

Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan



Project Summary

The City of Bellingham updated its Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PRO Plan), a six-year plan that is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan, in 2014. The PRO Plan analyzes the supply, demand and need for park and recreation services and facilities within Bellingham city limits and urban growth area.

The [current PRO Plan \(PDF\)](#) was adopted by Council Resolution on January 27, 2014.

Public Process & Adoption

The information collected from public meetings, a survey, [Parks & Recreation Advisory Board](#) meetings, along with input from neighborhood associations, will be used to develop the recommended capital facilities plan.

- City Council Meeting, January 27, 2014, at City Council Chambers, 7pm.
- [Planning Commission Public Hearing \(PDF\)](#), November 7, 2013, at City Council Chambers, 7pm.
- Public Meeting, October 24, 2013, at Bloedel Donovan Park Multipurpose Room, 7pm to 9 pm.
- A telephone household survey and an online survey were conducted in late August-early September.
- Public Workshop, June 20, 2013, at Bloedel Donovan Park Multipurpose Room, 7pm to 9pm.

Documents

2014 PRO Plan Update:

- [Adopted 2014 PRO Plan \(PDF\)](#)
- [2014 PRO Plan Draft, December 6, 2013 for City Council Review \(PDF\)](#)
- [2014 PRO Plan Draft, October 25, 2013 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Public Meeting Presentation, October 24, 2013 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Survey Presentation, October 24, 2013 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Final Survey Report, September 2013 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Online Survey Frequencies \(PDF\)](#)
- [Public Comment Tracker \(PDF\)](#)
- [Public Workshop Visioning Exercise, June 20, 2013 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Park Board Visioning Exercise, June 12, 2013 \(PDF\)](#)

2008 PRO Plan:

- [2008 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan](#)

2008 PRO Plan Supporting Documentation:

- [Phone Survey Results \(PDF\)](#)
- [Web Survey Results \(PDF\)](#)
- [Public Meeting Summary \(PDF\)](#)
- [Wildlife Habitat Detail \(PDF\)](#)



PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
for the Bellingham Planning Commission

Date: November 7, 2013

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: City Council Chambers, 210 Lottie Street

Materials: Available in the Planning and Community Development Department and at <http://www.cob.org/government/public/boards-commissions/planning-materials.aspx> at least one week prior to the meeting.

Staff Contact: Katie Franks at kfranks@cob.org or 360-778-8388

PUBLIC HEARING:

ZON2013-00002: A public hearing to consider the proposed update to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PRO Plan) / Chapter of the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan.

There will be an opportunity for public testimony at the hearing, and written comments should be submitted no later than **November 5, 2013** for consideration at the meeting. All comments submitted prior to or at the hearing will become part of the written record.

After the public hearing is held, the Planning Commission will make their recommendation on the above proposal to the City Council. The City Council will hold a subsequent public hearing to consider that recommendation, and a separate notice detailing the date and time will be sent out at least 30 days in advance.

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The City of Bellingham complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need special accommodation, please call Heather Aven at the Planning Department at 778-8300 (voice), 778-8382 (TTY), or haven@cob.org at least 3 days prior to the meeting. A hearing assistance system is available and a receiver may be checked out prior to the meeting.

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)

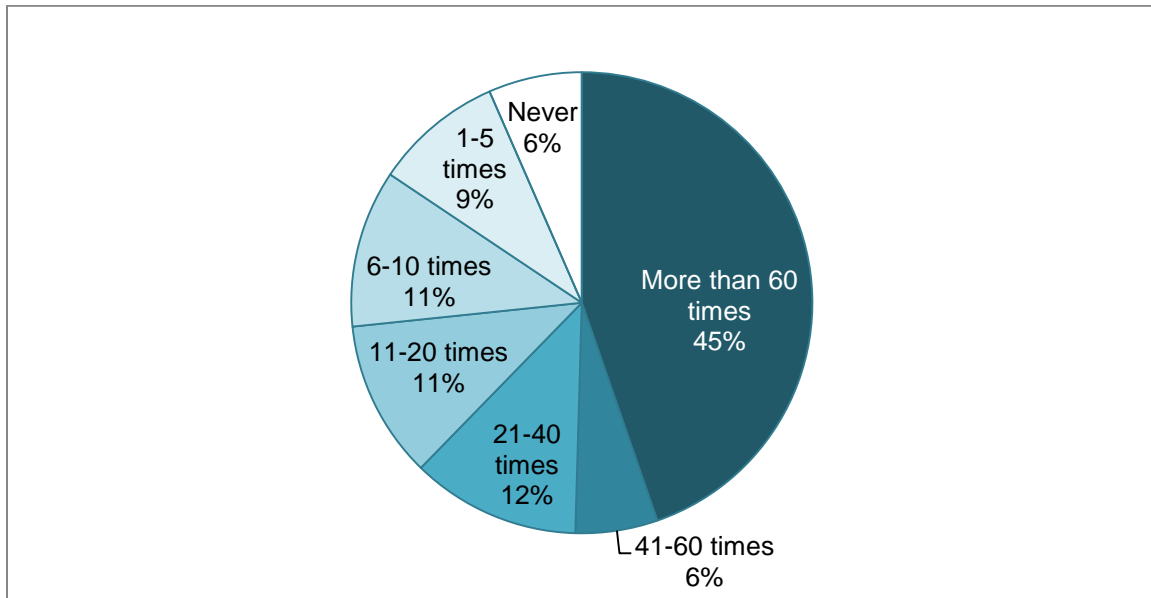
PARK USE

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)

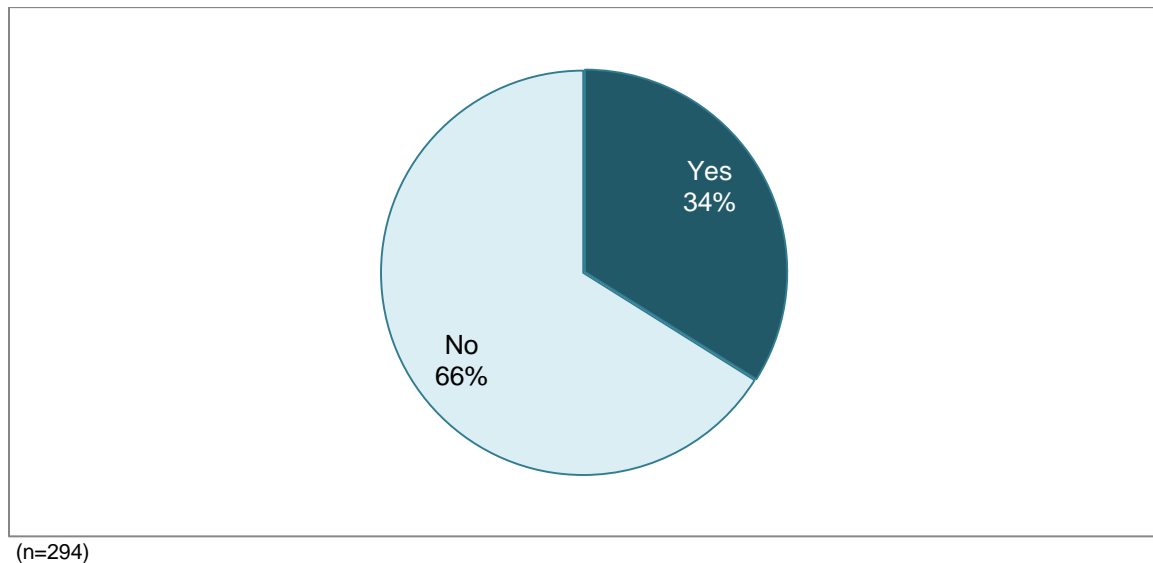
The frequency of park visits was similar to that in 2008.

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?



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

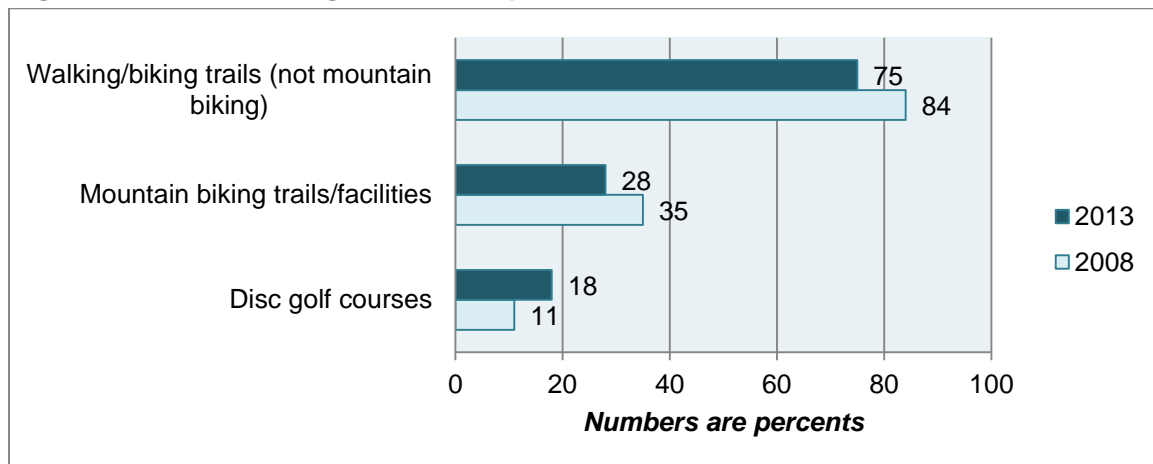
(n=300)

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

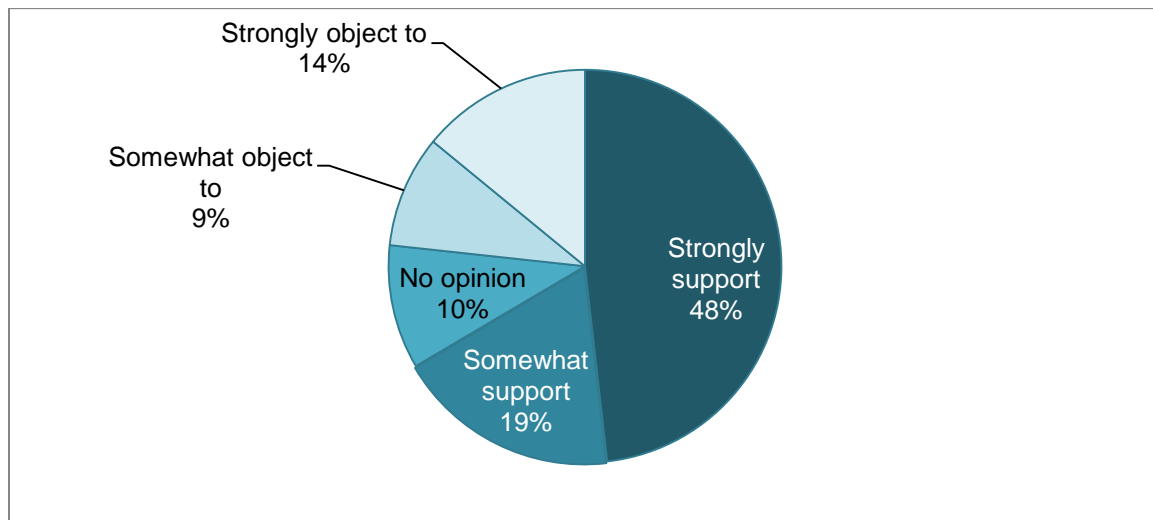
New this year, the survey explored familiarity with pickleball and demand for pickleball courts. Just over one-quarter of respondents (27%) said that they have played a game of pickleball or seen it played. Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 were the most likely age group to have played or seen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



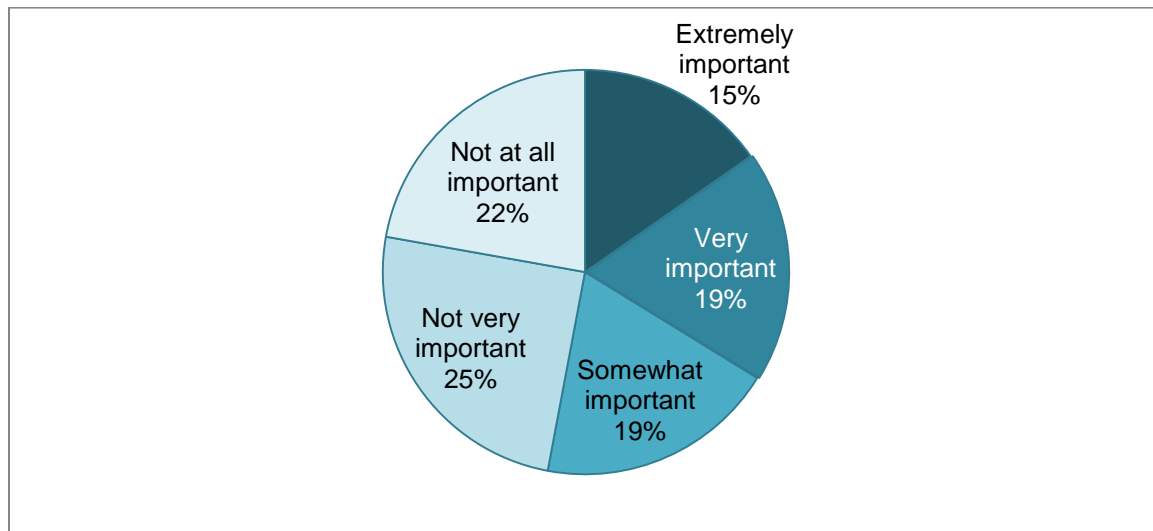
(n=293)

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?



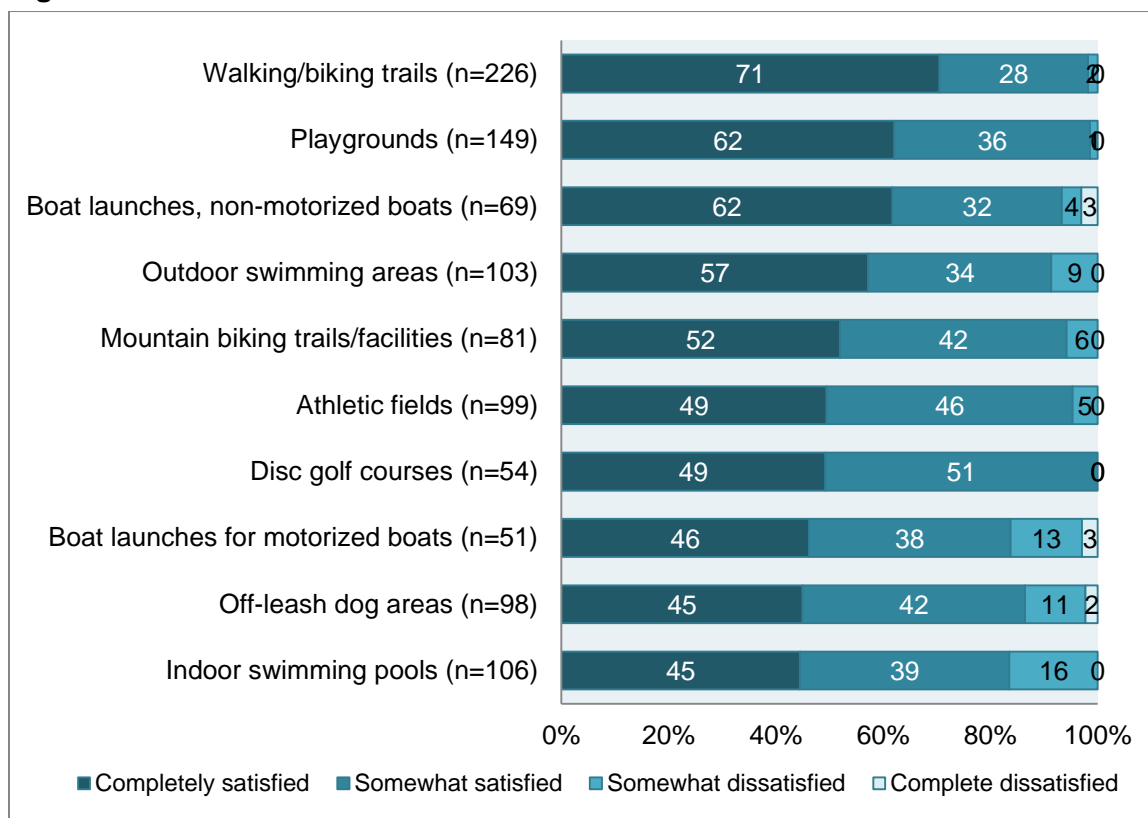
(n=291)

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?

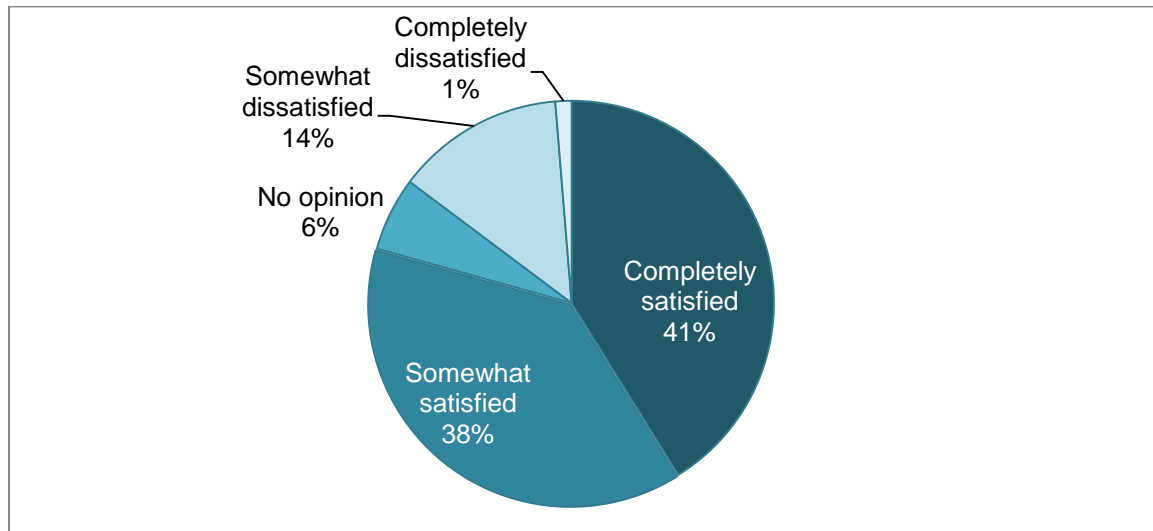
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Indoor swimming pools	7	18
Off road walking and biking trails (not mountain biking)	6	15
Off-leash dog areas	5	13
Safety	3	8
Playgrounds	2	6
Handicap access	2	5
Other specific park or reason	13	33

(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)

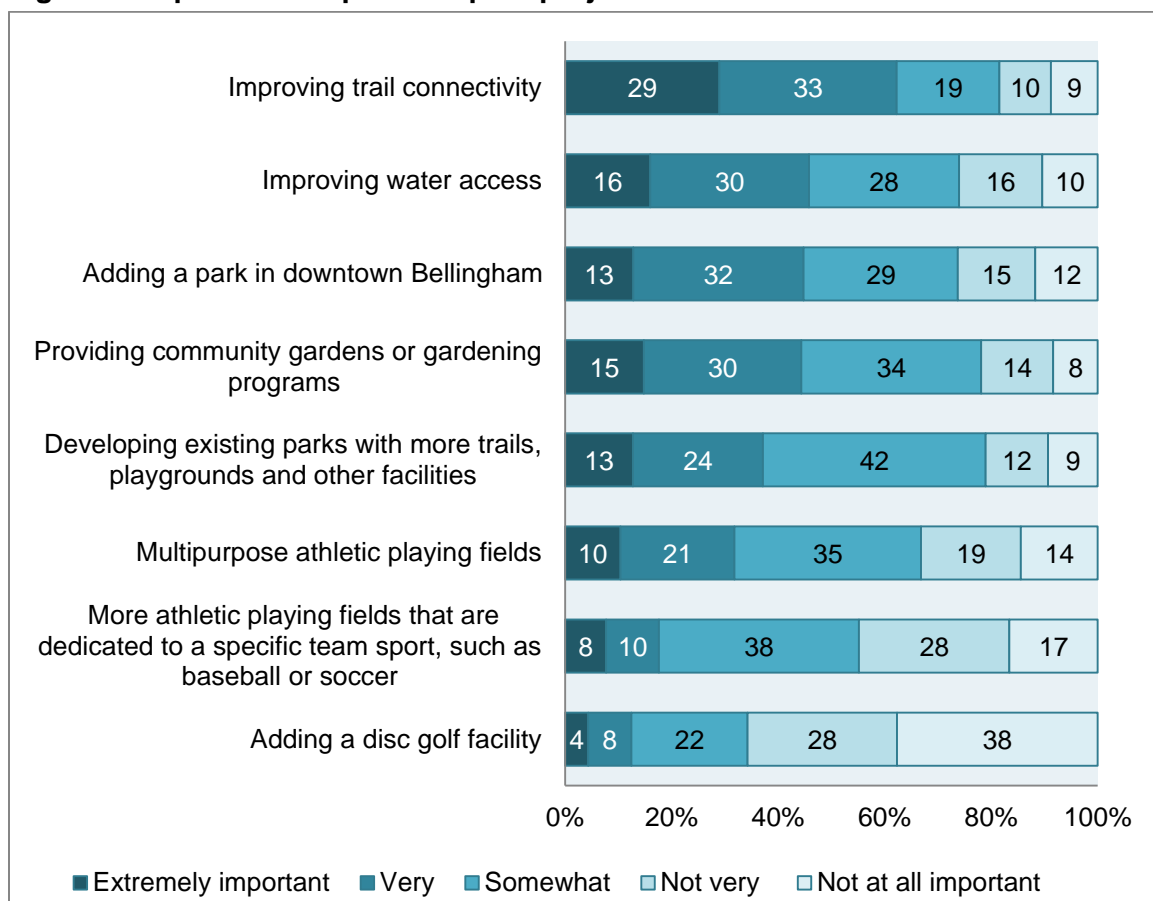
PARKS PRIORITIES

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.

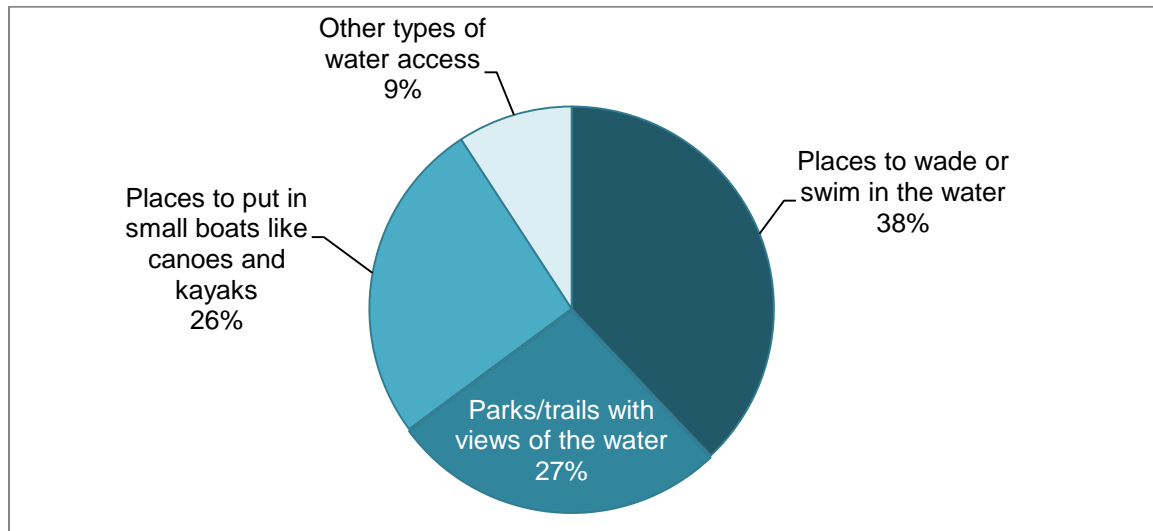
- The proportion who think improving water access is *extremely important* decreased (16%, down from 24% in 2008)
- The proportion who said that trail connectivity is *not very or not at all important* increased from 12% in 2008 up to 19% in 2013

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.

Table 4. Most important ways to improve existing parks		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
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.

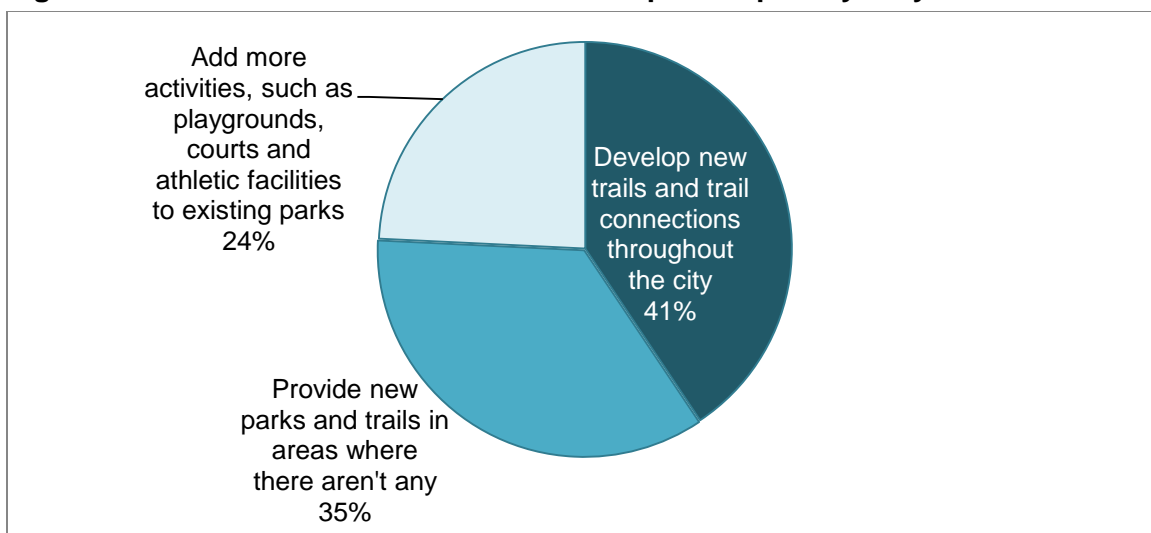
A second common theme was overall park amenities. This category was also broken down into specific types of amenities that respondents would like to see developed or enhanced at the parks. The most frequent specific examples were requests for improved parking (5%) and specific park facilities, typically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

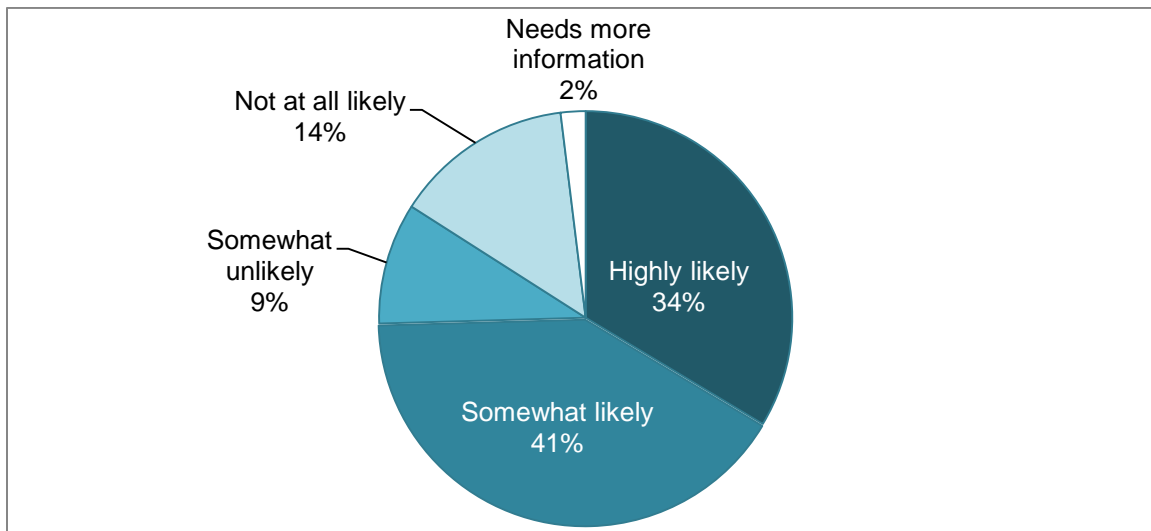
FUNDING

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.

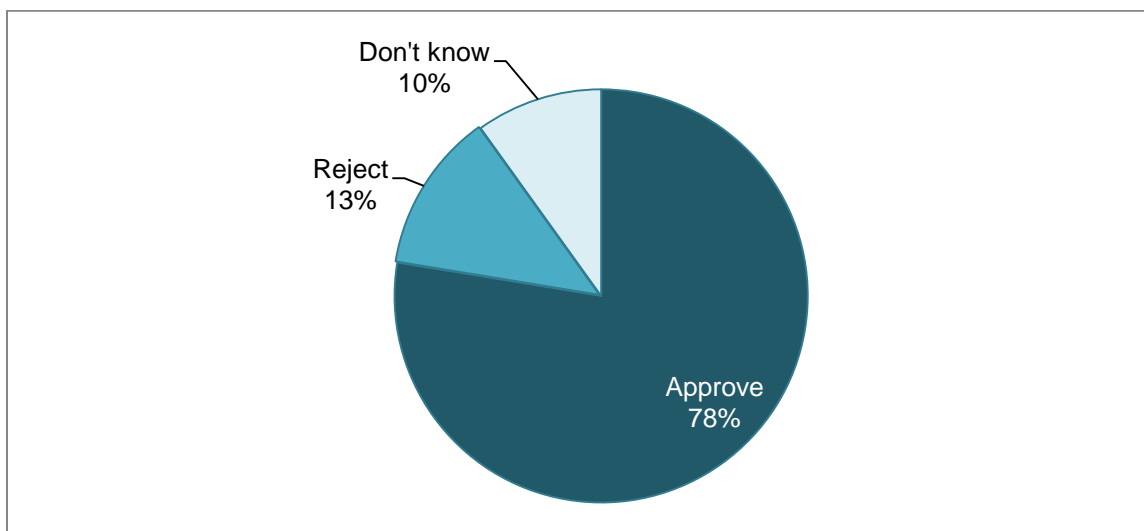
Highly frequent visitors of the parks were significantly more likely to say they were *highly likely* to support a bond or levy (47% vs. 19% of less frequent visitors). There were no differences detected between age groups or between those who have children in the household and those who do not.

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.

Table A2. Comparison of 2013 Sample, 2008 Sample, and Population			
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		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. Thes...

		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 is 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 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 be 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 drops off the leaves 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.

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PLAN

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

2014 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

CITY COUNCIL REVIEW
12-06-13

Acknowledgements

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- G. Survey Results

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

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:

- 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.



Cornwall Park magnolias

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:

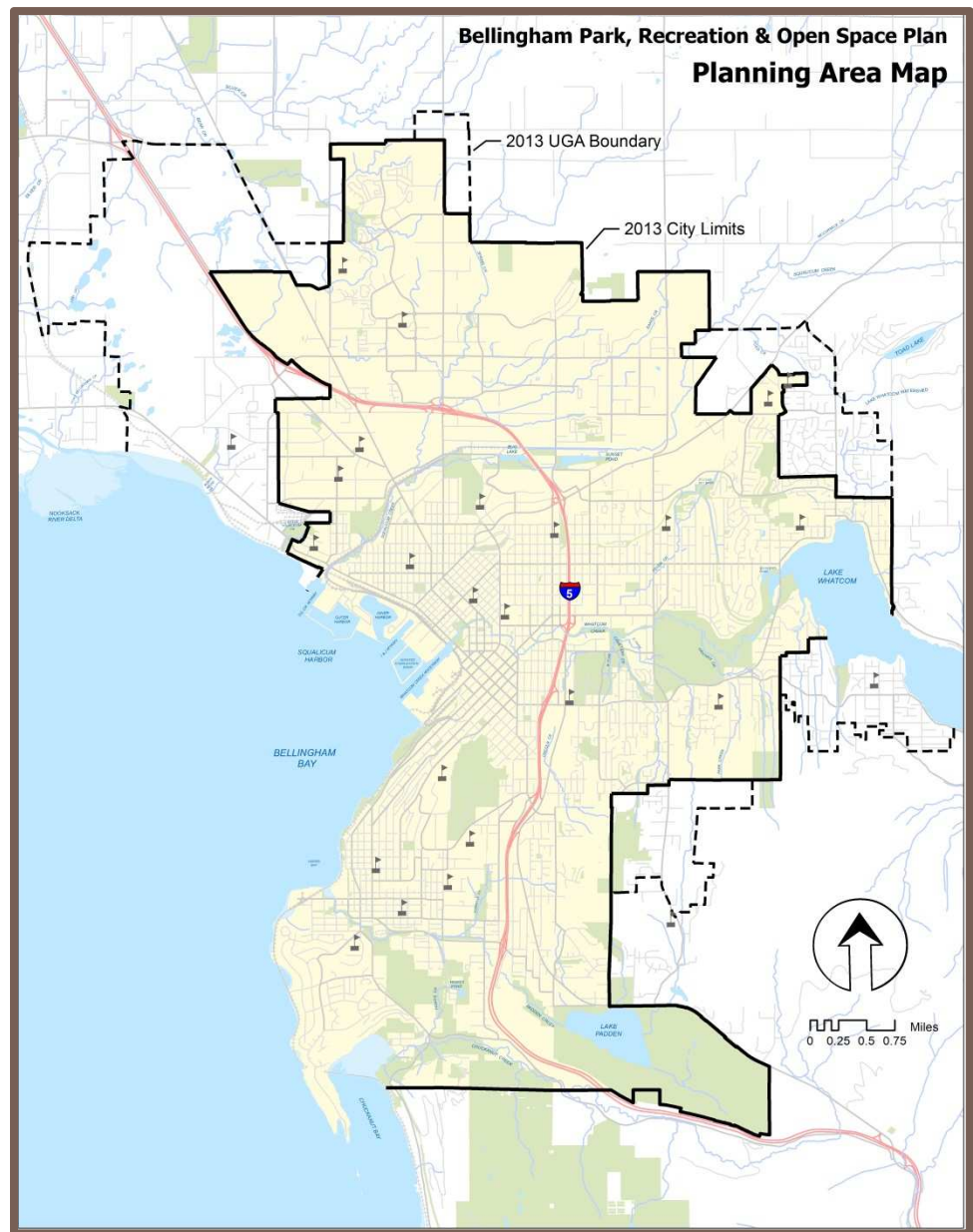
Meeting/Action	Topic	Month
2013		
Steering Committee/PRAB	Introduction, Process and Schedule	February
Steering Committee/PRAB	Population projection and Level of Service	March
City Council Update	Project status report	March
Steering Committee/PRAB	Ch. 5 Goals and Objectives, Facility Recommendations	April
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

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).

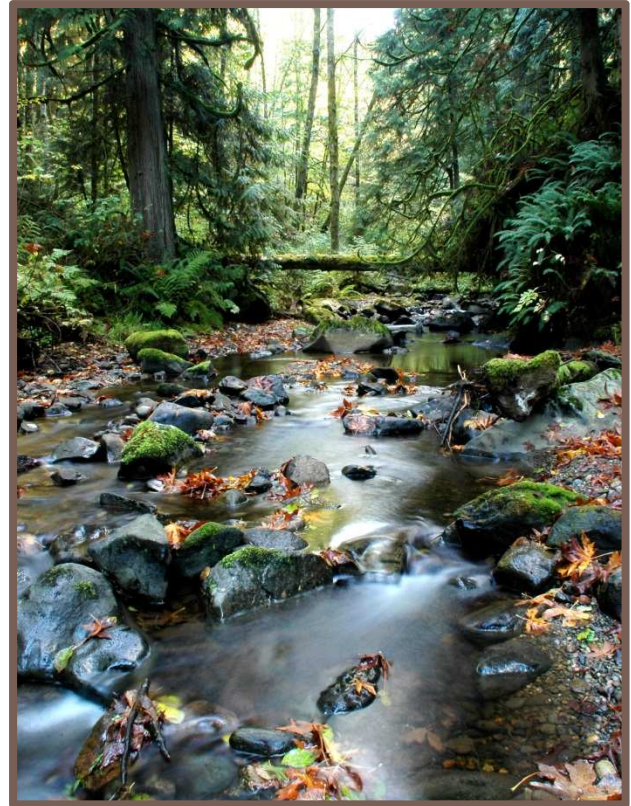
[The City is in the process of developing a Habitat Restoration Master Plan for the city and urban growth area. The plan will develop a science-based prioritization framework for the preservation, restoration, and recovery of the City's terrestrial, aquatic and riparian habitats.](#)

[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.

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.



Whatcom Falls. Courtesy of Whatcom Museum archives.

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%

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.

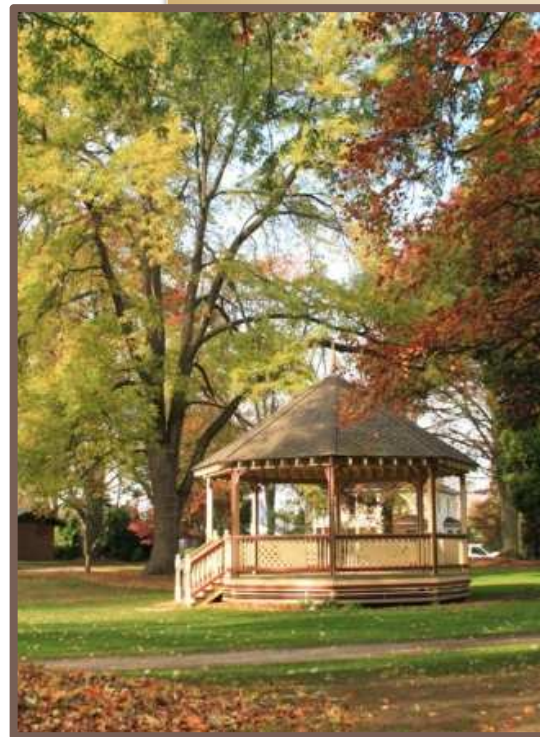
3.1 Facility Inventory Classifications

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*.



Elizabeth Park. Photo by Kristen Krussow.

*"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*

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:

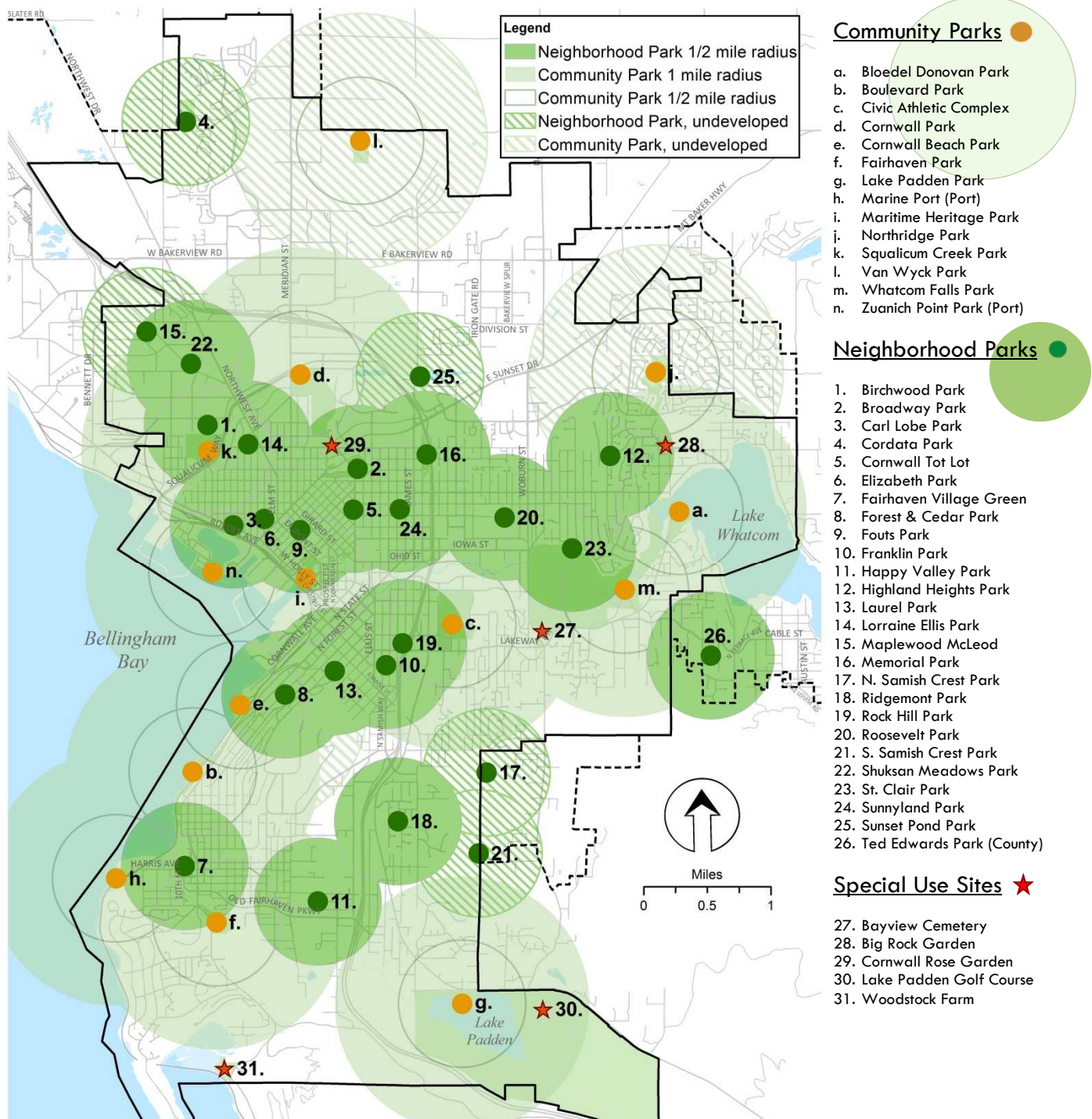
- Cultural Facilities – unique resources offering historical, educational, visual/performance art or other similar experiences. These include gardens, art displays, and historic sites.
- Indoor Facilities – focused toward indoor uses, such as gymnasiums, community centers, teen/senior centers, aquatic 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



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.

