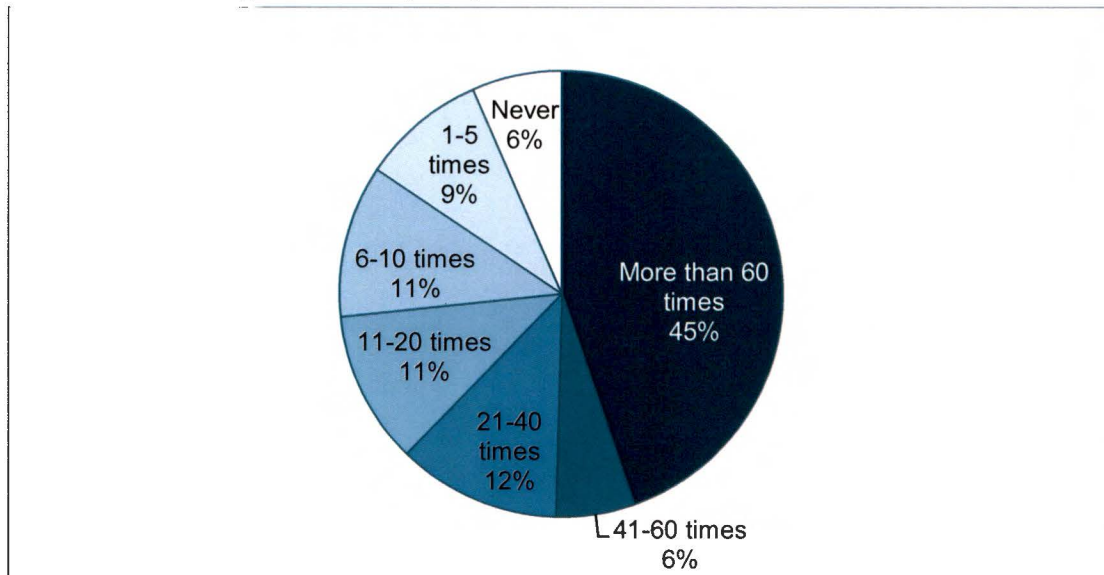
PARK USE

The first set of questions had to do with park use. Respondents were asked how frequently they have visited the parks, how close they live to parks and trails, and how often they have used parks programming and facilities.

Frequency of parks use

Respondents were first asked how many times they visited any of the park facilities in Bellingham in the past year. Just over half of respondents (51%) said that they have used park facilities more than 40 times in the past year, with a sizable portion (45%) saying that they have visited parks more than 60 times. Figure 1 shows that 6% of respondents surveyed have not used any park facilities in the past year.

Figure 1. How many times have you visited any of the parks, trails, or other park facilities in Bellingham in the past year?



(n=299)

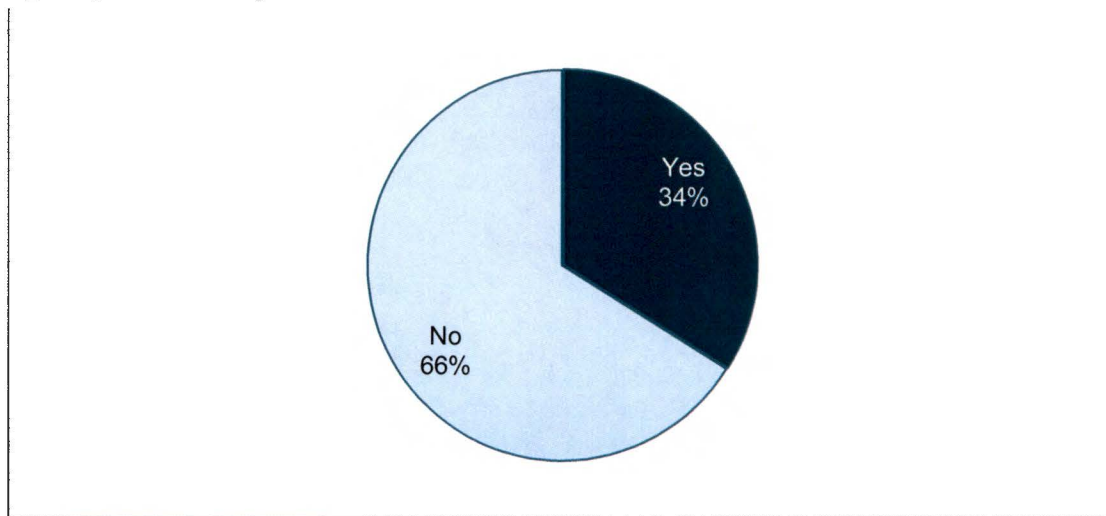
The frequency of park visits was similar to that in 2008.

Younger respondents (under 55) and those with children in the house were more likely to be high frequency visitors to the parks.

Participation in recreational programming

Respondents were asked if they have participated in any recreational programs available in Bellingham. Figure 2 shows that just over one-third of respondents (34%) said that they had participated in some sort of programming (sponsored by the city or otherwise) in the past year.

Figure 2. Have you (or has anyone in your household) participated in any recreational programs sponsored by the City Parks Department or any other local agency in the last year?



(n=294)

This is essentially unchanged from 2008 (31% participation in recreational programs).

The following segments had particularly high rates of participation in recreational programs:

- Frequent park visitors (visited more than 60 times)
- Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54
- Respondents with children in the household

Respondents were also asked if there were other types of recreational programs (in addition to the ones they already know are available) that they would like to see offered. Twenty-seven percent (27%) said yes. More frequent park visitors and respondents with children in the house were significantly more likely to say this.

When asked to specify what types of recreational opportunities they would like to see, sixty-one respondents offered responses that were varied and specific. The most common recreational opportunity mentioned involved water activities; approximately

20% of the comments mentioning kayaking or, to a lesser extent, general boating or stand up paddle-boarding.

Another frequent theme involved serving particular age groups, most notably children (16% of the comments mentioned children).

Other suggestions that arose multiple times (approximately 5-8% of comments) centered around:

- Organized walks and hikes
- Programming or facilities for handicapped or disabled residents
- Snow activities (like snowshoeing and cross-country skiing)
- Programming for older adults or seniors
- Tennis
- Facilities (like park locations and amenities)
- Biking opportunities and safety
- Fishing

Facilities use

Respondents were asked what types of park facilities they and other members of their household have used in the past year. Table 1 shows that the most popular park facilities were walking and biking trails, with 75% of respondents saying they have used them. Playgrounds were used by half of the respondents. The facilities used by the smallest proportion of respondents were disc golf courses and boat launches for motorized boats (both 18%).

Table 1. Facilities used in the past year

	n	%
Walking/biking trails (not mountain biking)	226	75
Playgrounds	149	50
Indoor swimming pools	108	36
Outdoor swimming areas	105	35
Athletic fields	100	33
Off-leash dog areas	99	33
Mountain biking trails/facilities	83	28
Boat launches for non- motorized boats*	69	23
Disc golf courses	55	18
Boat launches for motorized boats	53	18

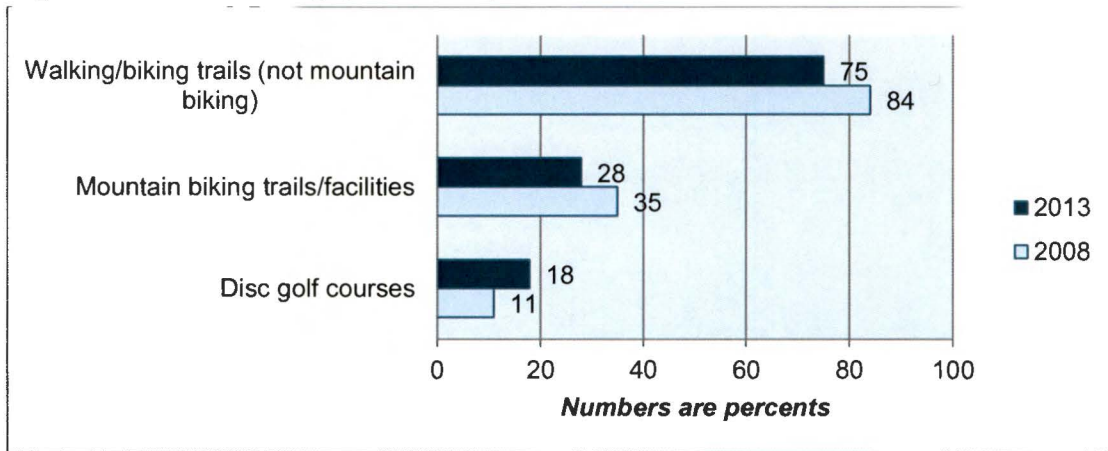
(n=300)

Respondents were allowed to select all that apply; numbers will total more than 100%

*New in 2013, no comparison to 2008 is available

Survey results were compared to the 2008 findings and three types of facilities showed significant change in usage: decreased use in walking trails as well as mountain biking trails, and increased use of disc golf courses. Figure 3 shows these three facilities with their usage in 2013 compared to 2008. The proportion of respondents who report using walking and biking trails decreased (75%, down from 84% in 2008). The proportion that used mountain biking trails also decreased. Usage of disc golf increased with 18% of respondents saying they have used disc golf courses in the past year, up from 11% in 2008.

Figure 3. Facilities usage, 2013 compared to 2008



(n=296 to 300)

Other facility needs

Respondents were asked if there are any types of park facilities that they would like to use that don't currently exist in Bellingham. Twenty- one percent (21%) said yes. Families with children in the house and respondents who use parks with the highest frequency were especially likely to say this.

When asked to specify what types of facilities they would like to see, 49 people provided responses. The most frequent theme among the responses centered on walkways, trails and trail connectivity (27% of responses). Some of these mentioned specific locations or improvements such as leveling the blacktop on pathways at Bloedel Donovan or creating a connection between Boulevard and Marine Park. Others were more general, such as adding benches along trails or creating paved bike paths with no location specified.

A second common theme had to do with waterfront or beach access (16% of mentions). Most of these either implied or explicitly mentioned the bay, with several references to the old GP site.

A third prevalent theme was swimming (14% of mentions). Most of these specified swimming pools, both indoor and outdoor.

Other suggestions that came up more than once included:

- A downtown/city center park
- Athletic fields
- Indoor facilities
- Roller skating

Pickleball

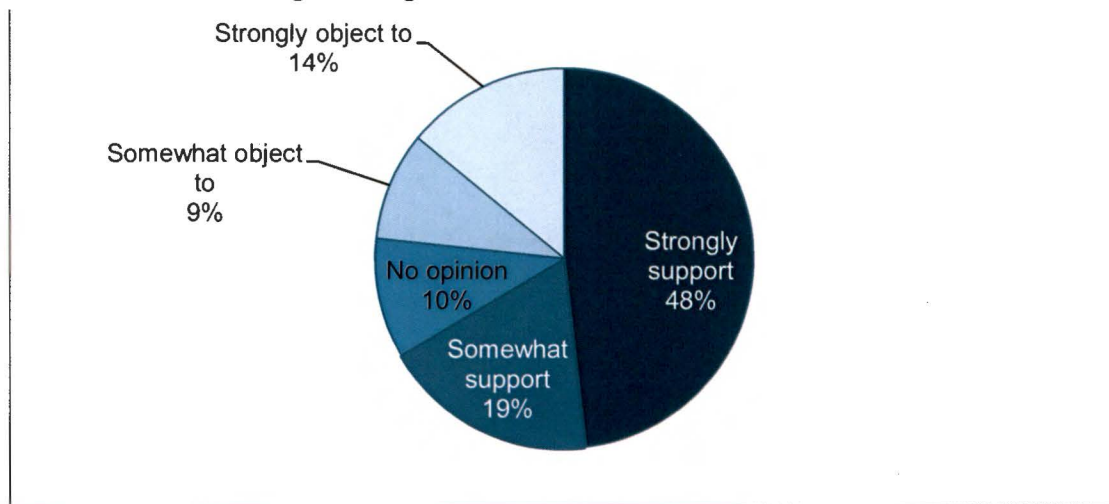
New this year, the survey explored familiarity with pickleball and demand for pickleball courts. Just over one-quarter of respondents (27%) said that they have played a game of pickleball or seen it played. Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 were the most likely age group to have played or seen pickleball.

Among those who were familiar with pickleball about a quarter (26%, 7% overall) said they knew that the tennis courts at Cornwall Park are striped for pickleball play with a tennis net. Just under half of those familiar with pickleball (45%, 11% overall) said that they would like to see additional pickleball provided in the city. Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 were the most likely to say this.

Off leash dog areas

The survey included a few questions about unleashed dog areas. When presented with the idea of designating additional trails for off-leash dog walking, two-thirds (67%) said they would support it with nearly half (48%) showing strong support. Twenty-three percent (23%) said they would object to this type of effort and ten percent (10%) said they didn't have an opinion.

Figure 4. Would you support or object to the Parks department designating certain trails for off leash dog walking?



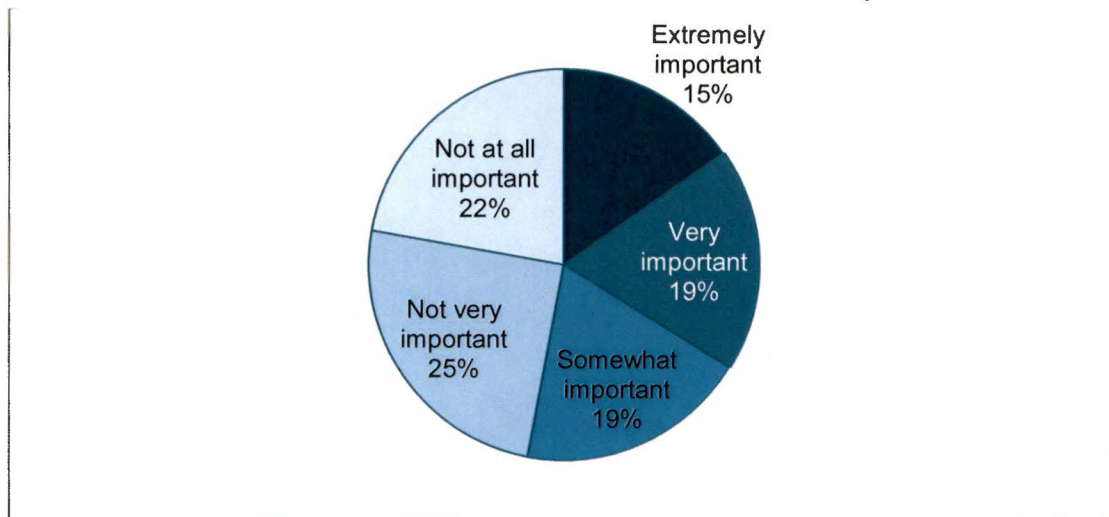
(n=293)

Respondents who visit parks most frequently, young respondents (under age 35), respondents with children in the household and people who use off-leash dog areas were all especially likely to *strongly support* this suggestion.