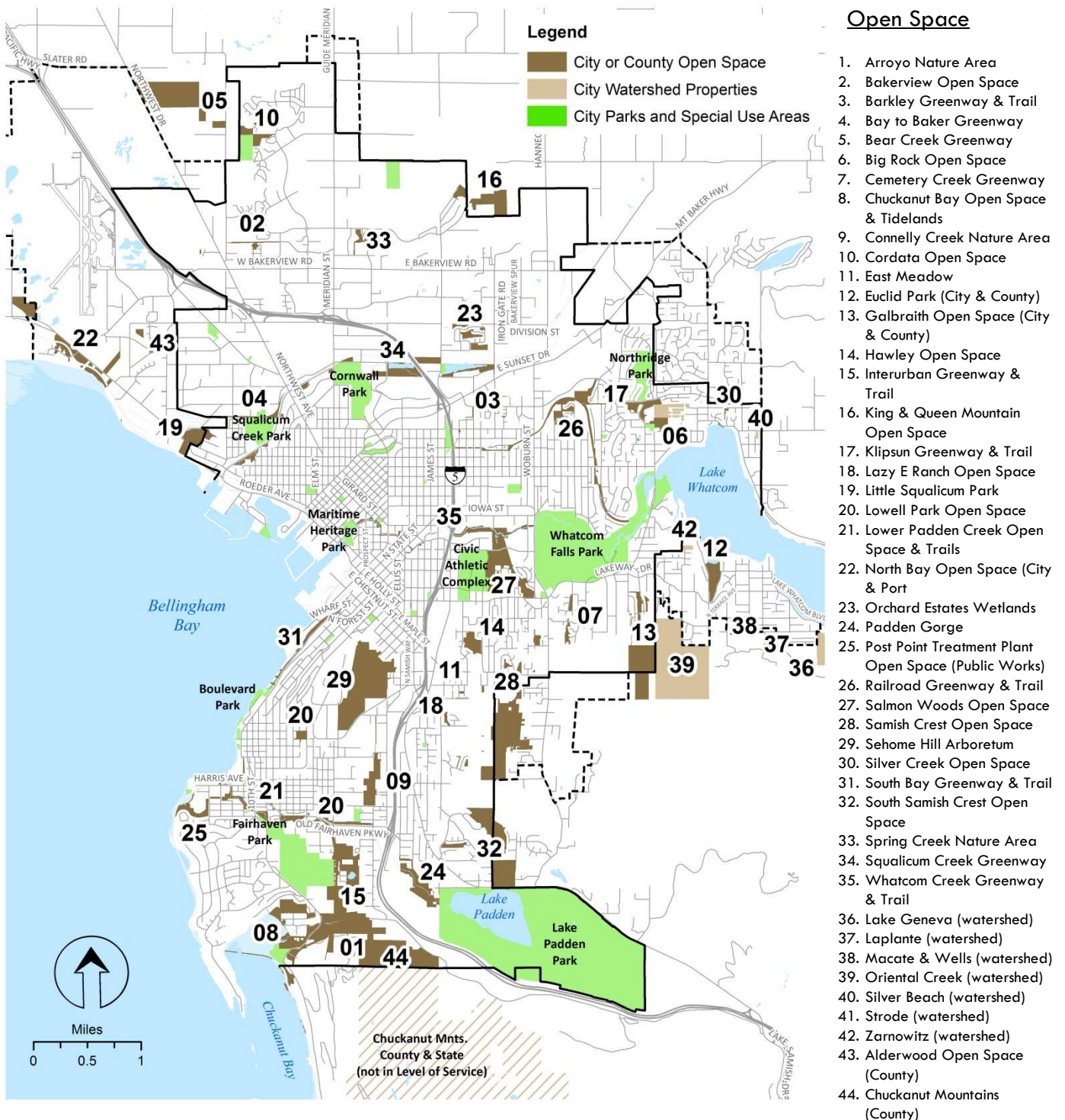


Sehome Hill Arboretum

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



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.



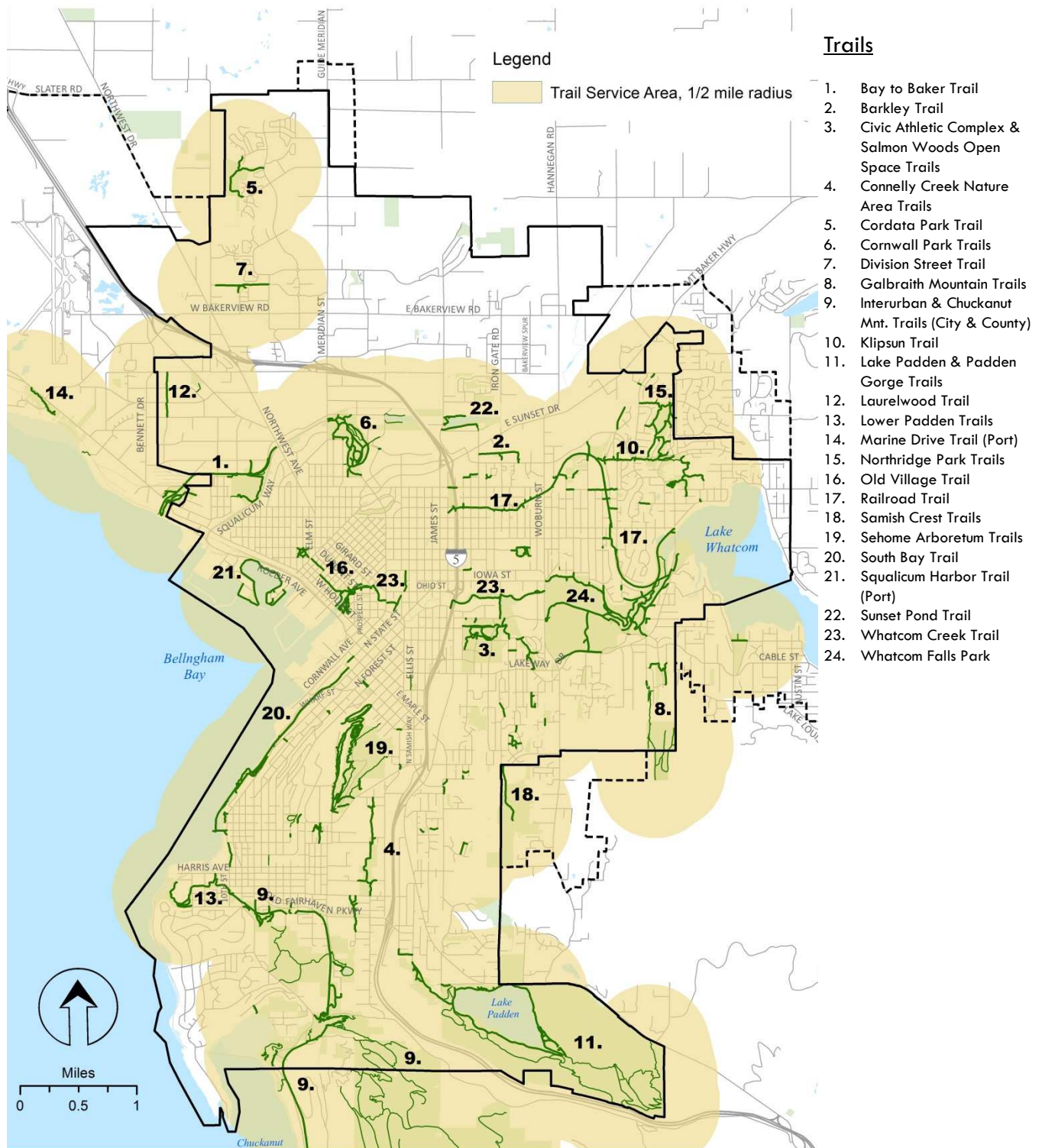
Old Village Trail



Old Village Trail signage

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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

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.

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:

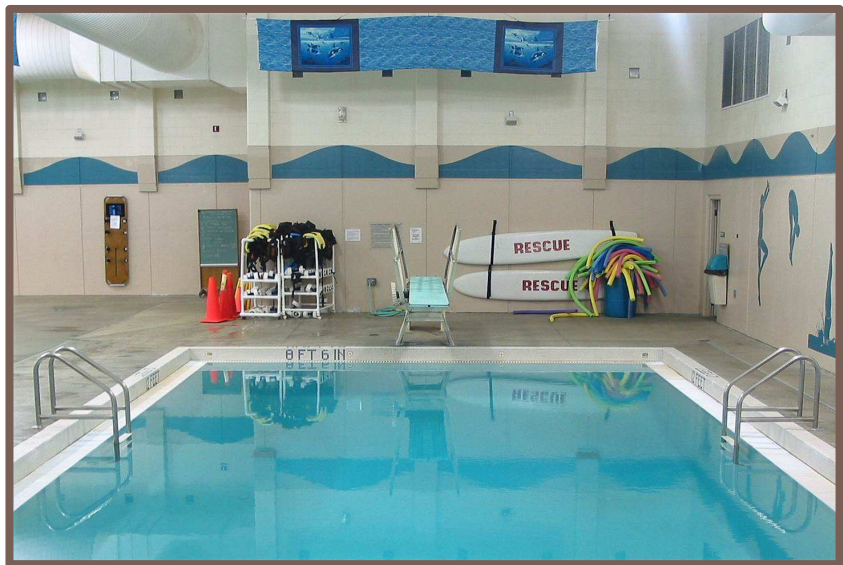
"We are working today so future generations will benefit from:

- *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.
- 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.



Arne Hanna Aquatic Center dive tank

- 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.
- 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.



South Bay Trail at Taylor Dock

- F. Advance City-wide priorities to protect, rehabilitate and maintain functioning habitats and corridors in collaboration with other City departments.
 - a. Develop trails and greenway corridors that protect, rehabilitate and maintain natural resources, including plant and animal habitats.
 - b. 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.
 - a. Utilize Crime Prevention through Environmental Design concepts.
 - b. Provide lighting in high-use areas and where appropriate.
 - c. Provide safe parking areas.
 - d. Avoid blind corners on trails.
 - e. Where appropriate, provide for surveillance of trails from adjacent property.
 - f. Provide safety education for trail users.
 - g. Provide safe crossings of roads, including grade separated crossings of major corridors such as I-5 and Guide Meridian Street.
 - h. Clearly mark dog off leash areas along trails and enforce on leash rules where they apply.
- H. Encourage community involvement and stewardship of trails.
 - a. Continue and expand the Parks Volunteer Program.
 - b. Continue and expand the Adopt-a-Trail program.
 - c. Develop inter-local trail management agreements.
 - d. Encourage participation in community trail events.
 - e. 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

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5.3.1.1 OBJECTIVES

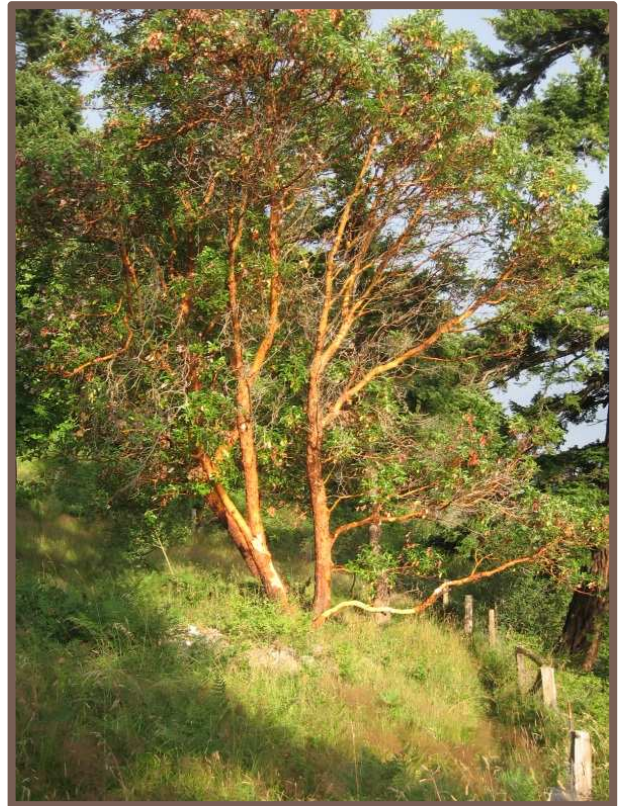
- A. Support arts and crafts, classroom instruction in music and dance, physical conditioning and health care.
- B. Provide meeting facilities, preschool, after school, and other program activities for all cultural, age, physical and mental capability, and income groups in the community.
- C. Support 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 policies.

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

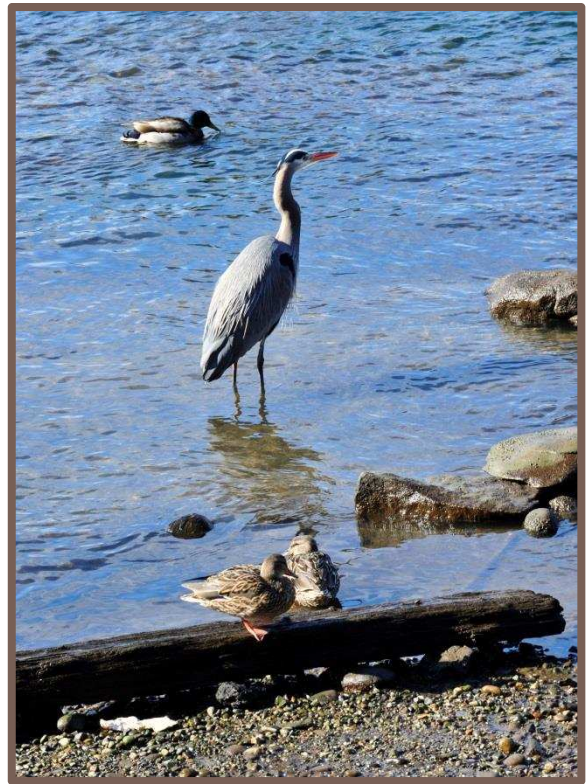
Parks and Recreation Related Goals and Objectives

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 policies.



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:

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.



Deer at Woodstock Farm

DRAFT 12/06/2013

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

- 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.
- 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.
- Foster environmental stewardship through education programs and activities.
- Provide safe and convenient access to public lands, conservation areas, and water that does not damage critical areas.
- Instill a love of nature and a commitment for caring for our resources through the Park Volunteer program.
- 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.
- Provide scholarships for low income families to participate in recreation activities.



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

- H. Maintain a world class park system that attracts tourism and benefits the local economy.
- 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

- 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

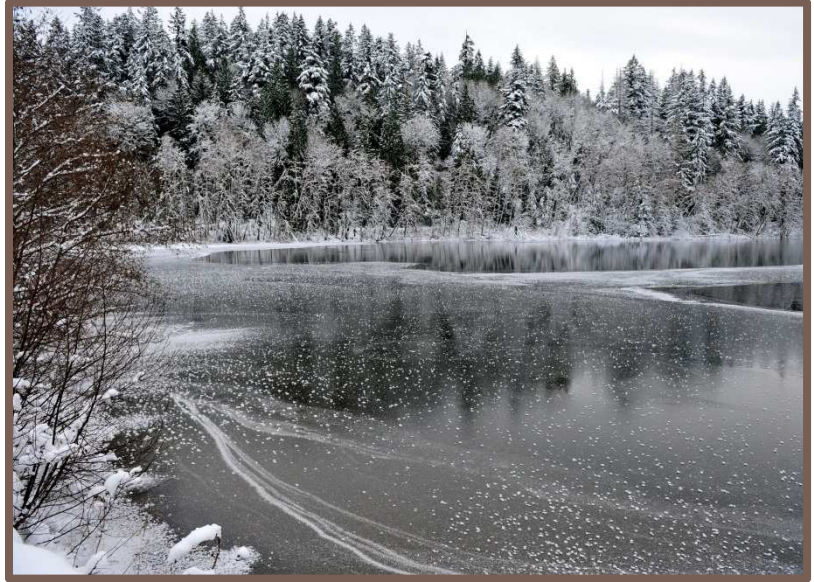
As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for community parks in Bellingham include:

- 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

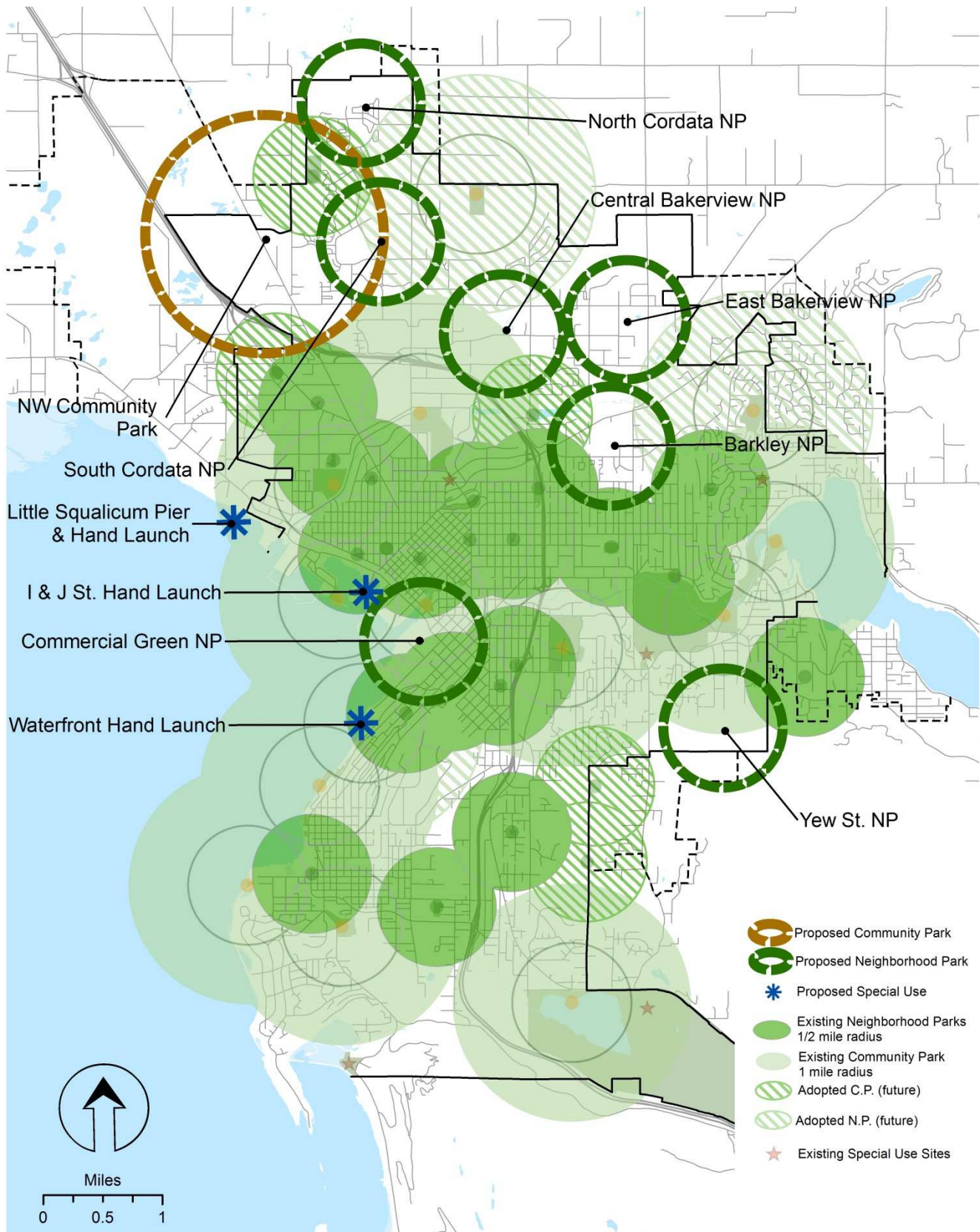
As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for special use sites in the Bellingham park system include:

- 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.

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.*

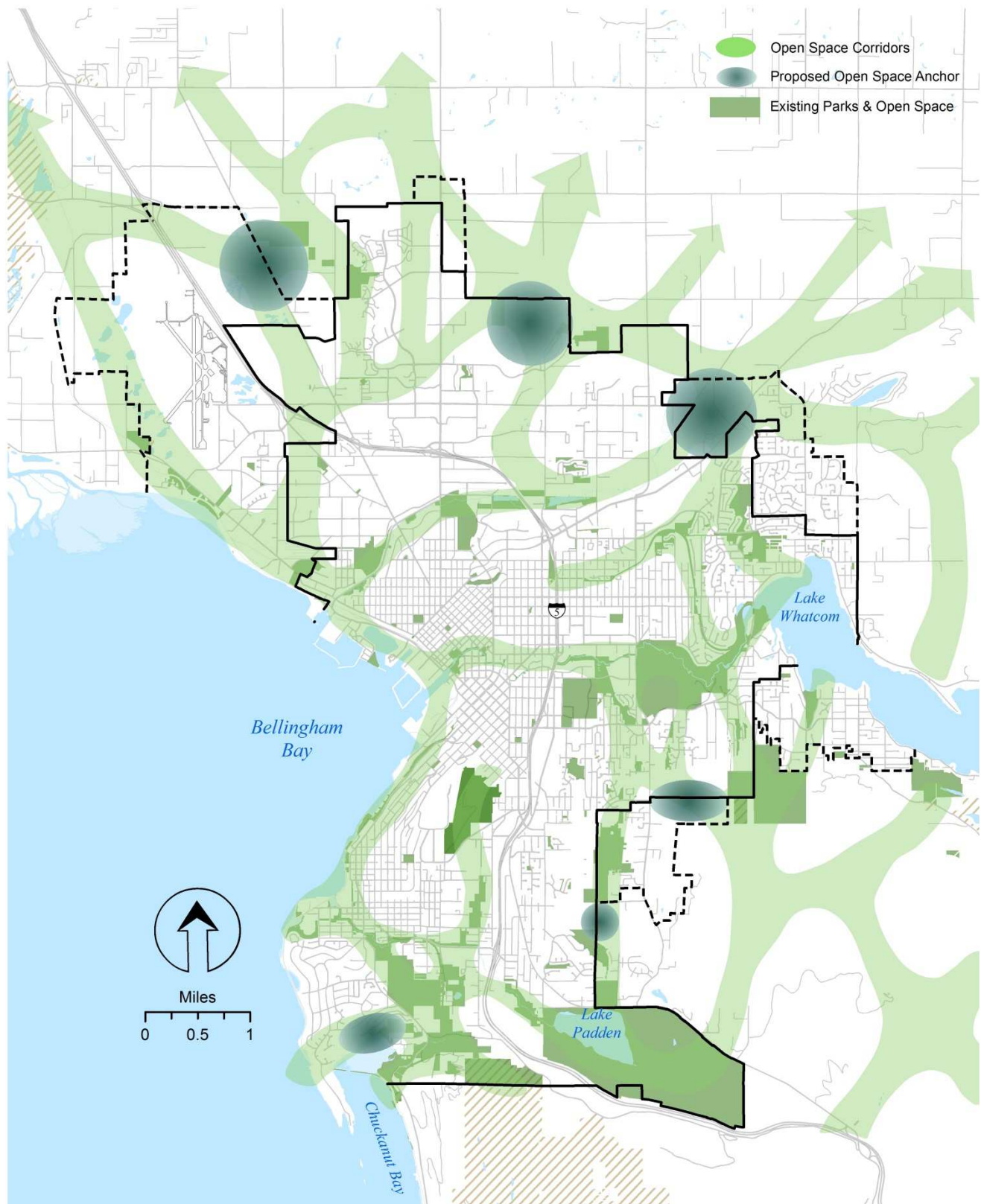
Specific Recommendations

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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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.



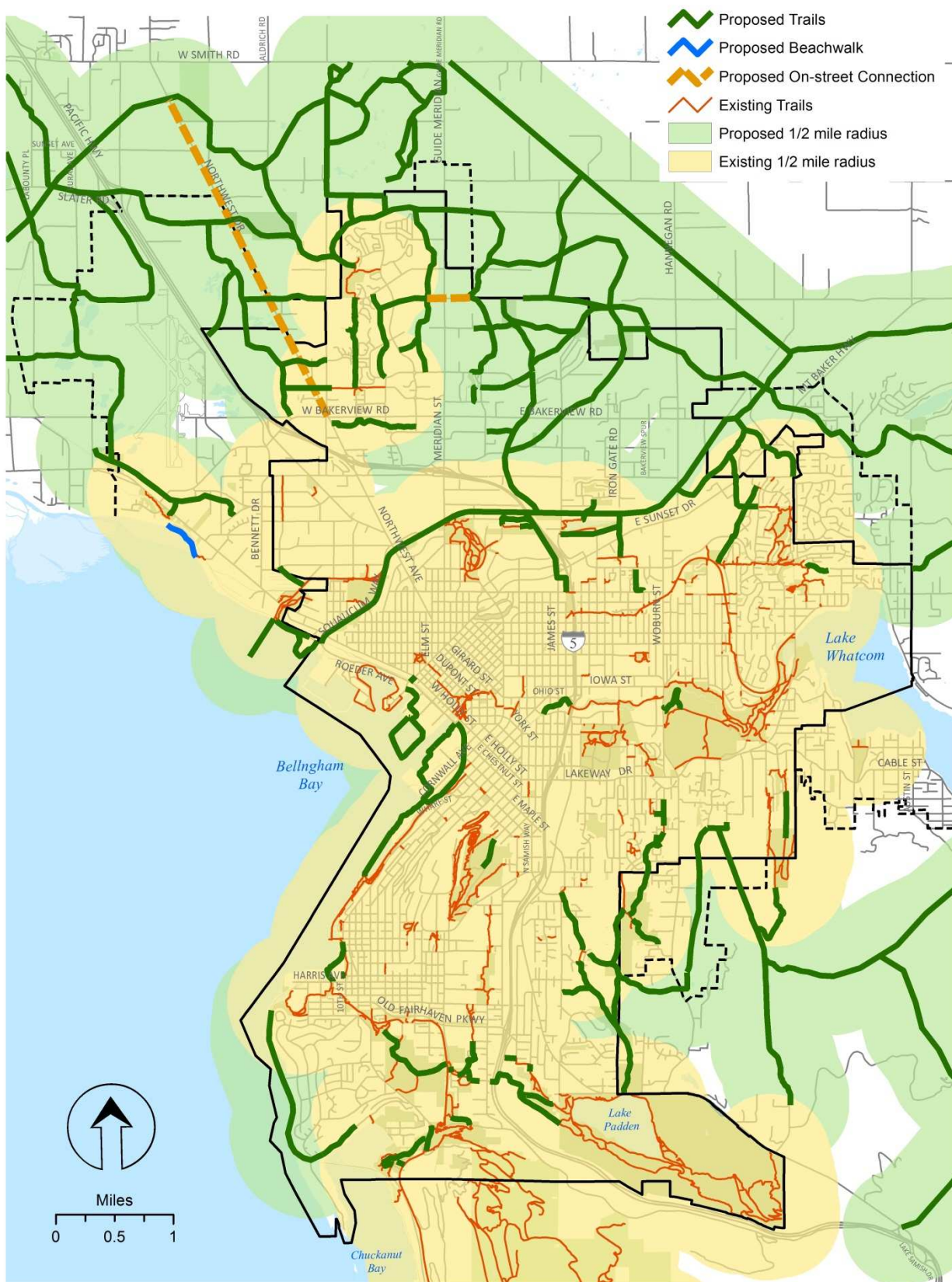
Northridge Park trail

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.

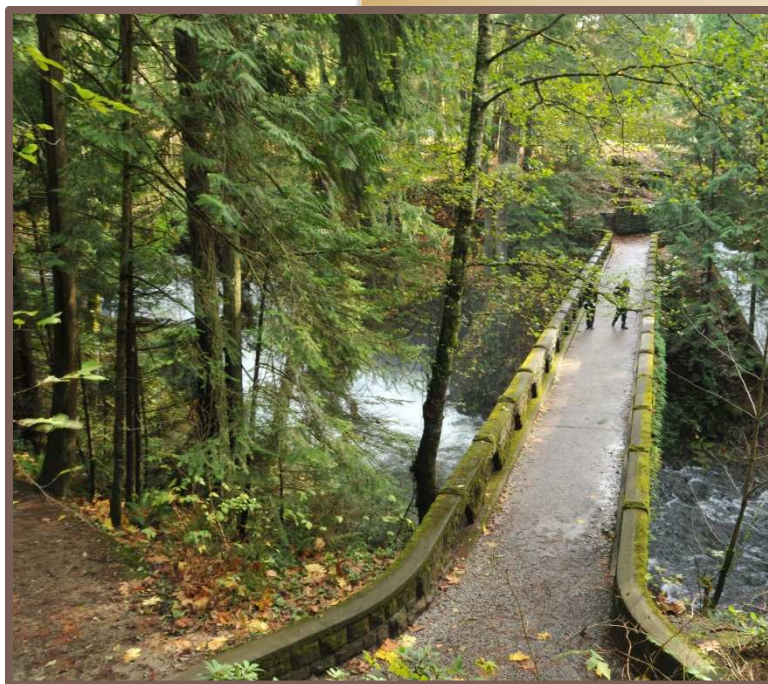
Recommendations outlined in *Chapter 6* total approximately \$93 million in today's dollars. This includes improvements to existing facilities, as well as additional land and facilities to serve new growth. Projected revenue sources for park system improvements through the year 2029 could provide enough 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.

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



Whatcom Falls Park

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 ⁸	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.

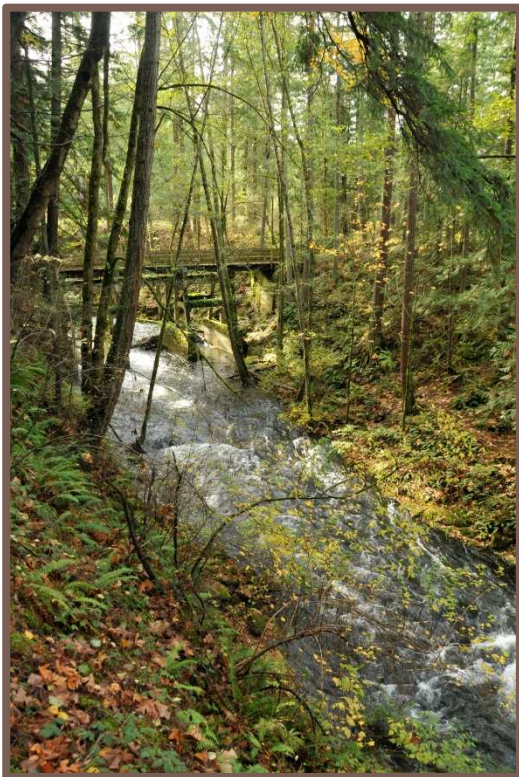
7.2 Maintenance and Operation Needs

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

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 \$1327.80), 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.



Whatcom Creek

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
- ~~Acquire a community park in NW Bellingham~~
- 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

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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

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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:** 1/2 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 or 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/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 (lf)	Parking Lot (number indicates striped lots) (otherwise gravel)	Auditorium/Amphitheater/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramcar Parking (ea) X=Included with other parking	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				X		
Bloedel Donovan Park (water)	12.1	AQU																											
Boulevard Park	14.9	CP	1.8		1	2										1		1			2		105	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		
Cornwall Park	69.0	CP	3.4	2	2	2	1		4		1										5		186					1	1
Cornwall 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	205.0	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		56				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	6.8	NP	0.1		1	1	1				1										4.3								
Carl Lobe Park	0.6	NP			1						1																		
Cordata Park	19.0	NP	0.7																										
Cornwall 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														0.5								
Fouts Park	1.2	NP			1																0.4								

2013 City population
 2013 UGA population

82,310
 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), 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/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramcar Parking (ea)	X=Included with other parking	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																											
Memorial Park	6.2	NP					0.5														0.7									
N. Samish Crest Park	0.0	NP	0																											
Ridgemont 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	2.6	NP	0.3												X						0.5		X							
Arroyo Nature Area	85.9	OS	2.6												X								X				x			
Bakerview 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	83.6	OS																												
Bellingham High School trail easement *	0.1	OS																												
Big Rock Open Space	10.9	OS	1																											
Cemetery Creek Greenway	6.4	OS	0																											

2013 City population
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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=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/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramcar Parking (ea)	X=Included with other parking	Disc Golf 9 hole(ea)	Spray Park (ea)
Chuckanut Bay Open Space & Tidelands (land)	49.7	OS	0.1													1		1												
Chuckanut Bay Open Space & Tidelands (water)	76.1	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																												

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=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/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trainroad parking (ea) X=included with other parking	Disc Golf 9 hole(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 *	0.4	OS	0																										
Post Point Treatment Plant Open Space	15.8	OS	0.7												X												X		
Railroad Greenway & Trail	50.4	TR/OS	4.7																										
Salmon Woods Open Space	45.1	OS	1																										
Samish Crest Open Space (note 1)	119.6	OS	1.1																										
Sehome 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	16.6	TR/OS	1.7																										
South Samish Crest Open Space	68.9	OS																											
Spring Creek Nature Area	5.3	OS	0.1																										
Squalicum Creek Greenway & Trail	71.4	TR/OS	0.4																										
Sylvan Pond Open Space *	0.4	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																										

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=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/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramway Parking (ea)	X=Included with other parking	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		

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Trait (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
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	\$ 298,664,753		\$ 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	\$ 6,975,000	\$ 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	\$ 159	\$ 26	\$ 1	\$ 40	\$ 371	\$ 79	\$ 185	\$ 159	\$ 21	\$ 9

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	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/Stage (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	\$ 16,002,400	\$ 5,440,000	\$ 3,312,000	\$ 8,368,500	\$ 5,975,000	\$ 3,000,000	3,206,500	\$ 450,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 428,704,153
Existing Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 19	\$ 5	\$ 4	\$ 194	\$ 66	\$ 40	\$ 102	\$ 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

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	<i>plaza</i>																						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
Cornwall 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 (sf)	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 Trail	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 Chestnut-Holly	0.08	ROS	ROW																							0.08	Trees
Rr Holly-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	Concete stairs
Tech School Berms	0.18	ROS	ROW	sidewalk																						0.18	landscaping & parking
Unity St Island	0.09	ROS	ROW																							0.09	lawn, landscaping, occasional public art

EXISTING FACILITIES

[illegible]

EXISTING FACILITIES
WATERSHED PROPERTY
(Within UGA)

[illegible]

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	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
Kulshan 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										
Whatcom MS	4.2	SU	BSD					2					2							3		
Whatcom Hills Waldorf ES	2.0	SU	PRI																			
Whatcom Community College		SU	WCC							6		1										
Bellingham Technical College		SU	BTC																		1	
Western Washington University	162.7	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	2	27	4	

EXISTING FACILITIES
WASHINGTON STATE
(All Outside UGA)

[illegible]

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	Land (acres)	Designation	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)	Skate 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 (sf)	Informal Lawn (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf) 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)	All Other Misc.Capital Mntrce \$\$	Notes
BLOEDEL DONOVAN PARK	n/a	CP												1														500,000	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		500	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																										950,000	Drainage, field improvements
MARITIME HERITAGE PARK	n/a	CP			1																								Improve playground restroom - year-around access
NORTHBRIDGE PARK	n/a	CP	0.2	1	2	1	1					0.25									20								Develop existing park
NW COMMUNITY PARK	40.0	CP	1	2	2	2	1		1	1	2	0.5	1					500	2		60					1	0.5		
SQUALICUM CREEK PARK	n/a	CP	0.5	2	2	2	1				2	0.25	2					500	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																			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												1												
CORDATA PARK	n/a	NP	0.2	1	1	1	0.5					0.25					1		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							1										
N CORDATA PARK	3.0	NP	0.2	1	1	1	0.5												1		10								
N SAMISH CREST PARK	n/a	NP		1	1	1	0.5						0.5						2		10								Develop part of existing open space
SUNSET POND (Expansion)	0.6	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				1800	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
2.18 = average # people per household

PROPOSED FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
(Within Planning Area)

(updated 10/25/2013)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	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)	Skate 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 (sf)	Informal Lawn (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf) 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)	All Other Misc.Capital Mnice \$\$	Notes
WATERFRONT/TIDELANDS	6.0	OS/AQ																											Varies
I-5 TRAIL CROSSINGS *	0.6	OS/TR	0.25																										Tunnel, bridge, etc. - assumes three: Padden, Squalicum, & 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																										
SEHOME 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																										
I AND 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	Improvements
WOODSTOCK FARM	n/a	SU	0.2			1															10								Improve access, hand boat landing (no launch)
																												2,950,000	Capital Maintenance
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		

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.
AQ = Aquatic Lands
2.18 = 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)	Skate 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 (2.18)	\$ 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

2.18 = 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 (lf) 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.

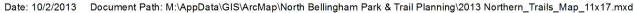
AQ = Aquatic Lands

2.18 = average # people per household

Appendix D

NORTH BELLINGHAM TRAIL PLAN

See the attached map and route descriptions.



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 Bear 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 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 2013-2018 Parks and Recreation Department 6 year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) on the following pages. **These pages will be updated when the City's 2014 budget is adopted.** Expenditures for 2013 were authorized after budget adoption by the City Council. Expenditures identified for years beyond 2013 are included for information and review of potential future needs. Their inclusion is not a request for approval or budget authorization.

Capital Budget

PARK DEPARTMENT			----- Estimates Subject to Revision and Council Approval -----					
Funding Sources and Projects/Purchases	Prior Years	2013 Adopted	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total Through 2018
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from Multiple Funds:								
Squalicum Creek Park Phase 3								
Squalicum Park/Olympic Fund	26,627	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,627
Greenways III Fund	600,000	100,000	4,000,000	-	-	-	-	4,700,000
Parks Impact Fund	40,000	-	500,000	-	-	-	-	540,000
Unfunded	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
Cordata Neighborhood Park Development								
Parks Impact Fund	-	-	50,000	250,000	1,000,000	-	-	1,300,000
Unfunded - Final Buildout	-	-	-	-	2,300,000	-	-	2,300,000
Boulevard Park Shoreline								
Greenways III Fund	528,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	528,800
Unfunded	-	-	-	575,000	-	-	-	575,000
Boulevard Park Cleanup - South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant								
Environmental Remediation Fund	2,230,498	57,268	58,806	60,390	62,022	63,703	65,434	2,598,121
DOE Grants, Judgments and Settlements, Transfers-In	(1,859,909)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,859,909)
Beyond Greenways Fund	13,305	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,305
Greenways III Fund	709,925	-	-	-	-	-	-	709,925
DOE Grants, Judgments and Settlements	(515,066)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(515,066)
Unfunded	-	-	-	8,000,000	-	-	-	8,000,000
Samish Crest Trail								
Beyond Greenways Fund	28,664	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,664
Unfunded	-	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	300,000
Whatcom Falls Park West Entry								
Olympic-Whatcom Falls Park Addl Fund	-	25,000	200,000	-	-	-	-	225,000
Greenways III	-	100,000	400,000	-	-	-	-	500,000

PARK DEPARTMENT - Continued

----- Estimates Subject to Revision and Council Approval -----

Funding Sources and Projects/Purchases	Prior Years	2013 Adopted	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total Through 2018
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from a Multiple Funds (continued):								
Labor Distributions to General Fund								
Beyond Greenways Fund	-	42,065	42,609	45,380	47,314	49,370	51,507	278,245
Greenways III Fund	-	130,131	131,354	139,739	145,568	151,737	158,171	856,700
Parks Impact Fund	-	59,062	59,621	63,415	66,050	68,837	71,744	388,729
Cornwall Beach Park								
Parks Impact Fund	-	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
Unfunded	-	-	-	200,000	1,150,000	-	900,000	2,250,000
Boulevard to Waterfront Park Boardwalk								
1st 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fund	159,517	-	-	-	-	-	-	159,517
Greenways III Fund	2,341,277	-	3,900,000	-	-	-	-	6,241,277
Federal Indirect Grant - WDOT	(2,126,146)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,126,146)
Parks Impact Fund	-	-	600,000	-	-	-	-	600,000
Unfunded	-	-	-	2,500,000	-	-	-	2,500,000
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from a Single Fund:								
General Fund								
Three Quarter Ton Super duty Pickup Truck	--	-	-	26,000	-	-	-	26,000
Sewer lifts for Boulevard and Padden	-	-	130,000	-	-	-	-	130,000

Capital Budget

PARK DEPARTMENT - Continued			----- Estimates Subject to Revision and Council Approval -----					
Funding Sources and Projects/Purchases	Prior Years	2013 Adopted	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total Through 2018
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from a Single Fund (Continued):								
1st 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fund								
Annual Boundary Surveys	-	-	-	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	24,000
Sidewalk & Curb Replacement	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	150,000
Park and Sports Field Lighting	-	8,000	8,000	8,000	24,000	10,000	10,000	68,000
Roof Replacements	-	18,000	28,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	86,000
Trail Surface/Drainage Repairs	-	15,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	190,000
Aquatic Center Window Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
Aquatic Center Dive Tank Resurfacing	-	-	-	-	-	80,000	-	80,000
Big Rock Garden Park Fence Replacement	-	-	45,000	-	-	-	-	45,000
Bloedel Donovan Facility Improvements	-	-	45,000	-	-	-	-	45,000
Boulevard Park North Restroom Renovation	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000
2nd 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fund								
Annual Playground Repairs and Improvements	-	150,000	-	150,000	-	150,000	-	450,000
Parks Facility Asphalt Patching and Resurfacing	-	25,000	50,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	175,000
Beyond Greenways Fund								
Civic Field Stadium Turf Replacement	-	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
Greenways III Fund								
Greenway Land Acquisition	-	2,330,000	-	4,000,000	5,150,000	-	-	11,480,000
Interurban Trail - Chuckanut	-	-	-	-	-	-	680,000	680,000
Lake Padden Park Improvements	-	50,000	-	-	200,000	750,000	-	1,000,000
Arroyo Park Bridge Replacement and Trail Improvements	-	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	120,000

PARK DEPARTMENT - Continued

----- Estimates Subject to Revision and Council Approval -----

Funding Sources and Projects/Purchases	Prior Years	2013 Adopted	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total Through 2018
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from a Single Fund (Continued):								
Parks Impact Fund								
Land Acquisition - Park in Developing Area	-	-	500,000	-	500,000	300,000	300,000	1,600,000
Miscellaneous Community Parks Construction	200,000	-	100,000	600,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	1,200,000
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	50,000	300,000
Boulevard Park Shoreline	-	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	150,000
Cemetery Fund								
Fleet Add 60" Zero Turn Radius Turf Mower	-	-	-	14,000	-	-	-	14,000
Fleet Add Six Seat Electric Golf Cart	-	-	-	11,500	-	-	-	11,500
Capital Plan Total Estimated Expenditures	6,878,613	4,054,526	11,028,390	16,844,424	11,245,954	1,974,647	3,037,856	55,064,410
Less Unfunded Expenditures	-	-	-	(11,275,000)	(3,750,000)	-	(1,400,000)	(16,425,000)
Less Anticipated Revenue	(4,501,121)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,501,121)
Net Outlay Capital Projects/Purchases	2,377,492	4,054,526	11,028,390	5,569,424	7,495,954	1,974,647	1,637,856	34,138,289

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 collectors 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 (N RTP) - 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 on 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)

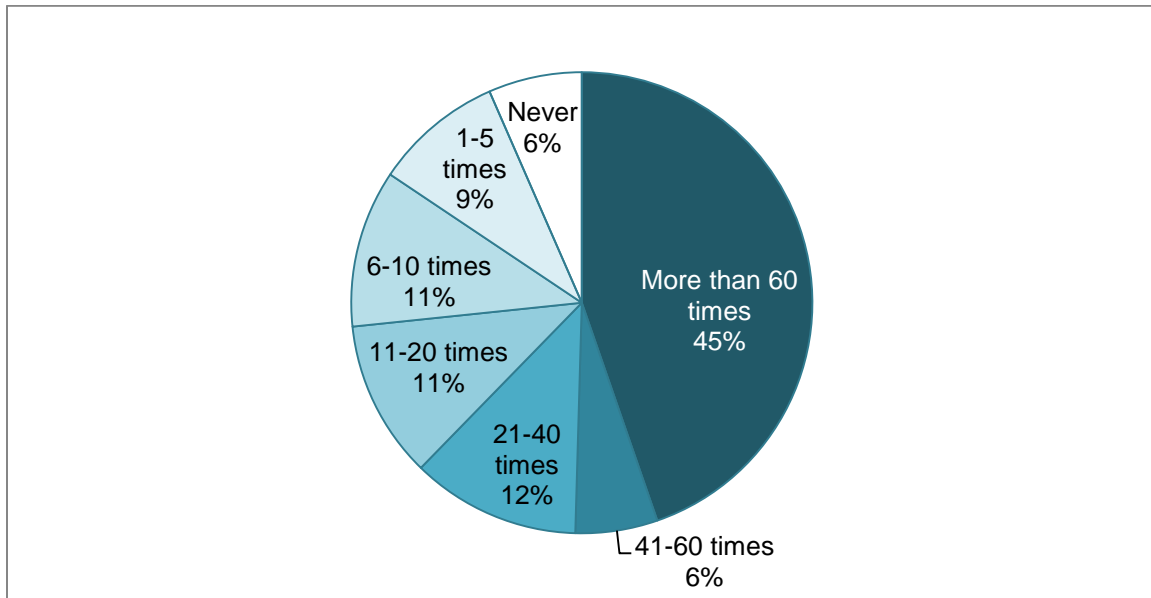
PARK USE

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)

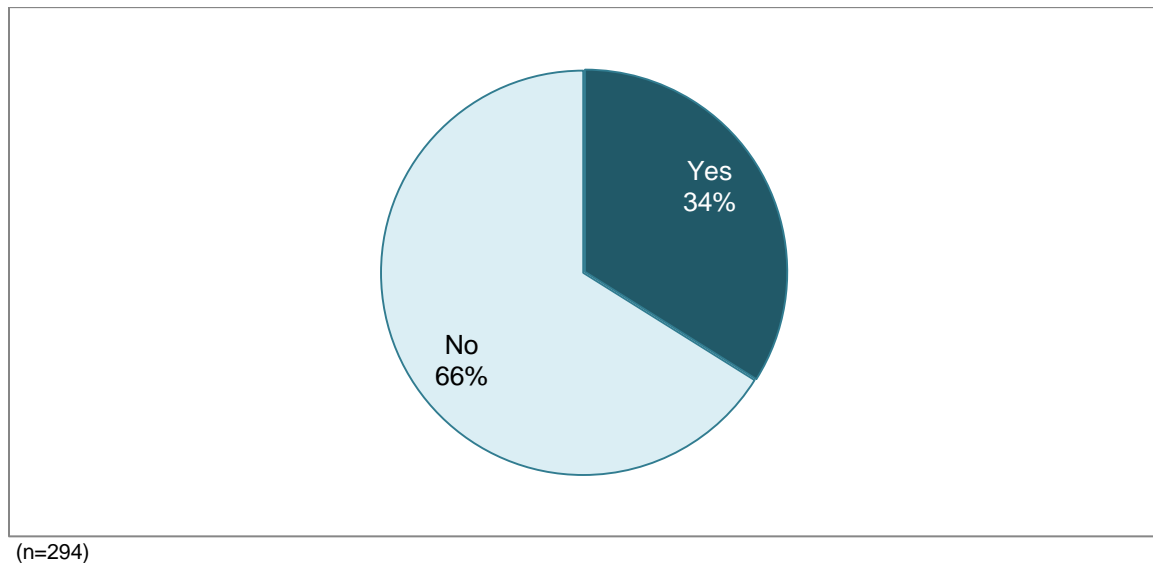
The frequency of park visits was similar to that in 2008.

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?



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

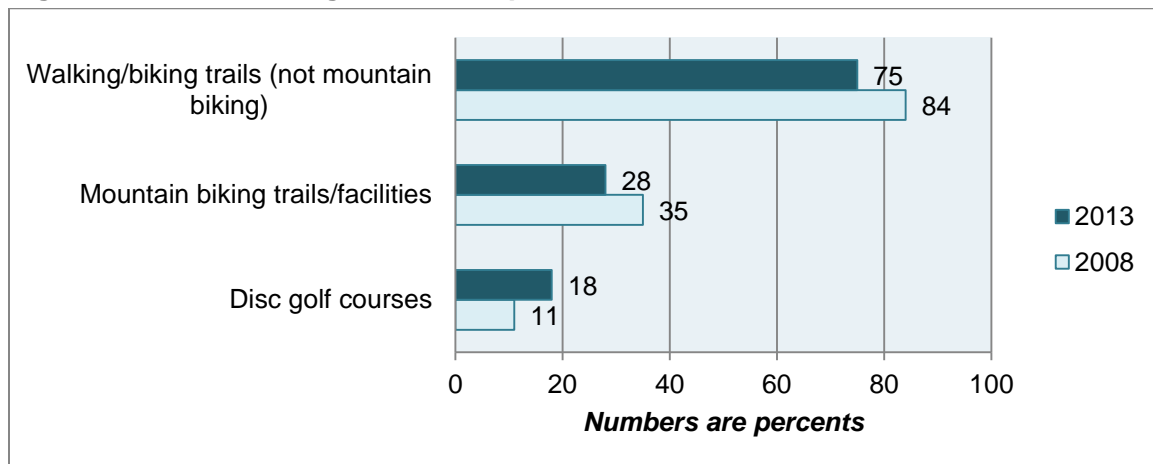
(n=300)

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

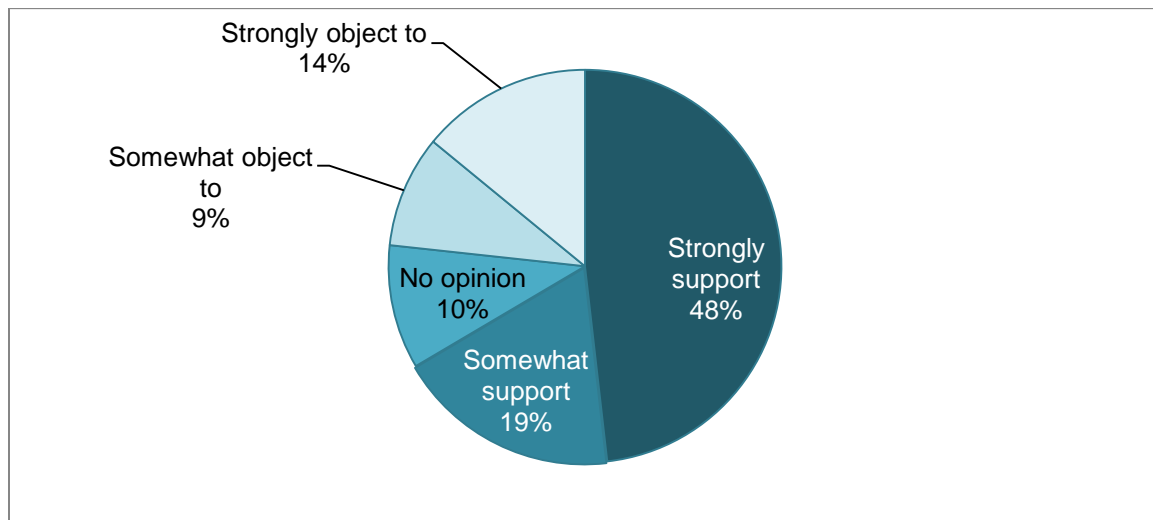
New this year, the survey explored familiarity with pickleball and demand for pickleball courts. Just over one-quarter of respondents (27%) said that they have played a game of pickleball or seen it played. Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 were the most likely age group to have played or seen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



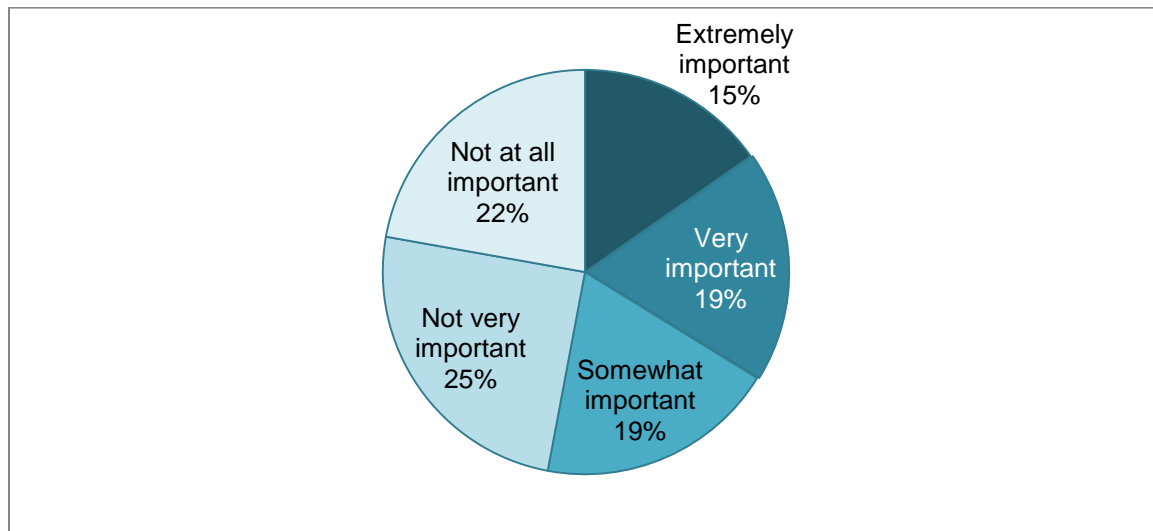
(n=293)

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?



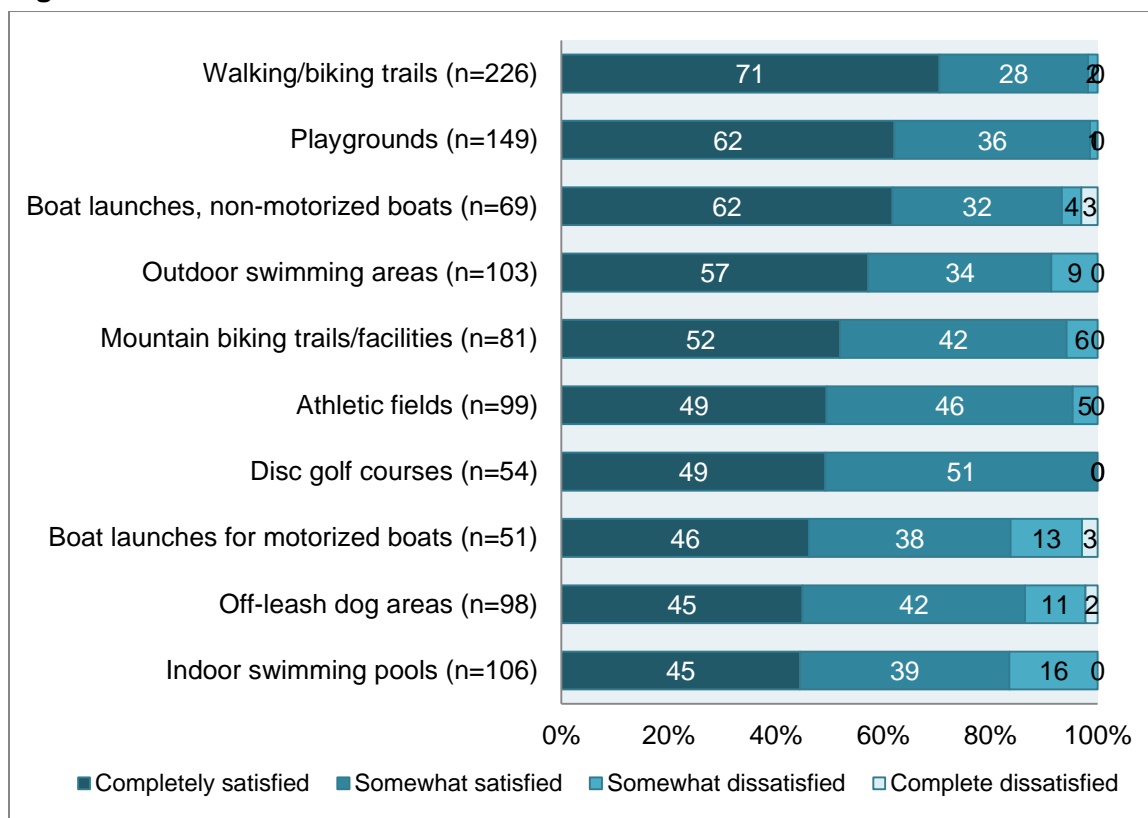
(n=291)

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?

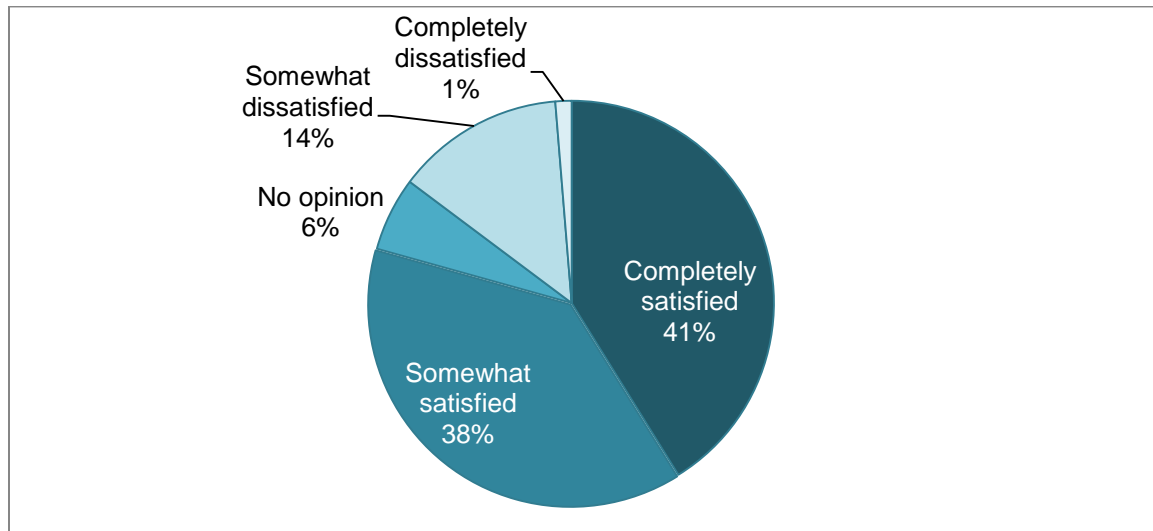
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Indoor swimming pools	7	18
Off road walking and biking trails (not mountain biking)	6	15
Off-leash dog areas	5	13
Safety	3	8
Playgrounds	2	6
Handicap access	2	5
Other specific park or reason	13	33

(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)

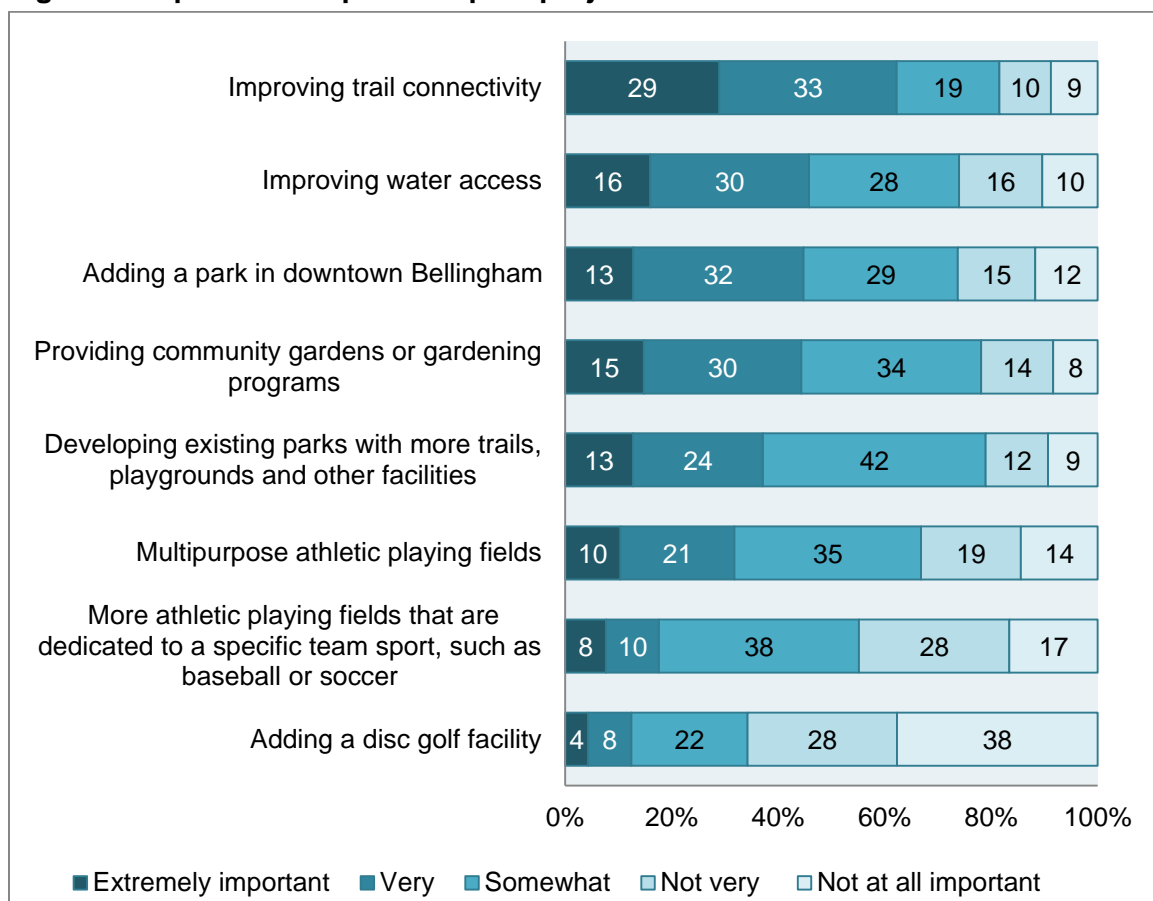
PARKS PRIORITIES

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.

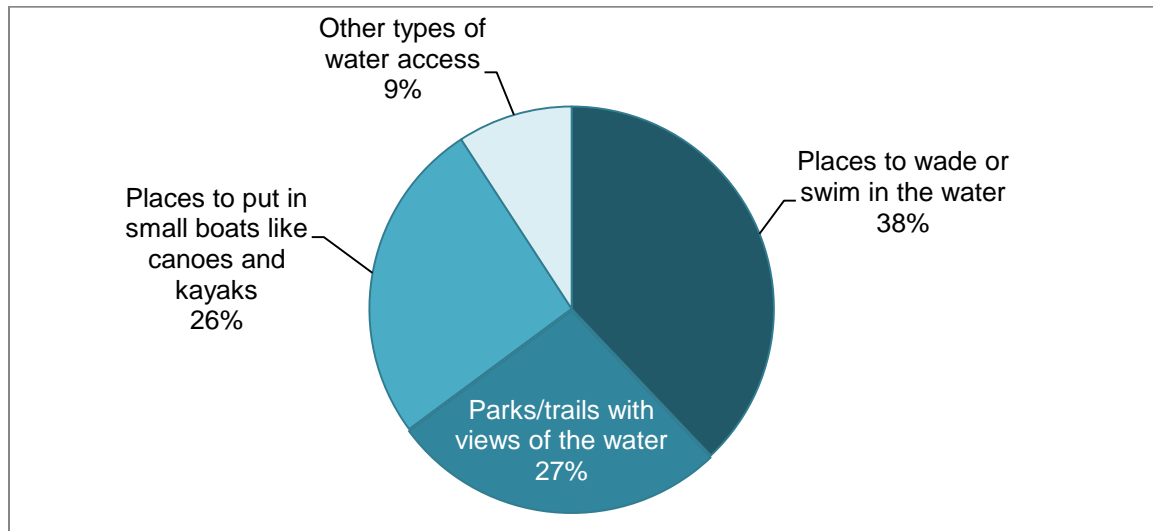
- The proportion who think improving water access is *extremely important* decreased (16%, down from 24% in 2008)
- The proportion who said that trail connectivity is *not very or not at all important* increased from 12% in 2008 up to 19% in 2013

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.

Table 4. Most important ways to improve existing parks		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
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.

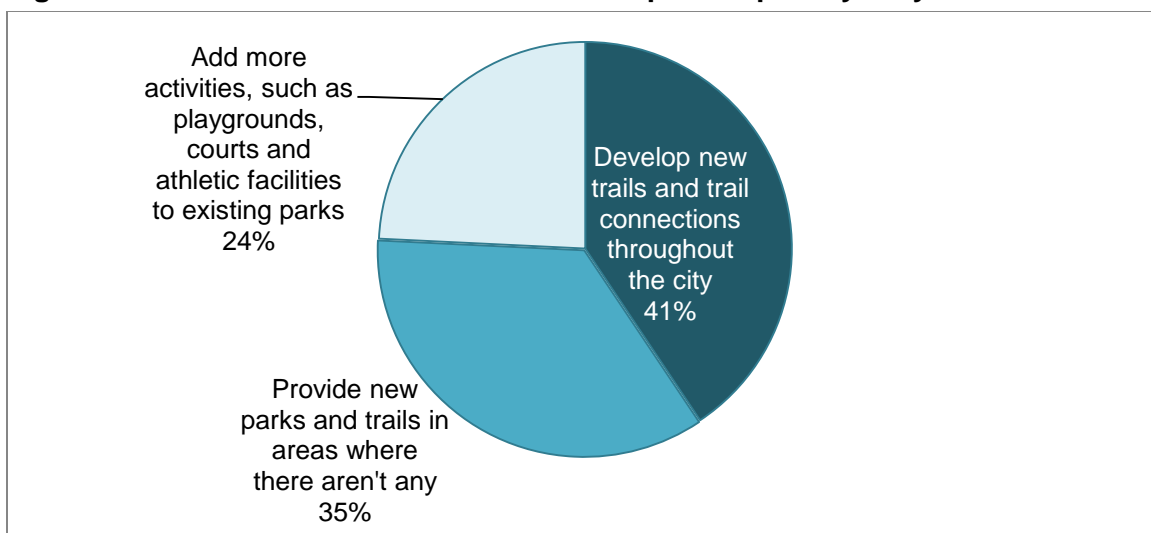
A second common theme was overall park amenities. This category was also broken down into specific types of amenities that respondents would like to see developed or enhanced at the parks. The most frequent specific examples were requests for improved parking (5%) and specific park facilities, typically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

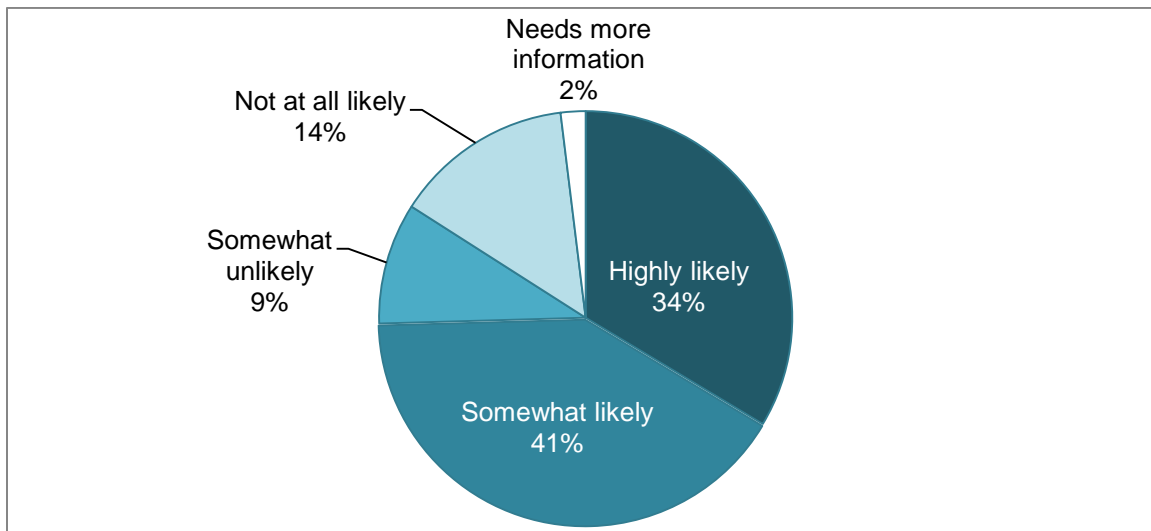
FUNDING

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.

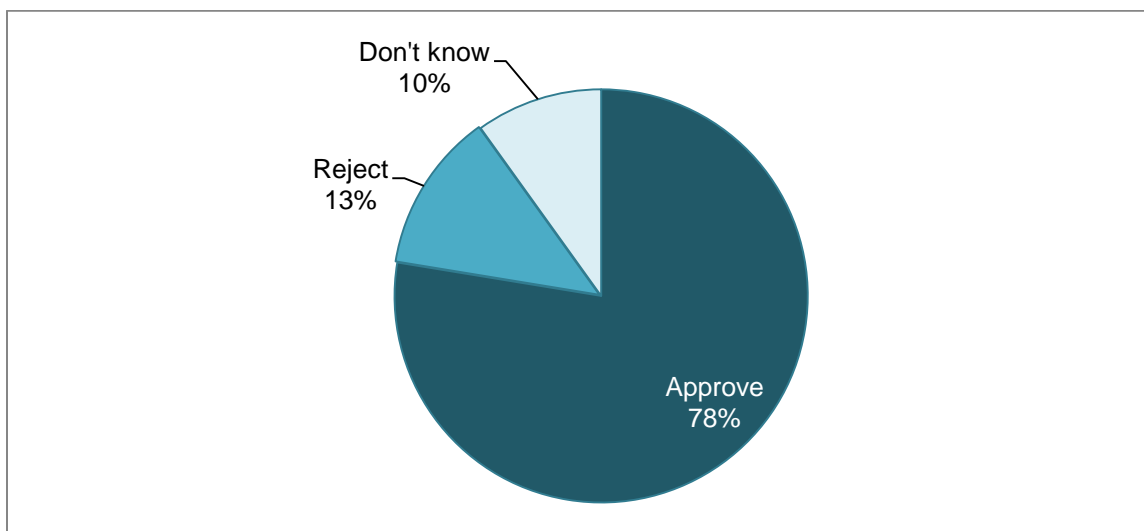
Highly frequent visitors of the parks were significantly more likely to say they were *highly likely* to support a bond or levy (47% vs. 19% of less frequent visitors). There were no differences detected between age groups or between those who have children in the household and those who do not.

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.

Table A2. Comparison of 2013 Sample, 2008 Sample, and Population			
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		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. Thes...

		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 is 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 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 drops off the leaves 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.



PLAN

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

2014 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE
SEPTEMBER 8, 2014



Acknowledgements

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

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:

- 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.



Cornwall Park magnolias

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.



Squalicum Creek in Cornwall Park. Photo by Kristen Krussow.

- 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.

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

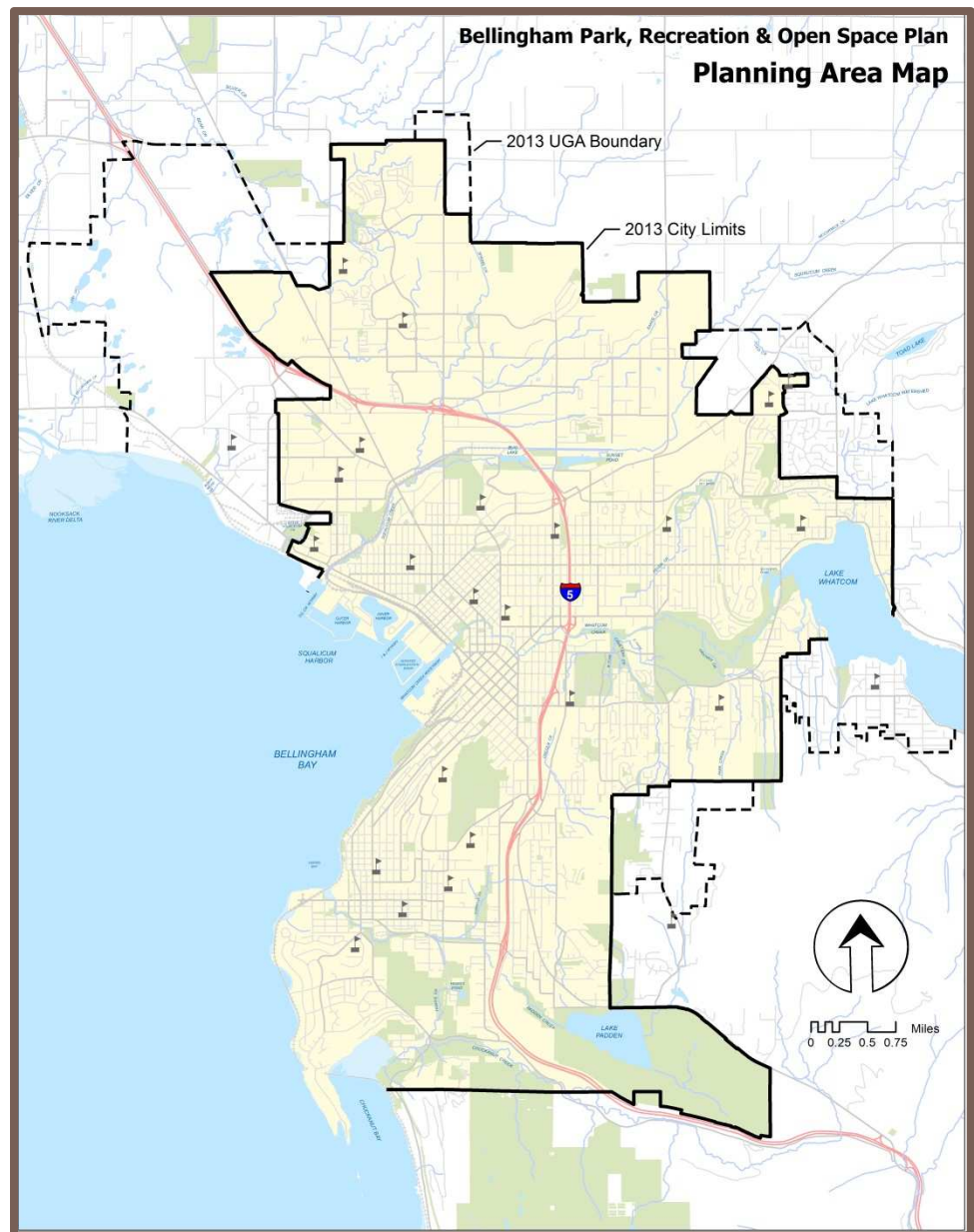
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Meeting/Action	Topic	Month
2014		
Steering Committee/PRAB	Final Plan Approval	January
City Council	Public Hearing	January
City Council	Preliminary Approval	February
City Council	Comp Plan Amendment	July

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.

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.



Whatcom Falls. Courtesy of Whatcom Museum archives.

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

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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%

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*.



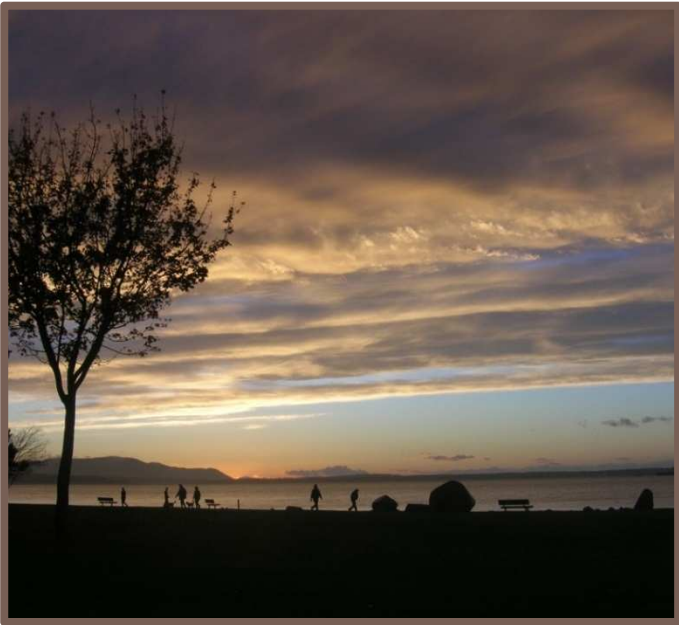
Elizabeth Park. Photo by Kristen Krussow.

*"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

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:

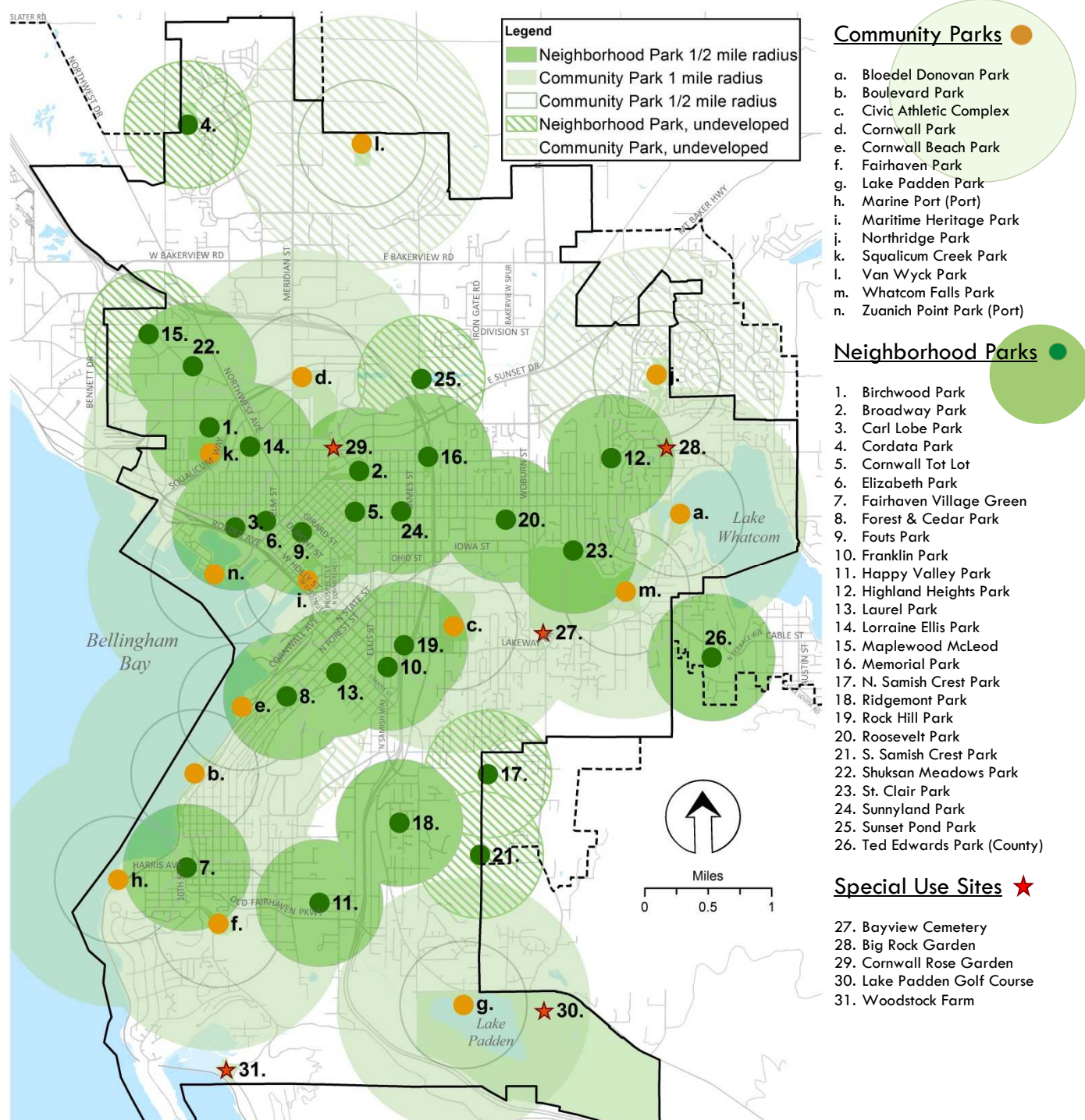
- Cultural Facilities – unique resources offering historical, educational, visual/performance art or other similar experiences. These include gardens, art displays, and historic sites.
- Indoor Facilities – focused toward indoor uses, such as gymnasiums, community centers, teen/senior centers, aquatic 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.

01/27/2014

EXISTING FACILITIES PLAN • PARKS AND SPECIAL USE SITES



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.