Non-motorized boat launch

Respondents were asked how important it is that the city adds non-motorized boat launch sites to shorelines and waterways. Figure 5 shows that roughly half (52%) said it was at least *somewhat important* with 15% calling it *extremely important*.

Figure 5. How important is it to you (and others in your household) that the city add non-motorized boat launch sites to shorelines and waterways?



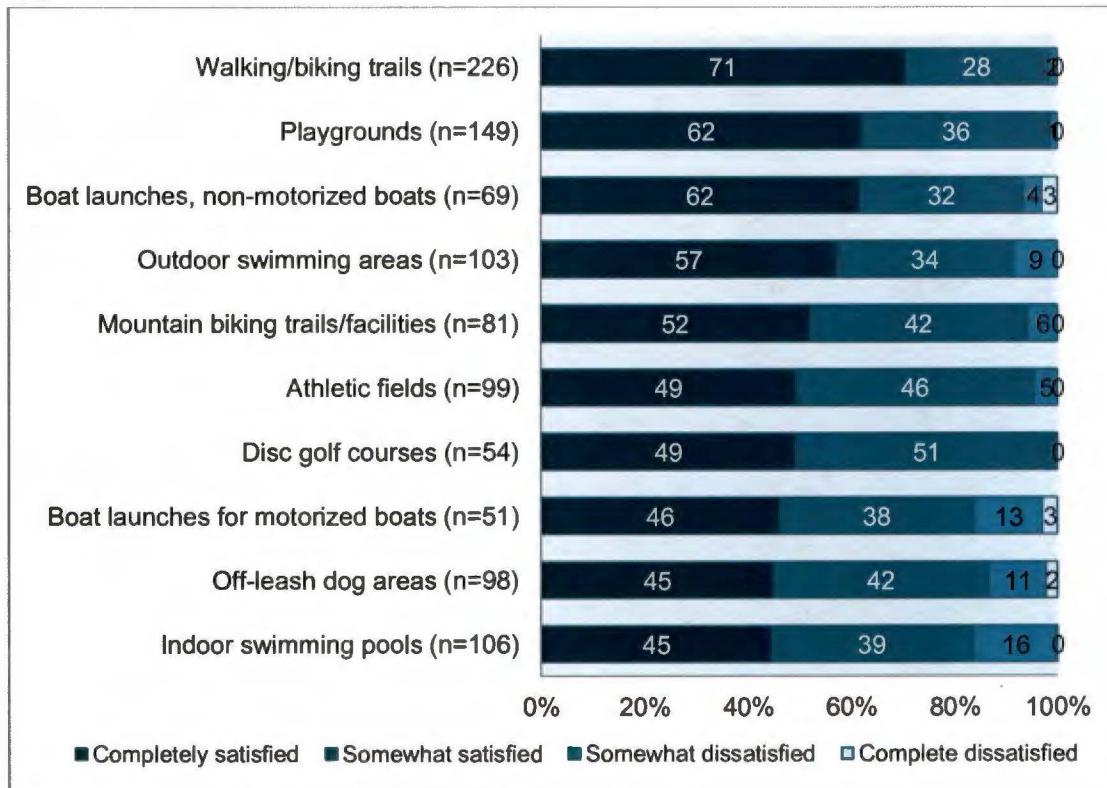
(n=291)

Respondents with children living in the household were especially likely to say this is *extremely important* (27% vs. 15% of all respondents).

PARK FACILITIES SATISFACTION

Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with each of the facilities that they had used in the past year. Five of the ten facilities that were rated were given top marks by a majority of respondents (more than 50% were *completely satisfied*). The type of facility garnering the highest proportion of *completely satisfied* ratings (and also the most use) was walking and biking trails (71%). Playgrounds and non-motorized boat launches were tied for second (62% of users were *completely satisfied*) though playgrounds had higher use. When combining *completely satisfied* and *somewhat satisfied*, it is noted that disc golf courses received 100% satisfaction ratings. The vast majority of users of mountain biking trails (94%) and athletic fields (95%) were also at least *somewhat satisfied*.

Figure 6. Satisfaction with facilities



Responses are sorted by *completely satisfied*

Satisfaction ratings were compared to 2008 findings and a couple of changes are worth noting. Respondents who used playgrounds in 2013 were more likely to be *completely satisfied* (62%, up from 50% in 2008). Playgrounds were ranked in the middle of facilities in 2008 but now appear among the highest ranked facilities. On the other end of the spectrum, ratings of indoor swimming pools decreased. In 2008 indoor swimming pools were ranked approximately at the mid-point of all rated facilities, just above playgrounds

with 51% completely satisfied. The ratings slipped overall with 16% *slightly dissatisfied*—one of the highest proportion of dissatisfied ratings (tied with motorized boat launches).

Elaboration on satisfaction with athletic fields

Respondents who had used athletic fields in the past year but were *dissatisfied* or only *somewhat satisfied* were asked to describe what kept them from being *completely satisfied*. Over half made a comment about the condition of the fields (55%) and 18% mentioned field availability. Lighting also came up (10% of mentions). About one-third (12 cases) offered another specific and unique reason, for example problems with the bathrooms, lack of handicap access or parking issues.

Table 2. What is it about the athletic fields that keeps you from being completely satisfied?

	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Condition of the fields	28	55
Availability of the fields	9	18
Lighting	5	10
Some other reason	12	24

(n=51)

Elaboration on satisfaction with off-leash dog areas.

Respondents who were *dissatisfied* with the off-leash dog areas were asked to elaborate on why they were dissatisfied. Thirteen respondents offered comments; half of them mentioned maintenance. The remainder was split between other dogs and their owners and the city not providing enough off-leash areas.

Facilities not used due to dissatisfaction

Respondents were asked if there were any types of facilities that they did not use in the past year because they were previously dissatisfied with them. Thirteen percent said yes. Table 3 shows that when asked to tell what kind of facilities they had not used because of prior experience, the most frequent response referred to indoor swimming pool facilities (18%). A slightly smaller proportion mentioned walking and biking trails (15%) and off-leash dog areas (13%). One-third mentioned a specific park and/or reason, for example “Boulevard Park” or frustration with water quality along the water front near the end of Roeder Street.

Table 3. Are there any facilities that you would like to have used, but didn't because you are dissatisfied... Which facilities?

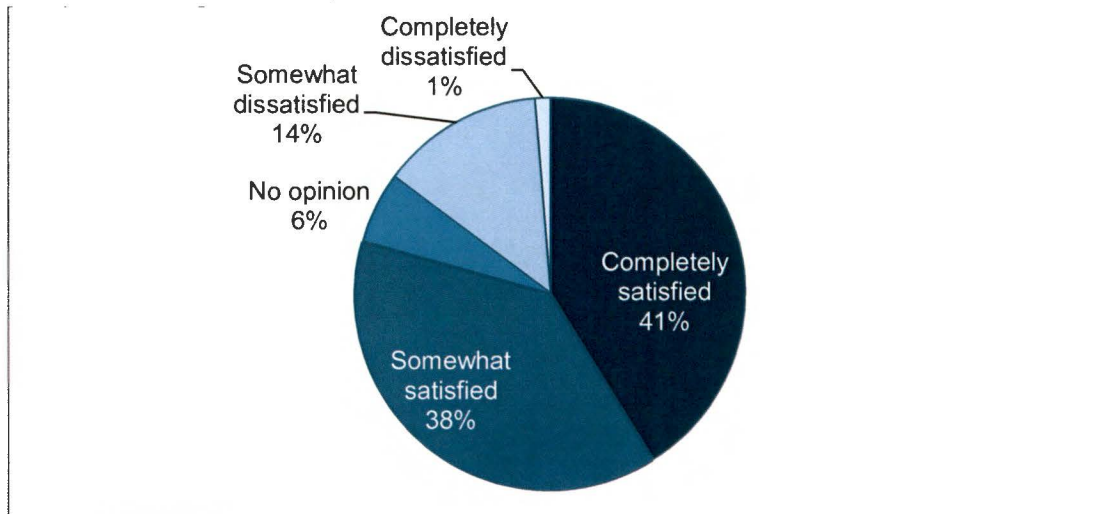
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Indoor swimming pools	7	18
Off road walking and biking trails (not mountain biking)	6	15
Off-leash dog areas	5	13
Safety	3	8
Playgrounds	2	6
Handicap access	2	5
Other specific park or reason	13	33

(n=39)

Open space for wildlife habitat

Respondents were asked about the amount of natural open space available for wildlife habitat in the city. Less than half (41%) said they were *completely satisfied*, though a much smaller proportion (15%) said they were *dissatisfied*, either *somewhat* or *completely*.

Figure 7. How satisfied are you with the amount of natural open space there is for wildlife habitat in the city?



(n=296)

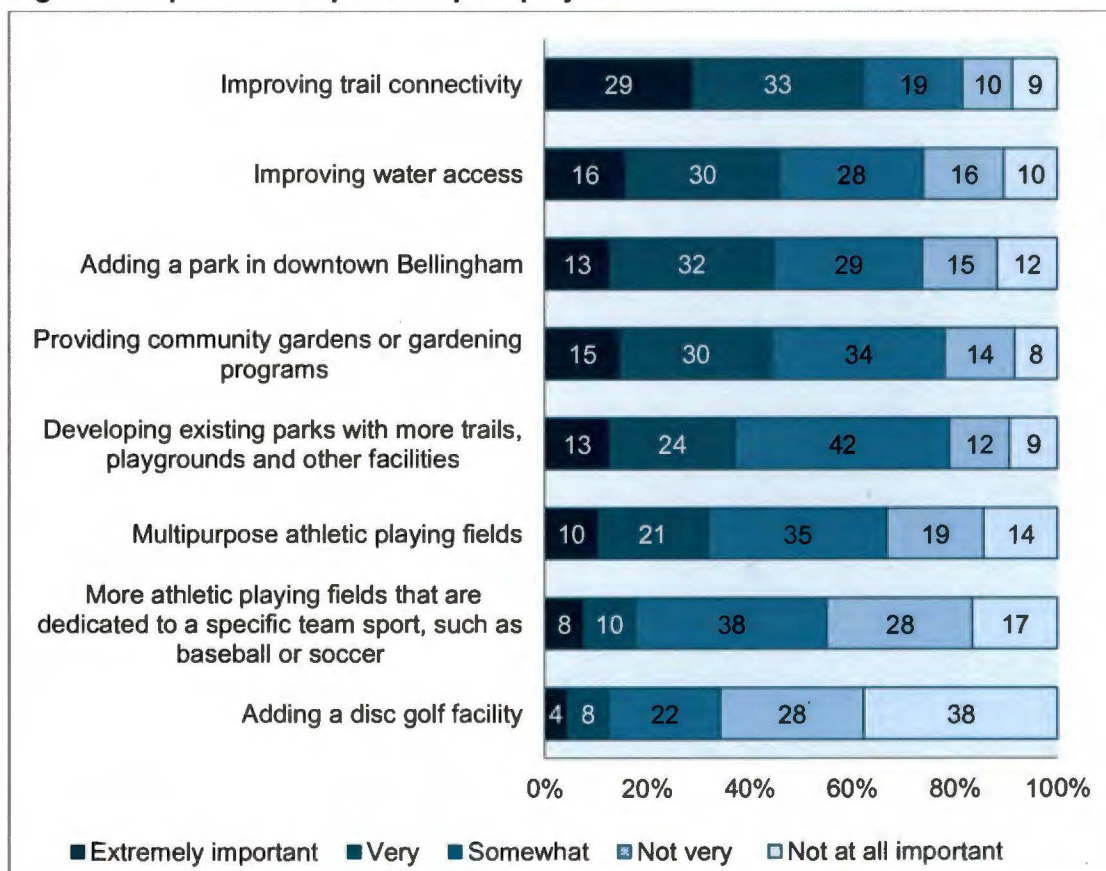
PARKS PRIORITIES

Respondents were presented with some possible park projects and asked to evaluate their importance. They were also asked to give some specific feedback about how some of the projects should be implemented.

Possible parks project ratings

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of eight different possible park projects. Figure 8 shows that just over one-quarter (29%) of respondents said that improving trail connectivity is *extremely important*. Other top rated projects included improving water access, adding a park downtown and providing community gardens, all with approximately 45% calling the projects *very* or *extremely important*. Nearly two thirds of respondents (64%) thought that adding a disc golf facility was *not very* or *not at all important*.

Figure 8. Importance of possible park projects



(n ranges from 289 to 300)
Sorted by *extremely important* and *very important*

Of the eight potential park projects tested in 2013, three were also rated in 2008. Analysis found significant changes in the ratings of two of these possible efforts.

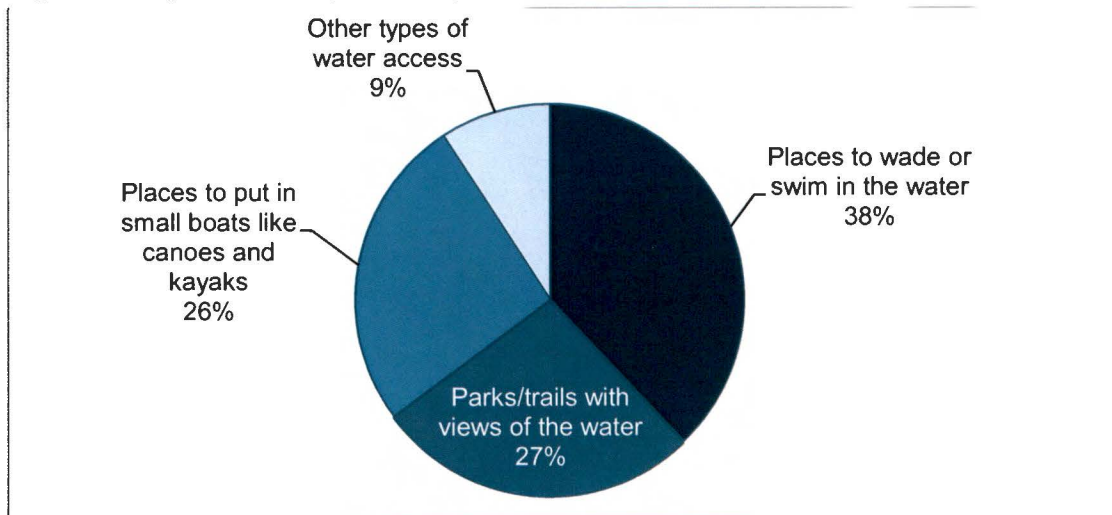
- The proportion who think improving water access is *extremely important* decreased (16%, down from 24% in 2008)
- The proportion who said that trail connectivity is *not very or not at all important* increased from 12% in 2008 up to 19% in 2013

The importance ratings regarding multipurpose athletic fields remained essentially unchanged.

Prioritizing ways of improving water access

Respondents who said that improving water access would be an important project were asked to choose how they would like to see this happen. Figure 9 shows that the many people wanted to see more places to wade or swim in the water (38%). About a quarter thought trails with views of the water was most important (27%) and a similar proportion wanted more access for small boats (26%). Open ended comments indicated that most of the respondents who identified “other types” of access wanted all types of access and were unable to commit to one priority.

Figure 9. Importance of possible park efforts



(=214)

Respondents who used the parks with the highest frequency (41+ times a year) were especially likely to prioritize places to wade or swim (48%).

In 2008 respondents were allowed to identify more than one priority so the results are not directly comparable. However, in 2008 the top priority was parks and trails with views of the water, followed by places to wade or swim.

Prioritizing improvements to existing parks

Respondents who said that developing existing parks would be an important project were asked to specify one or two ways they would like to see the current parks improved. The item was open-ended, allowing respondents to come up with their own answer instead of selecting from pre-set response categories. The responses were reviewed and grouped by theme into categories. Responses were then tabulated within the response categories as illustrated in Table 3.

	n	%
Maintenance overall	49	31
Maintenance: general/other	14	9
Maintenance: landscaping	11	7
Maintenance: trash/garbage/recycle	10	6
Maintenance: trails	9	6
Maintenance: drainage/mud	5	3
Park amenities overall	42	27
Amenities: parking	8	5
Amenities: new/improved specific park facilities	6	4
Amenities: handicap access	5	3
Amenities: seating/benches	4	3
Amenities: lighting	4	3
Amenities: other amenities	15	10
Trail connectivity/extending trail	24	15
More/updated/diverse/maintained playgrounds	18	12
Safety (crime/unsafe facilities)	14	9
Satisfied with parks currently	13	8
Restrooms (maintenance, additions, access)	11	7
Dog control & clean up; enforcement of leash laws	11	7
Bike paths/trails	9	6
More/improved/maintained dog areas	9	6
Improvements and additions to picnic areas	8	5
More parks/bigger parks	7	4
Water access	4	3
Other	16	10

(n=156)

The most frequently mentioned suggestion for improving existing parks was overall park maintenance (31%). These responses were further broken down for specific types of maintenance. The most common specific type of maintenance suggestion related to landscaping (7%). Six percent commented about trash or recycling.

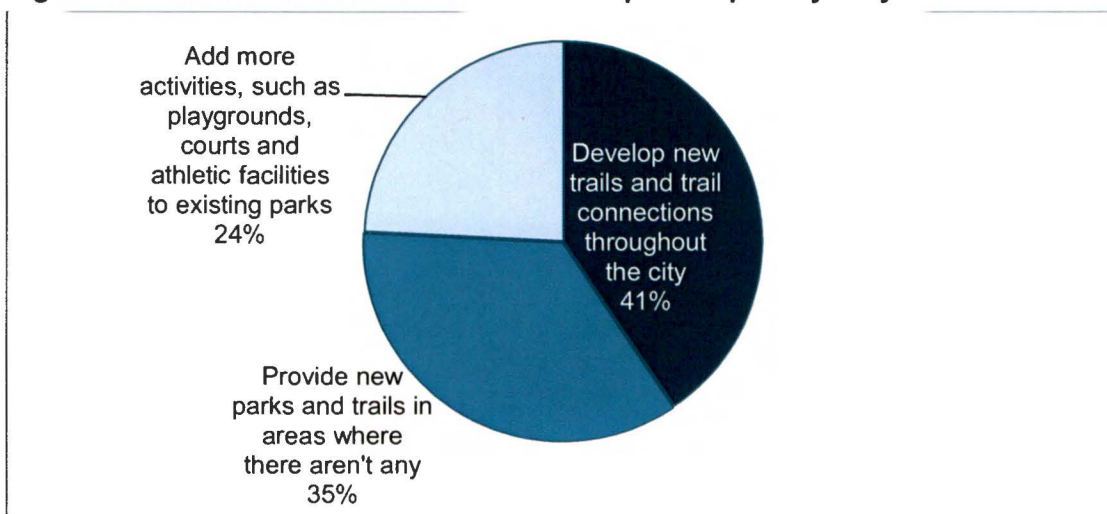
A second common theme was overall park amenities. This category was also broken down into specific types of amenities that respondents would like to see developed or enhanced at the parks. The most frequent specific examples were requests for improved parking (5%) and specific park facilities, typically sport related (4%).

Other frequent themes were trail connectivity (15%), playground maintenance and updates (12%) and safety issues like crime and transients, as well as traffic and playground safety (9%).

Top priorities

Respondents were asked to review three areas of importance that the public identified through meetings and discussions: developing trail connectivity, providing new parks or trails where none exist, or adding more activity-based facilities to existing parks. They were asked to select the one that is the most important to them. Forty-one percent preferred developing new trails and trail connections throughout the city. A slightly smaller proportion (35%) identified the priority of new parks and trails in areas where there aren't any. Just under a quarter (24%) preferred adding activities, playgrounds and athletic facilities to existing parks.

Figure 10. Which of these three is the most important priority for you?



(n=283)

Respondents who used the parks with the highest frequency (41+ times a year) were especially likely to prioritize development of new trails and trail connections (51%). These respondents were much less likely to recommend adding more activities such as playgrounds and athletic facilities (16%).

Younger respondents (under age 35) were especially likely to say that adding activities like playgrounds and athletic facilities should be a priority (43%).

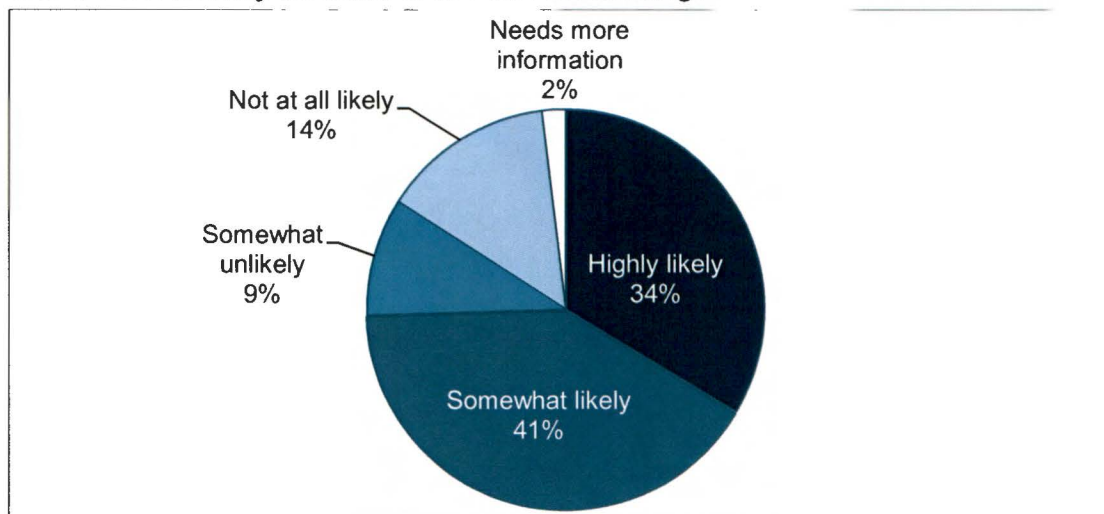
FUNDING

Respondents were asked two questions about possible bonds or levies that could be used to cover the costs of potential future parks projects.

Likelihood of support for a new bond or levy

Respondents were first asked to consider how the highest priority park projects (like those mentioned in the survey) would be funded. They were asked how likely they would be to support a bond or levy to cover the costs that are not already included in current funding. Three-quarters (75%) said they would be *somewhat* or *highly likely* to support such funding.

Figure 11. How likely would you be to support a bond or levy to cover the costs that are not already included in the current funding?



(n=297)

Note: *Needs more information* was not presented as an option but was permitted if the respondent indicated they would need more information to answer the question.

These findings were very similar to 2008.

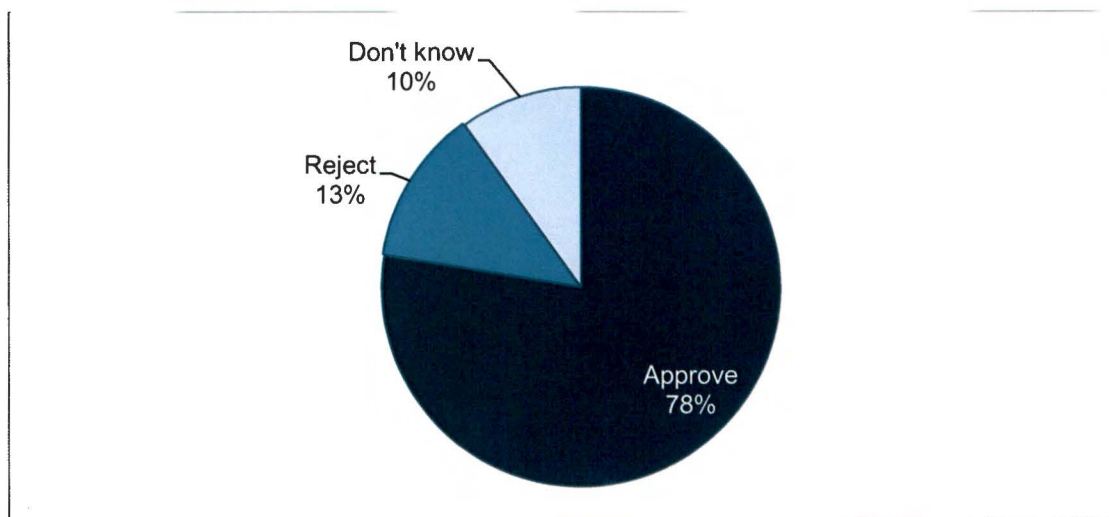
Highly frequent visitors of the parks were significantly more likely to say they were *highly likely* to support a bond or levy (47% vs. 19% of less frequent visitors). There were no differences detected between age groups or between those who have children in the household and those who do not.

Women and off-leash dog walkers (as a proxy for dog owners) were slightly more favorable than their counterparts; they were more likely to say they were *somewhat* or *highly likely* to support a future bond or levy.

Approval of replacement levy

Respondents were also asked about the current Greenways levy that will expire in 2017. Respondents were given basic information about the levy—that it equates to 57 cents for every \$1000 of assessed property value or about \$142 a year for a \$250,000 home. Over three-quarters of respondents (78%) said that they would *approve* a new levy that replaced the existing one at the same level. Twelve percent said they would *reject* a levy like this while 10% did not know how they would vote.

Figure 12. Would you approve or reject a new levy that replaces the existing one at the same level?



(n=295)

Highly frequent visitors of the parks were significantly more likely to say they would *approve* the replacement of the Greenways levy (86% vs. 69% of less frequent visitors). Young respondents (under 35) were also especially likely to approve the levy (84% vs. 76% of those 35 and older). In addition, families with children and off-leash dog walkers (as a proxy for dog owners) were also more likely than their counterparts to say they would approve a replacement levy.

CONCLUSION

Five years have passed since the last Bellingham Parks Planning survey. The broad strokes of these survey findings have not changed: Bellingham loves their trails and their water. These two elements of parks continue to dominate the feedback

Some of the most striking findings this year:

- The usage of walking trails (while still very high) decreased since 2008. Along with this finding, the proportion who said trail connectivity is *not important* increased. There may be a bit of a backlash against the extreme popularity of trails in Bellingham.
- Swimming pools are ranked relatively high in terms of usage (third most used type of facility) but lowest in terms of satisfaction ratings. Indoor pools were also the number one mentioned type of facility that was avoided because of prior dissatisfaction.
- Respondents indicated especially strong support for designating off leash trails for dogs
- Even after a low period in the economy, Bellingham residents want to support their parks. Respondents, especially frequent park users, showed that they are likely to support a bond or levy to cover costs for park projects such as those mentioned in the survey. When asked specifically about replacement of the Greenways levy in 2017, over three-quarters of respondents said that they would approve a new levy that replaced the existing one at the same level

Bellingham residents are actively engaged with parks. They visit the parks with high frequency, are generally satisfied with the facilities, have strong feelings about the future of the parks and are willing to support the parks into the future.

APPENDIX A: RESEARCH METHODS

The survey was administered by telephone during the period from August 21st through August 30th, 2013 to residents of Bellingham, Washington. Only respondents that live within the city limits were eligible to participate in the survey. Phone numbers for the service area were supplied by a reputable survey sampling organization. More than five attempts were made to contact eligible respondents within each household, including at least one attempt on a weekend day and at least one attempt during business hours.

A web survey was administered during this same period (from August 21st through September 10th, 2013). The survey was accessible through a link on the City of Bellingham website. During this period 542 cases were collected and summarized in a separate response frequency report.

Call Disposition Tables

The following table details the final calling dispositions of the City of Bellingham Parks telephone survey:

Table A1. Call dispositions (forthcoming)	
	TOTAL
TOTAL RECORDS	
TOTAL COMPLETES	
TOTAL TERMINATES	
NO SUCH PERSON	
CONTACTED CELL PHONE	
CLAIMS PREVIOUS INTERVIEW	
BREAK OFF - SCREENER	
QUALIFIED REFUSAL	
DO NOT LIVE IN CITY OF BELLINGHAM	
Total valid contacts	
INCIDENCE	70.90%
AVERAGE LENGTH OF INTERVIEW (TOTAL)	13.85

Data Quality

While random digit dialing was employed in 2008, efficiency needs required that listed phone numbers be contacted in 2013. Table A2 compares the characteristics of respondents to the 2013 survey to those in the 2008 survey and the city of Bellingham residents.

The respondents in the 2013 survey were significantly older than those surveyed in 2008. Initial analysis showed that this would likely impact the findings and potentially inflate or mask changes in the data from year to year. To compensate for this, weights were computed to give appropriately more value to younger respondents and less to older ones.