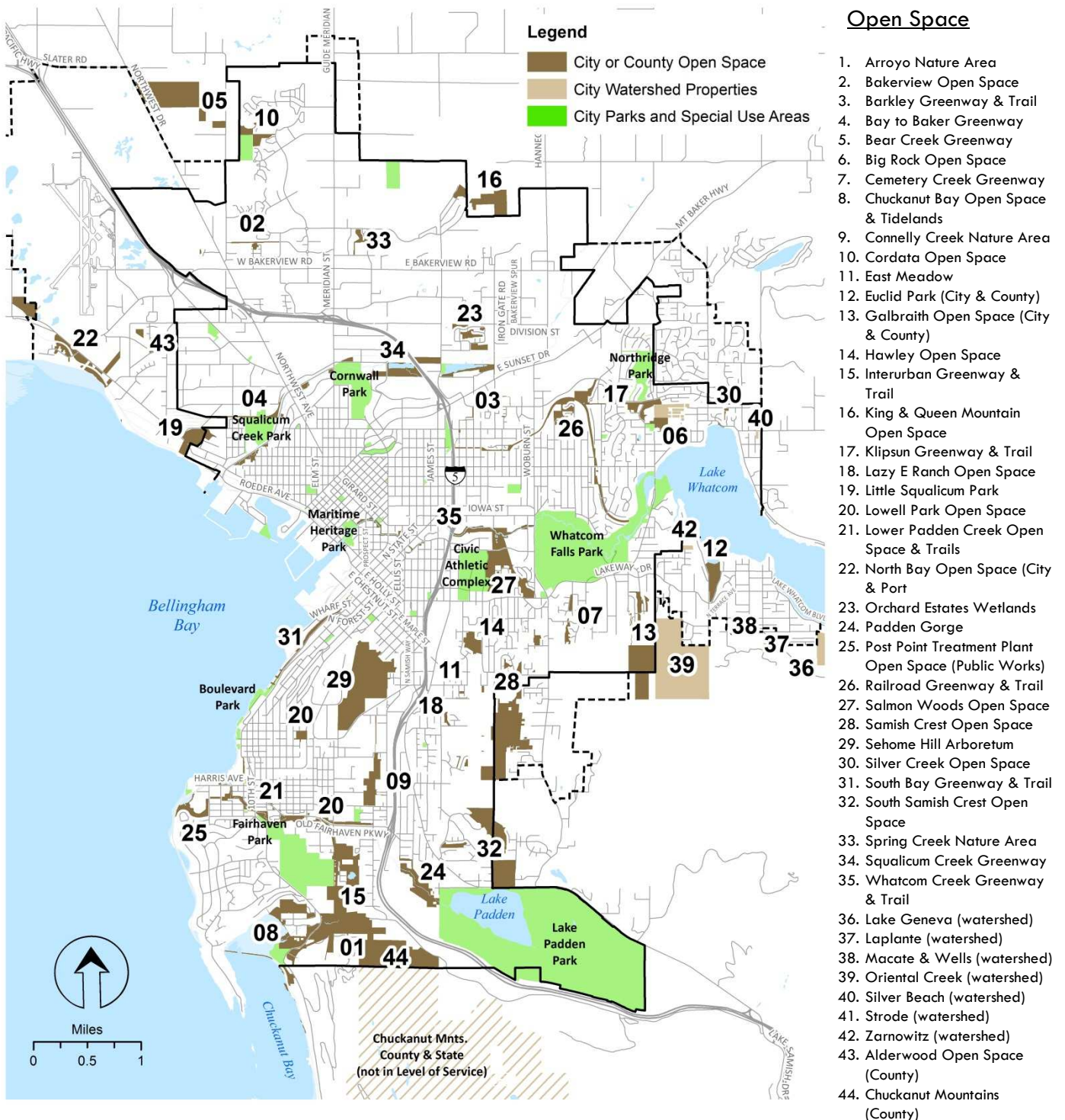


Sehome Hill Arboretum

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



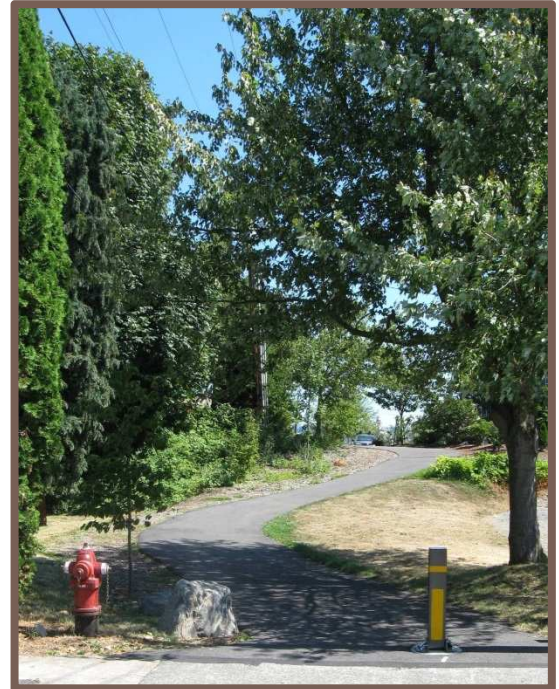
3.1.5 Trails (TR)

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.



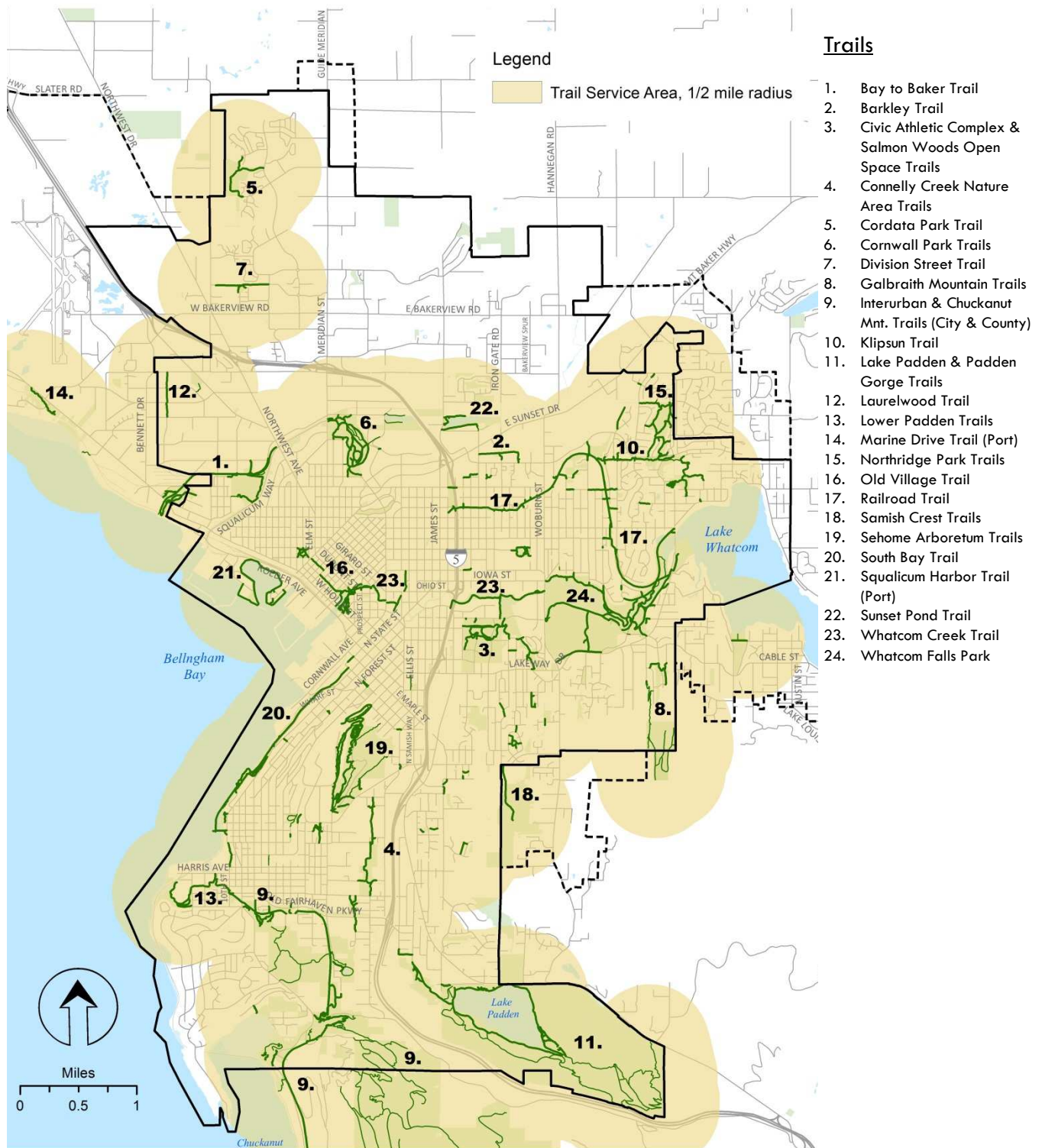
Old Village Trail



Old Village Trail signage

01/27/2014

EXISTING FACILITIES PLAN • TRAILS



01/27/2014

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:

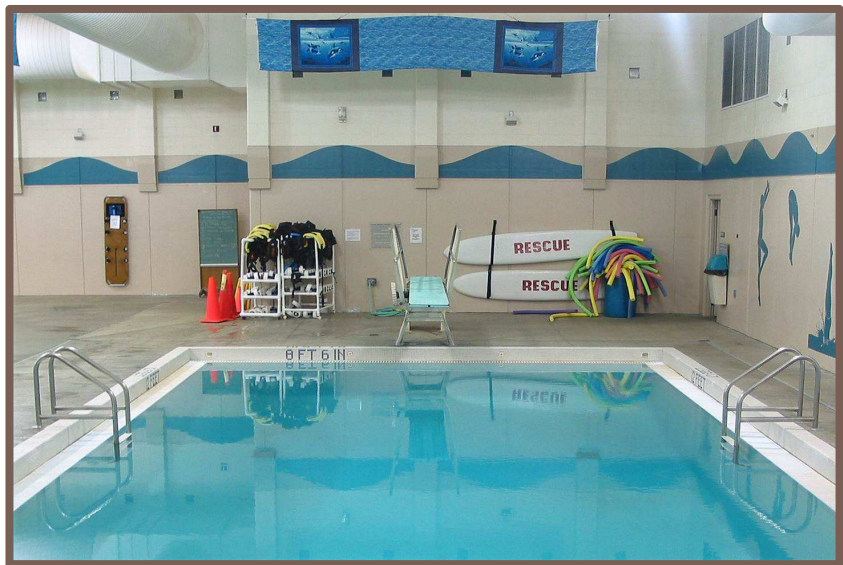
"We are working today so future generations will benefit from:

- *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.
- 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.



Arne Hanna Aquatic Center dive tank

- 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.
- 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.



South Bay Trail at Taylor Dock

- F. Advance City-wide priorities to protect, rehabilitate and maintain functioning habitats and corridors in collaboration with other City departments.
 - a. Develop trails and greenway corridors that protect, rehabilitate and maintain natural resources, including plant and animal habitats.
 - b. 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.
 - a. Utilize Crime Prevention through Environmental Design concepts.
 - b. Provide lighting in high-use areas and where appropriate.
 - c. Provide safe parking areas.
 - d. Avoid blind corners on trails.
 - e. Where appropriate, provide for surveillance of trails from adjacent property.
 - f. Provide safety education for trail users.
 - g. Provide safe crossings of roads, including grade separated crossings of major corridors such as I-5 and Guide Meridian Street.
 - h. Clearly mark dog off leash areas along trails and enforce on leash rules where they apply.
- H. Encourage community involvement and stewardship of trails.
 - a. Continue and expand the Parks Volunteer Program.
 - b. Continue and expand the Adopt-a-Trail program.
 - c. Develop inter-local trail management agreements.
 - d. Encourage participation in community trail events.
 - e. 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

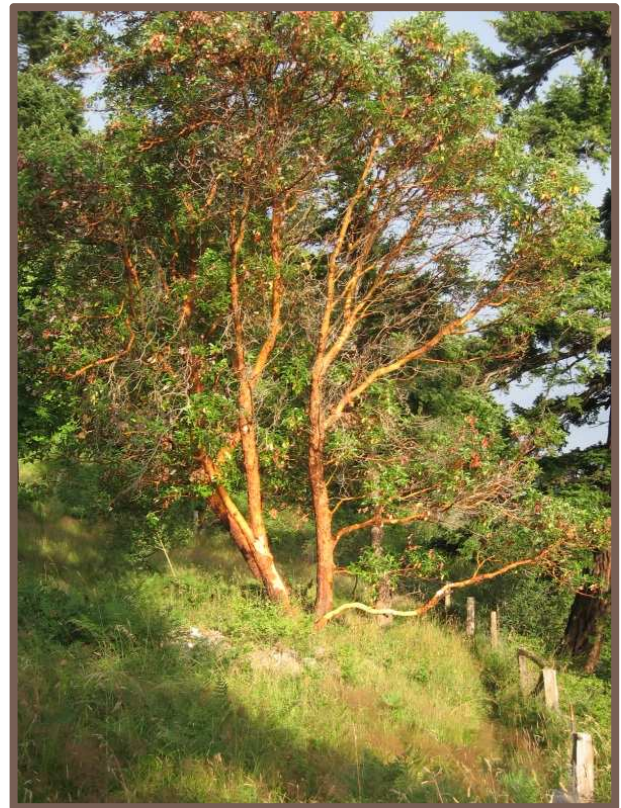
- A. Support arts and crafts, classroom instruction in music and dance, physical conditioning and health care.
- B. Provide meeting facilities, preschool, after school, and other program activities for all cultural, age, physical and mental capability, and income groups in the community.
- C. Support 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 policies.

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

01/27/2014

- 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

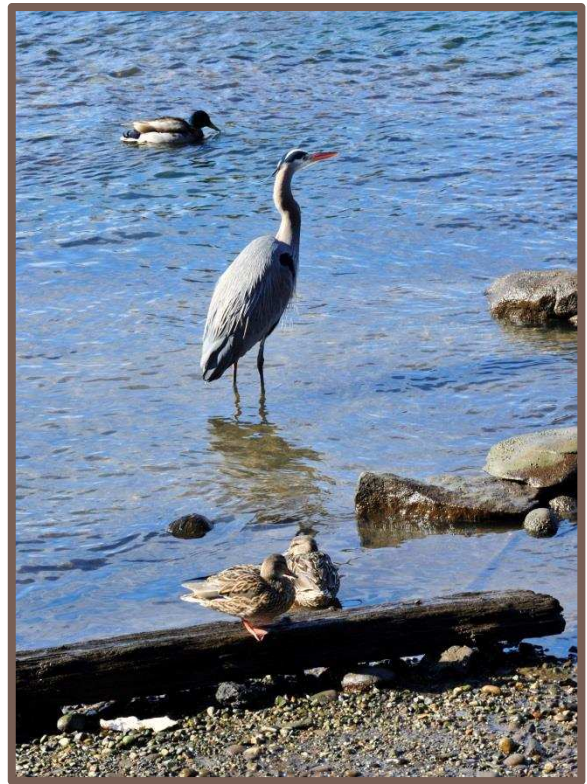
Parks and Recreation Related Goals and Objectives

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 policies.
- 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:

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.



Deer at Woodstock Farm

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



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

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

- 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.
- 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.
- Foster environmental stewardship through education programs and activities.
- Provide safe and convenient access to public lands, conservation areas, and water that does not damage critical areas.
- Instill a love of nature and a commitment for caring for our resources through the Park Volunteer program.
- 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.
- Provide scholarships for low income families to participate in recreation activities.
- Maintain a world class park system that attracts tourism and benefits the local economy.

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- 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

- 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

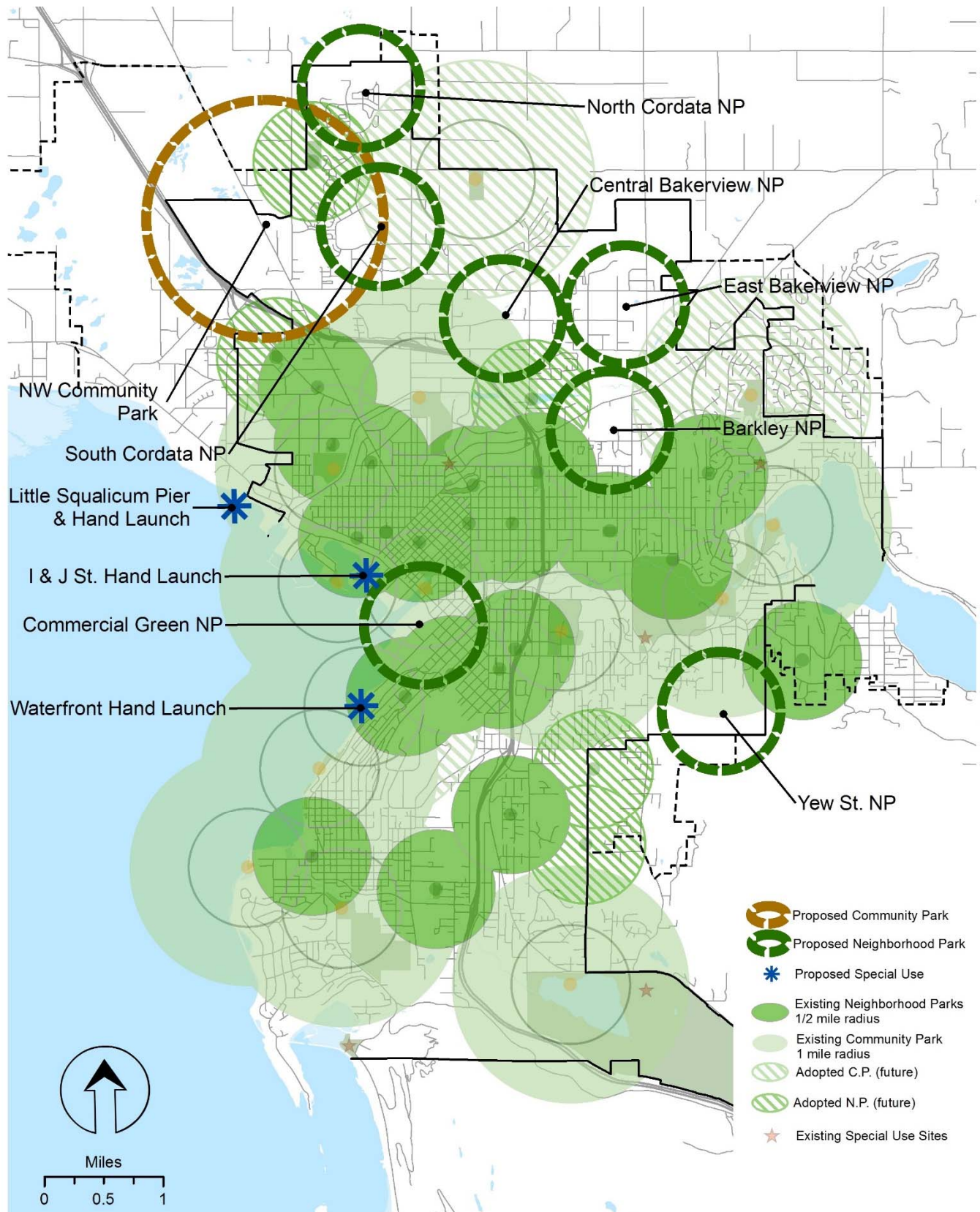
As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for special use sites in the Bellingham park system include:

- 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.

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.*

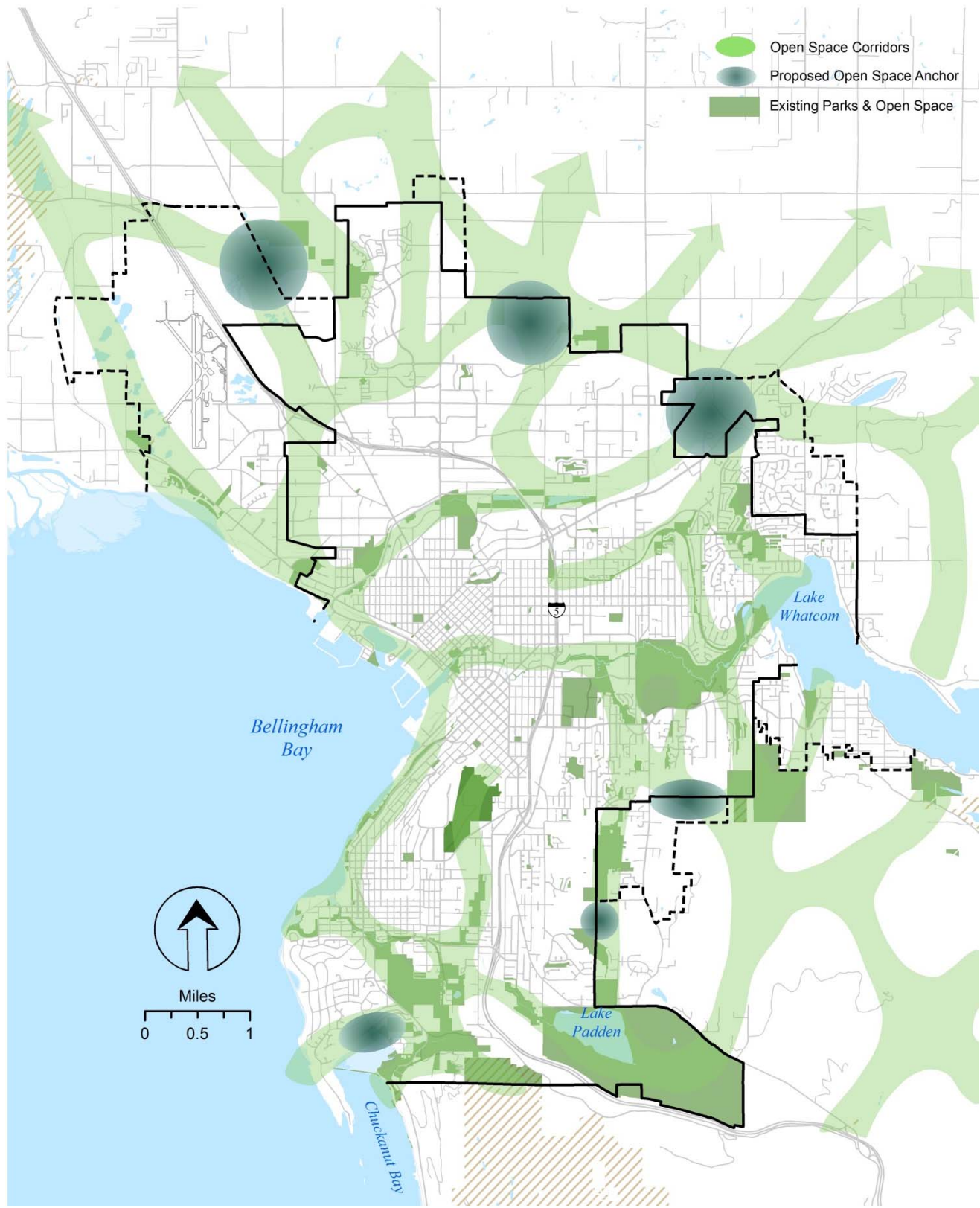
Specific Recommendations

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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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.



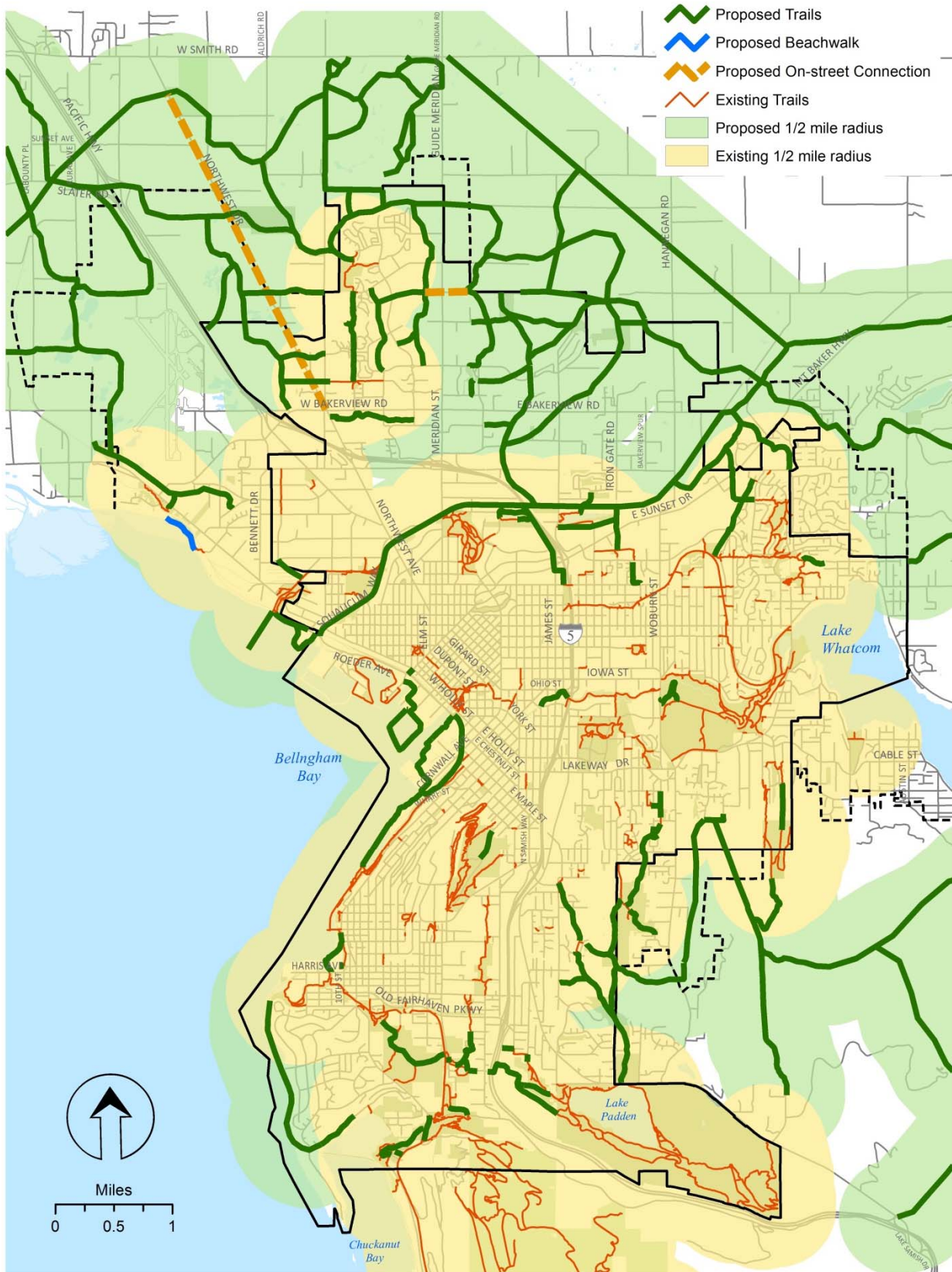
Northridge Park trail

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.

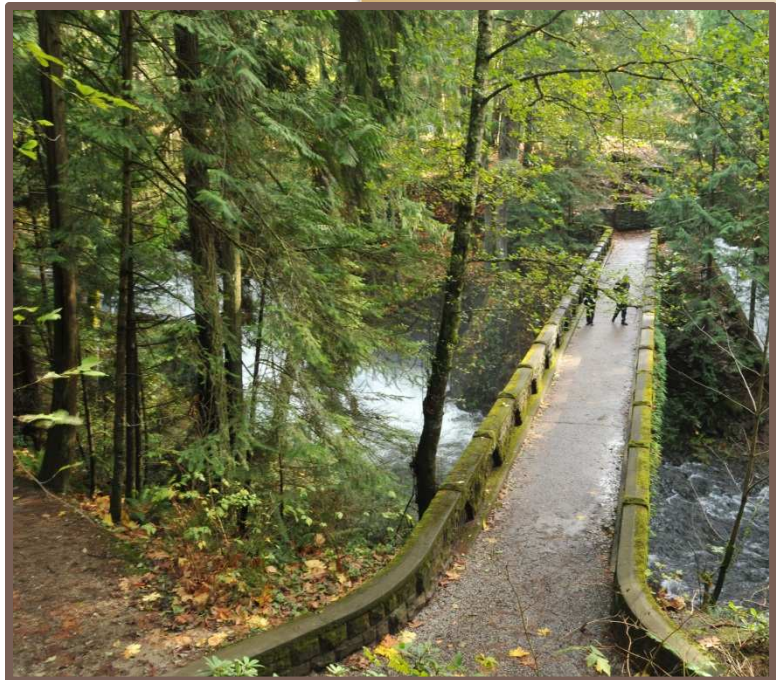
Recommendations outlined in *Chapter 6* total approximately \$93 million in today's dollars. This includes improvements to existing facilities, as well as additional land and facilities to serve new growth. Projected revenue sources for park system improvements through the year 2029 could provide enough 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.

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



Whatcom Falls Park

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 ⁸	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			

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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.

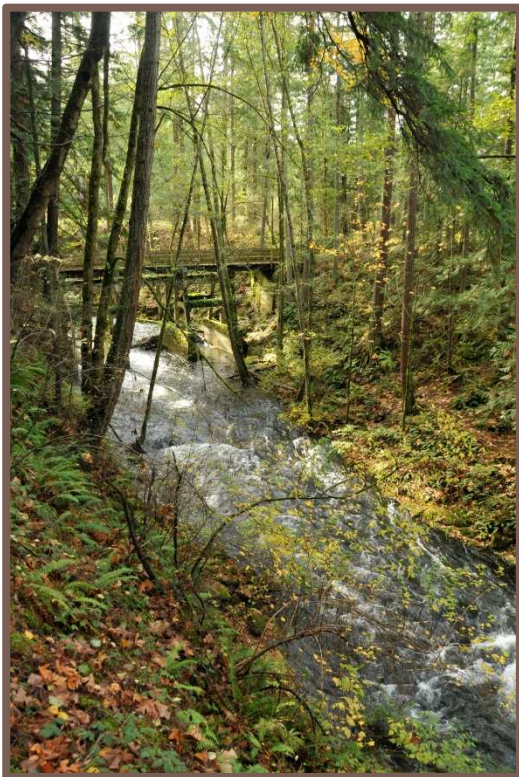
7.2 Maintenance and Operation Needs

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

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 \$1327.80), 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.



Whatcom Creek

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

01/27/2014

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

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



Van Wyck Park



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:** 1/2 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 or 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/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 (lf)	Parking Lot (number indicates striped lots) (otherwise gravel)	Auditorium/Amphitheater/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramcar Parking (ea) X=Included with other parking	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				X		
Bloedel Donovan Park (water)	12.1	AQU																											
Boulevard Park	14.9	CP	1.8		1	2										1		1			2		105	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		
Cornwall Park	69.0	CP	3.4	2	2	2	1		4		1										5		186					1	1
Cornwall 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	205.0	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		56				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	6.8	NP	0.1		1	1	1				1										4.3								
Carl Lobe Park	0.6	NP			1						1																		
Cordata Park	19.0	NP	0.7																										
Cornwall 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														0.5								
Fouts Park	1.2	NP			1																0.4								

2013 City population
 2013 UGA population

82,310
 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), 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/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramcar Parking (ea)	X=Included with other parking	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																											
Memorial Park	6.2	NP					0.5														0.7									
N. Samish Crest Park	0.0	NP	0																											
Ridgemont 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	2.6	NP	0.3												X						0.5		X							
Arroyo Nature Area	85.9	OS	2.6												X								X				x			
Bakerview 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	83.6	OS																												
Bellingham High School trail easement *	0.1	OS																												
Big Rock Open Space	10.9	OS	1																											
Cemetery Creek Greenway	6.4	OS	0																											

2013 City population
 2013 UGA population

82,310
 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), 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/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramcar Parking (ea)	X=Included with other parking	Disc Golf 9 hole(ea)	Spray Park (ea)
Chuckanut Bay Open Space & Tidelands (land)	49.7	OS	0.1													1		1												
Chuckanut Bay Open Space & Tidelands (water)	76.1	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																												

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=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/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trainroad parking (ea) X=included with other parking	Disc Golf 9 hole(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 *	0.4	OS	0																										
Post Point Treatment Plant Open Space	15.8	OS	0.7												X												X		
Railroad Greenway & Trail	50.4	TR/OS	4.7																										
Salmon Woods Open Space	45.1	OS	1																										
Samish Crest Open Space (note 1)	119.6	OS	1.1																										
Sehome 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	16.6	TR/OS	1.7																										
South Samish Crest Open Space	68.9	OS																											
Spring Creek Nature Area	5.3	OS	0.1																										
Squalicum Creek Greenway & Trail	71.4	TR/OS	0.4																										
Sylvan Pond Open Space *	0.4	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																										

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=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/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramcar Parking (ea) X=Included with other parking	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

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Trait (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
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	\$ 298,664,753		\$ 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	\$ 6,975,000	\$ 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	\$ 159	\$ 26	\$ 1	\$ 40	\$ 371	\$ 79	\$ 185	\$ 159	\$ 21	\$ 9

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	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/Stage (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	\$ 16,002,400	\$ 5,440,000	\$ 3,312,000	\$ 8,368,500	\$ 5,975,000	\$ 3,000,000	3,206,500	\$ 450,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 428,704,153
Existing Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 19	\$ 5	\$ 4	\$ 194	\$ 66	\$ 40	\$ 102	\$ 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

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	<i>plaza</i>																						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
Cornwall 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 (sf)	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 Trail	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 Chestnut-Holly	0.08	ROS	ROW																							0.08	Trees
Rr Holly-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	<i>sidewalk</i>																						0.18	landscaping & parking
Unity St Island	0.09	ROS	ROW																							0.09	lawn, landscaping, occasional public art

EXISTING FACILITIES

[illegible]

EXISTING FACILITIES
WATERSHED PROPERTY
(Within UGA)

[illegible]

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	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
Kulshan MS	10.0	SU	BSD					3			1	1								1		track (non-traditional)
Larabee ES	1.2	SU	BSD			2		1				1	1							1		<i>school slated to close</i>
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										
Whatcom MS	4.2	SU	BSD					2					2							3		
Whatcom Hills Waldorf ES	2.0	SU	PRI																			
Whatcom Community College		SU	WCC							6		1										
Bellingham Technical College		SU	BTC																		1	
Western Washington University	162.7	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	2	27	4	

EXISTING FACILITIES
WASHINGTON STATE
(All Outside UGA)

[illegible]

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	Land (acres)	Designation	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)	Skate 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 (sf)	Informal Lawn (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf) 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)	All Other Misc.Capital Mntrce \$\$	Notes
BLOEDEL DONOVAN PARK	n/a	CP												1														500,000	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		500	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																										950,000	Drainage, field improvements
MARITIME HERITAGE PARK	n/a	CP			1																								Improve playground restroom - year-around access
NORTH RIDGE PARK	n/a	CP	0.2	1	2	1	1					0.25									20								Develop existing park
NW COMMUNITY PARK	40.0	CP	1	2	2	2	1		1	1	2	0.5	1					500	2		60					1	0.5		
SQUALICUM CREEK PARK	n/a	CP	0.5	2	2	2	1				2	0.25	2					500	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																			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												1												
CORDATA PARK	n/a	NP	0.2	1	1	1	0.5					0.25					1		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							1										
N CORDATA PARK	3.0	NP	0.2	1	1	1	0.5												1		10								
N SAMISH CREST PARK	n/a	NP		1	1	1	0.5						0.5						2		10								Develop part of existing open space
SUNSET POND (Expansion)	0.6	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				1800	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
2.18 = average # people per household

PROPOSED FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
(Within Planning Area)

(updated 10/25/2013)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	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)	Skate 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 (sf)	Informal Lawn (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf) 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)	All Other Misc.Capital Mnice \$\$	Notes
WATERFRONT/TIDELANDS	6.0	OS/AQ																											Varies
I-5 TRAIL CROSSINGS *	0.6	OS/TR	0.25																										Tunnel, bridge, etc. - assumes three: Padden, Squalicum, & 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																										
SEHOME 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																										
I AND 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	Improvements
WOODSTOCK FARM	n/a	SU	0.2			1															10								Improve access, hand boat landing (no launch)
																												2,950,000	Capital Maintenance
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		

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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)	Skate 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 (2.18)	\$ 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

2.18 = 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 (lf) 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.



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 Bear 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 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 collectors 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 (N RTP) - 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 on 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)

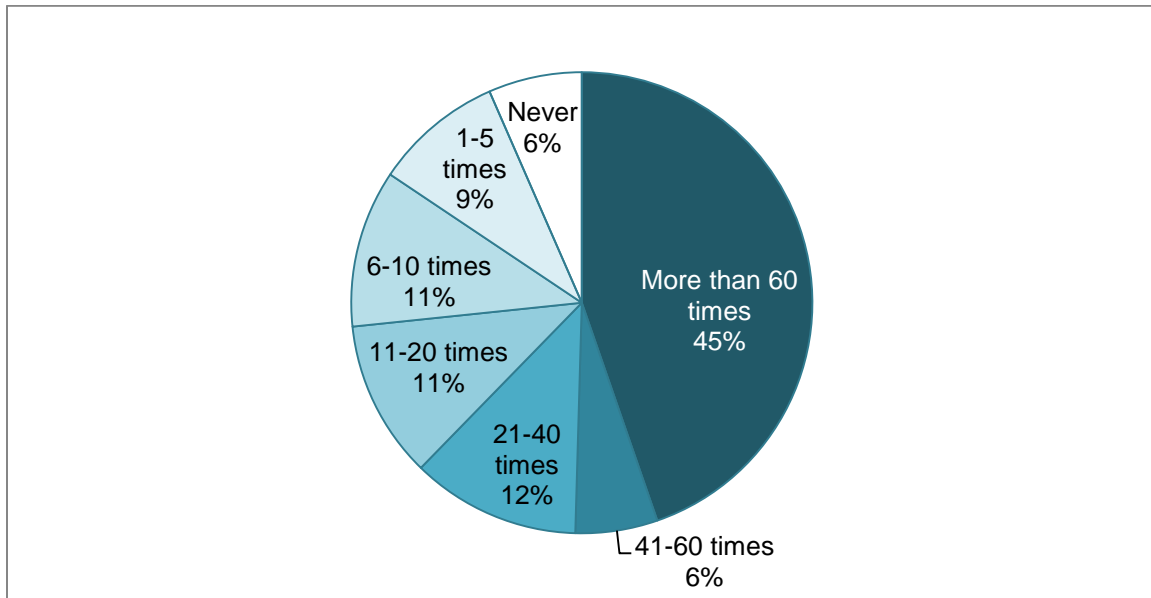
PARK USE

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)

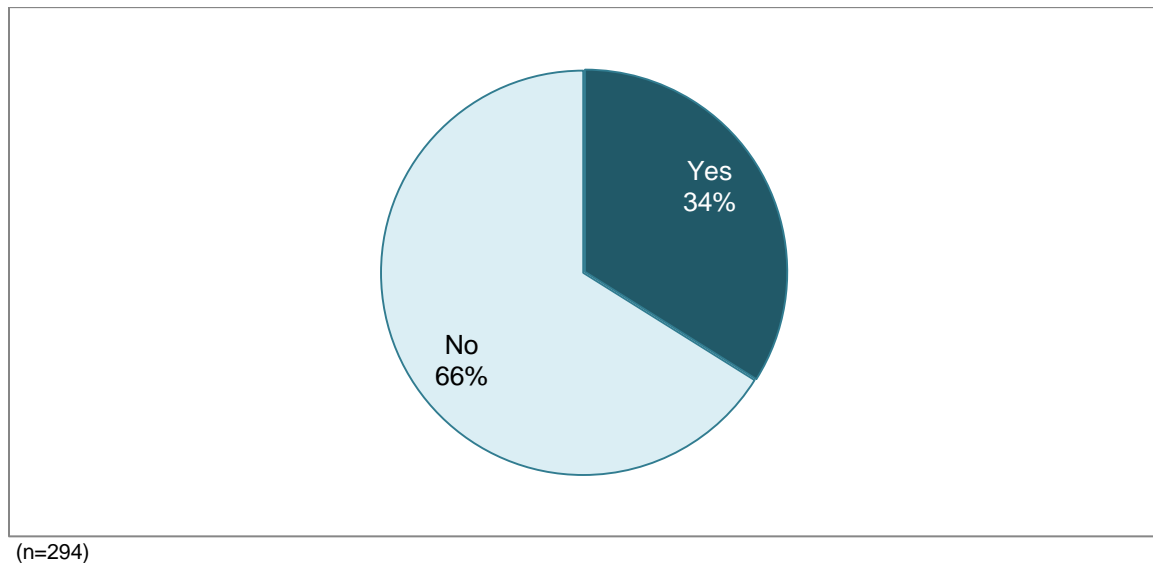
The frequency of park visits was similar to that in 2008.

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?



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

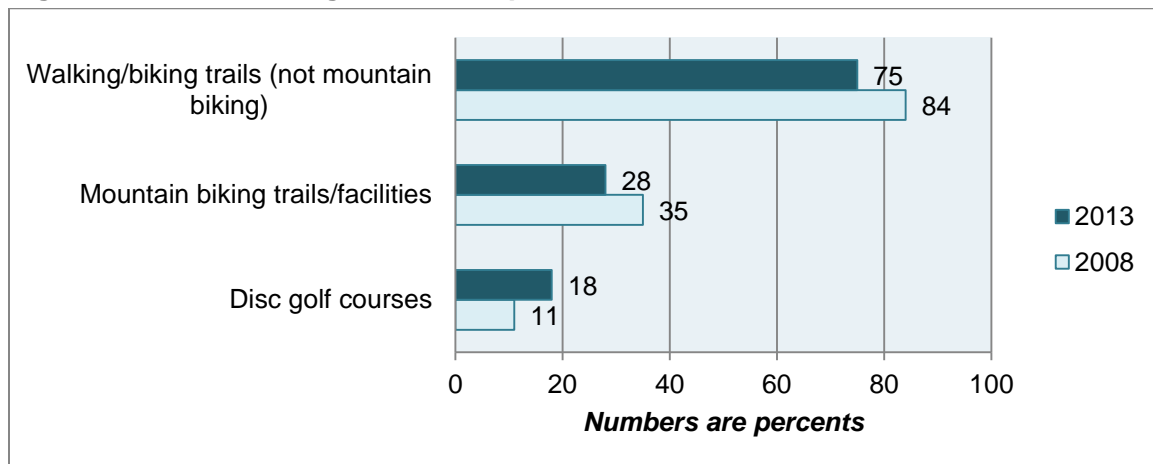
(n=300)

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

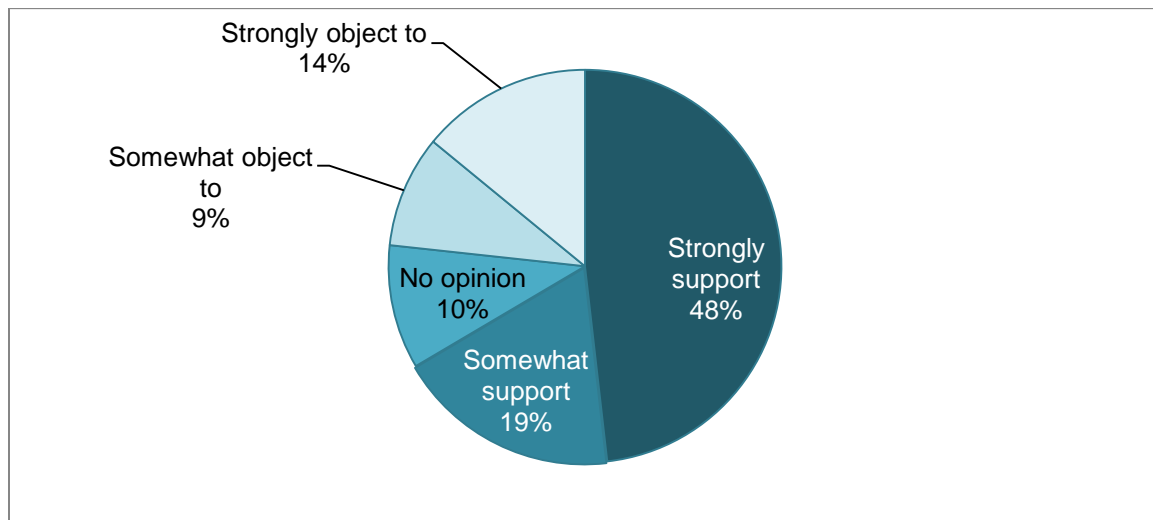
New this year, the survey explored familiarity with pickleball and demand for pickleball courts. Just over one-quarter of respondents (27%) said that they have played a game of pickleball or seen it played. Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 were the most likely age group to have played or seen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



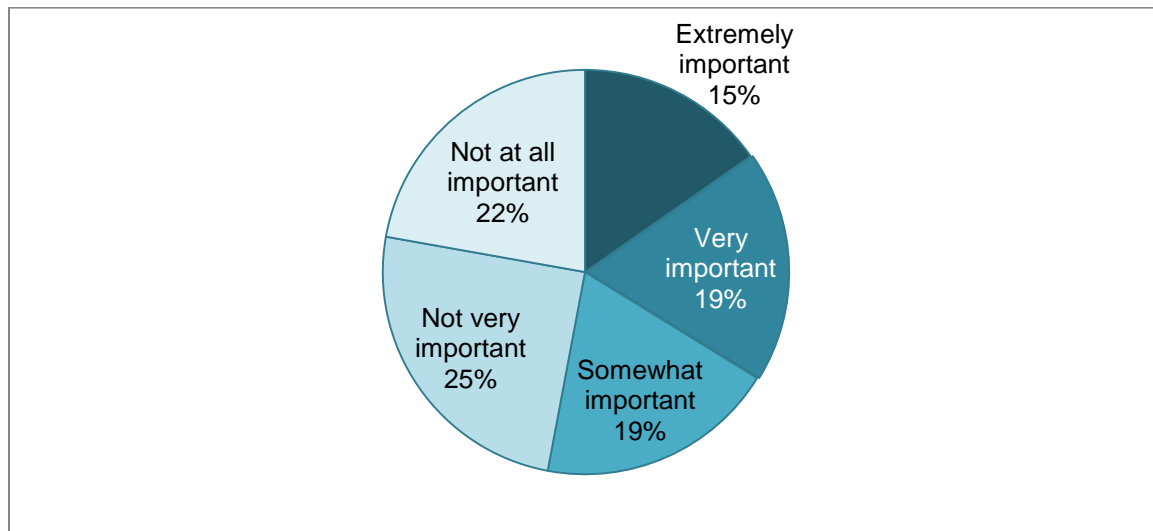
(n=293)

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?



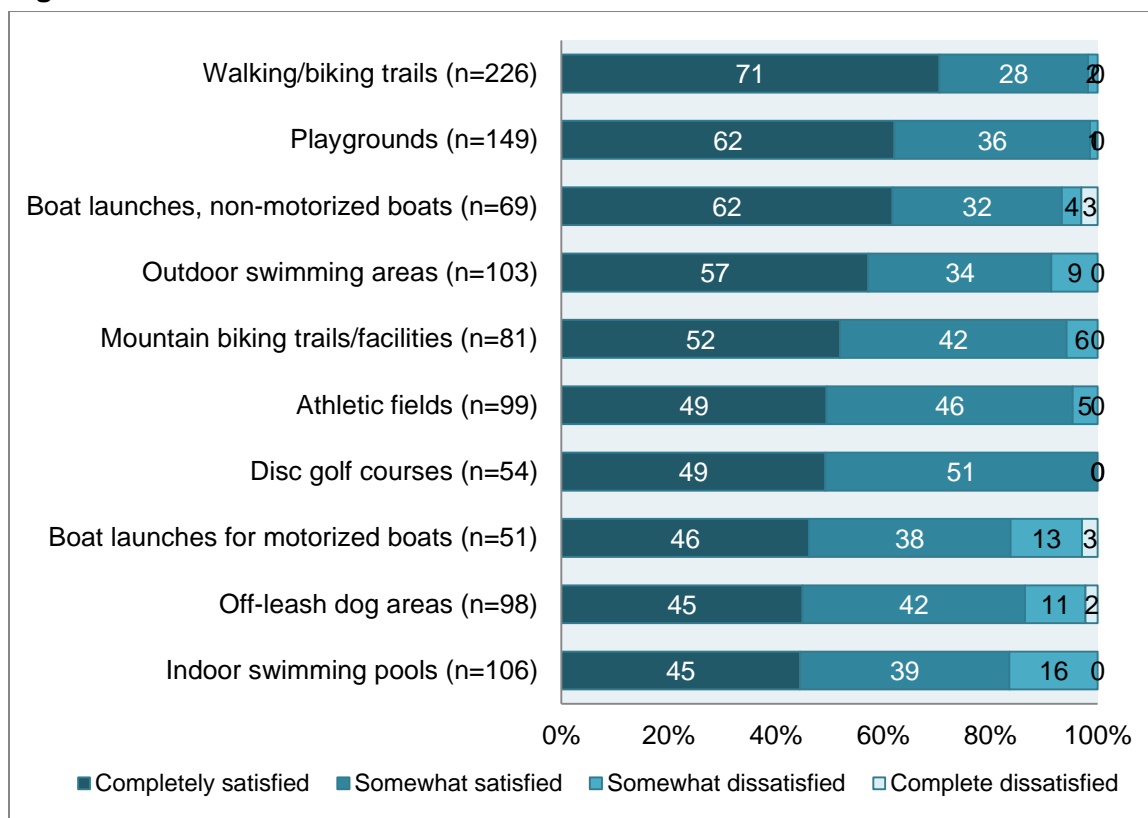
(n=291)

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?

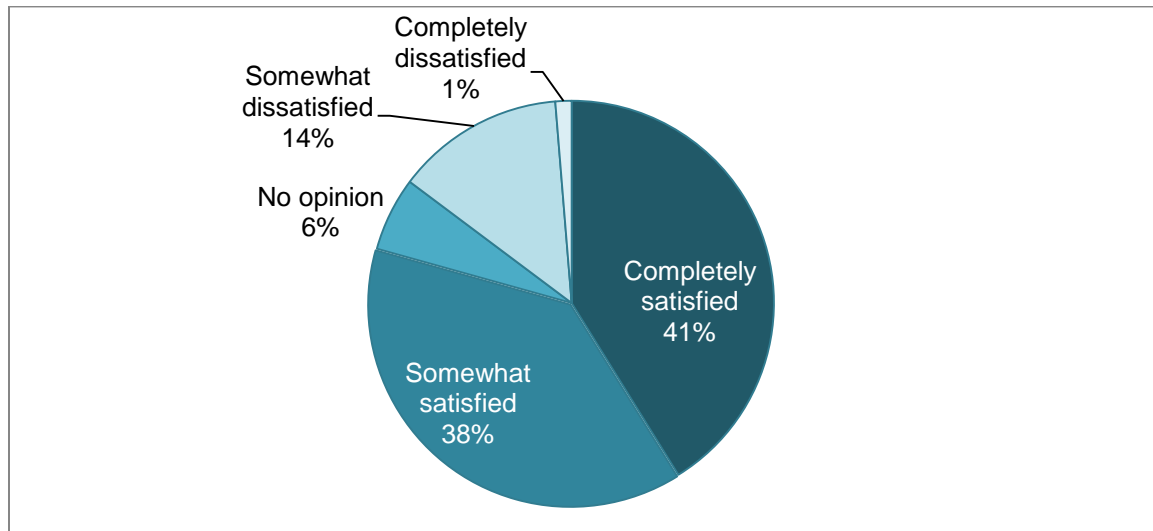
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Indoor swimming pools	7	18
Off road walking and biking trails (not mountain biking)	6	15
Off-leash dog areas	5	13
Safety	3	8
Playgrounds	2	6
Handicap access	2	5
Other specific park or reason	13	33

(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)

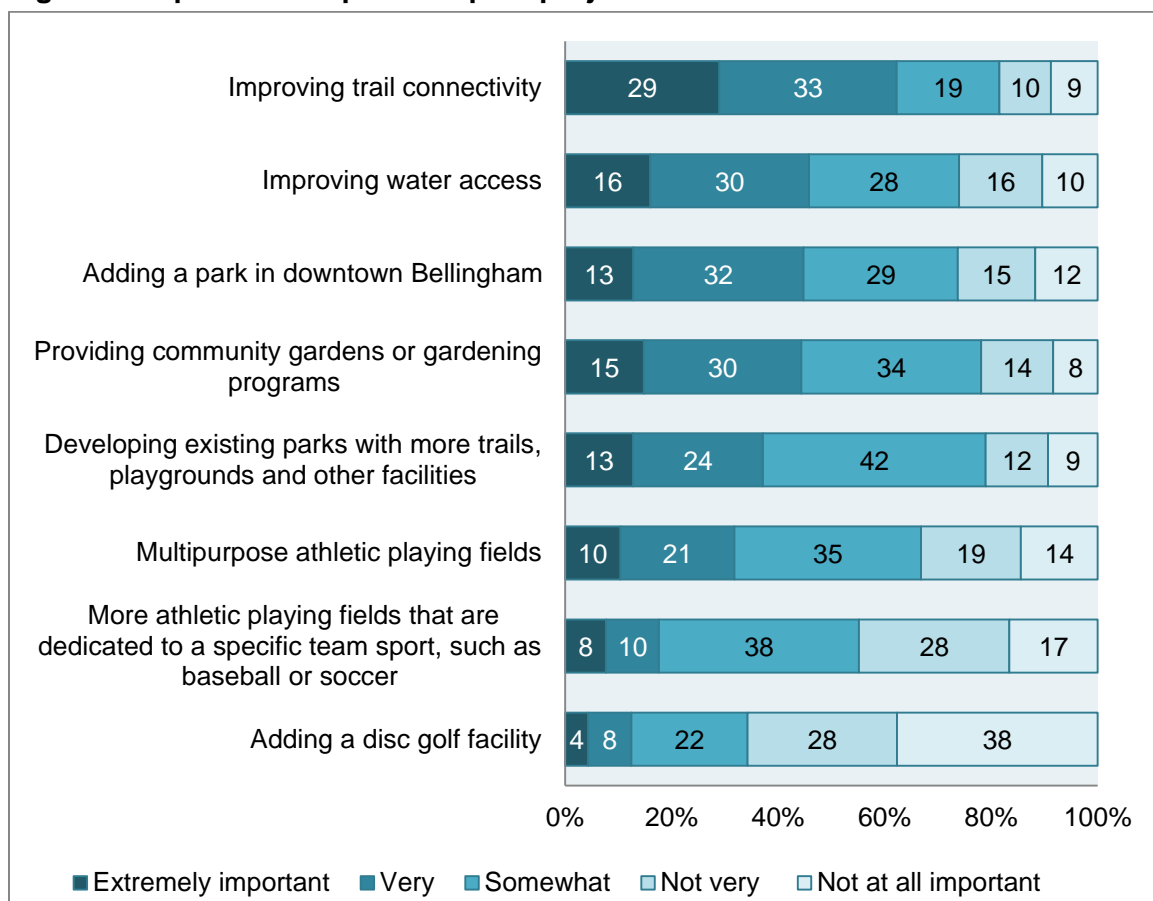
PARKS PRIORITIES

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.

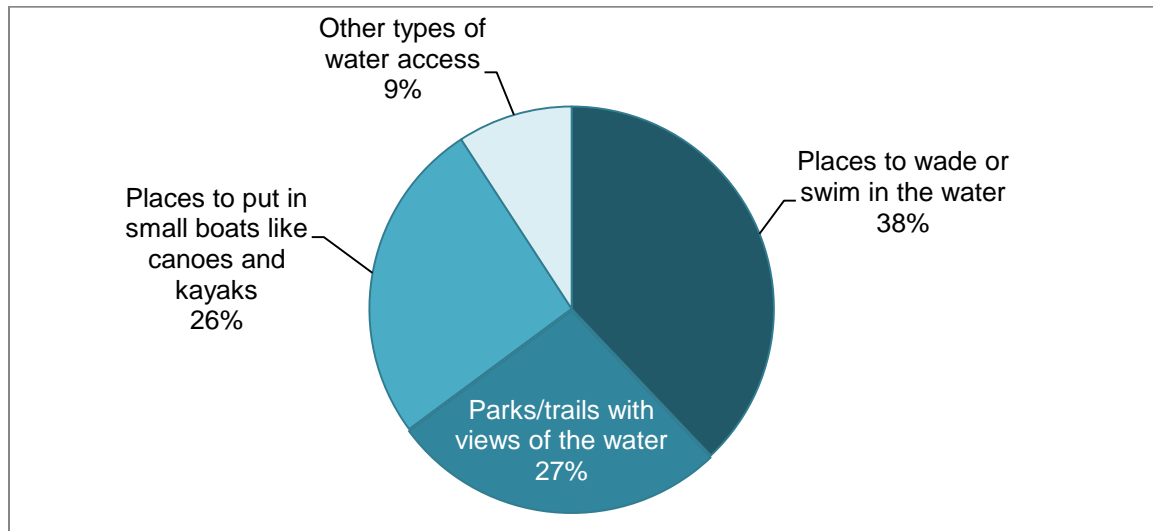
- The proportion who think improving water access is *extremely important* decreased (16%, down from 24% in 2008)
- The proportion who said that trail connectivity is *not very or not at all important* increased from 12% in 2008 up to 19% in 2013

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.

Table 4. Most important ways to improve existing parks		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
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.

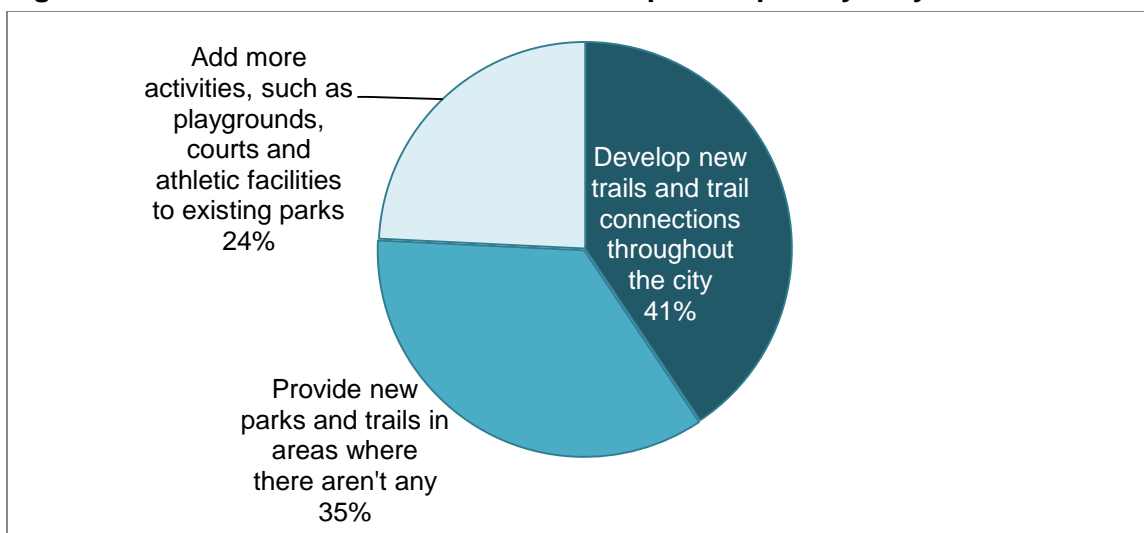
A second common theme was overall park amenities. This category was also broken down into specific types of amenities that respondents would like to see developed or enhanced at the parks. The most frequent specific examples were requests for improved parking (5%) and specific park facilities, typically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

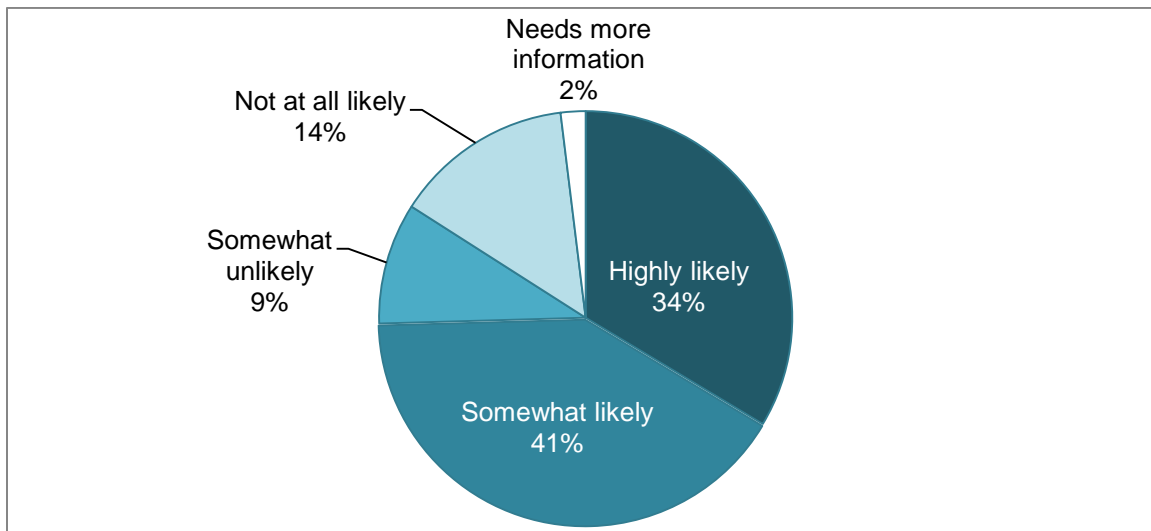
FUNDING

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.

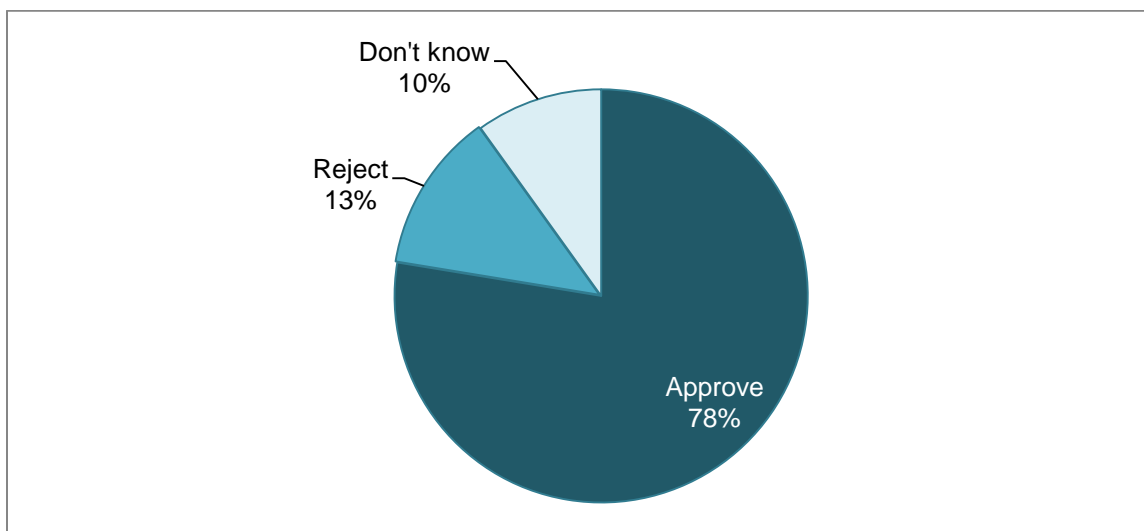
Highly frequent visitors of the parks were significantly more likely to say they were *highly likely* to support a bond or levy (47% vs. 19% of less frequent visitors). There were no differences detected between age groups or between those who have children in the household and those who do not.

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.

Table A2. Comparison of 2013 Sample, 2008 Sample, and Population			
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		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. Thes...

		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 is 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 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 drops off the leaves 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.

Wildlife Habitat

1. **Marine habitat**

Marine habitats are deepwater areas that extend outward from the upper limit of wave spray on land. In Bellingham, the marine habitat zone extends the complete circumference of Bellingham and Chuckanut Bays. Marine habitats provide critical plant, fish, and wildlife habitat that can be greatly affected by land and water based activities.

The waters of Puget Sound depend on the health of tide flats and the water column for primary production. Eelgrass, kelp, and phytoplankton provide the primary cornerstone for the grazing food chain, and shelter for both invertebrate and vertebrate animal species.

The deeper waters and narrow channel of Rosario Strait and Hales Passage, and Bellingham and Chuckanut Bays produce a unique marine environment rich in nutrients hosting a remarkable diversity of fish and animal life including octopus, ling cod, and wolf eels.

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Beach habitat – near shore habitats, including eelgrass meadows and beaches, are the primary habitats for forage fish – small fish that play a very important role in the marine food chain.

- Surf smelt - spawn on Bellingham Bay beaches containing a specific mixture of coarse and fine gravel in the upper tidal zone.
- Sand lance - spawn on Bellingham Bay beaches containing sand and sandy-gravel in the upper tidal zone.
- Pacific Herring - attach their eggs to eelgrass and kelp, mostly in Chuckanut Bay.

These 3 species comprise over 50% of the diet of adult salmonids, including depleted chinook salmon. All 3 forage fish species have sharply declined in the past few decades.

Nearshore areas provide refuge for juvenile salmonids at the edge of the tide where the water depth prevents passage of larger, predator species. Mobile, attached, and burrowing creatures make their homes on the sea floor from the top of the

tidal influence to the deepest channels. On Bellingham Bay, these include native and introduced species such as littleneck and manila clams. Commercial and/or harvested species include crabs, clams, and kelp. Species that favor Puget Sound's gentler beaches and finer substrates, such as geoduck, tend to be abundant around the north end of Bellingham Bay.

Offshore habitat - the water column and surface provide habitat to marine mammals, fishes, and birds - some of which require special pelagic habitats for refuge, such as eelgrass meadows, kelp forests, and rocky reefs.

In 2007, 15 marine species in Washington were identified as being in steep decline and in need of attention to ensure successful protection or recovery. Those most likely to occur in Bellingham waters are Pacific herring, Harbor porpoise, and the group called unclassified marine invertebrates – which includes all invertebrate species currently not considered as food fish or shellfish by the WDFW.

Species - marine habitats support a variety of seaweed, various species of fish and marine invertebrates, birds, and mammals. Puget Sound and Rosario Strait are components of a very complex and productive ecosystem. These waters are considered to be relatively clean and provide habitat for over 211 species of wildlife.

The open channels, rocky outcrops, islands, and large bays provide wintering and breeding habitat for a variety of marine birds including gulls, loons, grebes, cormorants, and diving birds including auklets, guillemots, murre, puffins, and oyster catchers.

Kelp and eelgrass beds - provide habitat, feeding, and rearing ground for a large number of marine organisms including crabs, fish, and birds. Kelp are the large brown seaweed typically found in rocky inter-tidal areas. Eelgrass is a vascular plant that grows most commonly in inter-tidal and shallow sub-tidal areas.

Kelp beds provide a surface upon which other plants and animals grow. Kelp beds are used as resting areas by birds and mammals including gulls, herons, waterfowl, shorebirds, and otters. Kelp beds also protect environments for inter-tidal plants and animals by reducing current and wave actions, and inshore erosion on sand and gravel beaches. The beds provide a protected beach habitat for marine organisms that would not be present otherwise.

Eelgrass is a highly productive plant that provides trophic functions and nutrient infusions for the entire coastal zone. Eelgrass beds provide an important stopover and wintering area along the Pacific flyway for a variety of migratory birds. The eelgrass beds in Rosario Strait and Hale Passage have been found to be 3 times greater in productivity to diving birds, for example, than non-vegetated nearshore areas.

Kelp and eelgrass beds have declined in number and overall size in Puget Sound in recent years. The decline may be due to changes in water

quality and turbidity resulting from urban development and forest cutting activities - or natural fluctuations due to storms, unusually hot weather, or an increase in the population of grazing species.

Shellfish - inhabit the mud, sands, and rocky substrata of Puget Sound, Rosario Strait, and Hale Passage in tidelands and inter-tidal areas. Inter-tidal areas support hard shell clams including butter clams, native littleneck, manila clams, cockles, and horse clams. Geoducks typically borrow offshore in sub-tidal areas up to 2 to 3 feet into the mud or soft sand. Shrimp, crab, and oysters also inhabit the shoreline areas. Dungeness crab frequent eelgrass beds, and red rock crab inhabit rocky terrain with less silt content.

Commercial and recreational shellfish harvesting is restricted or prohibited in Bellingham and Chuckanut Bays, and at the mouths of sewage treatment out falls.

Herring and smelt – spawn during the winter and early spring in eelgrass and seaweed in low inter-tidal areas and sometimes in gravelly areas along Rosario Strait and Hale Passage. Surf smelt spawn during the winter in sandy gravel beaches along Bellingham Bay.

2. *Estuarine habitat*

Estuaries are semi-enclosed bodies of water that are freely connected with the open sea and within which saltwater mixes with freshwater drainage. Estuaries create transitions between marine, freshwater, and terrestrial environments that support a rich and diverse variety of wildlife species.

By definition, estuaries have a salt concentration from 0.5 parts per trillion to 30 parts per thousand. Estuaries include sub-tidal and inter-tidal zones as well as lagoons, sloughs, and channels that meet this salinity definition. Estuaries are typically shallower with warmer water temperatures than marine habitat zones.

In Bellingham, the estuarine zone may extend upland for some distance where the freshwater from Whatcom and Padden Creeks mix with the tidal currents evident within the harbor. Salinity content may be affected by the amount of freshwater flow that enters the harbor, the strength of the tides, and the resulting amount of fresh to saltwater mixing. Salinity varies greatly in such a mixing zone affected by depth and area of flow. The animals and plants that may be established within the area are often better predictors of the estuary's influence than salinity content alone.

Species - the estuaries within the Bay may support over 40 types of marine organisms including jellyfish, anemones, marine worms, marine snails, limpets, clams, cockles, oysters, mussels, barnacles, crabs, starfish, urchins, sea cucumbers, and sea squirts, among others.

The estuaries may also support over 50 types of fish including dogfish, herring, anchovy, salmon, sea-run trout, and smelt. Priority species that

are supported by estuarine habitat include smelt, herring, and perch, as well as salmon and steelhead.

Prominent birds of the more than 100 types that are possible may include loons, grebes, cormorants, herons, , swans, geese, brant, and a variety of ducks, sandpipers, gulls, murrelets, and puffins. State priority wildlife species that are associated with estuarine habitat include the bald eagle Western Greebe, heron, and osprey

3. *Freshwater habitat*

Freshwater bodies include lakes, rivers, creeks, wetlands, riparian areas, and all other types of water bodies not included in estuaries or marine habitat that have a low ocean salt content. Freshwater habitats support different wildlife than saltwater systems, particularly species that depend on wetland vegetation. However, 87% of all wildlife and fish species are estimated to depend on streams, wetlands, or other freshwater bodies during some part of their life cycle for drinking water, foraging, nesting, and migratory movements.

Riparian areas - are the wooded or vegetated corridors located along rivers, streams, and springs. Riparian corridors possess free flowing water or moist conditions that support high water tables, certain soil characteristics, and vegetation that are transitional between freshwater and terrestrial habitat zones. The transitional edges are usually defined by a change in plant composition, relative plant abundance, and the end of high soil moisture content.

Riparian corridors transport water, plant seeds, and nutrients to downstream areas - and thereby serve as important migration routes for many wildlife species. Riparian areas, though small in overall size, are one of the most important sources of wildlife bio-diversity in the landscape.

Freshwater wetland habitats are water bodies less than 20 acres in size or less than 6 feet in depth and include marshes, swamps, bogs, seeps, wet meadows, shallow ponds, and lakes. Like riparian areas, wetlands support species in great diversities, densities, and productivity. The wooded areas that are located adjacent to wetlands provide nesting areas, forage, and other cover that is critical to wetland-dependent species, such as most waterfowl or small mammals like beaver.

Wetlands - an inventory was accomplished of wetland plant communities throughout Whatcom County using a process combining aerial photography and on-site field visits. The inventory determined there were 4 principal wetland types within the Bellingham urban growth area:

- **wet meadows** - with standing water from late fall to early spring characterized by reed canary grass, spike rushes, bulrushes, and sedges,
- **scrub/shrub wetlands** - with seasonal flooding, characterized by hardhack, willow, red alder or red osier dogwood,

- forested wetlands - not usually flooded but with saturated soils characterized by large trees of black cottonwood, red alder, and western red cedar with an understory of vine maple, cascara, salmonberry, and devil's club, and
- shallow marsh - deep marsh, and open water wetlands.

There are no endangered, threatened or sensitive plant species within the Bellingham urban growth area based on the results of the inventories.

Riparian and wetland vegetation provide significant food and cover for wildlife habitat. Generally, riparian zones and wetlands provide substantially more important wildlife habitat than forested areas. Riparian zones are also passageways for wildlife migrating between or around developed areas. Riparian vegetation also helps maintain optimum fish spawning conditions by providing shade, bank stabilization, a breeding ground for insects, and a source of organic material for the stream.

Riparian zones are located along Little Squalicum, Squalicum, Whatcom, Padden, Connelly, and Chuckanut Creeks, and around Lake Whatcom, Lake Padden, Lake Samish, Toad Lake, Bug Lake, and Sunset Pond. These areas are covered with riparian vegetation and should be considered important wildlife corridors.

Lakes - are water bodies greater than 20 acres in size or more than 6 feet in depth. The deeper waters and larger surface of a lake support fish and wildlife species. However, most species prefer to nest and forage in the shallower ponds rather than lakes, and the wetlands that adjoin larger open water bodies.

Lake Whatcom, Lake Samish, Lake Padden, and Toad Lakes are the largest freshwater lakes and most are routinely stocked by the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) with game fish.

Most of the other lakes in the Bellingham urban growth area have either been developed for private residential use and/or are too small in size to support public access activities. Nonetheless, the sites are important to the maintenance of freshwater habitat for region wildlife.

Wildlife species - freshwater zones support terrestrial and aquatic insects and resident and migratory fish species. Anadromous fish species include coho, chinook, pink, and chum salmon, and steelhead. Naturally occurring or established species include largemouth bass and bluegill.

Freshwater zones also support a variety of birds, mammals and amphibians including salamanders, frogs, osprey, ducks, river otter, and beaver.

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Conversely, there are wetlands within the Bellingham urban growth area that have been invaded by exotic and invasive plant species. Invasive plant species do not have specific habitat requirements and can usually tolerate disturbed or degraded environments. In large populations, invasive plant species like reed canary grass and purple loosestrife can take over a site, replacing the native vegetation and reducing bio-diversity and habitat value.

Urban and agricultural developments within the Bellingham urban growth area have substantially reduced wildlife habitat through the years. However, valuable habitat qualities still remain in the undeveloped, large native vegetation tracts and around the remaining wetlands and riparian forests along the Whatcom and Padden Creeks valleys.

The wetlands and riparian zones within the Whatcom and Padden Creek and Lake Whatcom, Lake Samish, Lake Padden, and Toad Lake probably support muskrat, mink, river otter, beaver, raccoon, and weasel.

Water bodies, wetlands, and adjacent agricultural fields also provide suitable nesting and feeding habitat for mallard ducks, American widgeons, green-wing teal, common coot, common merganser, blue-wing teals and great blue heron, and lessor and greater Canadian geese.

Portions of the Bellingham urban growth area that overlook Puget Sound provide habitat for bald eagle and osprey. The bald eagle is listed as a threatened species on Washington State's endangered and threatened lists. Peregrine falcon are present within Bellingham and are a State Sensitive species and a federal species of concern.

Fisheries - city streams provide freshwater habitat for various species of anadromous fish, including salmon and sea-run trout that live in saltwater but return to spawn in freshwater. These fish species have evolved over time to fit the specific characteristics of their stream of origin - and are uniquely imprinted compared with other members of the same species.

Anadromous fish require cool, uncontaminated water with healthy streambeds and insect populations. Vegetated riparian areas maintain stream habitats by stabilizing water temperature, producing an insect supply, controlling erosion, and providing woody debris.

Game fish that have been identified in the area include rainbow trout, cutthroat, Dolly Varden, eastern brook trout, whitefish, largemouth bass, perch, crappie, and catfish. These species spawn and rear in medium

sized gravel beds that are provided with a medium velocity water flow along the creek channels, perennial and seasonal streams.

A number of fish runs are considered endangered or threatened in Whatcom County including spring chinook, fall chinook, and the sea-run cutthroat trout. Chinook salmon (Puget Sound), bull trout, and steelhead also are indicated for this area. Chinook and bull trout are (?) state candidates and federally threatened species. Washington Department of Fisheries & Wildlife and various Tribal Governments supplement the original stocks of most of these species with hatchery-raised fish.

Factors that have contributed to the decline of the wild runs include:

- habitat destruction resulting from forest clear-cutting and land developments that create sediment loads increasing water turbidity silting in gravel spawning beds, increase temperatures, loss of food sources and shelter;
- water diversions and blockades that restrict access to the upper reaches and spawning areas of stream and river runs.
- over harvesting that reduces spawning populations

4. Terrestrial habitat

Terrestrial areas are the upland areas located above freshwater, estuarine, and marine water zones. The zones may extend from the level lowlands that border wetland or creek banks to the tops of the bluffs, hills, or foothills located around Bellingham Bay, Lake Whatcom, Lake Samish, and Lake Padden.

Plants - natural plant communities are described in terms of broad plant patterns called vegetation zones. Washington plant communities are divided into 3 major vegetation groupings including:

- forests,
- grasslands and shrub/grass communities, and
- timberline and alpine areas.

Whatcom County includes 3 primary forested vegetation zones including the western hemlock, Pacific silver fir, and the mountain hemlock zone. The zones are defined by the different climates that are created by different elevations and the distinctive vegetation type that becomes dominant in a climax forest after the forest has progressed through successive stages of natural development. The dominant species defined by the zone usually reproduces to maintain dominance until some disturbance, such as fire, alters the zone's environment.

Bellingham and its urban growth area are located within the western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) vegetation zone. The western hemlock zone is the most extensive vegetation zone in western Washington extending from the Pacific coast to about the 2,500 foot elevation on the slopes of the Cascade Mountains where the climate is mild and generally wet.

The western hemlock zone is the major source of commercial harvested coniferous trees including the western hemlock, Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*). Grand fir, western white pine, and lodgepole pine also occur within this zone although on a sporadic basis.

Deciduous tree species such as red alder (*Alnus rubra*) or big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) are generally dominant on the lands that have been cleared for urban and agriculture uses within the Bellingham urban growth area. Black cottonwood along with red alder and big-leaf maple, tend to grow along major water courses.

Vegetation inventories have recently been completed for portions of the state and Whatcom County using a variety of aerial photos, landstat or infrared satellite photo imagery, and field reconnaissance. The inventories have distinguished a wide variety of vegetation types at a greater level of detail than the vegetation zones described above. For example, forest areas were further divided into lowland and mountain forests, deciduous and coniferous forests, and second growth and old growth forests.

These inventories determined that portions of the Bellingham urban growth area include several second growth lowland forested cover types including coniferous, deciduous, and mixed coniferous/deciduous forests. This forest type has marginal value as commercial timber or as unique vegetation. The majority of commercially important timber resources have been harvested, usually along with associated residential land development.

Under-story vegetation in the western hemlock zone varies substantially depending upon soils, wetness, and other environmental factors. Typical vegetation associations include:

- Douglas-fir/oceanspray association - on the driest sites with a typical shrub layer including oceanspray, hazel, snowberry, and salal;
- western hemlock/Oregon grape association - in climax stands with a typical shrub layer including vine maple, red huckleberry, trailing blackberry, and
- western hemlock/sword fern and/or western red cedar/lady fern association - on moist habitats with the understory dominated by sword fern and many species of herbs. A better descriptor here would be Western Red Cedar/ lady fern.

Deciduous hardwood trees including red alder, cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), willow (*Salix* sp.), and associated under-story species are dominant within the wetland areas.

Species - terrestrial zones support a variety of insects, amphibians, reptiles, lowland and upland birds, large and small mammals. Some species, such as eagles, osprey, and murrelets, forage in other habitats but nest in upland locations in wooded areas in or near riparian zones.

Other species may forage in all of the zones, particularly during the winter months, but retreat for night and seasonal cover into the upland wooded

areas. Examples include a variety of game species such as pigeon, grouse, rabbit, deer, and cougar.

Mature forested areas provide thermal cover during winter months allowing larger game mammals to forage up to 3,000 feet in elevation during normal seasons, or 2,000 feet during especially harsh winters in areas beyond the city's urban growth area.

Animals - urban and agricultural developments within the Bellingham urban growth area have substantially reduced wildlife habitat through the years. However, valuable habitat qualities still remain in the undeveloped, large native vegetation tracts and around the remaining wetlands and riparian (streamside) forests along Squalicum, Padden, and Chuckanut Creeks.

The wooded areas support a wide variety of large and small mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. The most common mammals within the wooded areas include Douglas squirrels, introduced eastern gray squirrels, introduced cottontail rabbits, opossums, skunks, and raccoons. Surprisingly large populations of larger mammals including black-tailed deer and coyote occur in Bellingham and urban growth area.

Crows, jays, nuthatches, woodpeckers, sparrows, winter wrens, ruffed grouse, band-tailed pigeon, owls, hawks, osprey, and eagles can find suitable habitat for feeding and nesting in the upland forest areas and stream valleys. Many of these species can tolerate adjacent urban developments so long as some habitat and connecting migration corridors remain undisturbed.

The bald eagle, peregrine falcon, merlin, blue heron, and pileated woodpecker are Washington State Species of concern that are known to still be located within the city and urban growth area.

Other species of special concern under Washington State's Department of Wildlife endangered, threatened, sensitive, candidate, and monitor species programs in the Bellingham urban growth area may include the purple martin, Vaux's swift, and western bluebird. Many of these remaining species can be found in close proximity to urbanized areas, although most need undisturbed vegetated areas large enough to maintain viable habitat.

Some remaining portions of the Nooksack River valley floor and other low-lying areas are now devoted to pastures and meadows with some agricultural crops, woody vegetation, grasses, and weeds. These materials provide food for migratory waterfowl and deer, habitat for rodents and other small animals, and prey for predators like garter snakes, barn owls, red-tailed hawks, and foxes.

Large and rural contiguous parcels of mature forest land provide habitat for wildlife that compete successfully with other species in deeper cover, like birds and larger mammals including deer, bobcat, and cougar at the outer edges of the urban areas.

Important terrestrial habitat elements for these species include tall trees along the shoreline, mature forests with snags and fallen trees, and undisturbed mature forest near or surrounding wetlands. These habitat elements are primarily important to bird species that nest and perch in the trees, and to small mammals like beaver and river otter that rely upon an interface between the undisturbed terrestrial and aquatic areas. Some of these priority habitat characteristics have been mapped in the city.

Other important habitats – bobcat, cougar, and black bear rely on large areas of continuous, undeveloped land that is relatively free of human activity and contact. A black bear's range, for example, may reach 10 miles in radius.

Migratory songbirds also rely on the habitat provided by large wooded areas. These species do not adapt well where clear-cutting forest practices or urban land developments have fragmented the forest habitat.

Smaller wooded tracts are suitable for many plant and animal communities and may provide temporary cover for some species for foraging or migratory movement. Large parks and open spaces can serve as wildlife refuges in urban areas. However, the number and diversity of species declines in direct relation to the size, quality and proximity to other natural areas.

The size and extent of the terrestrial habitat can be improved where natural migration corridors connect small tracts and large reserves. The natural migratory corridors enable species to colonize new areas, forage for food, find mates, and exchange genes with neighboring populations. Ideally, according to studies conducted in King County, successful wildlife migratory corridors should be at least 100 feet wide along streams with additional buffers above severe slopes and along extensive wetland areas.

5. *Unique and threatened species*

Unique species

The Washington Department of Natural Resources has listed a number of sensitive species (see detailed listing in the Appendix) in danger of becoming extinct within the marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial habitats including:

Marine and estuarine habitat

- Alaska alkali grass - that grows in salt marshes, mudflats, and gravelly areas near beaches and rock outcrops in sea spray, and
- pink sand verben - that grow along sandy beaches near saltwater.

Freshwater habitat

- bog clubmoss - that grows in wetlands adjacent to low elevation lakes,
- chain-fern - that grows along stream banks and moist seep areas, mostly near saltwater.
- bristly sedge - that grows in marshes and wet meadows,

- water lobelia (*Lobellia dortmanina*) - that grows in emergent freshwater wetlands,
- white meconella (*Meconella oregana*) - that grows on open ground where wet in the spring, and
- woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*) - that grows in wet low ground.

There are four threatened or endangered plants that could occur including:

- flowered sedge - found in and near sphagnum bogs,
- choriso bog orchid - found in wet meadows and bogs,
- fringed pinesap - found in deep shady woods at moderate to low elevations especially in old forest, and
- golden Indian paintbrush - found in moist lowland meadows and prairies.

Freshwater and terrestrial habitat

- western yellow oxalis - that grows in moist coastal woods and dry open slopes.

Terrestrial habitat

- fringed pinesap – that grows in duff and humus of shaded, low-elevation coniferous forest,
- gnome plant - that grows in deep humus in coniferous forest,
- chick lupine (*Lupinus micropcarpus*) - that grows in dry to moist soils, and
- great polemonium (*Polemonium carneum*) - that grows in thickets, woodlands, and forest openings.