Future research may want to consider adding a quota around age to guarantee a minimum number of younger respondents.

2013 sample compared to estimates in the population

In telephone survey research, two populations tend to be under represented: young adults and low income households. Females are more likely to answer home telephones, and are also more likely to agree to participate in survey research. Any bias due to interviewing a smaller portion of males is

lessened by the fact that most questions related to the household rather than the individual. Analysis found no differences between males and females.

Readers should note that this survey likely under represents the views of people ages 18 to 24 and slightly over represents the views and experiences of people ages 45 and up.

Age/Sex	2013 %	2010 %	*Estimate of Adults in Bellingham %
18 to 24	1	3	25
25 to 34	4	14	19
35 to 44	12	16	13
45 to 54	14	22	13
55 to 64	25	22	14
Older than 65	44	21	16
Male	38	37	49
Female	62	63	51

*Estimate based on 2010 census data estimates. Census data age groupings are similar but not identical to those used in the survey

APPENDIX B: FREQUENCIES

Q1) How many times have you visited any of the parks, trails, or other park facilities in Bellingham in the past year? Would you say...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Never	20	6.5	6.6
	1-5 times	27	9.0	9.1
	6-10 times	33	11.0	11.0
	11-20 times	33	11.0	11.1
	21-40 times	35	11.8	11.8
	41-60 times, or	17	5.8	5.8
	More than 60 times	134	44.6	44.7
	Total	300	99.8	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
Total		300	100.0	

Q2) Are there other people living in your household?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	226	75.2	75.3
	No	74	24.7	24.7
	Total	300	99.8	100.0
Missing	(Not applicable)	1	.2	
Total		300	100.0	

Q5) Have you or anyone in your household participated in any recreational programs sponsored by the City Parks Department or any other local agency in the last year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	100	33.2	33.9
	No	194	64.7	66.1
	Total	294	97.9	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	6	2.1	
Total		300	100.0	

Q6) In addition to the opportunities that you know are already available in Bellingham, are there other types of recreational programs that you or anyone in your household would like to see offered?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes (please specify)	75	25.2	26.6
	No	208	69.3	73.4
	Total	283	94.4	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	16	5.3	
	(Not applicable)	1	.3	
	Total	17	5.6	
Total		300	100.0	

Q8) Mountain biking trails or facilities, such as the course near Civic Stadium (IF NEEDED:) Have you or anyone in your household used Mountain biking trails or facilities, such as the course near Civic Stadium?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	83	27.7	27.9
	No	215	71.8	72.1
	Total	299	99.6	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
	(Not applicable)	1	.3	
	Total	1	.4	
Total		300	100.0	

How satisfied are you with Mountain biking trails or facilities, such as the course near Civic Stadium? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Dissatisfied	5	1.6	5.8
	Somewhat Satisfied	34	11.4	42.3
	Completely Satisfied	42	14.0	52.0
	Total	81	26.9	100.0
Missing	No opinion	2	.8	
	System	217	72.3	
	Total	219	73.1	
Total		300	100.0	

Q9) And have you or anyone in your household used Other off road walking and biking trails?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	226	75.4	75.7
	No	72	24.1	24.3
	Total	299	99.6	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.4	
Total		300	100.0	

How satisfied are you with Other off road walking and biking trails? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Dissatisfied	4	1.4	1.8
	Somewhat Satisfied	62	20.8	27.7
	Completely Satisfied	159	53.1	70.5
	Total	226	75.3	100.0
Missing	No opinion	1	.2	
	System	74	24.6	
	Total	74	24.8	
Total		300	100.0	

Q10) And have you or anyone in your household used Athletic fields for softball, baseball, soccer and other sports?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	100	33.4	33.4
	No	200	66.6	66.6
	Total	300	100.0	100.0

How satisfied are you with Athletic fields for softball, baseball, soccer and other sports? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Dissatisfied	5	1.5	4.7
	Somewhat Satisfied	46	15.2	45.9
	Completely Satisfied	49	16.3	49.4
	Total	99	33.1	100.0
Missing	No opinion	1	.4	
	System	200	66.6	
	Total	201	66.9	
Total	300	100.0		

QNEW1) What is it about the athletic fields in Bellingham that keeps you from being Completely Satisfied? (do not prompt, code responses - allow multiple)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Condition of fields	23	7.6	50.0
	Availability of fields	6	2.0	13.3
	Other (specify)	17	5.6	36.7
	Total	46	15.3	100.0
Missing	System	254	84.7	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW1) What is it about the athletic fields in Bellingham that keeps you from being Completely Satisfied? (do not prompt, code responses - allow multiple)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Condition of fields	3	1.0	37.5
	Availability of fields	3	1.0	37.5
	Other (specify)	2	.6	25.1
	Total	8	2.6	100.0
Missing	System	292	97.4	
Total		300	100.0	

Q15) Have you or anyone in your household used Playgrounds?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	149	49.7	49.7
	No	151	50.3	50.3
	Total	300	100.0	100.0

How satisfied are you with Playgrounds? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Dissatisfied	2	.7	1.4
	Somewhat Satisfied	54	18.1	36.4
	Completely Satisfied	92	30.8	62.1
	Total	149	49.5	100.0
Missing	No opinion	1	.2	
	System	151	50.3	
	Total	151	50.5	
Total		300	100.0	

Q16) And have you or anyone in your household used Off-leash dog areas?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	99	32.9	32.9
	No	201	67.1	67.1
	Total	300	100.0	100.0

How satisfied are you with Off-leash dog areas? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Completely Dissatisfied	2	.7	2.3
	Somewhat Dissatisfied	11	3.7	11.2
	Somewhat Satisfied	41	13.5	41.5
	Completely Satisfied	44	14.7	45.0
	Total	98	32.6	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.3	
	System	201	67.1	
	Total	202	67.4	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW3) You said you were dissatisfied with the off leash dog areas. Can you describe what's dissatisfying to you? (do not prompt, code responses - allow multiple)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not enough areas	4	1.2	27.7
	Not maintained	4	1.3	29.7
	Dogs and owners	3	1.0	22.1
	Other (please describe)	3	.9	20.5
	Total	13	4.4	100.0
Missing	System	287	95.6	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW3) You said you were dissatisfied with the off leash dog areas. Can you describe what's dissatisfying to you? (do not prompt, code responses - allow multiple)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not maintained	2	.6	28.1
	Dogs and owners	1	.5	23.8
	Other (please describe)	3	1.0	48.0
	Total	6	2.0	100.0
Missing	System	294	98.0	
Total		300	100.0	

Q17) Have you or anyone in your household used Disc golf courses?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	55	18.4	18.4
	No	245	81.6	81.6
	Total	300	100.0	100.0

How satisfied are you with Disc golf courses? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Satisfied	28	9.2	50.8
	Completely Satisfied	27	8.9	49.2
	Total	54	18.1	100.0
Missing	No opinion	1	.3	
	System	245	81.6	
	Total	246	81.9	
Total		300	100.0	

Q20) And have you or anyone in your household used Boat launches for motorized boats?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	53	17.6	17.7
	No	247	82.2	82.3
	Total	300	99.8	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
Total		300	100.0	

How satisfied are you with Boat launches for motorized boats? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Completely Dissatisfied	1	.5	2.9
	Somewhat Dissatisfied	7	2.3	13.3
	Somewhat Satisfied	19	6.3	37.6
	Completely Satisfied	23	7.8	46.2
	Total	51	16.9	100.0
Missing	No opinion	1	.3	
	(Don't know)	1	.5	
	System	247	82.4	
Total		249	83.1	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW4) And have you or anyone in your household used Boat launches for non-motorized boats?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	69	23.1	23.1
	No	231	76.9	76.9
	Total	300	100.0	100.0

How satisfied are you with Boat launches for non-motorized boats?? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Completely Dissatisfied	2	.8	3.3
	Somewhat Dissatisfied	3	.8	3.6
	Somewhat Satisfied	22	7.3	31.5
	Completely Satisfied	43	14.2	61.6
	Total	69	23.1	100.0
Missing	System	231	76.9	
Total		300	100.0	

Q24) And have you or anyone in your household used Indoor Swimming Pools?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	108	36.0	36.1
	No	191	63.8	63.9
	Total	300	99.8	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
Total		300	100.0	

How satisfied are you with Indoor Swimming Pools? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Dissatisfied	18	5.8	16.5
	Somewhat Satisfied	42	13.8	39.0
	Completely Satisfied	47	15.8	44.5
	Total	106	35.5	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	2	.6	
	System	192	64.0	
	Total	194	64.5	
Total		300	100.0	

Q23) And have you or anyone in your household used Outdoor swimming areas or spray parks?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	105	34.9	35.0
	No	195	64.9	65.0
	Total	300	99.8	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
Total		300	100.0	

How satisfied are you with Outdoor swimming areas or spray parks? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Dissatisfied	9	3.0	8.6
	Somewhat Satisfied	35	11.8	34.1
	Completely Satisfied	59	19.7	57.2
	Total	103	34.5	100.0
Missing	No opinion	1	.3	
	(Don't know)	1	.2	
	System	195	65.1	
Total	Total	197	65.5	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW6) How satisfied are you with the amount of natural open space there is for wildlife habitat in the city?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	No Opinion	17	5.8	5.9
	Completely Dissatisfied	4	1.3	1.3
	Somewhat Dissatisfied	40	13.3	13.5
	Somewhat Satisfied	113	37.7	38.2
	Completely Satisfied	122	40.6	41.1
	Total	296	98.6	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	4	1.2	
	(Not applicable)	1	.2	
	Total	4	1.4	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW7) Some people may not have used one or more of the recreation facilities in the past year because they were previously dissatisfied with them. Are there any facilities that you or anyone in your household would like to have used, but didn't because you are dissatisfied...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	39	13.1	13.1
	No	260	86.6	86.9
	Total	299	99.7	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.3	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW8) What facilities? (check all that apply - read as needed)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Indoor Swimming Pools	5	1.6	12.1
	Other off road walking and biking trails	5	1.6	12.1
	Off-leash dog areas	4	1.5	11.4
	Outdoor swimming areas or spray parks	1	.4	3.3
	Playgrounds	2	.8	5.8
	Other (please specify - open ended)	22	7.2	55.4
	Total	39	13.1	100.0
Missing	System	261	86.9	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW8) What facilities? (check all that apply - read as needed)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Indoor Swimming Pools	1	.3	33.2
	Off-leash dog areas	1	.2	20.5
	Other (please specify - open ended)	1	.4	46.3
	Total	2	.8	100.0
Missing	System	298	99.2	
Total		300	100.0	

Q25) Are there any types of park facilities that you or anyone in your household would like to use that don't currently exist in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes (please specify)	59	19.7	20.7
	No	226	75.2	79.3
	Total	285	94.8	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	15	4.9	
	(Not applicable)	1	.3	
	Total	16	5.2	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW12) How important is it to you or anyone in your household that the city add non-motorized boat launch sites to shorelines and waterways?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	65	21.6	22.2
	Not very important	72	24.1	24.8
	Somewhat important	56	18.6	19.2
	Very important	54	18.0	18.5
	Extremely important	45	14.8	15.3
	Total	291	97.1	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	9	2.9	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW13) Have you ever played a game of Pickleball, or seen it played?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	81	26.8	26.9
	No	219	73.0	73.1
	Total	300	99.8	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW14) Did you know that the tennis courts at Cornwall Park are striped for Pickleball play with a tennis net?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	21	6.9	26.1
	No	59	19.6	73.9
	Total	79	26.5	100.0
Missing	(Not applicable)	1	.4	
	System	219	73.2	
	Total	221	73.5	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW14B) Would you or anyone in your household like to see additional Pickleball provided in the city?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	31	10.5	44.8
	No	39	12.9	55.2
	Total	70	23.4	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	4	1.4	
	(Not applicable)	6	1.9	
	(Missing/refused)	1	.2	
	System	219	73.2	
Total		230	76.6	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW15) Some people would like to have more places to walk their dogs off leash. But other people don't like being around unleashed dogs. The Parks department could designate additional trails in the Bellingham area for off leash dog walking. These...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Support	195	64.9	66.5
	Object	68	22.7	23.3
	No opinion	30	10.0	10.2
	Total	293	97.5	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	7	2.5	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW16) Would you strongly support that decision, or would you just somewhat support it?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly support	141	47.0	53.7
	Somewhat support	54	17.9	20.4
	Somewhat object to	27	9.0	10.3
	Strongly object to	41	13.7	15.7
	Total	263	87.6	100.0
Missing	System	37	12.4	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW17) Providing community gardens or gardening programs[Definition: A community garden is a public space that people can register to use during the summer to grow food and flowers.] (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projec...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	25	8.2	8.3
	Not very important	40	13.4	13.5
	Somewhat important	100	33.4	33.8
	Very important	88	29.3	29.6
	Extremely important	44	14.7	14.8
	Total	297	99.0	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	3	1.0	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW18) Adding a disc golf facility. (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projects would be to (TEXT1).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	105	35.1	37.7
	Not very important	79	26.2	28.1
	Somewhat important	61	20.3	21.8
	Very important	23	7.6	8.1
	Extremely important	12	4.0	4.3
	Total	280	93.2	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	18	6.0	
	(Not applicable)	2	.7	
	Total	20	6.8	
Total		300	100.0	

Q26) Improving water access. [Definition: Access to water such as the bay, lakes, creeks or other waterways] (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projects would be to (TEXT1).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	31	10.3	10.4
	Not very important	46	15.5	15.7
	Somewhat important	84	27.9	28.2
	Very important	88	29.5	29.8
	Extremely important	48	15.8	16.0
	Total	297	98.9	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	3	1.1	
Total		300	100.0	

Q27) Improving trail connectivity. [Definition: This means more walking and biking trails that connect existing parks and trail systems to each other, to neighborhoods or to other areas of interest, like downtown.] (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how imp...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	26	8.8	8.8
	Not very important	29	9.6	9.7
	Somewhat important	58	19.3	19.3
	Very important	99	33.1	33.2
	Extremely important	87	28.9	29.0
	Total	299	99.7	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	1	.3	
Total		300	100.0	