Priority habitat

The Washington Department of Fisheries & Wildlife has listed the following species as being species of concern, threatened, or endangered:

Marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial habitat

- bald eagle - a threatened species that depend on coniferous, uneven-aged forests near rivers, lakes, marine, and estuarine zones for nesting and foraging food,
- great blue heron - that depend on undisturbed stands of tall trees near fresh and saltwater wetlands, streams, and water bodies,
- osprey - a species of concern that depend on tall trees or dead snags near large bodies of water,
- river otter - a threatened species that depend on wooded streams and estuaries for food, forage, and cover.
- harlequin duck – that depend on trees and shrub streams, banks, boulder and gravel shorelines, and kelp beds,

Marine, estuarine, and freshwater habitat

- black brant - a threatened species that depend on eelgrass beds, and
- harbor seal – that depend on marine environments for food and shorelines for mating and rearing activities.

Estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial habitat

- cavity nesting ducks - (Barrow's goldeneye, bufflehead, wood duck, hooded merganser) that depend on tree cavities adjacent to sloughs, lakes, beaver ponds, and other open water wetlands,

Freshwater and terrestrial habitat

- blue goose - that depend on open foothills created by fire or small clear-cuts with streams, springs, and other water features,
- band-tailed pigeon - that depend on coastal forests with diverse tree ages, and farmland, mineral springs, and streams with gravel deposits,
- sea-run and coastal cutthroat, and chinook salmon - that depend on wetlands and riparian corridors for spawning and rearing,
- steelhead - that depend on wetlands and riparian corridors for spawning and rearing,
- green heron - that depend on wooded ponds,
- beaver - that depend on wetlands and streams for food, forage, and cover,

Terrestrial habitat

- purple martin - a species of concern that depend on tree cavities in low lying forests,
- pileated woodpecker - that depend on mature second growth coniferous forests with snags and fallen trees,
- Columbian black-tailed deer - that depend on deep forest for cover.

Web Survey

Concurrent with the telephone survey in Appendix D, citizens had the opportunity to respond to a similar survey on-line at the City's web site.

q1 How many times have you visited any of the parks, trails, or other park facilities in Bellingham in the past year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Never	3	0.7	0.7	0.7
	1-5 times	15	3.3	3.3	3.9
	6-10 times	24	5.2	5.2	9.2
	11-20 times	46	10.0	10.0	19.2
	21-40 times	61	13.3	13.3	32.5
	41-60 times	67	14.6	14.6	47.2
	More than 60 times	242	52.8	52.8	100.0
	Total	458	100.0	100.0	

q3 Do you live within walking distance of a park?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	361	78.8	79.0	79.0
	No	96	21.0	21.0	100.0
	Total	457	99.8	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	1	0.2		
Total		458	100.0		

q4 Do you live within walking distance of a trail?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	364	79.5	80.4	80.4
	No	89	19.4	19.6	100.0
	Total	453	98.9	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	5	1.1		
Total		458	100.0		

q2 Are there other people living in your household?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	395	86.2	87.0	87.0
	No	59	12.9	13.0	100.0
	Total	454	99.1	100.0	
Missing	Prefer not to say	4	0.9		
Total		458	100.0		

q5 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?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	217	47.4	50.6	50.6
	No	212	46.3	49.4	100.0
	Total	429	93.7	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	28	6.1		
	Prefer not to say	1	0.2		
	Total	29	6.3		
Total		458	100.0		

q7 Which of the following park facilities have you (or someone in your household) used in the past year? (select all that apply)

	Count	% of Responses	% of Cases (N=458)
Tennis courts	93	3.3	20.3
Mountain biking trails	185	6.6	40.4
Other walking and biking trails	432	15.3	94.3
Outdoor athletic fields	150	5.3	32.8
Ice skating rink	78	2.8	17
Indoor soccer fields	86	3	18.8
Indoor gymnasiums	41	1.5	9
Outdoor basketball courts	70	2.5	15.3
Playgrounds	232	8.2	50.7
Off-leash dog areas	196	6.9	42.8
Golf courses	69	2.4	15.1
Frisbee golf courses	65	2.3	14.2
Picnic areas	302	10.7	65.9
Boat launches	144	5.1	31.4
Open spaces	334	11.8	72.9
Skate parks	37	1.3	8.1
Outdoor swimming areas or spray parks	161	5.7	35.2
Indoor swimming pools	145	5.1	31.7
None of these	4	0.1	0.9
Total Responses	2824	100	616.6

q7b How satisfied were you with the Tennis courts that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	20	4.4	22.2	22.2
	Somewhat satisfied	49	10.7	54.4	76.7
	Somewhat dissatisfied	12	2.6	13.3	90.0
	Completely dissatisfied	3	0.7	3.3	93.3
	No opinion	6	1.3	6.7	100.0
	Total	90	19.7	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	3	0.7		
	System	365	79.7		
	Total	368	80.3		
Total		458	100.0		

q8b How satisfied were you with the Mountain biking trails that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	46	10.0	25.0	25.0
	Somewhat satisfied	110	24.0	59.8	84.8
	Somewhat dissatisfied	13	2.8	7.1	91.8
	No opinion	15	3.3	8.2	100.0
	Total	184	40.2	100.0	
Missing	Prefer not to say	1	0.2		
	System	273	59.6		
	Total	274	59.8		
Total		458	100.0		

q9b How satisfied were you with the Other walking and biking trails that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	127	27.7	29.6	29.6
	Somewhat satisfied	255	55.7	59.4	89.0
	Somewhat dissatisfied	40	8.7	9.3	98.4
	Completely dissatisfied	2	0.4	0.5	98.8
	No opinion	5	1.1	1.2	100.0
	Total	429	93.7	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	2	0.4		
	Prefer not to say	1	0.2		
	System	26	5.7		
	Total	29	6.3		
Total		458	100.0		

q10b How satisfied were you with the Outdoor athletic fields that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	36	7.9	24.5	24.5
	Somewhat satisfied	68	14.8	46.3	70.7
	Somewhat dissatisfied	24	5.2	16.3	87.1
	Completely dissatisfied	3	0.7	2.0	89.1
	No opinion	16	3.5	10.9	100.0
	Total	147	32.1	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	3	0.7		
	System	308	67.2		
	Total	311	67.9		
Total		458	100.0		

q11b How satisfied were you with the Ice skating rink that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	35	7.6	46.1	46.1
	Somewhat satisfied	36	7.9	47.4	93.4
	Somewhat dissatisfied	2	0.4	2.6	96.1
	No opinion	3	0.7	3.9	100.0
	Total	76	16.6	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	2	0.4		
	System	380	83.0		
	Total	382	83.4		
Total		458	100.0		

q12b How satisfied were you with the Indoor soccer fields that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	35	7.6	40.7	40.7
	Somewhat satisfied	29	6.3	33.7	74.4
	Somewhat dissatisfied	15	3.3	17.4	91.9
	Completely dissatisfied	2	0.4	2.3	94.2
	No opinion	5	1.1	5.8	100.0
	Total	86	18.8	100.0	
Missing	System	372	81.2		
Total		458	100.0		

q13b How satisfied were you with the Indoor gymnasiums that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	7	1.5	18.9	18.9
	Somewhat satisfied	19	4.1	51.4	70.3
	Somewhat dissatisfied	4	0.9	10.8	81.1
	Completely dissatisfied	3	0.7	8.1	89.2
	No opinion	4	0.9	10.8	100.0
	Total	37	8.1	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	4	0.9		
	System	417	91.0		
	Total	421	91.9		
Total		458	100.0		

q14b How satisfied were you with the Outdoor basketball courts that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	14	3.1	20.9	20.9
	Somewhat satisfied	31	6.8	46.3	67.2
	Somewhat dissatisfied	13	2.8	19.4	86.6
	Completely dissatisfied	2	0.4	3.0	89.6
	No opinion	7	1.5	10.4	100.0
	Total	67	14.6	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	3	0.7		
	System	388	84.7		
	Total	391	85.4		
Total		458	100.0		

q15b How satisfied were you with the Playgrounds that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	66	14.4	28.9	28.9
	Somewhat satisfied	122	26.6	53.5	82.5
	Somewhat dissatisfied	25	5.5	11.0	93.4
	Completely dissatisfied	2	0.4	0.9	94.3
	No opinion	13	2.8	5.7	100.0
	Total	228	49.8	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	4	0.9		
	System	226	49.3		
	Total	230	50.2		
Total		458	100.0		

q16b How satisfied were you with the Off-leash dog areas that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	34	7.4	17.5	17.5
	Somewhat satisfied	77	16.8	39.7	57.2
	Somewhat dissatisfied	58	12.7	29.9	87.1
	Completely dissatisfied	22	4.8	11.3	98.5
	No opinion	3	0.7	1.5	100.0
	Total	194	42.4	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	2	0.4		
	System	262	57.2		
	Total	264	57.6		
Total		458	100.0		

q18b How satisfied were you with the Golf courses that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	34	7.4	50.7	50.7
	Somewhat satisfied	20	4.4	29.9	80.6
	Somewhat dissatisfied	4	0.9	6.0	86.6
	No opinion	9	2.0	13.4	100.0
	Total	67	14.6	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	3	0.7		
	System	388	84.7		
	Total	391	85.4		
Total		458	100.0		

q17b How satisfied were you with the Frisbee golf courses that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	12	2.6	18.8	18.8
	Somewhat satisfied	39	8.5	60.9	79.7
	Somewhat dissatisfied	9	2.0	14.1	93.8
	Completely dissatisfied	2	0.4	3.1	96.9
	No opinion	2	0.4	3.1	100.0
	Total	64	14.0	100.0	
Missing	System	394	86.0		
Total		458	100.0		

q19b How satisfied were you with the Picnic areas that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	109	23.8	36.1	36.1
	Somewhat satisfied	151	33.0	50.0	86.1
	Somewhat dissatisfied	30	6.6	9.9	96.0
	Completely dissatisfied	2	0.4	0.7	96.7
	No opinion	10	2.2	3.3	100.0
	Total	302	65.9	100.0	
Missing	System	156	34.1		
Total		458	100.0		

q20b How satisfied were you with the Boat launches that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	38	8.3	26.8	26.8
	Somewhat satisfied	63	13.8	44.4	71.1
	Somewhat dissatisfied	36	7.9	25.4	96.5
	Completely dissatisfied	3	0.7	2.1	98.6
	No opinion	2	0.4	1.4	100.0
	Total	142	31.0	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	2	0.4		
	System	314	68.6		
	Total	316	69.0		
Total		458	100.0		

q21b How satisfied were you with the Open spaces that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	70	15.3	21.4	21.4
	Somewhat satisfied	199	43.4	60.9	82.3
	Somewhat dissatisfied	47	10.3	14.4	96.6
	Completely dissatisfied	5	1.1	1.5	98.2
	No opinion	6	1.3	1.8	100.0
	Total	327	71.4	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	7	1.5		
	System	124	27.1		
	Total	131	28.6		
Total		458	100.0		

q22b How satisfied were you with the Skate parks that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	12	2.6	33.3	33.3
	Somewhat satisfied	13	2.8	36.1	69.4
	Somewhat dissatisfied	8	1.7	22.2	91.7
	Completely dissatisfied	3	0.7	8.3	100.0
	Total	36	7.9	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	1	0.2		
	System	421	91.9		
	Total	422	92.1		
Total		458	100.0		

q23b How satisfied were you with the Outdoor swimming areas or spray parks that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	43	9.4	26.7	26.7
	Somewhat satisfied	73	15.9	45.3	72.0
	Somewhat dissatisfied	33	7.2	20.5	92.5
	Completely dissatisfied	6	1.3	3.7	96.3
	No opinion	6	1.3	3.7	100.0
	Total	161	35.2	100.0	
Missing	System	297	64.8		
Total		458	100.0		

q24b How satisfied were you with the Indoor swimming pools that are currently available in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely satisfied	48	10.5	33.8	33.8
	Somewhat satisfied	62	13.5	43.7	77.5
	Somewhat dissatisfied	25	5.5	17.6	95.1
	Completely dissatisfied	5	1.1	3.5	98.6
	No opinion	2	0.4	1.4	100.0
	Total	142	31.0	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	3	0.7		
	System	313	68.3		
	Total	316	69.0		
Total		458	100.0		

Question lead in: The City has received many suggestions for improvements and expansions upon the current parks system. Below are descriptions of five possible efforts that the Parks Department may consider. Please rate how important each of these projects would be to you (or your household).

q26_r1 Improving water access.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Extremely important	224	48.9	49.0	49.0
	Very important	126	27.5	27.6	76.6
	Somewhat important	76	16.6	16.6	93.2
	Not very important	17	3.7	3.7	96.9
	Not at all important	14	3.1	3.1	100.0
	Total	457	99.8	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	1	0.2		
Total		458	100.0		

q26_r2 Improving trail connectivity.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Extremely important	278	60.7	60.8	60.8
	Very important	105	22.9	23.0	83.8
	Somewhat important	47	10.3	10.3	94.1
	Not very important	16	3.5	3.5	97.6
	Not at all important	11	2.4	2.4	100.0
	Total	457	99.8	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	1	0.2		
Total		458	100.0		

q26_r3 More multipurpose athletic playing fields.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Extremely important	43	9.4	9.6	9.6
	Very important	76	16.6	16.9	26.4
	Somewhat important	171	37.3	38.0	64.4
	Not very important	87	19.0	19.3	83.8
	Not at all important	73	15.9	16.2	100.0
	Total	450	98.3	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	8	1.7		
Total		458	100.0		

q26_r4 Improving distribution of parks across Bellingham.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Extremely important	187	40.8	41.2	41.2
	Very important	117	25.5	25.8	67.0
	Somewhat important	94	20.5	20.7	87.7
	Not very important	35	7.6	7.7	95.4
	Not at all important	21	4.6	4.6	100.0
	Total	454	99.1	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	3	0.7		
	Prefer not to say	1	0.2		
	Total	4	0.9		
Total		458	100.0		

q26_r5 Improving facilities and maintenance for parks we already have.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Extremely important	152	33.2	33.6	33.6
	Very important	141	30.8	31.1	64.7
	Somewhat important	110	24.0	24.3	89.0
	Not very important	32	7.0	7.1	96.0
	Not at all important	18	3.9	4.0	100.0
	Total	453	98.9	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	5	1.1		
Total		458	100.0		

q31 Which types of water access are most important to you? (Select up to two responses)

	Count	% of Responses	% of Cases (N=426)
Trails with views of the water	271	35.1	63.6
Parks with views of the water	205	26.6	48.1
Places to wade or swim in the water	116	15	27.2
Places to put in small boats like canoes and kayaks	132	17.1	31
Other types of water access	44	5.7	10.3
None	4	0.5	0.9
Total Responses	772	100	181.5

q33 It has been identified that there is not enough parkland in North Bellingham. Which two ways do you think The City should expand parkland in North Bellingham? (Select up to two responses)

	Count	% of Responses	% of Cases (N=458)
Create a large community park (10 – 20 acres)	196	24.8	42.8
Increase the number of small neighborhood parks	204	25.9	44.5
Create interconnected trail systems	313	39.7	68.3
Something else (please specify)	54	6.8	11.8
None	13	1.6	2.8
Prefer not to say	9	1.1	2
Total Responses	789	100	172.3

q34 If additional funding were needed for Bellingham

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly likely	247	53.9	55.3	55.3
	Somewhat likely	137	29.9	30.6	85.9
	Somewhat unlikely	24	5.2	5.4	91.3
	Not at all likely	39	8.5	8.7	100.0
	Total	447	97.6	100.0	
Missing	Prefer not to say	11	2.4		
Total		458	100.0		

q35 If a bond or levy were to be put on the ballot to finance your highest priority projects, how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0.00	44	9.6	10.4	10.4
	0.02	1	0.2	0.2	10.6
	1.00	2	0.4	0.5	11.1
	2.00	1	0.2	0.2	11.3
	3.00	2	0.4	0.5	11.8
	4.00	1	0.2	0.2	12.1
	5.00	3	0.7	0.7	12.8
	10.00	13	2.8	3.1	15.8
	12.00	1	0.2	0.2	16.1
	15.00	2	0.4	0.5	16.5
	20.00	17	3.7	4.0	20.6
	25.00	17	3.7	4.0	24.6
	30.00	6	1.3	1.4	26.0
	35.00	3	0.7	0.7	26.7
	40.00	7	1.5	1.7	28.4
	50.00	71	15.5	16.8	45.2
	60.00	5	1.1	1.2	46.3
	75.00	12	2.6	2.8	49.2
	90.00	1	0.2	0.2	49.4
	100.00	105	22.9	24.8	74.2
	120.00	10	2.2	2.4	76.6
	150.00	12	2.6	2.8	79.4
	200.00	40	8.7	9.5	88.9
	240.00	4	0.9	0.9	89.8
	250.00	10	2.2	2.4	92.2
	279.56	1	0.2	0.2	92.4
	300.00	9	2.0	2.1	94.6
	350.00	1	0.2	0.2	94.8
	500.00	12	2.6	2.8	97.6
	600.00	2	0.4	0.5	98.1
	700.00	1	0.2	0.2	98.3
	750.00	1	0.2	0.2	98.6
	1,000.00	6	1.3	1.4	100.0
	Total	423	92.4	100.0	
Missing	System	35	7.6		
Total		458	100.0		

Q35 Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
q35 If a bond or levy were to be put on the ballot to finance your highest priority projects, how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?	423	.00	1000.00	116.5735	155.96403
Valid N (listwise)	423				

q36 Do you live in the City of Bellingham?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	411	89.7	90.1	90.1
No	45	9.8	9.9	100.0
Total	456	99.6	100.0	
Missing Prefer not to say	2	0.4		
Total	458	100.0		

q36b Do you live in Bellingham's Urban Growth Area?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	18	3.9	47.4	47.4
No	20	4.4	52.6	100.0
Total	38	8.3	100.0	
Missing Don't know	8	1.7		
Prefer not to say	1	0.2		
System	411	89.7		
Total	420	91.7		
Total	458	100.0		

q37a Do you live East or West of I5?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid East of I-5	134	29.3	32.9	32.9
West of I-5	273	59.6	67.1	100.0
Total	407	88.9	100.0	
Missing Don't know	2	0.4		
Prefer not to say	2	0.4		
System	47	10.3		
Total	51	11.1		
Total	458	100.0		

q37b Do you live North or South of Lakeway?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	North of Lakeway	260	56.8	63.7	63.7
	South of Lakeway	148	32.3	36.3	100.0
	Total	408	89.1	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	1	0.2		
	Prefer not to say	2	0.4		
	System	47	10.3		
	Total	50	10.9		
Total		458	100.0		

q38 What age group do you belong to?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-24	13	2.8	2.9	2.9
	25-34	59	12.9	13.0	15.9
	35-44	106	23.1	23.3	39.2
	45-54	109	23.8	24.0	63.2
	55-64	118	25.8	26.0	89.2
	65-74	39	8.5	8.6	97.8
	75 or older	10	2.2	2.2	100.0
	Total	454	99.1	100.0	
Missing	Prefer not to say	4	0.9		
Total		458	100.0		

q39 Are there children under the age of 18 living in your household?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	153	33.4	39.0	39.0
	No	239	52.2	61.0	100.0
	Total	392	85.6	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	1	0.2		
	Prefer not to say	6	1.3		
	System	59	12.9		
	Total	66	14.4		
Total		458	100.0		

q40 Are you....

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	195	42.6	43.7	43.7
	Female	251	54.8	56.3	100.0
	Total	446	97.4	100.0	
Missing	Prefer not to say	12	2.6		
Total		458	100.0		

Telephone Survey Results

See attached report.

FINAL REPORT

**City of Bellingham
Department of Parks and Recreation
Park, Recreation, and Open Space
Plan Update Survey**

April, 2008

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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 300 Bellingham residents. This survey was 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.

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

A web survey was administered during this same period. The survey was accessible through a link on the City of Bellingham website. During this period 460 cases were collected and have been summarized in a separate report.

Frequency of park visits

Respondents were asked about the frequency of their park usage. Nearly half of respondents said that they have used park facilities more than 40 times in the past year. Factors that appear to have an impact on park usage include household location. Not surprisingly, proximity of the household to trails and parks was related to frequency of park visits. Also, living south of Lakeway was related to park visits. Age also played a role with respondents in the middle range of ages (35 to 54) visiting with the highest frequency.

Household proximity to trails and parks

Most respondents (83%) said they live within walking distance of a trail. A slightly smaller but comparable majority said they live in walking distance to a park. Respondents who said they live west of I-5 were more likely than those east of I-5 to say they live near a park. Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 were also more likely to live near a park.

Participation in recreational programming

About a third of respondents said that their household has participated in some sort of recreational programming in the past year. Some groups were especially likely to have participated: frequent park users, respondents under the age of 55 and respondents with children in the household.

When asked to specify what other types of recreational opportunities they would like to see, the responses were varied and specific. The most common theme among these comments had to do with serving specific age groups (e.g. children, seniors). Specific types of programming were also suggested.

Facility Use

When asked what types of park facilities members of their household have used in the past year, top mentions included walking and biking trails, picnic areas and open spaces. The facilities used by the smallest proportion of respondents were Frisbee golf courses and skate parks.

Frequent park users, respondents under the age of 55 and respondents with children in the household were more likely to have used most facilities than their counterparts. Other subgroups emerged in the analysis as being particularly likely to have used certain types of facilities. There were some differences based on living north or south of Lakeway.

When asked if there are any types of park facilities that they would like to use that don't currently exist in Bellingham about one-quarter said yes. This was especially true of respondents with children in the household respondents who have used an off-leash dog area in the past year. These groups were reflected in the specific types of facilities mentioned with greatest frequency: more off leash dog areas, covered play spaces and improvements to swimming areas.

Park Facilities Satisfaction

Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the facilities that they have used in the past year. Top rated facilities included golf courses, the ice skating rink, walking and biking trails, and picnic areas. Greatest dissatisfaction went to skate parks, boat launches and off-leash dog areas. However, even the lowest rated areas garnered very high ratings (80% satisfied).

Parks Priorities

Respondents were presented with five possible park projects and asked to rate their importance for Bellingham Parks. When looking at the overall distribution of responses, the most favorable ratings went to improving maintenance of existing parks and improving trail connectivity. The lowest ratings went to the addition of multipurpose athletic fields.

Two subgroups yielded significantly different preferences: frequent park users were more likely than their counterparts to rate improving trail connectivity as *extremely important*. The same was true for respondents with children living in the household in regard to the addition of multipurpose athletic fields.

Prioritizing ways of improving water access

Respondents who said that improving water access would be an important project ranked “*trails with views of the water*” as the best way to improve water access. Also ranked highly was “*places to wade or swim in the water*”.

Prioritizing improvements to existing parks

Respondents who said that improvements to existing parks would be an important project were asked to specify one or two ways they would like to see the current parks improved. Top mentions included general park maintenance, additions of specific amenities, and issues regarding bathrooms, safety, and trail connectivity.

Prioritizing ways of increasing parkland in North Bellingham

When asked to identify the most important ways to increase parkland in North Bellingham, the top choice was creating interconnected trail systems followed by increasing small neighborhood parks.

Funding

Respondents were asked to consider how the highest priority park projects (like those mentioned in the survey) would be funded. A majority of respondents (74%) said they would be *somewhat* or *highly likely* to support such funding. These groups were especially likely to be supportive of a bond or levy: frequent and moderate park users, respondents with children in the household and respondents aged 35-54.

Although respondents were favorable of supporting a bond or levy, they had difficulty arriving at a number that they would be willing to pay. A solid majority of respondents didn't know or wanted more information to answer this question. However, among those who did come up with a number, the average amount cited was \$120.82.

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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.

The survey consisted of 39 items, including 4 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 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%.

A web survey was administered during this same period. The survey was accessible through a link on the City of Bellingham website. During this period 460 cases were collected and have been summarized in a separate report.

A complete description of the methods used in the phone 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. Additionally, subgroup differences are presented where relevant. Subgroup analysis involved comparing smaller populations of interest to see if their responses differed significantly from one another. The primary subgroups of interest were defined by these survey items:

- Frequency of park use (frequent/moderate/infrequent users)
- Living in walking distance to a park or trail (yes/no)
- Using an off-leash dog area in the past year (yes/no)
- Neighborhood (South/North of Lakeway and East/West of Interstate 5)
- Age (Under 35/Ages 35-54/55+)
- Children in the household (yes/no)
- Gender (male/female)

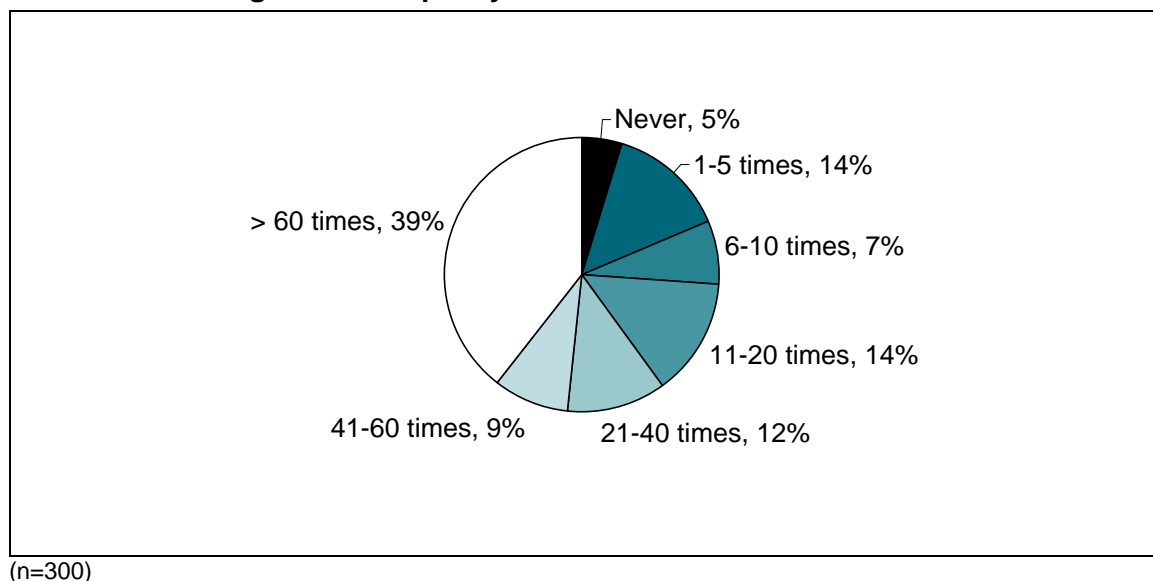
PARK USE

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. Nearly half of respondents (48%) said that they have used park facilities more than 40 times in the past year, with a sizable portion (39%) saying that they have visited parks more than 60 times. Figure 1 shows that 5% 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?



Subgroup comparisons

Analysis looked at which subgroups were particularly frequent users of the parks. The following groups were more likely to be highly frequent users (over 60 visits) than their counterparts: Respondents who lived...

- Within walking distance of a park (43% vs 27%)
- Within walking distance of a trail (44% vs 22%)
- South of Lakeway (49% vs 34% of respondents living north of Lakeway)

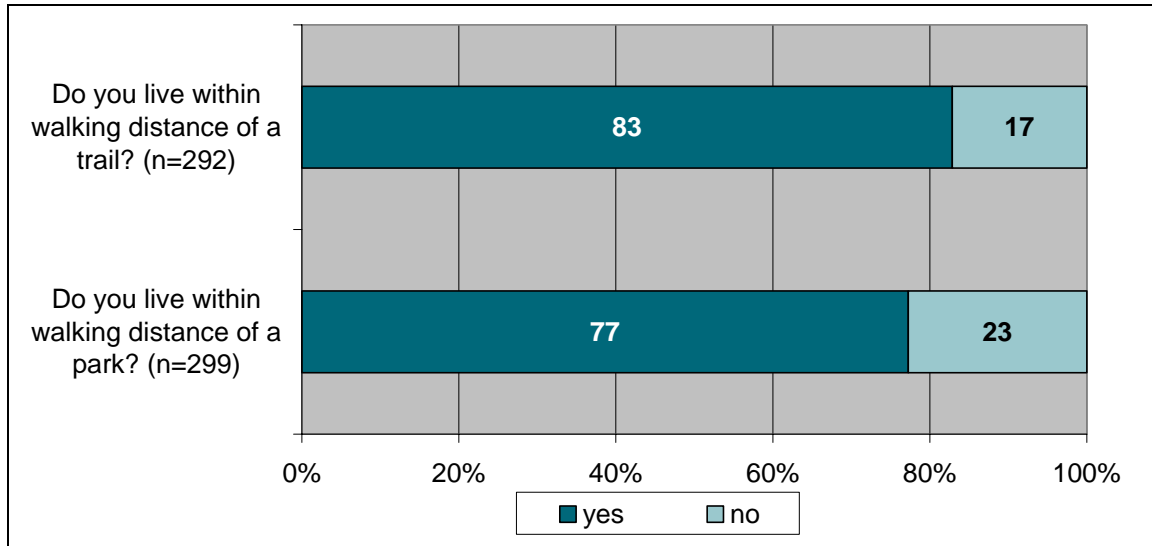
In addition, respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 were more likely to have visited parks more than 60 times (50% vs. 39% of younger respondents and 31% of older respondents).

For the purposes of this report, respondents who have used the parks more than 40 times in the past year will be called “frequent users”. Respondents who have used the parks between 11 and 40 times will be called “moderate users” and respondents who have used the parks 10 times or less will be called “infrequent users”.

Household proximity to trails and parks

Respondents were asked if they lived within walking distance to trails and parks. They were informed that walking distance means about a ten minute walk or less. Figure 2 shows that most respondents (83%) said they lived within walking distance of a trail. A slightly smaller but comparable majority said they lived in walking distance to a park (77%).

Figure 2. Do you live within walking distance of a trail/park?



Subgroup comparisons

Respondents who said they lived within walking distance of a trail were significantly more likely to say that they lived within walking distance of a park. The reverse was also true. Additionally, these groups were more likely to say they lived within walking distance of a park: Respondents who...

- Lived west of Interstate 5 (83% vs 74%)
- Were between the ages of 35 and 54 (87% vs 77% of younger respondents and 64% of older respondents).

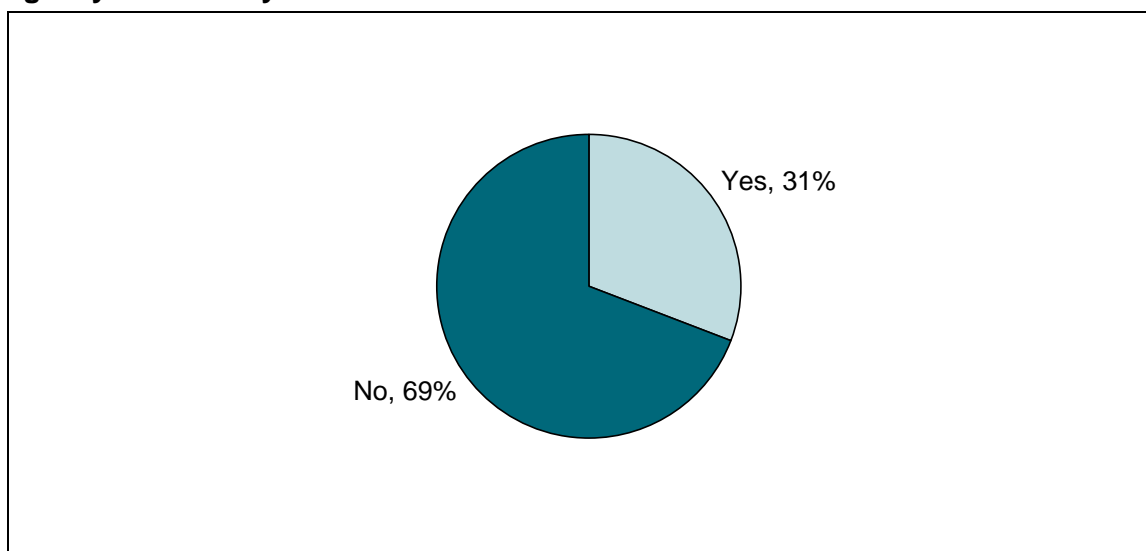
When comparing responses of residents who lived north and south of Lakeway, residents from the south side were slightly more likely to say they lived within walking distance of a park. This difference was approaching statistical significance (83% vs 74%).

Participation in recreational programming

Respondents were asked if they have participated in any recreational programs available in Bellingham. Figure 3 shows that almost one-third of respondents (31%) said that they had participated in some sort of programming (by the city or otherwise) in the past year. Those who had participated were more likely to be:

- Frequent park users (46% vs 16% of infrequent and moderate park users),
- Respondents under the age of 55 (40% vs 19%), and
- Respondents with children in the household (55% vs 17%).

Figure 3. 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=293)

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-eight percent (28%) said yes. Respondents under the age of 55 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, the responses were varied and specific. The most common theme in these comments had to do with serving specific age groups. For example, some respondents asked for more activities for toddlers and young children. Their requests were fairly general and included more indoor programming and environmental education.

Respondents were more specific when requesting activities for older children, middle-school-aged children and teens. Suggestions included classes or programming in bikes and bike safety, lacrosse, hiking, archery, volleyball and service (volunteering).

There were also some requests for senior-oriented programming including softball and aerobics.

Other suggestions that arose more than once included:

- Programming for the disabled
- More outdoor concerts
- More organized hikes and walks
- Boating related programming (sailing, kayaking, canoeing)
- Programs targeting lower income populations

Facility 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 87% of respondents saying they have used them. Picnic areas (71%) and open spaces (61%) were also visited by more than half of the respondents. The facilities used by the smallest proportion of respondents were Frisbee golf courses (11%) and skate parks (8%).

Table 1. Facilities used in the past year		
<u>Parks Facility</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Walking and biking trails (not mountain biking)	252	87
Picnic areas	204	71
Open spaces	176	61
Playgrounds	139	48
Outdoor swimming areas/spray parks	114	39
Indoor Swimming Pools	112	39
Mountain biking trails	105	36
Outdoor athletic fields	104	36
Off-leash dog areas	81	28
Outdoor basketball courts	69	24
Boat launches	67	23
The ice skating rink	64	22
Golf courses	60	21
Indoor gymnasiums	56	19
Tennis courts	53	18
Indoor soccer fields	47	16
Frisbee golf courses	32	11
Skate parks	22	8

(n=300)

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

Subgroup comparisons

Analysis showed there were significantly different usage patterns in several groups.

- Frequent park users were significantly more likely to cite household usage of most facilities compared to infrequent and moderate park users. The exceptions to this included playgrounds, golf courses, Frisbee golf courses, and skate parks, which were used equally by frequent, moderate and infrequent users.
- Respondents under the age of 55 were significantly more likely to cite household usage of all facilities, with the exception of golf courses.
- Households south of Lakeway were significantly more likely to use walking and biking trails, off-leash dog areas and open spaces.
- Households north of Lakeway were more likely to use playgrounds. (Note: respondents from north of Lakeway were not more likely to have children in the household).
- Households within walking distance of a trail were more likely to have used walking and biking trails and golf courses.
- Households within walking distance of a park were also more likely to have used walking and biking trails and golf courses, as well as outdoor athletic fields, indoor soccer fields, outdoor basketball courts and open spaces.
- Households with children were more likely to use all facilities except off-leash dog areas, golf courses, Frisbee golf courses, and open spaces.

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-five percent (25%) said yes. Two subgroups were significantly more likely to say this:

- Respondents with children in the household (38% vs 19%)
- Respondents who have used an off-leash dog area in the past year (37% vs 21%)

When asked to specify what types of facilities they would like to see, 70 people gave responses. The single most frequently cited suggestion was more off-leash dog areas.

Another issue that arose with similar frequency, but with more variation in the specification of request, had to do with indoor and covered facilities. Respondents mentioned the rainy weather and the need for indoor gymnasiums and general play spaces, especially for children.

"It would be really nice to have a park area that you can go to in the rain that is covered; so in the fall and spring we could go to the park more often."

Swimming areas came up with similar frequency as well. Mentions included more swimming pools, an outdoor pool, and better access to beaches.

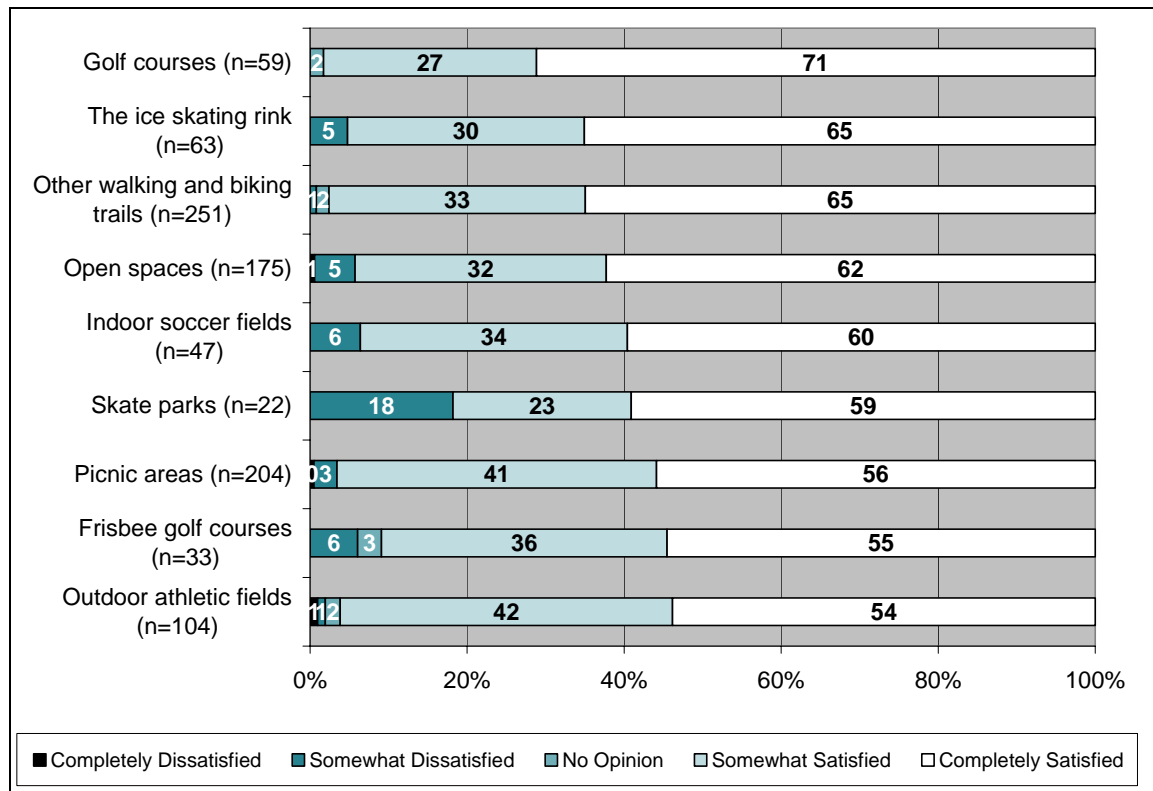
Other facilities or issues that were mentioned multiple times included:

- Tennis courts
- Racquetball/Squash courts
- A roller skating rink
- Better distribution of parks
- Canoe and kayak rentals/places to put in kayaks
- Specific types of trails or specific improvements to trails
- Better wheelchair access/facilities

PARK FACILITIES SATISFACTION

Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the facilities that they have used in the past year. Figure 4 shows the nine top-rated types of facilities. The type of facility garnering the highest proportion of *completely satisfied* ratings was golf courses (71%) followed by the ice skating rink and walking and biking trails (both with 65%). When combining *completely satisfied* and *somewhat satisfied*, two other facilities emerge as especially highly rated: picnic areas (97% satisfied) and outdoor athletic fields (96% satisfied).

Figure 4. Satisfaction with facilities, Part 1



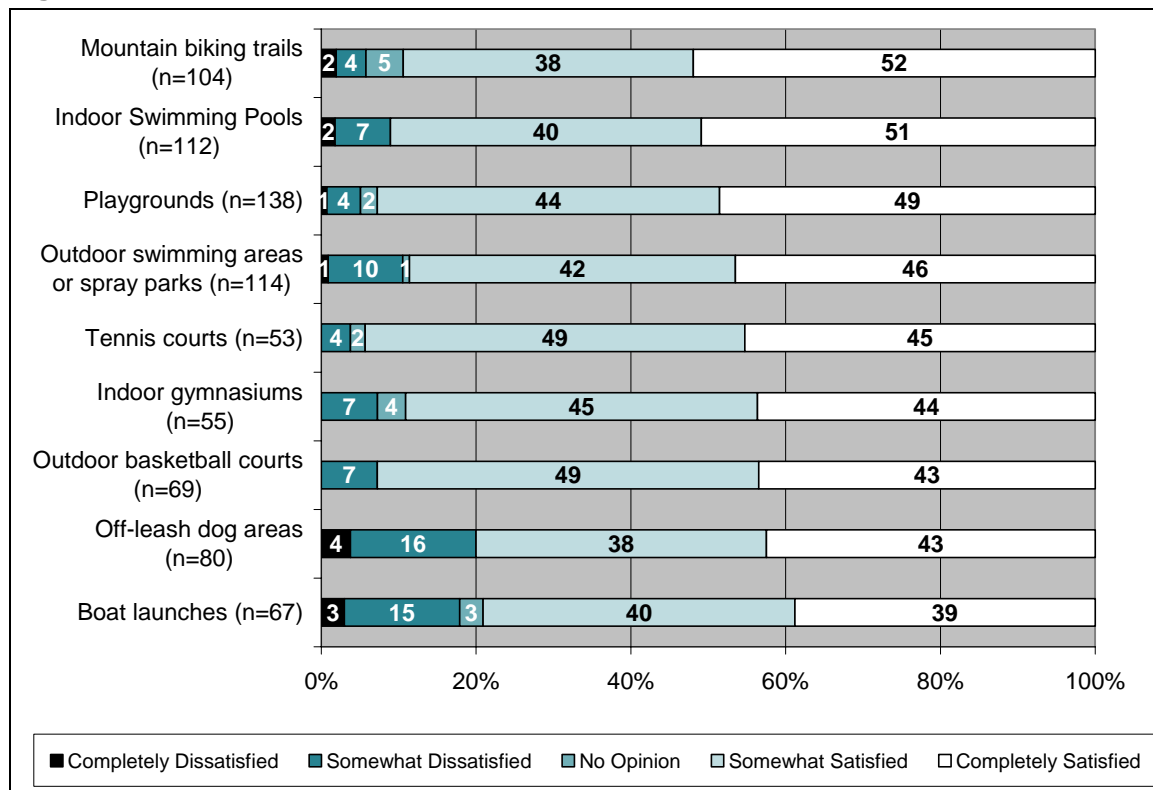
Responses are ranked by *completely satisfied*

It is interesting to note that although skate parks ranked fairly high in terms of *completely satisfied* ratings (59%), it also had a relatively high dissatisfaction rating (18%).