Q28) Multipurpose athletic playing fields[Definition: This means fields which can be used for several different things like softball, soccer, football or ultimate Frisbee.] (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projects would be...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	43	14.2	14.4
	Not very important	56	18.5	18.8
	Somewhat important	103	34.5	35.0
	Very important	63	21.1	21.4
	Extremely important	31	10.2	10.4
	Total	295	98.5	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	3	.9	
	(Not applicable)	2	.6	
	Total	5	1.5	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW19) More athletic playing fields that are dedicated to a specific team sport, such as baseball or soccer. (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projects would be to (TEXT1).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	48	16.0	16.5
	Not very important	82	27.4	28.3
	Somewhat important	109	36.4	37.5
	Very important	29	9.6	9.9
	Extremely important	22	7.5	7.7
	Total	291	96.9	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	8	2.6	
	(Not applicable)	2	.6	
	Total	9	3.1	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW20) Adding a park in downtown Bellingham [similar to the Village Green in Fairhaven]. (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projects would be to (TEXT1).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	34	11.3	11.7
	Not very important	42	14.0	14.5
	Somewhat important	84	27.9	29.0
	Very important	93	30.9	32.0
	Extremely important	37	12.3	12.8
	Total	289	96.5	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	11	3.5	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW21) Developing existing parks with more trails, playgrounds and other facilities. (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projects would be to (TEXT1).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	27	9.1	9.3
	Not very important	35	11.5	11.7
	Somewhat important	123	41.1	41.8
	Very important	72	24.0	24.4
	Extremely important	38	12.5	12.8
	Total	295	98.3	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	5	1.7	
Total		300	100.0	

Q31) You said that water access would be important. I'm going to read a list of various types of water access. Please tell me which one is the most important to (TEXT1):

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Parks or trails with views of the water	57	18.9	26.5
	Places to wade or swim in the water	81	27.0	37.9
	Places to put in small boats like canoes and kayaks	56	18.8	26.4
	Other types of water access (please specify)	20	6.6	9.2
	Total	214	71.3	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
	(Not applicable)	1	.2	
	System	85	28.4	
	Total	86	28.7	
Total		300	100.0	

Q32) You said that improvements to existing parks would be important. Can you tell me one or two ways that you would like to see the current parks improved. (if yes, when they specify, interviewer please probe: 'Is that at a specific park or the city'...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes (please specify)	167	55.7	76.0
	No	53	17.6	24.0
	Total	220	73.2	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	13	4.5	
	System	67	22.3	
	Total	80	26.8	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW23) I'm going to read you three things which have been identified by the public as important. Which of these three is the most important priority for you?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	0	2	.5	.6
	Provide new parks and trails in areas where there aren't ...	99	32.9	34.9
	Develop new trails and trail connections throughout the city	114	38.1	40.4
	Add more activities, such as playgrounds, courts and athl...	68	22.7	24.1
	Total	283	94.2	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	10	3.3	
	(Not applicable)	7	2.5	
	Total	17	5.8	
Total		300	100.0	

Q34) Today I have mentioned several possible park projects that the city could execute. If additional funding were needed for Bellingham's highest priority projects, how likely would you be to support a future bond or levy to cover the costs that are ...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all likely	42	13.9	14.3
	Somewhat unlikely	28	9.4	9.7
	Somewhat likely	122	40.6	41.8
	Highly likely	100	33.3	34.3
	Total	292	97.2	100.0
Missing	(Needs more information)	6	1.9	
	(Don't know)	3	.9	
	Total	8	2.8	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW24) The current Greenways levy for parks is 57-cents for every \$1000 of assessed property value or about \$142 a year for a \$250,000 home. It is used for the maintenance of existing parks and trails as well as the development of new parks and trail...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Approve	229	76.2	77.6
	Reject	37	12.3	12.5
	(Don't know)	29	9.7	9.9
	Total	295	98.2	100.0
Missing	(Not applicable)	1	.2	
	(Missing/refused)	5	1.6	
	Total	5	1.8	
Total		300	100.0	

Q38) What age group are you in? Would you say...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	18 to 24	10	3.3	3.4
	25 to 34	42	14.0	14.1
	35 to 44	49	16.3	16.4
	45 to 54	66	22.0	22.2
	55 to 64	67	22.4	22.6
	65 or older	64	21.3	21.4
	Total	298	99.3	100.0
Missing	(Missing/refused)	2	.7	
Total		300	100.0	

Q39) Are there children under the age of 18 living in your household?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	98	32.7	32.8
	No	201	66.9	67.2
	Total	299	99.7	100.0
Missing	(Missing/refused)	1	.3	
Total		300	100.0	

Q40) (INTERVIEWER: Record Sex)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Male	116	38.7	39.0
	Female	182	60.6	61.0
	Total	298	99.3	100.0
Missing	(Missing/refused)	2	.7	
Total		300	100.0	

APPENDIX C: VERBATIM OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS

q6a: What types of recreational opportunities would you like to see offered?

- Being able to rent kayak or canoe at Lake Whatcom or Padden would be a nice addition to the parks.
- Boat tours, cruises
- Boating and more specialized programs for the handicapped like biking. Opportunities for handicapped kids in the park. More exercise for handicapped adults.
- Boulevard Park, I liked it when it had a lot of space. It was public space for circus acts and concerts and now they are taking up a lot of it for beaches.
- Cooking and making recipes.
- Educational opportunities for the kids.
- Encourage people to meet older people, some kind of attraction to draw people together.
- Fishing classes
- Fishing for people with disabilities at Padden, Whatcom Falls. Fishing and parking accessible for person with disabilities.
- Group walks, classes on things like kayaking or cross country skiing.
- I believe recreational for kids to go. Kids played in the streets. If they want to go take a bus and go Cornwall Park which is the closest. Sometimes the parents aren't available and they're stuck. There's a church, Birchwood, they have built a park for the children. It's in the heart of the city but we need more parks in the north end of the city. So they can play and practice soccer, rolling skating. There's a need for community parks. I can't wait for the waterfront in Cornwall Park that's being built and we can be accommodated. It takes years before it pass.
- I belong to the Lions Club and we would like to see wheel chair, wellness park for the elderly. So sports court for wheel chair and exercise equipment that can be used for people on wheel chairs.
- I don't know, I can't think of anything.
- I have no children, I definitely support more programs for children.
- I hope there are recreational programs for children in the summertime.
- I like the pools and the trails that are located in Fairhaven.
- I like to have birthday parties at Lake Padden. More family events.
- I like to see another pool that uses a water system that illuminates chloride and that maybe can overlook the waters and can be used for indoors and outdoors.
- I want a great big water park beach at the waterfront. Maybe something for kids that have participate in beach activities, like identifying little low tide creatures. I love those hikes in the Stimpson Woods and I would like that to happen more frequently. I think it would be interesting to have try walks around Bellingham, to identify different trees, walks identify or appreciating the variety of different trees. Kayaking would be nice, some kind of kayaking lesson for young people.
- I would like to see a park developed in the north side of town. I have been advocating and working with the parks department about adding a trail in the Cordata area.
- I would like to see a soccer program developed and a very good tennis program.
- I would like to see football.
- I would like to see lawn bowling. I would like to see different kind of games like chess and scrabble to more sports like games. Soccer
- I would like to see more bike routes and bike safety. When we drive to the y in the morning, we need bike safety stressed.
- I would like to see more facilities geared for new and nursing moms. It would be nice if there were more toddler parks.
- I would like to see some junior tennis.
- I'm still working, they do have senior programs that I'd like to attend, but they don't have the time slot open for me. I wish they can have more time availabilities for me and the swimming classes are also not available for me. The affordability would be nice on my part.
- Kayaking trips.
- Life guards back on the beaches and water areas.
- Live music

- Lots of open space. More trails. Whole city and county should be connected by trails. Lots of undeveloped space.
- More activities for disabled people.
- More good and natural space. The town parks I like and if you make more that would be great. The neighborhood city parks are great.
- More kayaking activities. Snow shoeing.
- More kid younger child oriented activities would be good.
- More mountain biking, more trails or more access to trails. (access) no trails are allowed in city parks.
- More pole vaulting in the indoor gyms. More indoor park activities, not enough indoor track and field and a better equipped indoor swimming pool.
- More summer camps than they do now, like kayaking camp. More variety in summer camps and I'd really like a roller rink.
- More tennis.
- More things for children. (specific) I think there should be patrols for park safety, Cornwall Park for example. Anything that increases benefits to children. Better public relations information. I know a long time ago someone told me the parks department has some information. So I guess more information on what the city parks do have to offer.
- More trail walking.
- Outdoor recreation program that organized outings for citizens for things like hikes. A sailing program.
- Probably sailing and kayaking. Bicycling events, I like those and cross country, skiing and snow shoeing. Bocce ball. Educational trips around the community like to view native plants and also at shorelines and explain sea life. Astronomy something to do with the stars.
- Seamanship class for boating
- Skiing trips in winter.
- Skydiving
- Some fly fishing classes.
- Some kayaking boats and more exercise equipment in the parks, like pull up bars, barbells, etc.
- Some organized trip for preteen girls in southern Bellingham where they would walk or do some light hiking. Also some training of some light water sports.
- Something for over fifty, like yoga and not too intense for that physical exercise. Snowshoeing and other group activities for exercise to also enjoy the area. Hiking and bird watching ne
- Sometimes you get people from different states and different countries. They need a big sign at the dog park that say no fire arms allowed in the park.
- Take away the parking fees for some of the parks. Add a lifeguard to Lake Padden.
- Tennis lessons
- There is no bus service to Mt. Baker from Fairhaven or Bellingham.
- There should be more activities for boys and girls to keep them busy and out of trouble, like on a boys and girls club model, especially during the winter.
- They used to have disable kayak, equestrian, archery and I wonder if they still, the programs still exist.
- To see recreational runs every weekend even in the winter time. Not just once a month such as the 5k and the bike to work. I would like to see more incentives for biking like routes and place to put the bikes. Make it so that certain roads on certain days are closed down for biking. You could shut down Commercial Street or Cornwall or Railroad. I want to see the Baker Trail done.
- Water type things like paddle boards at lakes, like Lake Padden. Water type sports that can be done in the lake.
- We are seniors and like to bicycle and walk.
- We would like to see the music in the park back at the Boulevard Park. It was not there this summer. We would like to see the restrooms open at Boulevard Park all year long. City parks. We think maybe they're spending a lot of money on the boat inspections and a lot of people sit down there when we walk there every day. If they were to run out of money and not be able to keep parks open I would be okay with pay toilets that would cost a quarter like in Europe instead of closing them. I do not like the dogs running at the Bloedel Park. We do not want them to buy anymore parks.

- We'd love to see baseball and football for little kids. With the spray parks you turn them off at 7 in the summer when it doesn't get dark until 10, so maybe keep them open another hour or so. I'd like to see them open longer in the heat of the summer.

qnew1ot: What is it about the athletic fields in Bellingham that keeps you from being Completely Satisfied?

- Can't use my wheelchair or walker and the parking handicap places are limited.
- Drainage problems and lighting problems
- Field upkeep could be better and the restrooms could be better.
- Hard seats.
- I am disabled and have a difficult time finding parking. The baseball field handicap parking is non-existent.
- Lack of restroom and drinking fountains
- Layout and the bathroom availability.
- Lights went out in the middle of the games and we had to stop the softball games.
- Multi use facility
- Need more all-weather playing fields for winter use. Updated softball facilities.
- Sometimes soccer fields are kind of eaten up and not smooth.
- The lights are not on in a timely manner and leaves me feeling vulnerable. A bit frustrated that the teams have to pay such a high dues fees and the condition of the fields is not improved. I have to charge my players more and the work is not done. The money could be solicited through other means besides my players.
- There are not enough fields and there is only one stadium that has a score board and lights.
- Water drainage. There is a lot of standing water.
- We would like some lights at night. Make it so we can use the field at night.

qnew3ot: You said you were dissatisfied with the off leash dog areas. Can you describe what's dissatisfying to you?

- No grass and the construction.
- Not enough areas that are maintained, they are often too muddy especially the fenced areas. So more trail systems for dogs, off leash would be better.
- Overrun
- The access is not available because the water treatment plant is doing construction. So the trail is to be closed.
- The lack shade. They need to put up trees and dress up the small dog park. It's a social setting. They need to make it more pleasant for people to be in there, and they need chairs. You have senior citizens, they need picnic tables and benches. Benches that people can't take. People really love it.

qnew8ot: (Some people may not have used one or more of the recreation facilities in the past year because they were previously dissatisfied with them. Are there any facilities that you (or others in your household) would like to have used, but didn't because you are dissatisfied with them?) If yes, What facilities?

- At Padden Lake I've gone there and didn't feel safe because windows were broken.
- Bloedel Donovan at Lake Whatcom.
- Boulevard Park
- Boulevard Park
- Cornwall Park and indoor pools.

- Handicapped fishing area, non-handicapped people used it. There wasn't an handicapped bathroom in there. The other problem the sign doesn't specify, never specify if you use a manual wheel chair. I think that's important that the term handicapped varies.
- I used the motorized boat launch for a non-motorized boat at Padden and it was not appropriate for a canoe or kayak, we needed a beach to launch.
- I'm not happy with Maritime Heritage Park because I want to walk through it and it's creepy at night. I also won't go there by myself during the day.
- Lake Padden Park and Whatcom Falls Park, I feel we are stretching ourselves to try and keep them clean.
- Lake Whatcom
- Larrabee State Park and Birch Bay Park
- Maritime Heritage Park
- Maritime Heritage Park is sketchy with the homeless population that hangs out down there.
- The only thing that concerns me is Whatcom Falls, that they don't really have enough parking area and playground. Even the spray park needs more handicap parking, they do have it on the other side which is away from the spray park.
- The trails on the Alabama Hill.
- There are other grassy areas with lots of goose droppings.
- Unhappy with Boulevard Park, it's too crowded. They didn't need to put in a beach.
- Water front, the water is polluted you can't dig clams nor swim. It's at the end of Roeder Street.

qnew9: (Some people may not have used one or more of the recreation facilities in the past year because they were previously dissatisfied with them. Are there any facilities that you (or others in your household) would like to have used, but didn't because you are dissatisfied with them? If yes, What facilities?)What dissatisfies you?

- Cornwall Park is too dark and it makes me feel unsafe. The indoor pools use too much chlorine.
- Goose droppings
- I don't feel safe walking by myself anymore.
- If I go there with my manual chair I can get to the park, if there's a big hill I won't be able to get back up.
- It is dirty and there is a lot of litter and garbage so we do not go down there.
- It's not safe. (safe) the fact that there are a lot of people there that do nefarious things. Crime, drugs.
- It's polluted and you can't do anything but walk around it.
- It's too crowded. The construction they are doing to place a beach in has made it too crowded and unattractive and it discourages us from going to Boulevard Park. They definitely shouldn't be doing this in the summer when people want to go there.
- None
- Not appropriate for my boat.
- Overcrowding and the hours. This specific intersection at 22nd and Fairhaven Parkway where you turn off 22nd to go south. The interchange there is not clearly marked and very dangerous.
- Padden, I think we need to cut back the shrubs and trees, it is getting overgrown. We have lost the arrangements with them over growing. Money spent on maintenance.
- People were leaving their dog's poop on the trails.
- Sometimes it's so full I can't find parking, but otherwise I love it.
- The access.
- The chlorine is so strong that it burns your eyes and I would hesitate if I had a small baby to go in there at all. The chlorine isn't good for you.
- The facility and the amount of people they book there for one time. It's hard to get a whole recreational experience, it's too crowded being the only indoor swimming facility that the city has.
- The indoor swimming pool at Arne Hanna we gave up on because there were not enough lanes available for slow swimmers early in the day. At the Y pool we found that the level of chemicals is too high and harsh on my skin.
- The off leash area is a complete mud bath for the dogs, occasionally.

- The place is not well kept. It is very unclean and there is poop all over the place. From people's dogs, wild animals and I will not take my children there.
- The restrictions against letting kids in the hot tub. Life is too picky about rules not family friendly. The change rooms are not that clean and a lot of theft.
- There wasn't a lot to do. You can walk around but no swing sets, it's Fairhaven Park, they need to add more things.
- They are changing it and tearing it up. Right now they are in the construction process so you have to walk on a wood chip trail, which we don't like. Otherwise it's a fabulous park.
- They are not up kept. The fact that they do not mow them or keep them well maintained so you know where the actual trail is. If a tree falls they take a week to come and all they do is cut it and move it to the side. Their reasoning is that it is new habitat for animals. They need to be more diligent and I realize we have been in a drought and the grass does not grow as fast but the grass does not get cut at park areas.
- They need canopies so we can use them when it's cold and wet.
- They need more maintenance. Clean branches, tree trimming, bush trimming on the pathways. Better gravel on the trail.
- They're not safe, they're too secluded and there are homeless people that live in the woods. I don't feel safe and I don't use that trail. If you're attacked, no one would see you. There have been attacks of women on the trail in the secluded area. That's the reason I don't feel safe.
- Too crowded.
- Too many seagulls.
- Walking trails aren't safe for families or children.
- What I had just explained on the previous question.
- With the dog park, they started doing construction so it is a smaller area, the trail isn't as long. Then the Maritime Heritage Park, I wouldn't use that because of the people who hangs out there. (people) well there are transits and there's a reputation where it's less safe.
- You could have the dogs go off leash, but now they cannot run as much. In Lake Whatcom or Cornwall by the cemetery you can go off leash but not up near the Lake Whatcom Park area, this is a problem because my dog does not get enough exercise.
- You have to have a discovery pass to go there and it makes it difficult for low income families.

q25a: What additional types of facilities would you like to see in Bellingham?

- 50 meter pool
- A paved biking trail not on the road. Like the Centennial Trail.
- A spot other than the skate park that is safe for kids to go to. Many kids go without supervision and safety.
- Additional park and commercial down in the waterfront area where the paper mill used to be.
- Additional turf fields for lacrosse.
- An obstacle course like the military with signs saying do pushups and sit ups and a balance bar 4 inches off the ground, monkey bars, tires like football players and it can be circular or through a park. It would be running between events. Leaping events also. Also the events should be low in being prone to injury.
- Boulevard Park, they have blacktop pathways that needs to be leveled so you can go straight on the path without gearing at an angle.
- Canyon Creek Road hiking trails or Glacier Creek - please open them up again.
- Extending the dock from Boulevard Park into Cornwall. I want more over the water bridges or walkways.
- I like to see more access to the bay. I disapprove of motorized transportation in Lake Whatcom because it's the city's drinking water.
- I would like more beach access. (access) the beaches are not accessible.
- I would like more benches on the trails.
- I would like there to be more beach access on the waterfront. I like what they have done with Boulevard Park with reclaiming the beach. Just keep the areas groomed safe and clean.
- I would like to see a better land connection between Boulevard Park and Marine Park.
- I would like to see more outdoor swimming areas on Lake Padden.

- I would like to see some tennis courts, but don't know what is available. Also, non-motorized boat launches.
- I would like to see the city get something in the city center. There is no parks downtown where you can sit and have a picnic lunch. The greenways should have more connective trails.
- I would like town square I would like a speakers corner, maybe chess
- I would want a bocce court.
- If there was something along the waterfront that was not blocked by a tree or building.
- Indoor track facilities and a community center for athletic classes that re inexpensive.
- Like a pool that I mentioned earlier. I like the pool in Canada, like they have an indoor wave pool. Next to it is a roller skating ring and ice skating ring and a theatre. It's also be nice to see an indoor facility that caters to indoor mountain biking and can ride a scooter indoor. We don't have roller skating in Bellingham and would like to have one. Some indoor courts to play basketball or volleyball and an indoor track and ping pong tables and such.
- Maybe more wild life or more animal facilities like petting zoos and stuff like that.
- More access to Lake Whatcom. (access) most of Lake Whatcom is private.
- More bike trail and sidewalks.
- More fields for playing sports, more hiking trails. Playgrounds for young children.
- More green space downtown and walk ways around the water downtown, the shore downtown. I just like as much green space as possible. (green) parks and trails.
- More pickle ball courts.
- My father dedicated the Bloedel Donovan. There was a building for refreshments and they changed it to a party kitchen room. I wish they would turn it back into a refreshment place. I think there is enough park and recreation for everybody.
- Outdoor lap pool, a really nice one that is filled with salt water. Either indoor or outdoor, like a sliding roof so you can use it all year long. Not too lavish, bigger size lap pool.
- Outdoor swimming pool.
- Parks to take over Galbraith and the mountain biking trails. I would like for the mountain biking trails to be preserved on Galbraith.
- Paved bike trails.
- Playgrounds with rubberized mats.
- Pools for adults that's not crowded.
- Public climbing.
- Roller skating rink.
- Rowing
- Sandy beaches to walk on versus concrete slabs with big pebbles
- Scuba park
- Someone would have to tell me what's available and I would check it out.
- Something on par with Bellwether Park. The hike to Boulevard Park could be improved. It would be nice to construct new hike within the park. (improved) the railroad tracks could be dangerous and paths not bordering the tracks would be an improvement especially when children are involved. Hiking trails could circle Lake Whatcom also.
- The old GP site
- The softball field, better taken care of.
- Walkway that goes from the other side of the Boulevard to GP. Swimming area and dock back at Lake Padden and life guards back in places like Lake Samish and Lake Padden. Kayaking trips that they used to have from the county. Parks in the GP site.
- We live near the Whatcom creek by the school bus parking area and we really don't think that should be an industrial area, we think it should be a park. Whatcom Park is not really safe, maybe more lighting. It doesn't really get used by kids I would say. I would say the same thing about the Whatcom creek trail but some parts of it don't feel safe to be on with children. I think there should be more lighting or it's too enclosed. Walking under the under pass to get to the Whatcom creek trail is not the greatest, it's really close to traffic and doesn't feel safe.
- We need more instructions for the different places in the Vietnamese language. (instructions) like when we go to the park like at Bloedel, the signs need to have Vietnamese and also the pamphlets.
- We would like to see an indoor track and field facility.

q31ot: You said that water access would be important. I'm going to read a list of various types of water access. Please tell me which one is the most important to you (and your household):

- A parking area on the north side of Bellingham Bay especially stairway area needs more parking.
- Access for non-motorized sports activities like wind surfing.
- All of the above, not everyone lives near the water and we should all take advantage of the water accessibility.
- All those are important.
- All three, seeing the water, swimming and kayaks.
- Better boat ramps for watching powered and unpowered vessels. Anything that you have to use a trailer to watch.
- Boardwalks and such, that's important to senior citizens. I understand that they make the plantation beautiful.
- Canoe paddling.
- Drinking water available to the park visitors.
- Drinking water.
- General shoreline access, wading and swimming.
- I like all options.
- I would like all of them.
- I would like to have beach access for walking and launching my kayak.
- Just being able to walk down to the water and walk along the water. It would be nice to actually walk longer distances by the water.
- Places to fish, for fishing.
- Salt water access
- Trails with access to the water.

q32ot: You said that improvements to existing parks would be important. Can you tell me one or two ways that you would like to see the current parks improved.

- A change in what substance they use in the infant and toddler and child play areas. Put more private benches and access to shade for nursing the baby. A spot to cool off.
- A few more benches for bird watching my dad, who is 90, needs some easier parking. Ne
- A few more benches for sitting. I am a senior and I walk with other seniors and it is nice to have benches. In the town I am from they have benches people can purchase with their names on it or for in memory of someone and it might be a good way for the community to get money.
- Additional turf fields for lacrosse and other sports.
- Again just more handicap access.
- All playgrounds to have canopies and rubberized mats.
- Ample parking. Water fountains. Clean restrooms. (where) all parks in general.
- An improvement in the restroom facilities would be a high priority.
- At Elizabeth Park there are sometimes homeless people hanging around there so maybe add more security. Squalicum Beach, I think might have a little pollution problem so I don't know get it cleaned up so things don't get so polluted in the future.
- At Lake Padden it would be nice to drive by and supervise the parks for the animals. Have trails and make sure there are no homeless camps.
- Better access for the handicapped citizens.
- Better drainage for the field. Lake Padden clogs.
- Better drainage.
- Better facilities for picnics (better) improved or modernized
- Better if they kept them cleaner.
- Better maintenance.
- Better parking and more restrooms.
- Better parking in some cases. I would like to see more parking spaces.
- Better swimming area. (better) cleaner water, all parks in general.
- Better volunteers to maintain the trail; or better volunteer programs to help clean up the trails. More recyclable bins out so when we are walking we have something to throw our water bottles into.

- Connecting the parks is a big thing. I think when you have a park where there are summer activities, that helps the sense of community. Judicious improvements are needed to enhance further community involvement. More programs.
- Connecting trails, more of them. More off leash areas added to the system.
- Connectivity of the trails. Would like to have a park space to designate for people to drink on a picnic.
- Continued recycling for garbage, not just trash cans
- Coordinate with wild life experts that bird life and nesting is considered in the preservation. Open park land as much as possible. More information available to the public about park and trails.
- Cornwall Park needs a better basketball area. We have taken our grandchildren to the one on Birchwood and you would think the Cornwall Park would have one.
- Disability access. I'd like to see disability friendly website that tells me where those accessible facilities are.
- Dog poop is a problem. Also the trail around the sewage plant could be restored. Boulevard Park has pushed the edge of the water back to put in a beach which has erosion.
- Easier to bike and walk to.
- Extra parking. Boulevard Park is a nightmare but I don't know where to put it.
- Finances for maintaining them is limited so make sure that they are properly maintained.
- For me, I would like to see the authorities get after the people that let their dogs run loose. They are not supposed to be running around the park without a leash. Some parks, they have the off leash areas, I am not talking about that. Specifically, I am talking about Boulevard Park. They're putting in a beach at Boulevard Park and they have been taking the trees. At 88 of age I use the park every day. It ruined it for me because all I hear the trucks. I live right above Boulevard Park so it bothers me.
- For safety and playgrounds for little kids.
- General maintenance. Hire people that need work and I think that is a good use of people and people need work. Maintenance for all the parks.
- Have bathroom facilities, especially by the Broadway Park playground. Keeping all the shrubs groomed and back so they don't get overgrown. A nice thing would be if they would have the dog waste pick up bags like they do at the port.
- Have more playground equipment for kids like swings and swings for toddlers.
- Have water available to the walkers and all people.
- Having bathrooms at Lake Padden and having them open in winter and having hand soap.
- I am not really very happy with what they're doing at Boulevard Park. I think they're changing it to a non-natural state. (suggestions) taking away some of the grassy areas was not a good idea. Bringing in unnatural sand.
- I am so in support of the trails and I think it is critical. We have parks connected with trails for the kids but they close them up at night. I would like to see more places for children especially for kids who live in apartments. Add more play areas.
- I find running in Lake Padden trails a lot of people having their dogs off leash and I think there is a rebellious quality. I would like to see a very clear sign that said on leash dog area so that fewer people would violate the rules. I would also like to see smoke free and gun free parks.
- I haven't used them for a long time, I really can't say.
- I like connectivities of one trail from one park to another.
- I like the carvings at the top of Cornwall Park. They could share this in other parks, using local artists and not letting the trees getting overgrown.
- I like the walking trails, so I would like to connect more parks together so I could have longer walks. I would like geese control, like Bloedel Donovan that has all the goose's poop.
- I like the way Boulevard Park has progressed so I think that type of improvement is what Bellingham parks should be. I would like to have the Whatcom Creek area to be more developed into a nice walking area from Lake Whatcom to the sea.
- I like to see more hiking trails.
- I like to see more parks on the north side. I would like to see the basic amenities like park benches and clean bathrooms.
- I like undeveloped park land. I like off leash dog trails and connecting trails throughout the city and county.