Figure 5 shows the second half of the satisfaction ratings for Bellingham Park facilities. When looking at combined satisfaction scores (*somewhat* and *completely satisfied*) the lowest ranked facilities still satisfied approximately 8 out of 10 respondents.

The areas with the highest combined dissatisfaction scores (*completely* and *somewhat dissatisfied*) were off-leash dog areas (20%), skate parks (18%), boat launches (18%), and outdoor swimming areas (11%).

Figure 5. Satisfaction with facilities, Part 2



Responses are ranked by *completely satisfied*

Subgroup differences

Analysis of satisfaction among various subgroups did not show many significant differences.

- Frequent and moderate park users were more satisfied with indoor gymnasiums and golf courses.
- People who live south of Lakeway were more satisfied with golf courses.
- People who live east of I-5 were more satisfied with both mountain biking trails and other walking and biking trails.

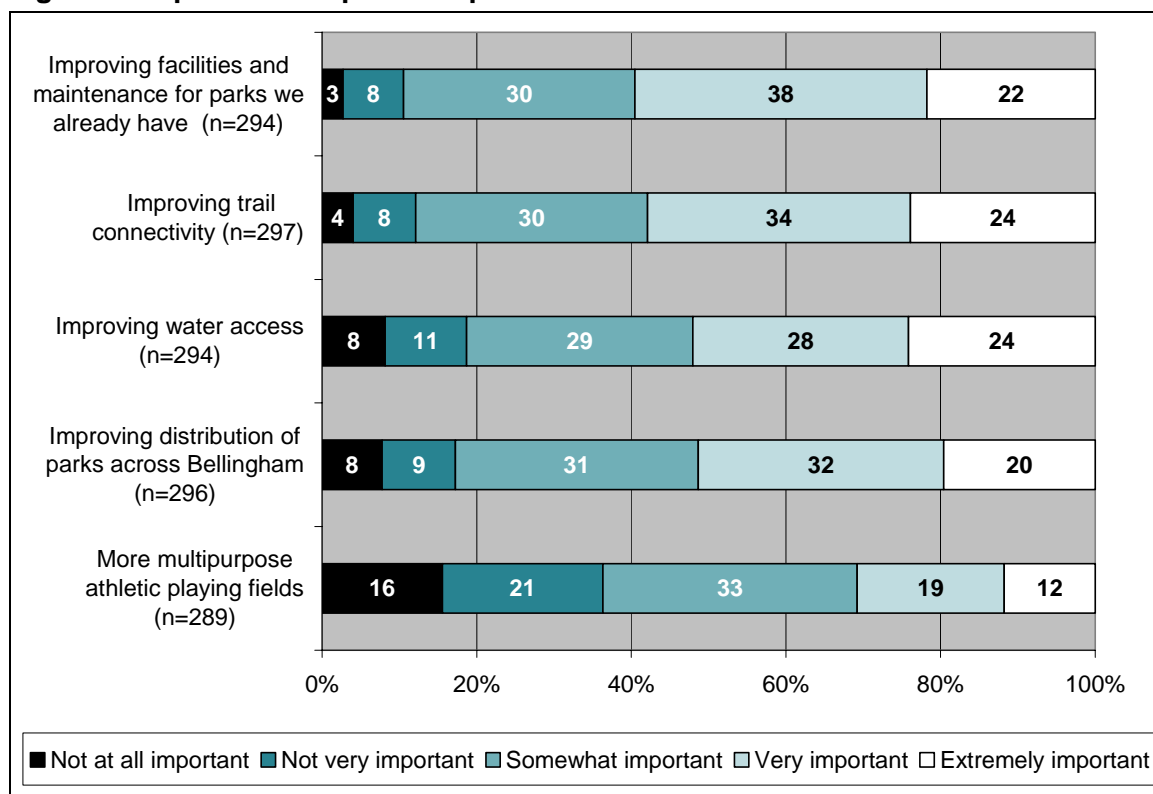
PARKS PRIORITIES

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

Possible Parks Projects Ratings

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of five different possible park projects. Figure 6 shows that one-quarter (24%) of respondents said that improving trail connectivity and water access are *extremely important*. However, when looking at the combined ratings of *very* and *extremely important*, improving and maintaining current facilities emerged as the top rated possible park project. This project also garnered the smallest proportion of unfavorable ratings; 11% called it *not at all* or *not very important* compared to 37% who said this about adding more multipurpose athletic fields.

Figure 6. Importance of possible park efforts



Subgroup comparisons

Analysis found three differences among the distributions of importance ratings within the subgroups:

- Respondents who live within walking distance of a trail were significantly more likely to rate improving water access as extremely important (28% vs 12% of those who don't live near a trail).
- Frequent park users were especially likely to rate improving trail connectivity as *extremely important* (34% compared to 18% of moderate users and 10% of infrequent users).
- Respondents with children living in the household were more likely to rate the addition of multipurpose athletic fields as *extremely important* (18% vs 9%).

Prioritizing ways of improving water access

Respondents who said that improving water access would be an important project were asked to select the top ways they would like to see this happen. Table 2 shows that the highest rated way to improve water access would be to add more trails with views of the water (55%). Nearly half of the respondents identified places to wade or swim in the water as an important way to improve access (48%).

Table 2. Most important ways to improve water access		
<u>Type of water access</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Trails with views of the water	128	55
Places to wade or swim in the water	112	48
Places to put in small boats like canoes or kayaks	88	38
Parks with views of the water	72	31
Other types of water access	25	11

(n=234)

Respondents were allowed to select their top two ways; numbers will total more than 100%

Just over one in ten of these respondents (11%) selected “other types of water access”. When asked to specify, the two most frequent mentions were beach access and larger boat access, frequently mentioned in combination with other pleasure craft and water sports. For example:

“Just beaches; more public beaches and less privately-owned waterfront.”

“Boat launch facilities for larger boats, and areas for jet-skis.”

Prioritizing improvements to existing parks

Respondents who said that improvements to 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.

Table 3. Most important ways to improve existing parks		
<u>Method of Improvement</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Maintenance overall	91	42
Maintenance: general/other	39	18
Maintenance: trash/garbage	19	9
Maintenance: drainage/mud	14	6
Maintenance: trails	10	5
Maintenance: landscaping	9	4
Park amenities overall	68	31
Amenities: new/improved specific park facilities	16	7
Amenities: seating/benches	9	4
Amenities: parking	8	4
Amenities: lifeguards	6	3
Amenities: water (drinking/washing)	5	2
Amenities: concessions/food vendors	4	2
Amenities: other amenities	20	9
Restrooms (maintenance, additions, access)	32	15
Safety (crime/unsafe facilities)	26	12
Trail connectivity/extending trail	25	12
More/updated/diverse/maintained playgrounds	20	9
Dog control & clean up; enforcement of leash laws	12	6
More/improved/maintained dog areas	11	5
Improvements and additions to picnic areas	10	5
Satisfied with Parks Currently	8	4
Other	30	14

(n=216)

The most frequently mentioned suggestion for improving existing parks was overall park maintenance (42%). These responses were further broken down for specific types of maintenance. The most common specific type of maintenance suggestion related to trash (9%). There was also a theme about drainage and mud (6%) which may be elevated because of the time of year this survey was conducted.

A second common theme was overall park amenities. This category was also broken down into specific types of amenities. The most frequent specific examples were requests for improved seating (4%) and parking (4%).

Fifteen percent (15%) of respondents mentioned restrooms. Specific requests were for additional bathrooms, maintenance on bathrooms, and less bathroom closures.

Other top mentions from 12% of the respondents included concerns about safety and requests for extended trails and improved trail connectivity.

Prioritizing ways of increasing parkland in North Bellingham

All respondents were asked to identify the most important ways to increase parkland in North Bellingham, and multiple ways could be selected. Table 3 shows that creating interconnected trail systems was ranked first (60%) followed by increasing small neighborhood parks (54%). Creating a large community park was also supported by 42% of respondents.

Table 4. Most important ways to increase park land in North Bellingham		
<u>Method of increasing parks</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Create interconnected trail systems	169	60
Increase the number of small neighborhood parks	154	54
Create a large community park	120	42
Something else	30	11

(n=283)

Respondents were allowed to select their top two ways; numbers will total more than 100%

Just over one out of ten respondents (11%) said that an important way to increase park land in North Bellingham was “something else”. When asked to specify what they meant by “something else” the responses were varied. Some mentioned general approval for more parks while others gave specific suggestions for park facilities. A minority (4%) took this opportunity to express opposition to more parks.

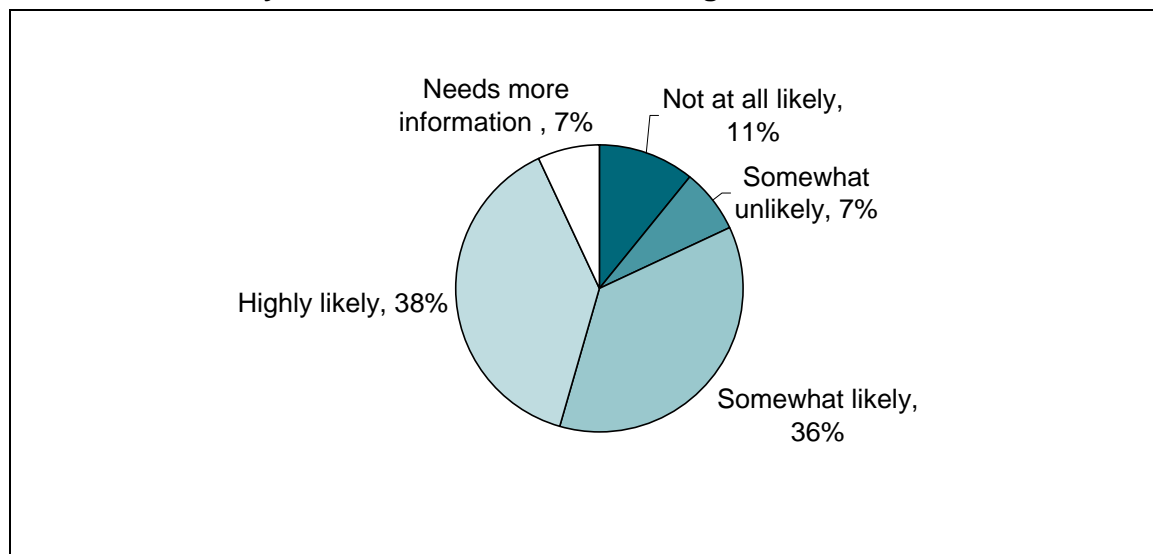
FUNDING

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

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. Nearly three-quarters (74%) said they would be *somewhat* or *highly likely* to support such funding.

Figure 7. 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.

Subgroup comparisons

Analysis found some differences between subgroups on this item. These groups were significantly more likely to say they were *highly likely* to support a bond or levy:

- Frequent and moderate park users (45% vs 21% of infrequent users)
- Respondents with children in the household (48% vs 35%)
- Respondents aged 35-54 (45% vs 32% of those 55 and older).

In addition to these subgroups, further analysis looked to see if users of any particular facilities were especially likely to say they would be supportive of funding. For each type of facility, the response distribution of users was compared to non-users. The

following groups were significantly more likely than their counterparts to support a bond or levy (figures in parentheses indicate proportion of *highly likely*):

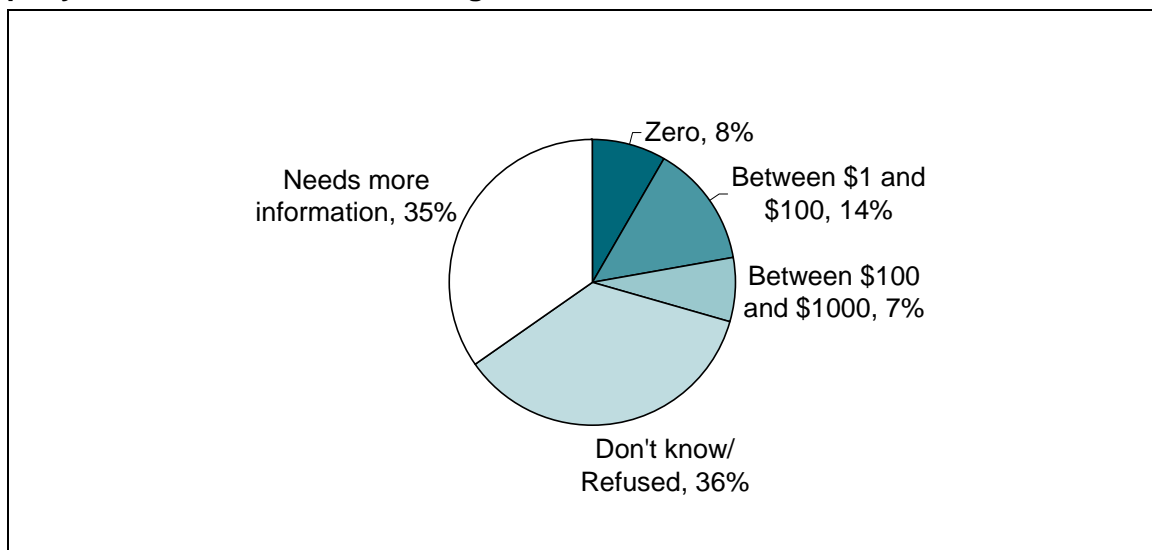
- Mountain biking trails (58%)
- Other walking and biking trails (47%)
- Playgrounds (50%)
- Off-leash dog areas (50%)
- Picnic areas (46%)
- Open spaces (49%)

It is noted that these are core areas that were generally used by the highest proportion of park users.

Willingness to pay

Respondents were also asked how much they would be willing to pay per year for a bond or levy to cover new park project costs. Most people were unwilling or unable to answer this question (71% said *don't know* or that they needed more information). Among those who did provide an answer, the average amount cited was \$120.82. The median amount was \$50. Eight percent (8%) said they would be unwilling to pay anything more for parks.

Figure 8. If a bond or levy were to be put on the ballot to finance your highest priority projects, how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding?



(n=300)

CONCLUSION

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

Some subgroups demonstrated particularly strong engagement. Respondents who are under the age of 55 and respondents who have children in the household had distinctive response patterns that identified them as particularly engaged with parks. However, when it came to satisfaction with facilities, there were very few differences; residents are satisfied across the board.

Respondents showed that overall there is strong support for Bellingham focusing efforts on maintaining the parks that currently exist. A second area of focus that residents think is important is improving trail connectivity. This was especially important to park users who visit parks with the most frequency.

Respondents showed that they are likely to support a bond or levy to cover costs for projects like these, though they would need more information to agree to the exact amount that they themselves would be willing to pay.

APPENDIX A: RESEARCH METHODS

The survey was administered by telephone during the period from February 25th, 2008 to March 18th, 2008 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. Up to 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 March 3 through March 18, 2008). The survey was accessible through a link on the City of Bellingham website. During this period 460 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 Results Summary (Phone Survey)	
	N
Complete	300
Partial Complete	9
Soft Refusal *	123
Refused	122
No Answer/Machine/Busy	368
Callback	7
Total Valid Contact	929
Bad Number	1350
Unable - Language	15
Unable - Physical/Mental	22
Not Qualified -- not in city	166
Already Responded	1
Max Attempts - 5x	328
Total Invalid Contacts	1882
Total	2811
Response Rate (completes/valid)	32%
Average Length of Survey	12:09
*When a respondent terminates a call prior to establishing eligibility, the call is coded "Soft Refusal." Qualified respondents informed of the intent of the survey who refuse to participate are coded "refused."	

Data Quality

An extensive interviewer training session was conducted as a part of the official launch of the phone study. This training consisted of an overview of the study's purpose and goals. Interviewers then read through the survey, practiced with the script, and then made live calls to residents of Bellingham. This comprehensive process not only gives the interviewers invaluable experience with the survey script, but it also provides feedback to researchers about respondents' understanding of the questions and issues raised throughout the course of an interview.

Respondents were prompted to provide an answer to each question using a fixed answer scale. Respondents that did not use the scale were prompted again with the potential choices until they selected the one that best fit their opinion. Open-ended responses were typed as the respondent spoke, probed for clarity, then read back to the respondent for validation. Finally, the open-ended items were minimally edited for readability.

The overall quota of completed surveys (300) was set such that the results estimated would likely have less than a 6% margin of error. This level of scientific precision attenuates the chances that the findings presented in this report are due to chance, and makes the information reported here much more generalizable to the larger population.

Table A2 compares the characteristics of respondents to the survey to city of Bellingham residents. 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.

Table A2. Comparison of Sample and Population		
Age/Sex	Survey Respondents %	*Estimate of Adults in Bellingham %
18 to 24	3	13
25 to 34	14	16
35 to 44	16	12
45 to 54	22	14
55 to 64	22	11
Older than 65	21	13
Male	38	48
Female	62	52

*Estimate based on 2007 census data estimates. Census data age groupings are similar to but not identical to those used in the survey.

The survey also collected additional demographic information from respondents: geographic household location and the presence of children in the household. The distributions of these characteristics are presented in Table A3 and A4.

Table A3. Geographic Household Location		
*Location	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Northeast Bellingham	106	36%
Southeast Bellingham	34	11%
Southwest Bellingham	74	25%
Northwest Bellingham	82	28%

(n=296)

*These quadrants were determined by I-5 (east and west) and by Lakeway (north and south).

Table A4. Are there children under the age of 18 living in your household?

<u>Children in the household</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	98	44%
No	125	56%

(n=223)

APPENDIX B: SURVEY ITEMS AND RESPONSE FREQUENCIES

INTRO:

Hello, my name is \$I and I'm calling on behalf of the Bellingham Parks Department from Applied Research Northwest. The City is gathering citizen feedback about Bellingham Parks to help guide the development of the Parks long range plan. I need to speak with an adult in the household. Would that be you? [If yes] Resident input like yours will help to shape how the city decides what changes to make over the next 6-20 years. You have been selected to participate in this survey. All of your responses are completely confidential. [If No] Is there an adult in the household available?

N =	300	100%
Able to continue01	300	100%
Not able to continue.....02	0	0%

INTR2:

Do you live in the city of Bellingham?

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	300	100%
No2	0	0%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

INFO1:

My first set of questions has to do with the frequency of your visits to Bellingham Parks. When we talk about Bellingham Parks I mean any smaller neighborhood parks, larger community parks, trails, open spaces or indoor facilities like gyms and pools within the city.

N =	300	100%
hit 'enter' to continue.....Y	300	100%

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...

N =	300	100%
Never0	14	5%
1-5 times1	42	14%
6-10 times2	22	7%
11-20 times3	42	14%
21-40 times4	35	12%
41-60 times, or.....5	27	9%
More than 60 times6	118	39%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q2:

Are there other people living in your household?

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	224	75%
No.....2	76	25%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

INFO2:

For the remainder of this survey, I'd like you to answer these questions on behalf of yourself and your household.

N =	224	100%
hit 'enter' to continue.....Y	224	100%

Q3:

Do you live within walking distance of a park? [By "walking distance" I mean about a 10 minute walk]

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	231	77%
No.....2	68	23%
Don't know7	1	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q4:

Do you live within walking distance of a trail? [By "walking distance" I mean about a 10 minute walk]

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	242	81%
No.....2	50	17%
Don't know7	7	2%
Not applicable.....8	1	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q5:

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? [Note: Recreational programs is whatever it means to you]

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	90	30%
No.....2	203	68%
Don't know7	7	2%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q6:

In addition to the opportunities that you know are already available in Bellingham, are there other types of recreational programs that you would like to see offered? (IF YES) What types of recreational opportunities would you like to see offered?

N =	300	100%
Yes (please specify).....1	74	25%
No.....2	192	64%
Don't know7	28	9%
Not applicable.....8	2	1%
Missing/refused9	4	1%

INFO3:

I am now going to read you a list of different kinds of park facilities. I would like to know if you (or anyone in your household) has used each type of facility one or more times in the past year. For each facility that you have used, I would like to know, in general, how satisfied you are with what is currently available in Bellingham. Have you (or has anyone in your household) used...

N =	300	100%
hit 'enter' to continue.....Y	300	100%

Q7:

Tennis courts? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	53	18%
No.....2	247	82%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q7A:

And how satisfied are you with the tennis courts that are currently available in Bellingham. Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?

N =	53	100%
Completely Satisfied5	24	45%
Somewhat Satisfied4	26	49%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	2	4%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	0	0%
No Opinion1	1	2%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q8:

Mountain biking trails? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	105	35%
No.....2	193	64%
Don't know3	2	1%
Not applicable.....4	0	0%
Missing/refused5	0	0%

Q8A:

And how satisfied are you with the mountain biking trails that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	105	100%
Completely Satisfied5	54	51%
Somewhat Satisfied4	39	37%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	4	4%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	2	2%
No Opinion1	5	5%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	1	1%

Q9:

Other walking and biking trails? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	252	84%
No.....2	48	16%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q9A:

And how satisfied are you with other walking and biking trails that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	252	100%
Completely Satisfied5	163	65%
Somewhat Satisfied4	82	33%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	2	1%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	0	0%
No Opinion1	4	2%
Don't know7	1	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q10:

Outdoor athletic fields? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	104	35%
No.....2	194	65%
Don't know7	1	0%
Not applicable.....8	1	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q10A:

And how satisfied are you with the outdoor athletic fields that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	104	100%
Completely Satisfied5	56	54%
Somewhat Satisfied4	44	42%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	1	1%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	1	1%
No Opinion1	2	2%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q11:

The ice skating rink? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	64	21%
No.....2	236	79%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q11A:

And how satisfied are you with the ice skating rink that is currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	64	100%
Completely Satisfied5	41	64%
Somewhat Satisfied4	19	30%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	3	5%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	0	0%
No Opinion1	0	0%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	1	2%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q12:

Indoor soccer fields? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	47	16%
No.....2	252	84%
Don't know7	1	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q12A:

And how satisfied are you with indoor soccer fields that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	47	100%
Completely Satisfied5	28	60%
Somewhat Satisfied4	16	34%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	3	6%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	0	0%
No Opinion1	0	0%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q13:

Indoor gymnasiums? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	56	19%
No.....2	243	81%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	1	0%

Q13A:

And how satisfied are you with indoor gymnasiums that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	56	100%
Completely Satisfied5	24	43%
Somewhat Satisfied4	25	45%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	4	7%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	0	0%
No Opinion1	2	4%
Don't know7	1	2%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q14:

Outdoor basketball courts? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	69	23%
No.....2	228	76%
Don't know7	2	1%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	1	0%

Q14A:

And how satisfied are you with outdoor basketball courts that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	69	100%
Completely Satisfied5	30	43%
Somewhat Satisfied4	34	49%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	5	7%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	0	0%
No Opinion1	0	0%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q15:

Playgrounds? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	139	46%
No.....2	161	54%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q15A:

And how satisfied are you with playgrounds that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	139	100%
Completely Satisfied5	67	48%
Somewhat Satisfied4	61	44%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	6	4%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	1	1%
No Opinion1	3	2%
Don't know7	1	1%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q16:

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

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	81	27%
No.....2	215	72%
Don't know7	4	1%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q16A:

And how satisfied are you with off-leash dog areas that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	81	100%
Completely Satisfied5	34	42%
Somewhat Satisfied4	30	37%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	13	16%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	3	4%
No Opinion1	0	0%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	1	1%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q17:

Frisbee golf courses? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	32	11%
No.....2	264	88%
Don't know7	3	1%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	1	0%

Q17A:

And how satisfied are you with Frisbee golf courses that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	33	100%
Completely Satisfied5	18	55%
Somewhat Satisfied4	12	36%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	2	6%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	0	0%
No Opinion1	1	3%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q18:

Golf courses? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	60	20%
No.....2	239	80%
Don't know7	1	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q18A:

And how satisfied are you with golf courses that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	60	100%
Completely Satisfied5	42	70%
Somewhat Satisfied4	16	27%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	0	0%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	0	0%
No Opinion1	1	2%
Don't know7	1	2%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q19:

Picnic areas? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	204	68%
No.....2	96	32%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q19A:

And how satisfied are you with picnic areas that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	204	100%
Completely Satisfied5	114	56%
Somewhat Satisfied4	83	41%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	6	3%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	1	0%
No Opinion1	0	0%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q20:

Boat launches? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	67	22%
No.....2	232	77%
Don't know7	1	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q20A:

And how satisfied are you with boat launches that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	67	100%
Completely Satisfied5	26	39%
Somewhat Satisfied4	27	40%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	10	15%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	2	3%
No Opinion1	2	3%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q21:

Open spaces? (F8 for info on open spaces) (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	176	59%
No.....2	118	39%
Don't know7	5	2%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	1	0%

Q21A:

And how satisfied are you with open spaces that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	176	100%
Completely Satisfied5	109	62%
Somewhat Satisfied4	56	32%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	9	5%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	1	1%
No Opinion1	0	0%
Don't know7	1	1%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q22:

Skate parks? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	22	7%
No.....2	275	92%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	1	0%
Missing/refused9	2	1%

Q22A:

And how satisfied are you with skate parks that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	22	100%
Completely Satisfied5	13	59%
Somewhat Satisfied4	5	23%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	4	18%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	0	0%
No Opinion.....1	0	0%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q23:

Outdoor swimming areas or spray parks? (Spray park: A park with built in sprinklers for kids. Some examples would be Fairhaven or Cornwall Parks) (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	114	38%
No.....2	185	62%
Don't know7	1	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q23A:

And how satisfied are you with outdoor swimming areas or spray parks that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	114	100%
Completely Satisfied5	53	46%
Somewhat Satisfied4	48	42%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	11	10%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	1	1%
No Opinion.....1	1	1%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q24:

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

N =	300	100%
Yes.....1	112	37%
No.....2	188	63%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q24A:

And how satisfied are you with Indoor swimming pools that are currently available in Bellingham. [Would you say completely satisfied? Somewhat satisfied? Somewhat dissatisfied? Completely dissatisfied? Or that you have no opinion?]

N =	112	100%
Completely Satisfied5	57	51%
Somewhat Satisfied4	45	40%
Somewhat Dissatisfied3	8	7%
Completely Dissatisfied.....2	2	2%
No Opinion1	0	0%
Don't know7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q25:

Are there any types of park facilities that you would like to use that don't currently exist in Bellingham? [(IF YES) What additional types of facilities would you like to see in Bellingham?]

N =	300	100%
Yes (please specify).....1	70	23%
No.....2	209	70%
Don't know7	17	6%
Not applicable.....8	1	0%
Missing/refused9	3	1%

INFO4:

The City has received many suggestions for improvements and expansions upon the current parks system. I will read a description of five possible efforts that the Parks Department may consider. Please tell me how important each of these projects would be to you (or your household).

N =	300	100%
hit 'enter' to continue.....Y	300	100%

Q26:

Improving water access. Would you say this would be... [Definition: This means more parks and trails along the waterfront.]

N =	300	100%
Extremely important.....5	71	24%
Very important4	82	27%
Somewhat important.....3	86	29%
Not very important, or2	31	10%
Not at all important.....1	24	8%
Don't know7	3	1%
Not applicable.....8	1	0%
Missing/refused9	2	1%

Q27:

Improving trail connectivity. Would you say this would be... [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.]

N =	300	100%
Extremely important.....5	71	24%
Very important4	101	34%
Somewhat important.....3	89	30%
Not very important, or2	24	8%
Not at all important.....1	12	4%
Don't know7	3	1%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q28:

More multipurpose athletic playing fields. Would you say this would be... [Definition: This means fields which can be used for several different things like softball, soccer, football or ultimate Frisbee.]

N =	300	100%
Extremely important.....5	34	11%
Very important4	55	18%
Somewhat important.....3	95	32%
Not very important, or2	60	20%
Not at all important.....1	45	15%
Don't know7	6	2%
Not applicable.....8	3	1%
Missing/refused9	2	1%

Q29:

Improving distribution of parks across Bellingham. Would you say this would be... [Definition: This would mean buying land and building more parks in parts of the city where we know that there isn't enough parkland.]

N =	300	100%
Extremely important.....5	58	19%
Very important4	94	31%
Somewhat important.....3	93	31%
Not very important, or2	28	9%
Not at all important.....1	23	8%
Don't know7	2	1%
Not applicable.....8	2	1%
Missing/refused9	0	0%

Q30:

Improving facilities and maintenance for parks we already have. Would you say this would be.. [Definition: This means adding restrooms, new types of activities, updating playgrounds, improving drainage at fields, better signage or better access for people who cannot get around easily.]

N =	300	100%
Extremely important.....5	64	21%
Very important4	111	37%
Somewhat important.....3	88	29%
Not very important, or2	23	8%
Not at all important.....1	8	3%
Don't know7	4	1%
Not applicable.....8	1	0%
Missing/refused9	1	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 two are the most important to you (and your household):

N =	239	100%
Trails with views of the water1	128	54%
Parks with views of the water.....2	72	30%
Places to wade or swim in the water.....3	112	47%
Places to put in small boats like canoes and kayaks4	88	37%
Other types of water access (please specify)5	25	10%
Don't know7	4	2%
Not applicable.....8	1	0%
Missing/refused9	8	3%

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?

N =	263	100%
Yes (please specify).....1	226	86%
Don't know7	23	9%
Not applicable.....8	4	2%
Missing/refused9	10	4%

Q33:

It has been identified that there is not enough parkland in North Bellingham. I'm going to read a list of various ways parkland could be increased and I'd like you to tell me which two you think would be the most important. Would you say....

N =	300	100%
Create a large community park, about 10 - 20 acres	120	40%
Increase the number of small neighborhood parks	154	51%
Create interconnected trail systems	169	56%
Something else (please specify)	30	10%
Don't know	17	6%
Not applicable.....	1	0%
Missing/refused	18	6%

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 bond or levy to cover the costs that are not already included in the current funding? Would you say...

N =	300	100%
Highly likely	114	38%
Somewhat likely	108	36%
Somewhat unlikely	22	7%
Not at all likely	32	11%
Needs more information (don't read).....	21	7%
Don't know	0	0%
Not applicable.....	3	1%
Missing/refused	0	0%

Q35:

If a bond or levy were to be put on the ballot to finance your highest priority projects, how much, if anything, would your household be willing to pay per year for this source of funding? [Definition: For this question, by highest priority projects I mean projects that you think are important] [NOTE, IF ASKED ABOUT GREENWAY LEVY OR OTHER CURRENT TAXES: This would be in addition to the funding that already exists.]

Mean =	120.82	
N =	300	100%
Needs more information.....66666	104	35%
Don't know	74	25%
Not applicable.....88888	7	2%
Missing.....99999	27	9%

INFO5:

Thanks for your help so far. We're almost done. These last questions help us understand who responded to the survey.

N =	300	100%
hit 'enter' to continue.....Y	300	100%

Q36:

I'd like to know generally what part of the city you live in. Do you live East or West of I5? [Some landmarks that are WEST of I5 are downtown, Bellingham

High School, the airport, and Fairhaven Some landmarks that are EAST of I5 are lake Padden, Civic Field, and Whatcom Community College]

N =	300	100%
East of I-5	140	47%
West of I-5.....	157	52%
Don't know	2	1%
Not applicable.....	0	0%
Missing/refused	1	0%

Q37:

And are you North or South of Lakeway? [Some landmarks that are North of Lakeway are Civic Field, Bellingham High School, and St. Joseph's Hospital Some landmarks that are South of Lakeway are Fairhaven, Lake Padden, Sehome Village]

N =	300	100%
North of Lakeway.....	190	63%
South of Lakeway.....	108	36%
Don't know	0	0%
Not applicable.....	1	0%
Missing/refused	1	0%

Q38:

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

N =	300	100%
18 to 24.....	10	3%
25 to 34.....	42	14%
35 to 44.....	49	16%
45 to 54.....	66	22%
55 to 64.....	67	22%
65 or older	64	21%
Don't know	0	0%
Not applicable.....	1	0%
Missing/refused	1	0%

Q39:

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

N =	224	100%
Yes.....	98	44%
No	125	56%
Don't know	0	0%
Not applicable.....	1	0%
Missing/refused	0	0%

Q40:

[Ask only if needed:] I know this may sound silly, but are you male or female?

N =	300	100%
Male.....1	113	38%
Female.....2	187	62%
Don't know.....7	0	0%
Not applicable.....8	0	0%
Missing/refused.....9	0	0%

CMTBX:

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?

N =	300	100%
hit 'enter' to continue.....Y	300	100%

INT98:

I'm sorry, but I need to speak with people that live within the city limits of Bellingham. Thank you for your time, and have a good day/evening. NOTE: If respondent would really like to participate then say: There is an online version of the survey available on the city of Bellingham's website. [Online survey begins 2-29] Website: COB.org

N =	0	100%
Not Qualified.....16	0	0%

INT99:

That is the end of the survey. Thank you for your time. If you have more that you would like to add, you can contact the Parks Department. Would you like that contact information? [IF YES:] (offer email address, web address, phone number) Email: parks@cob.org Phone: 676-6985 Website: http://www.cob.org

N =	300	100%
Complete.....08	300	100%

INT:

N =	148	100%
No Answer - no pick up.....01	6	4%
Busy.....02	6	4%
No Answer - machine / voice mail03	91	61%
Respondent Requested Callback04	15	10%
Interviewer Scheduled Callback.....05	18	12%
Incorrect Callback Time06	7	5%
Refused.....07	0	0%
Complete08	0	0%
Callback Mid Interview09	0	0%
Soft Refusal10	5	3%
Bad Number11	0	0%
Unable - Language12	0	0%
Physical/Mental - Unable13	0	0%
Already Responded14	0	0%
Not Qualified.....16	0	0%
Max Attempts (5 w/ Sunday and Daytime)17	0	0%
Refused -- incomplete interview.....18	0	0%

CB:

N =	49	100%
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F11:

N =	0	100%
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F6:

N =	41	100%
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F8:

[Who are you? Where are you calling from?] Applied Research Northwest is a privately owned social research firm in Bellingham. [How did you get my phone number?] We got a random list of potential phone numbers of people in your area from a national company called Survey Sampling International. How to contact the City of Bellingham, Parks and Recreation Department about the survey: Email: parks@cob.org Phone: 676-6985 Website: <http://www.cob.org> IF PROMPTED FOR CLARIFICATION DURING THE SURVEY: COMMUNITY PARKS include larger parks like Lake Padden, Cornwall, Fairhaven, Bloedel Donovan, and Boulevard Parks. NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS are smaller parks situated in neighborhoods. Examples include Elizabeth Park, Ridgemont Park, Franklin Park, or Roosevelt Park. TRAILS refer to the off-street systems (not sidewalks or bike lanes). An example would be the Interurban Trail. OPEN SPACES include large forested, wetland or other natural areas such as Connelly Creek Nature Area or Arroyo Park.

N =	21	100%
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APPENDIX C: VERBATIM OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS

Q6: In addition to the opportunities that you know are already available in Bellingham, are there other types of recreational programs that you would like to see offered? [IF YES] What types of recreational opportunities would you like to see offered?

- A community building in my neighborhood, and a library.
- A facility that I'm interested in is additional boat launches.
- A place to let kids run around that is safe, where they can't run out into the street so easily.
- A senior softball league.
- An outdoor swim pool.
- Any activities for middle-schoolers and high-schoolers.
- Anything that is more recreational activities for adults.
- As much open space and green space as possible.
- Better swimming pools, and better swings for kids, and better playing grounds for kids. And clean up the lakes and creeks, 'cause they have garbage in them.
- Fishing tournaments.
- For people who don't drive long distances to participate in things advertised in the paper, it would be nice to see neighborhood nature walks that could keep us aware of plants, birds, and wildlife. I think it would be interesting for people in my age group, and for other people as well.
- Groups of kids. Taking kids out on bikes, on the trails, even on the Interurban. A group, or program, that would promote kids on bikes.
- Gyms for all ages, or a community center. Something to get the children involved in.
- Horseback riding.
- I enjoy the outdoor programs.
- I haven't been very impressed with the trails.
- I know Anacortes has a sailing program that they offer.
- I live in North Bellingham, so we are wanting a bigger park up here we could use.
- I really like what they have done with the concerts at Boulevard, in the park, and I would like to see more.
- I think more organized events, such as walks and different runs for different things.
- I think something like archery would be a wonderful thing.
- I think they could cover some of the play areas, so the kids could play all year.
- I took a creative writing class at Roeder Home, and I'd like to see that again.
- I would like to hear about the programs offered. I would not even know what to tell you, because I do not know what is offered.
- I would like to see more for the mentally and physically handicapped.
- I would like to see more offered for kids with disabilities, or better said, for families that have kids with disabilities.
- I would like to see something along the lines that they do through Eugene, Oregon. A paved path that goes through the city. Something like that would work well here, especially with older people with bad legs.
- I would like to see what they were proposing in the paper about patrolling trails, because now there is places I won't go.
- I would love for you to give a bike safety class, especially kids. A lot of the time, kids and adults come up to me on the trail, and some say, "Passing on the right," but others just zoom by. It can be scary at times. I would say, covering bicycle etiquette.
- I'd like to see plenty of hiking opportunities for the youth, middle-school and elementary-school ages.
- I'd like to see the city bring lifeguards back to the beaches.
- I'd like to see them finish connecting the trail all the way.
- In the summertime, the water fountain was good.

- It would be nice to see more indoor programs for preschool-aged children. We live in a cold, wet environment, and so sometimes it's not feasible to go to an outdoor park. An indoor or covered playground would be great to see.
- Junior tennis.
- Mainly more linkage to other counties, like the Chuckanut Trail system and the Pacific Trail leading north towards B.C.
- Maybe more lifeguards wherever there's water. Like at Bloedel or Lake Padden, where there's a lot of people who swim.
- More access for boating, small boats. Some places keep small boats.
- More activities for younger children and more activities for teenagers. Especially more for children, in general. More sponsored activities. There needs to be more activities going on for teenagers on a regular basis. I would also like to add that the activities need not necessarily include extensive physical activities. Activities for kids that do not, per se, play sports. And also economically feasible activities for teenagers that come from lower socio-economic families. And I feel that Bellingham's community offers a lot of volunteer participation that would support those activities.
- More canoeing and kayaking, different activities.
- More community runs, or events like Ski-to-Sea.
- More nutritionally-oriented programs for kids and families - that includes hiking and exercise. And I mainly want to make sure they don't go away and are kept up.
- More of a library - activities outside with the library, like big reads outside. Maritime Heritage Park, put a big playground there to make it more family-oriented. Sand in the playground, instead of bark, because kids are always getting splinters and it's softer when they fall.
- More of a musical program in the Parks Department.
- More open space in parks, activities for kids and teens to do service – cleaning up trash and things like that. Environmental kinds of issues, and things with streams and salmon.
- More programs for the low-income neighborhoods; like more organized games like in the Roosevelt and Birchwood neighborhood.
- More sailing programs.
- More stuff for preschool kids, playgrounds and things like that.
- More things for young children, like education for the environment. So we are starting with three to four year olds, so they understand what the environment is about at a young age.
- More things to do with moms and toddlers. There are things for kids under two, but I have an almost four year old. In the summer, we like to do things together; I don't want to just drop them off. I'd like to see more activities for parents to do with their kids.
- More trails.
- More walks; some baseball, soccer, softball.
- More whole family, like from grandparents to grandchildren. Sometimes there's mom and daughters and single grandchild - there's just not a lot for multigenerational.
- New s***.
- Perhaps walking tours of historical-type houses in Bellingham. It would be good for people to get educated about house ages and styles. Bellingham has been given grants about historical surveys of three local neighborhoods.
- Recreational tree climbing.
- Senior aerobics.
- Skateboarding and bike trails on the north side of town over here.
- Some maybe to focus on retired people's participation.
- Some type of program like Boy Scouts, and some more places like the Boys' and Girls' Club where they can do park activities or stuff like that.
- There is a lot offered, I just can't take advantage of it due to my schedule.
- They should rent the hall at Zuanich Park cheaper, if they own it. More indoor halls at the parks, because it is cold here.
- They used to have kids programs every summer. When they got older, they just helped the smaller kids. I don't see as much of that as I used to. When I was a kid, they had actual games for older kids - like high school and college kids - like shooting the bow and arrow. I don't see anything of that in the past years.
- They used to have parks with baseball programs. They don't have anything now, as far as I know.
- Things suited to the disabled.

- Trails that are wheelchair-accessible.
- Use of the beachfront north of the harbor.
- Video cams on trails, so accidents would not happen to people.
- Volleyball for kids in upper grade school level.
- We would like to see more trails and parks. Play areas for children. There is not even a playground in our neighborhood on the Northeast Side. We would like more sidewalks, also.
- We'd like to see a viable lacrosse league for youngsters in town.
- Well, I am always looking for off-leash areas for my dog and I to go to.
- What I'd really like to see is more lovely trails, like the ones down the Interurban Trail. I would like to see more trails like that up in the north end of the city.
- Whatever might apply, or is related, to bicycles.
- You have quite a few concerts around in different parks. Those are nice during the summer. I'd like to see more of those, and maybe some of the free movies and things like that they used to have.