- I think that I need information of park locations and what the various amendments that are available to the public.
- I think that the connecting various parks with trails, walking and biking is a good idea. More facilities, more parks, more sports and more playgrounds for children to play.
- I think there should be a little more oversight in the park to be there to handle property or to handle situations or have some authority to deflate the situation.
- I think they should be more accessible to handicapped people on wheel chairs.
- I think trails that are accessible to older people like less bumps and such.
- I was thinking more of maintaining the parks.
- I would like dog owners to clean up after their dog. I would like bike riders be separated from walkers. That would include skate boards and any wheeled vehicle.
- I would like them to provide more access to Lake Whatcom.
- I would like to have access to the creek. I would like to have more off leash dog parks and trails.
- I would like to see a good healthy budget to maintain what we already have.
- I would like to see an indoor facility for track and field, not just competition but being able to run indoors in bad weather.
- I would like to see bocce courts put in for all the citizens.
- I would like to see drainage improved. Some of the parks get too wet and have puddles too large to make use of the park in the winter.
- I would like to see more off lease trails and actually if the use of a training collar was used and considered instead of a leash. More enforcement for the people to clean up after their dogs.
- I would like to see some of the parks improved with their facilities and upgrade their facilities. When renting out a facility there should be less rules involved.
- I would like to see the entrance to Fairhaven Park refurbished, it has deteriorated over the years. Make Maritime Heritage Park more family friendly and less accommodating to transits. I would like graffiti to be taken down on signs etc. I think that Bellingham parks does a great job.
- I would like to see the Whatcom Creek Trail better managed.
- I would like to see them more accessible and better maintained trails.
- I would like to see use more of the soft paving materials like they've used in some of the new roads that are quiet and they are easier to walk on. (where) where there is now there is sidewalks and asphalt.
- I'd like signage to be more clear about where off leash areas are or are not or some sort of enforcement. I feel like we've had it a lot and I'm very uncomfortable with people's off leash dogs coming up to me when I'm swimming or around my picnic. I think cleaning up areas, especially downtown where a lot of homeless people who leave their garbage around.
- I'd like to see the parks more attached to our commercial area in downtown. I believe our city could benefit from having an environment downtown where there are more people that want to visit the area and enjoy walking around and spend their money. Not just a park that is specifically for walking dogs or for kids to play in. Like a park that is connected to our swap meets. Areas for people to gather and enjoy how beautiful our city is.
- I'd like to see the small parks have bathrooms like they do in Cornwall Park. I would like to see more park officials present because I almost had my son taken from a park.
- If it was just a little bit cleaner. So maybe more trash cans, and I see they come to empty the trash bags, so maybe they should come a little more often.
- If they could separate off-leash dog areas from playgrounds. They could develop a way to get citizens to help clean up the parks.
- Interconnectivity of the trails and access to the water, whether it's lake, bay, or creek.
- It doesn't look like something's going on there, not a lot of people do stuff there. More upgrades (upgrades) kids like to play sports like basketball, it would be nice if they had a basketball court, tennis courts, softball fields. If they upgraded the softball fields on Cornwall.
- It would be nice to see the dog parks improved. (improved) better grass, keep up the facilities.
- Just a little bigger, add an acre to the park area. My kids and I spent a lot of time at the parks. My mom and step dad celebrated their 25th anniversary at fair haven and my kids had a ball. They like the wading pool. It's not too deep and they can get wet, it's absolutely fantastic.
- Just connect the trails. Make it so there is no vehicle interruption or make it so there is limited street crossing.
- Just expanded (expanded) to see more area devoted to parks

- Just keep them on top of necessary maintenance. Maintain the structures and playgrounds that are in use. All parks.
- Just maintaining the trails, some of them got overgrown. I walk and I like having a clear trail.
- Just make sure they are clean and kept up.
- Just more clean up and pick up of little things. (things) like small maintenance issues with people not throwing away garbage.
- Keeping things in good repair and maintained with good maintenance.
- Leave the parks. Don't take real estate away from that and cut down trees like they do at Boulevard Park. Keep the fish moving. The fish used to be able to move through streams there and now they can't anymore.
- Lifeguards in the swimming areas.
- Lights at some of the parks and trail ways, there's no lights from the Interurban Trail through the town's Boulevard. Connecting the trails to the parks, so there is more that you can hit. Many of the big parks using trails. (specific trail) I know Interurban goes to Whatcom Falls and it sort of disband. You have the Interurban and the beach but they don't connect together.
- Linking the parks through green park like through green ways would be great.
- Maintenance area. Make sure the bathrooms work. We need to pick up after ourselves and not everyone does. If you bring dogs then owners should clean up after them. The little plastic things for dogs should be everywhere because people take their dogs where they aren't supposed to.
- Making them larger.
- Maybe more bathroom facilities. (which) Whatcom Park and Cornwall Park, Boulevard Park.
- Maybe more playground equipment.
- Maybe updated building exteriors as well as energy efficiency or water conservation characteristics. I was a painter for the parks department and I know that so many structures are concrete block buildings so new structures or something more attractive or more efficient building construction.
- Monitoring and making them feel safe at all times. All parks in general.
- More access to get into the park. Boulevard Park, there is not that much parking and not good access. Fairhaven Park doesn't have enough parking and they have to park on the road, that is unsafe. It's also crowded. More of a separation of walking and biking paths. Have some kind of designation on the trail like a sign that says the right hand is for biking.
- More activities. In some parks more places to barbeque or have picnics.
- More bike paths.
- More bike trails.
- More lighting in the parks, Whatcom Falls and Lake Padden.
- More lighting so people can do things at night and more picnic tables.
- More lights. At night it would be nice to have more light because not everyone gets to enjoy the park during the day. There's a lot of parks and some have lights, some don't.
- More parking at Boulevard Park.
- More parking facilities.
- More parks, I think they do a pretty good job.
- More picnic areas and life guards at the swimming areas.
- More picnic tables. All parks in general. Maybe non-motorized access.
- More playground area for the kids. More walking trails to downtown.
- More playground equipment and paddle boats.
- More playgrounds and better equipment, it's getting old.
- More playgrounds for the children. More picnic areas. I'd like to see spray parks in any of the parks. An additional spray park. There should be kayak launch area. Trail connectivity, there are trails that stopped or streets in between so we need more connectivity of the trails.
- More sand volleyball courts and lighting for night time. Then the city could do sand volleyball leagues. At Boulevard or Bloedel.
- More space with covered areas for picnics and group gatherings. It might be nice to have a little carnival downtown on the beach with rides for the kids. Some areas specially designed for families with small kids. I would like to see forestry areas.
- More trail access to the parks and safer play equipment. (reference) all parks in general. (equipment) what they put in at Boulevard Park is very well, just some of the parks is outdated.
- More trash cans and doggy poles for dog pick up bags. Better litter patrols.

- More unleashed dog walking trails.
- Nothing over the phone.
- One of the parks is Broadway Park and they took out the playground equipment and to replace it with something would be great. Most of the parks are pretty good. No suggestions for replacement equipment. I feel well served by the parks.
- Places like the park near the harbor with the memorial to those lost at sea.
- Playgrounds have improved.
- Provide more trails
- Put parks and trails in the north part of the city.
- Recreational activities for kids like a wave pool.
- Referring to the swimming or wading areas. (improvements) having more water access for swimming not necessarily for boating because they already have several spots. (specific) all parks.
- Restroom areas need to be more sanitary.
- Security in a few of the parks could be improved.
- Some sort of clean-up program in all the parks. Things do not seem to be up kept. The parks that are accessible to my wheelchair need to have maintenance come every week. Get the Boy Scout and Girl Scouts to have a clean-up once a week.
- Sunset pond now has a big lawn and I would like to see the natural habitat or wild flowers.
- Swing sets for the playground that works for teens, not just smaller kids.
- Taking care of the landscaping ne
- The Bellingham Bay near Boulevard Park has been improving a lot more, add crossing walks at the corner of State and Boulevard.
- The cleanliness of the bathroom. I would also like to see the hours of extended for the use of the bathroom. It closes early and if you go walking you have nowhere to use the restroom.
- The connectivities between different parks. There is the shoreline park and you go into Fairhaven along the Bay Trail and the Taylor Dock and that trail goes in and heads towards the GP site and then it goes to downtown. It would be nice if they were all connected.
- The connectivity between Bellingham and north and south of Bellingham. Marine Drive is the only way to get in and out of here. An alternative access for the bikers would be needed.
- The maintenance of the park.
- The one I go to is Bloedel in the winter time; we have to go across the street which isn't convenient because nobody uses Bloedel in the winter. They make us go across the street in the soccer field and it's all muddy and the dogs get all muddy and the possibility of the dogs getting hit. So if they can just let us go down by the water from 8 until 10 then that would be okay. There's going to be a new ramp for boats underneath the bridge for kayakers and there's only 20 kayakers. Why do they have to disturb the swimming area. Now with the ramp being there the kids won't be able to jump and they'll get hurt.
- The parks I go to are well maintained, but bikers are intruding on the walking space in Boulevard Park.
- The pathways need to cleared more. They need dog litter bags and more garbage cans. Weeds are overgrown.
- The surface areas of the parks where games are played like soccer need to be leveled with better drainage and remove pot holes in soccer fields. We need more indoor facilities for winter months.
- There are a lot of trail heads that go around in circles so I would like to see more trails that leads to the water.
- There is a new crosswalk in Bloedel last year that crosses to Whatcom Falls park that crosses Electric Avenue. They need to cut down the bushes around there because the crosswalk is at a blind side and I almost ran someone over there a few times.
- They do a good job with what they have, I would like to see more parks.
- They have to something the Canada geese. They need to deter, because the geese poop in the water and they pollute the water and people can't go in the water. They need to Lake Padden and deter the geese.
- They have too many sick trees and shrubs types that have no view. It might be dangerous for people and they can be attacked. I worry more about the children. We live above and I see from time to time, people entering the park that shouldn't. I see homeless going through the park. Sometimes the live in the bushes. That's a worry and the trails.

- They need to have more maintenance more of the time. (maintenance) grass mowing and hedge trimming and update playground equipment.
- They need to make sure the facilities are clean at all times.
- They recently had on a ballot that the Edgemoor people would buy land in Chuckanut Ridge and turn it into a park, and it passed so the Edgemoor people are paying to make it a park. So i'm going to be putting my money to make it into a park. There are people saying don't make it into a park, a movement or a ballot, I don't remember. The movement or ballot says to make it into city owned held land or something like that, I don't remember, but I would like to see it turned into a park.
- They should be monitored so people don't leave their garbage behind. It's not nice to do.
- To have more parks in all parts of town so that all people have access in their neighborhoods.
- Trail and garbage pickup
- Trails for walking and biking, no specific park.
- Upkeep the jungle gym, and the parks grounds.
- We have a park across the street from our house and I would like to see it kept up better by keeping the grass mowed. I like going there and the park not being long grass there.
- We like playgrounds any improvements would be fine.
- What might be available for addition plots for the public to grow their own fresh produce. Expand as many area for off leash dog parks.
- What they are doing is a good idea, constructing a better beach area. (better) wider beach and easier to get to.
- You mentioned the trails connecting more and I think that would be nice. All parks in general.

cmtbxot: The Bellingham Department of Parks and Recreation really values your feedback. Do you have any other comments or suggestions that you would like to offer?

- Bellingham should work to protect Galbraith trails.
- Bellingham's quality of life is high compared to other areas it's size. We need to keep the heritage going.
- Biking, I would love to see more biking and I did comment to that earlier. I think it's a huge deal especially on the east side of I-5, the need to put more bike lanes out and setting up biking that makes us older people and kids safe.
- Bloedel has always looked the same and the idea of changing it infuriates me just because one person wants to change it. I mean there's boat ramps if you want to kayak go off the boat ramps, you don't have to have a special one that interrupts the swimming. (infuriates) just because it always have looked the same and it's a beautiful park. To just change the looks of it. Here's another thing, there's times when first aid is called to the park, a first aid car is going to take a while of a time to get through. Right now there's a gate, that gate will be closed off or used for something else. I am not the only one that feels this way. Bellinghamdogpark.com
- Charge the Canadians for use using facilities and golf courses.
- Doing a fine job, excellent trail system.
- Enforce dog leashed areas. They need people, security patrol of sorts, to monitor and enforce the leash law in areas that people are supposed to have leashes on their dogs.
- First spending more money starting a new project when they don't have enough to finance the project they already have. They should work with their existing finance just like you do at home. You don't spend more than you have. All these things are wonderful but if you can't afford them, you just can't afford. They are spending more beyond their means. The walking trail between Boulevard Park and downtown is not safe for single woman to walk on. It is too secluded. There are homeless people living in that area of the woods.
- For a city of our size we have some nice parks. I appreciate that they keep them maintained.
- Get moving on parks put down in GP site.
- Great park system
- Having available numbers to call when you do need information sports ne
- Homeless camping around in parks and the trails is a detriment to the people using them.

- I am leaning towards making this more of an attractive town that people want to come to. (suggestions) like an amusement park, little shops, and cafes right on the waterfront. Enjoy the view and walk around.
- I applaud the city of Bellingham for all that they have done for the parks in the area.
- I didn't hear you ask about some of the facilities that they offer that you can rent that we have used and enjoyed. I just that I would bring that up because I didn't hear any questions regarding the facility just like the building at Fairhaven Park. They have a big hall and have used that for family gatherings. (improvements) I know they improved Fairhaven but as far as the ones that I have used seemed to be fine.
- I do have grandchildren that visit the parks and that's when we use parks more.
- I have a handicapped child that uses the parks. More programs he like bocce balls. Keep maintaining the parks. Great job.
- I have always been more concerned with the city keeping motorized things off of Lake Whatcom.
- I have lived in other places in the country, I am very pleased to be living here and having better parks and facilities offered to me and have experienced living in other countries and Bellingham is the best.
- I have noticed that they have cut back on their activities and to their best abilities it would be nice to have back.
- I just appreciate that they are doing this survey and getting our feedback.
- I just want to reiterate about where the school buses park, Meador Street and making that area into a park.
- I just would like to see the hours that the bathrooms are open.
- I know vandalism and graffiti is a big issue for the parks department and it would be nice to have more public awareness or education to curb the problem.
- I like the parks and the idea of more connections.
- I live downtown; I would like to have a nice safe place for seniors to walk.
- I live on Cherrywood and there is a trail that goes from Cherrywood to McLeod. What are their plans about improving it? I would like them to fence it off to delineate the property line.
- I love the scholarships.
- I really appreciate the parks we do have and the accessibility.
- I see so many people out of work, some want to work and some don't. The parks program could give them a little wage or minimum wage to help maintain the parks. They might be able to do it cheaper than they are but not sure what they pay. There could be something arranged that could save money, possibly with federal funds.
- I think our kids need lots of contacts with nature and need to know about it.
- I think that Bellingham parks have done an excellent job in maintaining and growing facilities. Integrating with the bike master plan is important to me.
- I think that both are equally important, trail connectivity and the bridge that caught on fire in the Whatcom Creek Park, just outside downtown. Needs to be replaced and fix up that section of the park.
- I think that the parks that they have should stay industrial like it is right now. I don't want there to be any condominiums built over there that will be blocking people's view of the water.
- I think the staff at Silver Lake is really good and kind and fun. Make things easy and good staff makes us feel welcomed as well.
- I think there needs to be more things like the skate park and bike park. Some place for kids to ride their bikes freely, with jumps and ramps.
- I think they are doing a good job with what they are doing right now.
- I think they're doing a good job.
- I think we have enough parks in a city our size. We don't need to be expanding and adding new parks. They should take what they have and improve on the parks we have and not waste money on trying to add more parks that we don't need.
- I think we have enough parks.
- I use the parks all the time and like them.
- I want all the chlorine out of the lap pools and replace it with salt. Not as unhealthy as chlorine.
- I was amazed that they did a roundabout in Boulevard Park which prevented access to the beach. They are now fixing the beach but it ruined the summer, why not do it off season.

- I would like for them to partner with Bellingham Bay boating center in offering classes for non-motorized activities.
- I would like more investment in trail connectivity to business areas because my husband and I both use our bikes to commute to work.
- I would like to congratulate for having the best parks in any city in the country that I've seen.
- I would like to say that I hope they never get rid of the compost area.
- I would like to see more memorial benches with water views.
- I would like to see more restroom facility use more air filtration systems rather than the fragrance dispenser. Many people have chemical sensitivity and have adverse health reactions to the toxins in the fragrance dispensers. The chemicals used in these dispensers have been proven and are known to be toxic. In general, not just to people with chemical sensitivities.
- I would like to see some more indoor facilities that are city owned and managed as opposed to YMCA or Western.
- I would like to see Sunset Pond area develop.
- I would like to suggest that the parks budget to include additional acquisitions for the maintenance of the Civic Park like astro-turf should be included in the budget.
- I would love to have a butterfly pavilion. Seattle is too far to go. Something to do with insects and education.
- I'd like to thank the workers.
- I'd rather see money going to maintain existing parks than new parks.
- I'm a disabled veteran so it would be nice to have level walking paths. I use a cane and sometimes a walker so it would be helpful.
- I'm very pleased with what they've been doing. Elizabeth Park was very popular near Episcopal Church. I like the small parks where children can play. I don't expect any expansion other than the Boulevard Park. I hope it would be successful, but it would take some time.
- I'm very satisfied with what is currently available.
- Increasing safety at the parks. More lighting, some security, and having the feeling of being safe by having police visibility to all.
- It relates to the fall time when all the leaves drop off the trees and what happens where I live. The gutter gets choked and goes on the road and no one goes and cleans out the gutter. I think that should be looked into especially because of all the rain. Just generally get rid of the leaves, it makes the access for people to get in and out of the property a little more dangerous.
- It would be good if they thought about the elderly and incorporated them into the parks system especially those over 65. For example, trails that aren't too difficult to walk. Getting out to the public what is available. I don't know about the pools mentioned and would like to know about discounts and what they offer.
- It would be nice to improve certain things and add more parks. (improve) connecting existing trails and adding more if possible.
- Just keep up the good work.
- Just to say live within your means, find money from programs that are not working and stop asking for money from taxpayers.
- Keep the streams connected to the wetlands up where they have been washed away and where they are not functioning anymore for wildlife and fish.
- Looking for the Boulevard Park work to be done and the northern expansion bridge to be completed asap.
- Make trail and discovery passes count for camping.
- More access to the waterfront than what is currently on the table for the old GP site.
- More classes, such as pottery, yoga, ballet, calligraphy and gardening.
- No comment
- Not take on more than they can handle. Keep the quality high. Around Bellwether Park good community center, Lake Padden buildings are nice wash rooms. Whatcom Falls has nice facilities but needs security watch. Trails around Barkley Square are nice and I like to see high standards.
- Open community gardens and cleanliness for the nature to use. Clean it up and keep it cleaned.
- Please have rentals of canoes and kayaks at Lake Bloedel for rental, more off leash dog areas and trails. The parks are the best thing that Bellingham has to offer the community.
- Please put my bench back at Sunset Pond Park. It will elevate me from y doggies shaking off their water and I can read.

- Please restore the trail around the sewage plant that connected the off leash area to the lagoon. This was cut off by the sewage treatment plant, I would like it restored for use.
- Somehow developing our existing park system so there are facilities for those who want to congregate and enjoy parks. So areas that are natural and accommodate people and trails that are not overused so people can enjoy some solitude.
- Thanks for the good job. A few gripes but overall you are awesome.
- The 100 Acre Wood is inappropriate use of park funds. A park in the northern section of the city is far more important than increasing because I rather see parks in the northern part of the city than the southern part.
- The bridge over Whatcom Creek that got burned down, I would really like to see that repaired.
- The only other things I don't hear about are bicycles paths and you don't know if it's cover under the parks and recreation.
- The swings are getting really squeaky at Elizabeth and Cornwall Park. Also the really old spring toys, the shark and the whale, don't move and I'd love to see them fixed. It would be cool if we could restore them.
- The whole thing that you guys made for the Discover Pass, make it more legible.
- There are several spots along the creek that would be nice to have access to. The trails goes away from the creek by Diehl Ford and comes back towards it by the Sears building. It would be nice to have the walkway extended from the Diehl Ford parking lot down to the creek.
- They are doing a great job. It's inappropriate; they're developing lots on the south but not in the north.
- They are trying to create a park in the south end and they do not have the money to support that. They want to create new parks and who is going to pay for them? We cannot support the parks but they want to create new parks.
- They do a great job.
- They have this project on Boulevard Park and a nice sign explaining the project and they have that sign 15 feet behind the chain link construction fence. You can see through the fence but it's so far back that you can't read the sign. Why put up a sign when you can't read it?
- They need to put more people on during the summer time to clean things up.
- They should ask the question as to where the parks go. They should have more parks in the area of poor areas.
- They totally wasted their money on Little Squalicum Park. They peeled off the two whole bark layer that my dad laid down.
- Very proud of the quality of the parks and their staff.
- We don't need any more parks, we have enough. We are fine right now. You're just spending recklessly. We need to slow down now.
- We need more park bike lanes in Bellingham. I do enjoy Bellingham parks and I admire them and am happy with them.
- We would like to see bicycles have fees and licenses so we can report if they commit infractions. Maybe the parks departments can teach the lessons that allow them to be licensed. There a lot of people that ride them here, not kids under 10 but adults that cut us off. I have had 2 friends killed on bikes so the drivers could also be more careful.
- We're just very pleased with our trails and green way projects.
- You guys are awesome.

**BELLINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION
FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

NOVEMBER 21, 2013

SUMMARY

Following the public hearing and deliberation on the proposed legislative action to update the 2008 PRO Plan / Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Commission has determined that the proposed changes comply with, and will implement, the goals and policies of the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Project or Proposal Description

The proposal is to update the 2008 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PRO Plan) / Chapter 7 of the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan. The PRO Plan must be updated every six years for the City to remain eligible for grants under the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The update must be completed by March 2014.

The PRO Plan includes goals and objectives, specific recommendations and an implementation component intended to “expand and enhance Bellingham’s park system as a vital part of the quality of life for Bellingham’s citizens”. So as to be easily understood by a broad audience, the PRO Plan is presented in a concise but user-friendly format. The main changes from the 2008 PRO Plan include:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction** has been modified slightly based on a survey and public input, and includes an overall vision for Bellingham’s park facilities and recreation programs for the next fifteen years;
- **Chapter 2: Community Setting** provides updated information on population growth trends and forecasts (to 2029), demographics, and recreation trends;
- **Chapter 3: Existing Facilities** provides an updated inventory of Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Special Use Sites, Open Space and Trails within the planning area. (For purposes of the PRO Plan update, the planning area includes the current city limits and urban growth areas);
- **Chapter 4: Land and Facility Demand** provides an updated level of service chart to reflect how many additional acres of each type of facility are needed based on the anticipated population growth;
- **Chapter 5: Goals and Objectives**, organized under the 2009 Bellingham City Council Legacies and Strategic Commitments;

- **Chapter 6: Recommendations** are updated based on survey and public input results; and
- **Chapter 7: Implementation Plan** that is updated to include the priorities and funding strategies for the next six to fifteen years.

2. Background Information/Procedural History

- a. On June 27, 2013 the Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding the 2013-2014 Comprehensive Plan amendment docketing requests and recommended to City Council that the update to the 2008 PRO Plan be placed on the annual review docket. On July 15, 2013 City Council added the PRO Plan update to the 2013-2014 comprehensive plan amendment review docket.
- b. The PRO Plan update reflects the community-based approach used by the Parks Department. This approach allowed the residents of Bellingham to influence the process through public meetings and surveys, during which they were asked to evaluate the existing system and set priorities for additional facilities. The two community meetings held included a public workshop/visioning exercise on June 20, 2013, and a public meeting on October 24, 2013, soliciting comment on the Draft Plan prior to entering the legislative review process.
- c. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members served as the project Steering Committee to help oversee the planning process, provide input, and evaluate the recommendations. In addition to the public meetings, a web-based survey and a random sample household phone survey were conducted to augment and inform the Steering Committee's discussions. The telephone and web survey were conducted to help identify people's priorities and preferences for parks and open space facilities. Included in the survey were questions about current park usage, satisfaction with park facilities, and attitudes towards potential park projects and funding. The telephone survey yielded responses from 300 out of 929 contacted Bellingham residents, and the web survey, accessible through a link on the City of Bellingham website, garnered 542 responses.

Supporting documentation used to prepare the 2014 PRO Plan (telephone and web surveys, and meeting minutes, are included for informational purposes, but do not need to be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

3. Public Comment

Notice of the Planning Commission hearing was published the Bellingham Herald and mailed to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, the Greenways Advisory Committee, neighborhood associations and MNAC representatives. See **ATTACHMENT C** for comments.

4. State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination if applicable

A non-project SEPA threshold determination of Non-Significance (SEP2013-00040) was issued on October 8, 2013.

5. Consistency with the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan, and/or Review Criteria

The proposed update to the 2008 PRO Plan / Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive Plan is consistent with the five decision criteria found in Bellingham Municipal Code Section 20.20.040A. The criteria that must be met are listed below, accompanied by an analysis of the proposal.

Review Criteria #1. The proposed amendment is consistent with the Growth Management Act (GMA) and other applicable laws.

Staff Analysis: The Growth Management Act (GMA) establishes goals for cities and counties to assure that their quality of life is sustained as their communities grow. One of these goals is to *"retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreational facilities"* (RCW 36.70A.020(9)). The parks and recreation chapter of a comprehensive plan must contain the following features:

- Consistency with the capital facilities element;
- Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a 10 year period;
- An evaluation of facilities and service needs; and
- An evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities.

The 2014 PRO Plan addresses all of these requirements.

The PRO Plan is also consistent with the GMA goal to *"encourage involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts."* The community engagement process used in developing the goals, policies, recommendations and prioritizations were all done by employing various methods of public and stakeholder input.

The PRO Plan also forwards the GMA goal to *"ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards."* The community's high level of service standards for parks, open space and trail facilities is maintained so as to provide fair and equitable services for all residents of Bellingham and the UGAs.

Review Criteria #2. The proposed amendment addresses changing circumstances, changing community values, and is consistent with and will help achieve the Comprehensive Plan goals and policies.

Staff Analysis: The Draft 2014 PRO Plan addresses the community values that focus on maintaining and enhancing the city's park, recreation, trail and open space/greenway system. Bellingham continues to grow and change as a community. Greater infill development is occurring within the central part of the city, while new development is expected in annexing areas. New types of recreation are emerging and activities once considered "extreme" have become "mainstream." The park system also attracts a greater number of users than ever before and requires more flexible park resources to respond to new trends and an increasing population.

Much has changed since the last PRO Plan update in 2008. It is estimated that the city + UGA population increased by about 4,300 people between 2007 and 2013. Population growth places additional demands on a park system, and planning for future needs must keep up. Like many places in the U.S., Bellingham's population is aging, placing different demands on the park system. The emergence of new sports is also a factor when planning for a future park system.

The City's 2006 Comprehensive Plan is predicated on the assumption that much of our future population growth will be accommodated in existing neighborhoods and in a variety of "urban villages". In order for the infill strategy to be successful, the City's park system must respond accordingly, as land for parks, trails and open space in these areas becomes more difficult (and expensive) to acquire. Other significant growth areas are in the UGAs, where the City must plan for park system improvements before development occurs so that when the areas are annexed, residents will enjoy the same level of service as in-city neighborhoods. The Draft 2014 PRO Plan addresses these changed circumstances.

It is also critical that the City have an up-to-date parks plan to be used as the basis for:

- identifying future needed facilities in the City and UGA
- establishing a policy base to guide future funding decisions
- informing decisions by land owners as they plan development projects
- providing the information needed to continue the City's park impact fee program
- identifying grant funding and other financing methods

Review Criteria #3. The proposed amendment will result in long-term benefit to the community and is in the community's overall best interests.

Staff Analysis: Adopting a plan to acquire and build parks, trails and greenways will ultimately contribute to the overall health, welfare and quality of life of the community and provide value to adjacent property owners and neighborhoods. In 2009, the Bellingham City Council adopted a series of "Legacies and Strategic Commitments". Successfully addressing these long-range planning goals and objectives will help ensure that future generations will benefit from the work we do today. To further advance these goals, the Draft 2014 PRO Plan, *Chapter 5: Goals and Objectives* was organized under the nine legacy and commitment headings, with related goals and objectives listed accordingly.

Review Criteria #4. The amendment will not adversely affect the public health, safety or general welfare.

Staff Analysis: Nothing in the proposed PRO Plan will adversely affect public health, safety or welfare.

Review Criteria #5. If a concurrent rezone is requested, the proposal must also meet the criteria for rezones in BMC 20.19.030. [Ord. 2011-08-048].

Staff Analysis: No rezones are proposed with this amendment.

II. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the staff report, the Draft 2014 PRO Plan, supporting survey responses and the information presented at the public hearing, the Planning Commission concludes:

1. The proposed 2014 PRO Plan meets the Comprehensive Plan amendment criteria requirements in BMC 20.20.040.
2. The proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan bears a substantial relation to public health, safety and welfare and will contribute to the quality of life that Bellingham and UGA residents currently enjoy.
3. The proposed amendment is consistent with the goals and policies of the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan and the State Growth Management Act.
4. The proposed amendment will benefit the community in the long-term, and is the best interests of the community.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

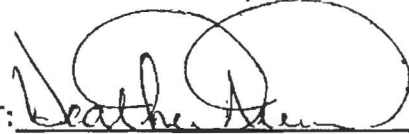
Based on the findings and conclusions, the Bellingham Planning Commission recommends that City Council approve the proposed update to the 2008 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PRO Plan) / Chapter 7 of the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan, as presented in **ATTACHMENT C**, with the following revisions:

1. In Chapter 7 (page 60) of the Plan, move the statement: "Acquire a community park in NW Bellingham", from the Priority 2 list to the Priority 1 list; and
2. In Chapter 2 of the Plan, under 2.2 *Natural Features* (pages 7 & 8), add a reference to the City's Habitat Restoration Master Plan (currently under development) and the importance of enhancing and preserving existing habitat.


ADOPTED this 21st day of November, 2013.



Planning Commission Chairperson

ATTEST: 

Recording Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


City Attorney