Q25: Are there any types of park facilities that you would like to use that don't currently exist in Bellingham? [IF YES] What additional facilities would you like to see in Bellingham?

- A outdoor wading pool [sic].
- A public racquet or squash indoor courts.
- A real park with swings and tables and outside bathrooms, and be connected to a outdoor basketball court.
- A wall where they can hit the wall to practice tennis. Another is a roller-skating rink. I don't think we have one in Bellingham, and the kids have to go to Lynden.
- An equestrian park, for horseback riding and events. Taking horses on the trails with people, dogs, and bikes can be tough.
- An indoor park facility, for little kids.
- An outdoor climbing wall.
- An outdoor racquetball court.
- Another swimming pool.
- Apart from having them more evenly dispersed, they are good facilities.
- Baseball fields.
- Boat rentals.
- Boulevard Park needs have wheelchair-access.
- Community centers.
- Covered tennis courts, and more off-leash areas.
- For my husband, he'd like to see a nighttime basketball court that's are lit up, so they're safe. And outdoor tennis courts that are lit up and safe, with a wall so he can practice his backhand. We used to live in southern California, and we miss those amenities.
- Good park with trailer camping facilities.
- I always thought it would be nice to have a roller-skating rink.
- I guess, when you talked about the mountain biking trails. I think if there were more variety of terrain for skill level in the mountain biking trails, then my family would use them more.
- I think they all exist, I just think they need to be funded and maintained.
- I would like a bigger swim pool for the kids. And I think that they should separate the handicap pool from the main pool. With the pool, I think they really need to consider the ventilation. I know of people who cannot use it, because they cannot breathe. They should make them like the ones in Canada. I think it would be financially better for the Parks and Recreation.
- I would like it if on the trails or in the parks if they had different kinds of workout stations, like they have in other cities.
- I would like the restroom facilities to be open for a longer period of time, and there needs to be more trash cans in Broadway Park.
- I would like there to be a roller-skating rink.

- I would like to see a pavilion in Boulevard Park. I don't have a car, so the only places I go are around Fairhaven - unless I get a ride from someone else or take the bus.
- I would like to see an indoor or covered park for young children that could be used in the wintertime.
- I would like to see like a beach park where you could go in the water. Kind of like there was more scenery brought in. Like Marine Park, with a bunch of sand for kids to play.
- I would like to see the waterfront continue to be developed for access for walking and picnicking.
- I would like to use little league-type programs, but I haven't looked into it. I don't know where to get the information for them.
- I would love to see more gardens.
- I would say more tennis courts, and maybe volleyball courts. And more off-leash dog areas.
- I would tend to think a shuttle that would bring us from the downtown area to the Vancouver area. It is 30 minutes and it would be a great opportunity to bring people to the recreational facilities for Whatcom. And on that point, the less cost going on to spending money on more parks would increase the use of parks adjacent to the I5, and the air quality and recreational potential.
- I'd like to see a swing, like an adult swing. It would be kind of fun to swing every once in a while.
- I'd like to see another disc golf, and maybe a permanent orienteering course.
- I'd like to see more dog parks.
- Indoor dog parks, especially in Bellingham.
- Indoor free-ride park, or at least covered one.
- It would be nice to have a whitewater kayaking park.
- It would be really nice to have a park area that you can go to in the rain, that is covered, so in the fall and spring we could go to the park more often.
- Just a new swimming pool or renovation, either one would be great. That swimming pool is heavily used and could use some renovation.
- Just little, quiet, small memorial-type parks. Quiet, pretty, with many trees.
- Like some place that had kayaks and canoes, where you could rent them.
- Maybe a beach area park where you do not have to pay to park, where a family can go.
- Maybe along the waterfront.
- More availability for kayaks to launch. So at Marine Park I have to carry my kayak through people's picnics.
- More emphasis on the young teens, the middle-schoolers - whether it be skate parks or whatever. I don't think we can forget the young people that are coming up through the system and growing up in Bellingham.
- More level trails for wheelchairs.
- More off-leash facilities, and it is unfortunate that there's not more camping/picnic areas.
- More play equipment for little kids. I have found only one park in Bellingham that has it. The other parks I go to have older kids' equipment.
- More tables to play outdoor games, like chess or checkers.
- Motorsports park that would offer motorcycle road racing.
- Not only more trails, but there must be some wetland areas around here. But I'd love to see more wetland park areas, like Hovander Park.
- Outdoor swimming pool.
- Par three golf.
- Paved trails.
- Probably more mountain biking, and I think we need more kite flying. And also off-leash dog areas.
- Racquetball courts.
- Rock climbing walls.
- Running tracks.
- Some of these trails that go through Barkley, I would like to have them named. And to know why they are called that. A marker that tells you the history as to why that trail came about. Let's not disregard the historical value of the areas we are enjoying.
- Something for the physically challenged, like a low basketball hoop or something like that.
- The one thing I will comment are that the school gymnasiums are not available on the weekends. My son plays basketball. He belongs to a league that we actually have to travel to outside of the Bellingham district.

- The trail that goes from the bay to Lake Whatcom. I know that there are segments of that, but it's not completed. That's something I'd really like to see.
- There are not enough picnic areas in the parks like tables and benches. It would be nice if they had nice bathrooms. I know they have closed some of them off due to vandalism, but they are awful. I think that they need to think about the people that are not young. They need to make facilities accessible to older people.
- We need more parks in my neighborhood, Guide Meridian-Cordata.
- We need some zip-lines.
- We would love an outdoor city pool.
- Well, better children's area at Boulevard Park, because playing with a fake boat just does not cut it for a two year old. More off-leash dog areas. The one we have is completely muddy and scrubby, put in some grass.
- Well, I believe that we should have a park in North Bellingham.
- You know, I would like to see a walk clear across the bay, and I will tell you why. In our travels, we have gone to so many cities, such as in Canada, and they make use of all their waterways by having walkways, and places to sit and enjoy the water, picnic areas. Well, Bellingham now has an opportunity to do that for the city.

Q31: You said that water access was important. I'm going to read a list of various types of water access. Please tell me which two are the most important to you (and your household).

Q31 response: Other types of water access (please specify)

- Access to the water. Because I have dogs and it would be nice for them.
- Access to water.
- Beach access.
- Being able to put your boat in the water and go wakeboarding. I would like to see larger boat launches.
- Boat access.
- Boat launch facilities for larger boats, and areas for jet-skis.
- Drinking water - some people like to get water from the lakes.
- Drinking water.
- Faucets and stuff when you go a park.
- For the dogs, for the water.
- I think that it's important for small boat launches and kayak launching for water sports, where they want to go into the water.
- Just beaches; more public beaches and less privately-owned waterfront.
- Launches for larger boats.
- Launching ski and pleasure craft.
- Like a boardwalk where there could be retail areas, maybe low condos. A real people-friendly walking area.
- Parks with water access.
- Place to fish.
- Places to put in boats larger than canoes or kayaks.
- Places to walk along the water, and upkeep such as graffiti removal.
- Playing on the beach.
- Pools, other than the ones we already have.
- Safe access to the saltwater beaches.
- Some places I can take my dog to go swimming.
- Well, we need more boat launches, and places to park your boat and have picnics would be nice.

Q32: You said that improvements to existing parks would be important. Can you tell me one or two ways that the current parks could be improved?

Post-Coded Response: Maintenance: General

- At Broadway, the basketball court and baseball diamond look a little beat-up. And Cornwall Park, it would be interesting to see what they can do with the horseshoe area, because it is always locked and I don't see anybody play. I'd like to see them make it more active. Whether they could turn it into a bocce area or croquet area, it would be interesting.
- Better play areas, and upkeep with the graffiti.
- Biggest thing is just keeping them cleaner and taking care of them.
- For one thing, the golf course has some maintenance issues. Keep the other parks tidied up, litter picked up, that sort of thing.
- Garbage removal, and also we use a lot of covered areas and those look like they are starting to look old, so they might need some painting and maintenance.
- I guess, the swim area at Bloedel, I would like to see that improved. And, just what I mentioned previously, about mountain bike terrains that are geared towards all levels of capability.
- I just think the maintenance is important.
- I just want them maintained as is. I don't think they have to have any big improvements.
- I think make sure that there are sufficient maintenance funds in the annual budget.
- I would like to see some of the facilities to be improved upon. And I would rather see the funding go toward maintaining those parks as opposed to acquiring new. As far as the boat launch area, it would be nice to get another boat launch onto Lake Whatcom and a little more parking for the saltwater boat launch.
- I would like to see something done with the Fairhaven Park, where the rose garden was. There is a house that is all boarded up, and gazebos that are falling down.
- I would like to see them upkeep [sic]. Cleaning, mowing, picking up the garbage.
- I would say, with the trails of the parks, somehow so they do not get as muddy. So that they put rocks down, so that they do not get as muddy when it rains. Some more upkeep.
- I'd just like to see better upkeep. If we spend money on them, to keep them nice. Especially playgrounds and play equipment - keeping them clean, and not slippery or moldy.
- I'd like to see lifeguards and year-round maintenance. It just seems like I used to see a lot more park workers, and now it doesn't seem like there is as many.
- Improving Cornwall.
- In some places the equipment that is there is in disrepair and needs to be upgraded, replaced, or repaired. Until they come up with the new ones, it would be great if they could improve kayak access to Lake Whatcom.
- It would be nice to see more cleaning and maintenance, trash removal, etc.
- Just a little bit more equity. I think some of the parks in the lower-income neighborhoods are neglected.
- Just general maintenance and upkeep. Places for adults to go where we do not have to worry about offending kids or things like that.
- Just safety and maintenance. Number one for me is that dogs are taken off-leash by their owners in areas where they're not supposed to, and there's absolutely no penalties for people who do that. There's no supervision or enforcement. So more enforcement of dog leash laws.
- Maintaining them.
- Maintenance is under-funded. I would support maintaining the infrastructure that is already there. I love the community parks for kids.
- More access to open space, and general improvements - like restrooms and facilities; keeping the trails open-spaced.
- More maintenance. Make them safer, in light of the girl getting attacked on Squalicum Beach.
- Newer facilities, newer equipment.
- Occasionally, there's been things broken and they've stayed broken quite awhile before they've been fixed - so for maintenance to come out more often to fix those things.
- Probably just better upkeep during the high-use times, making sure the garbage is picked up.
- Quality and maintenance.
- Some of the facilities are outdated, so they could use some renovations. They have taken away the beach access in Bloedel, but they did renovate the play area.

- Some of the parks have swimmer's itch in the summer. They seemed to get rid of the geese, so it got better this year. Padden, I think they still have swimmer's itch. They have to have open showers there. Where you just stand under them and wash yourself off after you get out of the lake. The lifeguards were taken away. I used to be a park supervisor when I was a teenager, and I took children to the park at Bloedel and there was a lifeguard there. I think they're courting disaster without lifeguards at those two parks. They're very important. I think they should be reestablished.
- Some of them are not maintained as readily as they should be. Mowing along the trails, sometimes it gets a little lax.
- Some of them haven't had things done in years; they need to be updated and upgraded. Trees and shrubs need to be replanted.
- Some of them, I think just need more maintenance given to them. Some of them, they need a little more safety. For the younger kids, I think playground equipment is important.
- The trail access to Cornwall Park is incomplete from Birchwood neighborhood. There's this city-owned trail going to Little Squalicum Park, but the Little Squalicum Park beach is owned by the county and is completely unmaintained [sic]. It's a transient camp and it's a dangerous place, which was demonstrated by a recent, violent attack. It's also impacted by nearby industries that have polluted the creek.
- The water places should have docks, like at Lake Whatcom. Pick up bird poop, if possible.
- There is a park, St. Claire. Their basketball court, there used to be an obstacle course. I think that the lower level of that park could use some TLC, just general sprucing up. I used to take my three kids there all of the time, and I was not satisfied with that area.
- They aren't putting I want the parks to remain available, but that they are environmentally maintained [sic]. So, they need to make sure garbage and runoff, any type of excess debris, is cleaned up.
- Well, I would like to see the existing buildings that are at the various parks kept up.
- Well, of course, the improvement in the parks would be the maintenance. That is, to continue to maintain them, so that they are quality parks.

Post-coded Response: Maintenance: Trails

- Continue giving surveys to see how they need improving. I don't know what they all need, maybe just well-kept landscape - if it's applicable. Well-maintained walking paths, keeping areas accessible.
- I know the trees took a hit with a disease that came through, so more landscaping along Boulevard Park. And more maintenance of trails for walkers and bikers.
- I like to see the trails kept up. Things like bridges and pathways, and the directory signs, and a few more trashcans for people to drop their dog poo in. The occasional bench is nice when you're walking on the trail.
- I think keeping the trails maintained is very important, and I think connecting the trails park-to-park so we can walk in the connecting.
- I think the trails in the park could be improved. I like the benches that they have at Boulevard, and the trail around Padden is muddy most of the time.
- I think the trails to the rock garden park. They could be improved and connected with other trails.
- I would like to see the trails better maintained, and that is the main thing for me.
- More trails maintenance.
- Trails maintained. I would like to see more supervision in the swimming areas. There should be lifeguards.
- Well, just keeping the trails maintained. I did go to Whatcom Falls, and I think it is pretty dangerous for kids to be jumping off those cliffs. If there could be some monitoring.

Post-coded Response: Maintenance: Landscaping (Grass, Mowing, Pruning, Trees)

- Certainly a hotdog cart once in awhile wouldn't hurt, just kidding. Maybe opening up the trails to get sunlight through the trees.
- Continue giving surveys to see how they need improving. I don't know what they all need, maybe just well-kept landscape - if it's applicable. Well-maintained walking paths, keeping areas accessible.
- I know that the woods look not very maintained. Maybe better bathroom facilities.

- I know the trees took a hit with a disease that came through, so more landscaping along Boulevard Park. And more maintenance of trails for walkers and bikers.
- I would like to see the existing parks maintained. That means keeping the foliage under management and control, so homeless people aren't living there and drug deals aren't going on in there. And I think making more trails feel more comfortable if they were pruned back, for the same reason. As a taxpayer, I am disturbed by the fact that the taxpayers aren't able to use them - due to them being overgrown and dark. It not inviting to go there; it's frightening, and I don't feel safe.
- I would like to see them upkeep [sic]. Cleaning, mowing, picking up the garbage.
- I would like to see, on the trails - I noticed they're not taking care of the grounds - trimmed and clean. I'd like to see public restrooms, some types of facilities where you can get water and use the restroom. More garbage cans, so people don't litter as much.
- Some of them are not maintained as readily as they should be. Mowing along the trails, sometimes it gets a little lax.
- Some of them haven't had things done in years; they need to be updated and upgraded. Trees and shrubs need to be replanted.

Maintenance: Trash/Garbage

- A little bit more picked up, the garbage and stuff.
- Being more clean.
- Biggest thing is just keeping them cleaner and taking care of them.
- Garbage removal, and also we use a lot of covered areas and those look like they are starting to look old, so they might need some painting and maintenance.
- I just want to make sure that they're cleaned up from needles and drug paraphernalia, for kids, so they're safe from the drug pushers and that sort of thing.
- I like to see the trails kept up. Things like bridges and pathways, and the directory signs, and a few more trashcans for people to drop their dog poo in. The occasional bench is nice when you're walking on the trail.
- I think one of the problems is clean up, and no enforcement of the park rules.
- I would like to see them upkeep [sic]. Cleaning, mowing, picking up the garbage.
- I would like to see, on the trails - I noticed they're not taking care of the grounds - trimmed and clean. I'd like to see public restrooms, some types of facilities where you can get water and use the restroom. More garbage cans, so people don't litter as much.
- I'd like to have them clean, and I think they are.
- I'd like to see the parks cleaned up more efficiently, and I'd also like to see more parks that are wheelchair-accessible.
- It would be nice to see more cleaning and maintenance, trash removal, etc.
- Just, I guess, making sure there is areas where the garbage needs to be picked up as much as possible. Bags to pick up dog poop, upkeeping all of that.
- Marine Park was not too clean the last time I was there. Fairhaven Park is wonderful. And Boulevard Park will be better when they get a pavilion. What I mean by a pavilion is a covered area to cook and to have parties when it rains.
- Maybe if they had trash bags for people to gather trash on their day hikes. More maps and access to higher climbing trails, like at Chuckanut. With the logging, they have closed some stuff down and now you have to go around eight miles, instead of a three mile hike.
- One of the primary things is that they do not have lifeguards at Lake Padden and I think that is important, especially for the kids. Add some waste receptacles along the Interurban Trail. People tend to pick up the poop and leave it in bags along the side of the trail.
- Padden Park could stand more litter barrels; they removed some of them and we'd like to collect them and get rid of it.
- Probably just better upkeep during the high-use times, making sure the garbage is picked up.
- They aren't putting I want the parks to remain available, but that they are environmentally maintained [sic]. So, they need to make sure garbage and runoff, any type of excess debris, is cleaned up.

Maintenance: Drainage/Mud

- Better drainage, so that they could be used more often.
- I think the trails in the park could be improved. I like the benches that they have at Boulevard, and the trail around Padden is muddy most of the time.
- I would like to see more baseball fields. I would like to see better drainage at Bloedel Donovan.
- I would say they need proper drainage on the trails, and more fenced-in tennis courts would be nice.
- I would say, with the trails of the parks, somehow so they do not get as muddy. So that they put rocks down, so that they do not get as muddy when it rains. Some more upkeep.
- In the winter there are some drainage issues in some parks, and I'm sure this is a challenge in our climate, but drainage improvements would make the open spaces more usable in the winter months.
- Just drainage on outdoor fields, and more trails.
- Mainly better connectivity, and more of them. Particularly open spaces, and more gravel on the trails. Well, better connection to the Chuckanuts.
- Sometimes trails are muddy, but I don't know if anyone can do anything about that.
- Spread more gravel on some of the muddier trails. They could maybe make some trails go farther to the south.
- The condition of the soil, so that it is not so terribly muddy. That is why I thought of drainage. And at the off-leash park just off of Lakeway, well, it might be the only off-leash park. There are apparently a lot of nervous geeses [sic], and there is a lot of geese poop. I do not want them to run the geese off, I just want them to pick it up.
- The muddiness during so many months of the year. I don't know if more sand or more gravel, but they're just mud. It could be drainage.
- Ways to walk that are less muddy. Places the dogs could go that are less muddy.
- Well, the dog park here, near the sewage treatment plant. It is always so muddy; I wish it could be cleaned up a bit. And I think some people are really good about bringing water for the dogs. It would be nice to have a water source for the dogs, and maybe a few more benches for people to sit down on there. My car was broken into in Lake Padden, so I think there needs to be better security up there.

Safety Issues (Crime/Unsafe Facilities)

- As a new parent, making things safer, but I don't see anything right now that needs to be changed for that.
- Because of the current situation in Bellingham (the jogger that got attacked), more patrols for safety of the people in the park. I live by Whatcom Falls, and in the summertime you get quite a different clientele day to day, like the people on the buses. It gets rowdy in the day a little bit, compared to the winter months. I do not feel safe to walk to the park across the street by myself, most of the time. One time I was walking on the trail and there was a man sitting way up on the stump, and he could've jumped anybody; those kinds of things are threatening to women, so I don't walk there by myself.
- Close them up tighter, so that they don't get trashed at night. And more off-leash dog parks
- Continue giving surveys to see how they need improving. I don't know what they all need, maybe just well-kept landscape - if it's applicable. Well-maintained walking paths, keeping areas accessible.
- I just want to make sure that they're cleaned up from needles and drug paraphernalia, for kids, so they're safe from the drug pushers and that sort of thing.
- I know the trees took a hit with a disease that came through, so more landscaping along Boulevard Park. And more maintenance of trails for walkers and bikers.
- I think the trails to the rock garden park. They could be improved and connected with other trails.
- I think we need a little more security of some sort. More watchful eyes would be nice.
- I would like the trails to be more clearly marked that are shared with bicyclists, and maybe monitoring the shared areas. Sometimes I walk with elderly people, and the bicyclists they just fly on by. And sometimes there are dogs there, and bicycles, where they should not be, so maybe clearly marking trails and monitoring.
- I'd like to see more security in the parks, and more awareness of potential dangers.

- If there were more information on identification of plants, geographic formation, or historical plaques. At Fountain Park they have a plaque that was cool, but it's faded and has graffiti [sic]. And they took all the park benches out of there, too. In that park, and others, there are people who live there in cars and RVs on the street and they can be very intimidating to people who just want to use the parks. It would be nice if the Parks Department could participate in moving them along.
- Just safety and maintenance. Number one for me is that dogs are taken off-leash by their owners in areas where they're not supposed to, and there's absolutely no penalties for people who do that. There's no supervision or enforcement. So more enforcement of dog leash laws.
- Just safety, more open spaces within them. Something to improve safety, like lighting. I don't know; I don't go to Cornwall Park sometimes, because of safety. I don't mean police presence, but something with openness and maybe lighting. Maybe a 911 box here and there.
- Keep the homeless people out of them, especially during the day.
- More safety, more clean water.
- Once again, it's an accessibility issue. On the Padden Creek trail, they need hand-rails over the creek.
- People don't feel safe walking around Lake Padden. For example, there is a nice kids park and a trail, but there has been crime. The same thing is true with Cornwall Park; there is nice facilities, but some people don't feel safe there.
- Safety is an issue. That could mean more lighting, or making hidden areas more exposed.
- Safety would be the biggest one.
- Some sort of safety measure. Some of the pathways are pretty dark at dusk.
- There could be more light, and in general, a stronger sense of security. It would also be nice to see more restrooms.
- Well, just keeping the trails maintained. I did go to Whatcom Falls, and I think it is pretty dangerous for kids to be jumping off those cliffs. If there could be some monitoring.
- Well, the dog park here, near the sewage treatment plant. It is always so muddy; I wish it could be cleaned up a bit. And I think some people are really good about bringing water for the dogs. It would be nice to have a water source for the dogs, and maybe a few more benches for people to sit down on there. My car was broken into in Lake Padden, so I think there needs to be better security up there.

More/Updated/Diverse/Maintained Playgrounds

- Better play areas, and upkeep with the graffiti.
- Better surfaces under the children's play areas, and upgrading children's play areas in the older parks.
- Continue the improvements of playgrounds.
- Covered areas for the kids, and maybe some benches for the adults to sit on while they watch their kids.
- I guess I would like to see like equipment for small children, like if there is a family reunion or something. Types of things that would facilitate multi-generational situations.
- I think to update the playground equipment on some of the parks.
- I would like them to work on the play equipment, keeping them updated. They have done quite a few, but not all of them.
- I would like to ... we have young children, and I would like to see more young children activities, for toddlers, in the park.
- I would say more playground equipment, and better upkeep on swings, etc.
- I'd just like to see better upkeep. If we spend money on them, to keep them nice. Especially playgrounds and play equipment - keeping them clean, and not slippery or moldy.
- I'd say playgrounds that might interest older kids as much as younger kids. It seems like lots of playgrounds are just for toddlers. Restrooms open in the winter. It's hard for runners and other people, too.
- Maybe just some of the toys they added. If each of the parks would be different, like Padden. It was not done up when it was remodeled. I was a little disappointed in how it was done up.
- More enclosed off-leash dog areas, and more small child playground areas.
- More posts with the doggie bags. Improving family activities at Boulevard Park, like swings and more bathrooms in the parks - they need to be open, even in the winter.

- Neighborhood parks having a wider variety of recreational stuff, like basketball courts and jungle gyms and swings.
- Playgrounds that haven't been updated yet.
- Some of them, I think just need more maintenance given to them. Some of them, they need a little more safety. For the younger kids, I think playground equipment is important.
- There should be more playgrounds.
- They need to do things so the kids can actually play out there. I know there's a lot they do have, but there's a lot they don't that the kids do need for exercise.
- Well, I think that the play areas could improved, to make them a little safer. Make the playground areas fenced in, so that they are for children only and not dogs. Since I do have a dog, have more of the doggy bags and garbage cans in the off-leash dog areas.

Restroom Maintenance; Restroom Additions; Access to Restrooms

- Bathroom facilities.
- Better toilet paper. Some more benches. More signs for picking up dog feces and signs for leash laws.
- Cleaner bathrooms.
- Drinking, and bathroom facilities, and handicap access.
- I believe the restroom situation could be improved.
- I know that the woods look not very maintained. Maybe better bathroom facilities.
- I think sometimes it's hard to find bathroom facilities, or sometimes they aren't open. And when you have kids, you want those open. And a concession stand for those spontaneous times you go to the park.
- I think that the upper, or only, bathroom in Whatcom Falls park by the tennis courts are a total disaster. They seem unsafe.
- I think the restroom facilities and safety, maybe emergency phones.
- I would like to see, on the trails - I noticed they're not taking care of the grounds - trimmed and clean. I'd like to see public restrooms, some types of facilities where you can get water and use the restroom. More garbage cans, so people don't litter as much.
- I would love it when the park is open all year, if the bathroom could be open all year.
- I'd say playgrounds that might interest older kids as much as younger kids. It seems like lots of playgrounds are just for toddlers. Restrooms open in the winter. It's hard for runners and other people, too.
- It seems like the bathrooms are kind of gross. My concerns are about security. In the past I have heard about sex offenders living in Boulevard Park, and I am not okay about that.
- Like bathroom facilities, and part of that is that they are not open until spring, and sometimes there is nice enough weather to go out in February and it would be nice to have those facilities open on those days.
- More access to open space, and general improvements - like restrooms and facilities; keeping the trails open-spaced.
- More parking and the restrooms maintained. I was walking through Whatcom Falls Park and there wasn't a door on the bathroom.
- More parks with bathrooms.
- More picnic tables that are more secluded, and bathrooms.
- More posts with the doggie bags. Improving family activities at Boulevard Park, like swings and more bathrooms in the parks - they need to be open, even in the winter.
- More restrooms, and more access to drinking water.
- More restrooms.
- Newer bathrooms and commodities.
- Probably better bathrooms.
- Probably the bathrooms being more open year round. I go to the parks a lot and they are closed in the winter. I would love to see more off-leash areas that are fenced in, so that you can bring a puppy or a dog that needs training and you do not have to worry about it running off.
- The bathrooms at Whatcom Falls Parks are kind of weird, and hard to find, and slightly creepy.
- The bathrooms, they are pretty messy, and that is all I can really think of - the bathrooms.
- The bathrooms.

- There could be more light, and in general, a stronger sense of security. It would also be nice to see more restrooms.
- There should be more restrooms in the park area.
- Well, I am stuck on Boulevard Park for children. More softball parks need to be improved. I like a lot of softball fields for people who like to play.
- Well, I would say more facilities in parks like the one by my house, such as picnic and restrooms at small neighborhood parks.
- Well, like I said before, access to bathrooms, or more bathrooms and picnic areas.

Trail Connectivity/Extending Trails (Including Between Parks and Trails)

- A larger amount of trails and longer trails would be nice. I'd also like on-leash vs. off-leash dog areas to be more strictly enforced.
- An expansion on areas like the GP area. To make sure that it is used to include trails.
- Connectivity of trails.
- Extension of trails, and I feel we need more parkland with less building of any kind except for, of course, park-like facilities on those properties.
- I think keeping the trails maintained is very important, and I think connecting the trails park-to-park so we can walk in the connecting.
- I think more of them and properly placed, so that people in the northern area have their share - which doesn't affect me. So many green space is what separates us from other places [sic]. And multi-use parks where people can do exercises when they run, and more playgrounds. Trails where adults and children could stop and do exercises while they run along a trail - exercises like stretching and climbing. As an example, the recent building conflict around Lake Padden. Places have to be reserved for common use. It's important that not every lot be bought out for development. I think the city is going to have to start buying land or wilderness to preserve it. The city is going to have to take the hit. It's what makes us unique. And we have to start preserving the watershed, or we will not be able to use it. I can see houses along the lake, and I can tell their septs are not far enough away from the water, and that will affect recreation.
- I think one was the connection between parks and trails. We're bikers and hikers, and we like to walk on the trails, and there's places you can't get to without getting onto the city surface streets.
- I think the more important to me is more connectivity, and more at the north end of the city.
- I think the trails to the rock garden park. They could be improved and connected with other trails.
- I think you need a trail going from the Cornwall Park area to the mall. To somehow get under the freeway without going through the intersection.
- I would like to see the horse trails above Lake Padden extended. I would like to see more waterfront parks.
- Just drainage on outdoor fields, and more trails.
- Just more trails, specifically.
- Just the trails and having them connect. The longer you have a stretch of trail that is connected, the better it is for me. I commute by bike, and if I had the option to stay off of the roads, I would. And for fitness and running, I like it better when there is a trail network and I don't have to compete with traffic.
- Linking the parks with a common trail, so a person can go to one park to another without having to go out onto the street. They have some, but they're hard to find.
- Mainly better connectivity, and more of them. Particularly open spaces, and more gravel on the trails. Well, better connection to the Chuckanuts.
- Maybe if they had trash bags for people to gather trash on their day hikes. More maps and access to higher climbing trails, like at Chuckanut. With the logging, they have closed some stuff down and now you have to go around eight miles, instead of a three mile hike.
- More access to open space, and general improvements - like restrooms and facilities; keeping the trails open-spaced.
- More trails.
- Overall, more bicycle focus and access and connectivity.
- Probably expansion, if possible, and linkages with trails.
- Spread more gravel on some of the muddier trails. They could maybe make some trails go farther to the south.

- The trail access to Cornwall Park is incomplete from Birchwood neighborhood. There's this city-owned trail going to Little Squalicum Park, but the Little Squalicum Park beach is owned by the county and is completely unmaintained [sic]. It's a transient camp and it's a dangerous place, which was demonstrated by a recent, violent attack. It's also impacted by nearby industries that have polluted the creek.
- There are the mentioned connectivity [sic]. I would like to see a connection between the Interurban Trail and Lake Padden. I would like to see more success stories up from the Squalicum to Mt. Baker Trail - the Beta Baker, I think they are calling it [sic].
- Well, I live by Sunset Park, and there are great areas that could actually be used to make trails. Because right now there is no safe access if you do not drive.

Improvements and Additions to Picnic Areas

- I'd like to see more covered facilities, for example, they have at Hovander.
- Less dogs, more picnic areas.
- Marine Park was not too clean the last time I was there. Fairhaven Park is wonderful. And Boulevard Park will be better when they get a pavilion. What I mean by a pavilion is a covered area to cook and to have parties when it rains.
- More picnic tables that are more secluded, and bathrooms.
- More spaces for cover areas.
- Parking seems to be a real issue at the parks, and some of the parks could have more picnic area.
- There never seems to be enough picnic tables, and also, at Boulevard Park there never seems to be enough parking. So, I guess parking and picnic tables.
- Well, going back to the beachfront north of the harbor. There is no bench or barbeque facility available. I do not know if that is possible.
- Well, I would say more facilities in parks like the one by my house, such as picnic and restrooms at small neighborhood parks.
- Well, like I said before, access to bathrooms, or more bathrooms and picnic areas.

Amenities: Seating (Benches)

- Better toilet paper. Some more benches. More signs for picking up dog feces and signs for leash laws.
- Covered areas for the kids, and maybe some benches for the adults to sit on while they watch their kids.
- I like to see the trails kept up. Things like bridges and pathways, and the directory signs, and a few more trashcans for people to drop their dog poo in. The occasional bench is nice when you're walking on the trail.
- I think lighting and seating.
- I think one of the ways they could be improved is more resting areas, places where you can sit down and rest. Could be a bench or a stump, or it could be a log where someone could sit down and rest for a couple minutes before they move on.
- If there were more information on identification of plants, geographic formation, or historical plaques. At Fountain Park they have a plaque that was cool, but it's faded and has graffiti [sic]. And they took all the park benches out of there, too. In that park, and others, there are people who live there in cars and RVs on the street and they can be very intimidating to people who just want to use the parks. It would be nice if the Parks Department could participate in moving them along.
- It would be nice to see more benches to sit on.
- Personally, I would like to see more benches along the way. Just a place to sit once in a while.

Amenities: Parking

- Well, going back to the beachfront north of the harbor. There is no bench or barbeque facility available. I do not know if that is possible.
- There never seems to be enough picnic tables, and also, at Boulevard Park there never seems to be enough parking. So, I guess parking and picnic tables.
- Parking seems to be a real issue at the parks, and some of the parks could have more picnic area.

- More parking and the restrooms maintained. I was walking through Whatcom Falls Park and there wasn't a door on the bathroom.
- I would like to see some of the facilities to be improved upon. And I would rather see the funding go toward maintaining those parks as opposed to acquiring new. As far as the boat launch area, it would be nice to get another boat launch onto Lake Whatcom and a little more parking for the saltwater boat launch.
- I think that more parking spaces would be better.
- Better parking facilities.
- Well, probably more parking space. I like the natural look, it is nice walking for older people, along with younger people.
- Improving parking.

Amenities: Water (Drinking Water, Faucets for Washing)

- Drinking, and bathroom facilities, and handicap access.
- More restrooms, and more access to drinking water.
- More safety, more clean water.
- Well, on the green way at the Miranda: have a bike wash-station; a faucet or water would be great. I guess, the other thing would be to make sure about lighting or safety in parks. Maybe having the blue phones like they do up at WWU.

Amenities: New/Improved Specific Facilities

- A little bit more freedom for the Frisbee golf at Cornwall. Not so close to the pass.
- At Broadway, the basketball court and baseball diamond look a little beat-up. And Cornwall Park, it would be interesting to see what they can do with the horseshoe area, because it is always locked and I don't see anybody play. I'd like to see them make it more active. Whether they could turn it into a bocce area or croquet area, it would be interesting.
- I would like to see a larger area designated for children's sports.
- I would like to see another skateboard park somewhere. The kids that I've seen use the park seem to use it a lot, so it would be nice to have a second one. It should be visible, not isolated from the rest of the city.
- I would like to see more baseball fields. I would like to see better drainage at Bloedel Donovan.
- I would like to see some of the facilities to be improved upon. And I would rather see the funding go toward maintaining those parks as opposed to acquiring new. As far as the boat launch area, it would be nice to get another boat launch onto Lake Whatcom and a little more parking for the saltwater boat launch.
- I would say they need proper drainage on the trails, and more fenced-in tennis courts would be nice.
- I'd like to see more covered facilities, for example, they have at Hovander.
- It would be nice to see more kinds of activities that are specialized to the various age groups within the community. It would also be nice to see a covered park.
- More water areas, such as sprinkler pools and wading pools, as well as another baseball field or two for little league games.
- Neighborhood parks having a wider variety of recreational stuff, like basketball courts and jungle gyms and swings.
- Some covered tennis courts and more off-leash areas for the dogs.
- Some of the parks have swimmer's itch in the summer. They seemed to get rid of the geese, so it got better this year. Padden, I think they still have swimmer's itch. They have to have open showers there. Where you just stand under them and wash yourself off after you get out of the lake. The lifeguards were taken away. I used to be a park supervisor when I was a teenager, and I took children to the park at Bloedel and there was a lifeguard there. I think they're courting disaster without lifeguards at those two parks. They're very important. I think they should be reestablished.
- The water places should have docks, like at Lake Whatcom. Pick up bird poop, if possible.
- They need docks for swimming safety, and lifeguards, and better boat access.
- We moved cross-country five times, and we've lived all over the country. One of the things they have on the East Coast, which is really awesome, is they have a corporation come in, and they get the local businesses involved and people in the community, and they build a 5-story castle as a park. They are really cool, and the community can engrave their names on bricks and stuff. It was

pretty incredible. It would be a really unique thing that Bellingham would have, and people would come from all over for this park. People would come use local businesses. It wasn't like an amusement park, your kids used their muscles to climb and stuff, and adults could go inside. There were different levels to it.

- Well, I am stuck on Boulevard Park for children. More softball parks need to be improved. I like a lot of softball fields for people who like to play.

Amenities: Concessions/Food Vendors

- As an example, Boulevard Park has an espresso stand, so that type of low-impact refreshment stand in Marine Park or Fairhaven Park. And the city could make money selling vendor licenses.
- Certainly a hotdog cart once in awhile wouldn't hurt, just kidding. Maybe opening up the trails to get sunlight through the trees.
- I think sometimes it's hard to find bathroom facilities, or sometimes they aren't open. And when you have kids, you want those open. And a concession stand for those spontaneous times you go to the park.
- I'd like to see the commercial element, where, like the Woods Coffeehouse, there is some viable access for those who could make a go of it with some help, and a low lease for them if they try to help the community and the park.
- More spaces for cover areas.

Amenities: Lifeguards

- I'd like to see lifeguards and year-round maintenance. It just seems like I used to see a lot more park workers, and now it doesn't seem like there is as many.
- One of the primary things is that they do not have lifeguards at Lake Padden and I think that is important, especially for the kids. Add some waste receptacles along the Interurban Trail. People tend to pick up the poop and leave it in bags along the side of the trail.
- Some of the parks have swimmer's itch in the summer. They seemed to get rid of the geese, so it got better this year. Padden, I think they still have swimmer's itch. They have to have open showers there. Where you just stand under them and wash yourself off after you get out of the lake. The lifeguards were taken away. I used to be a park supervisor when I was a teenager, and I took children to the park at Bloedel and there was a lifeguard there. I think they're courting disaster without lifeguards at those two parks. They're very important. I think they should be reestablished.
- The lifeguards were taken away, I think that would be a good improvement as far as personal.
- They need docks for swimming safety, and lifeguards, and better boat access.
- Trails maintained. I would like to see more supervision in the swimming areas. There should be lifeguards.

Amenities: Other Amenities

- Areas just for dogs, and areas where you could jog better, and areas where people can skate.
- Better parking facilities.
- Disability access, or more access, I would say.
- Drinking, and bathroom facilities, and handicap access.
- Historical information, such as unobtrusive markers. Historical things that happened there, or 'donated by', information about that piece of property, how long it has been a park, how it got its name - that kind of thing.
- I think lighting and seating.
- I think that more parking spaces would be better.
- I would like the trails to be more clearly marked that are shared with bicyclists, and maybe monitoring the shared areas. Sometimes I walk with elderly people, and the bicyclists they just fly on by. And sometimes there are dogs there, and bicycles, where they should not be, so maybe clearly marking trails and monitoring.
- I would like to see some of the facilities to be improved upon. And I would rather see the funding go toward maintaining those parks as opposed to acquiring new. As far as the boat launch area, it would be nice to get another boat launch onto Lake Whatcom and a little more parking for the saltwater boat launch.

- I would like to see the horse trails above Lake Padden extended. I would like to see more waterfront parks.
- I'd like to see the parks cleaned up more efficiently, and I'd also like to see more parks that are wheelchair-accessible.
- If there were more information on identification of plants, geographic formation, or historical plaques. At Fountain Park they have a plaque that was cool, but it's faded and has graffiti [sic]. And they took all the park benches out of there, too. In that park, and others, there are people who live there in cars and RVs on the street and they can be very intimidating to people who just want to use the parks. It would be nice if the Parks Department could participate in moving them along.
- Improve water access.
- Improving parking.
- In some places the equipment that is there is in disrepair and needs to be upgraded, replaced, or repaired. Until they come up with the new ones, it would be great if they could improve kayak access to Lake Whatcom.
- It could be easier to access boat launches. There could also be more launches, because they seem very crowded.
- It seems as though if some of the bridges were taken out [sic], and as opposed to being replaced, they were rerouted.
- It would be nice to see more kinds of activities that are specialized to the various age groups within the community. It would also be nice to see a covered park.
- Just more access to the water.
- Maybe if they had trash bags for people to gather trash on their day hikes. More maps and access to higher climbing trails, like at Chuckanut. With the logging, they have closed some stuff down and now you have to go around eight miles, instead of a three mile hike.
- More parking and the restrooms maintained. I was walking through Whatcom Falls Park and there wasn't a door on the bathroom.
- Once again, it's an accessibility issue. On the Padden Creek trail, they need hand-rails over the creek.
- One would be to put up a map of the trails, at least in Whatcom Falls Park, because people often get lost if they're new to the trails.
- Parking seems to be a real issue at the parks, and some of the parks could have more picnic area.
- There is a park, St. Claire. Their basketball court, there used to be an obstacle course. I think that the lower level of that park could use some TLC, just general sprucing up. I used to take my three kids there all of the time, and I was not satisfied with that area.
- There never seems to be enough picnic tables, and also, at Boulevard Park there never seems to be enough parking. So, I guess parking and picnic tables.
- They need docks for swimming safety, and lifeguards, and better boat access.
- Well, probably more parking space. I like the natural look, it is nice walking for older people, along with younger people.

Dog Control; Dog Clean Up; Enforcement of Leash Laws

- A larger amount of trails and longer trails would be nice. I'd also like on-leash vs. off-leash dog areas to be more strictly enforced.
- Better toilet paper. Some more benches. More signs for picking up dog feces and signs for leash laws.
- Just safety and maintenance. Number one for me is that dogs are taken off-leash by their owners in areas where they're not supposed to, and there's absolutely no penalties for people who do that. There's no supervision or enforcement. So more enforcement of dog leash laws.
- Just, I guess, making sure there is areas where the garbage needs to be picked up as much as possible. Bags to pick up dog poop, upkeeping all of that.
- Less dogs, more picnic areas.
- More dogs on leash.
- More enforcement around off-leash dogs in on-leash dog areas.
- More patrols watching dogs with poop.
- More posts with the doggie bags. Improving family activities at Boulevard Park, like swings and more bathrooms in the parks - they need to be open, even in the winter.

- Mostly related to Cornwall Park, where I walk all the time - this is kind of related to the Frisbee golf, the loose dogs running around all the time. And the people that frequent that, drink while they do it.
- They should control the animals in the parks; the dogs and so on. There's feces where people are trying to picnic. There should be at least one park where there's no pets allowed, so people can take small children without worrying about the mess.
- Well, I think that the play areas could improved to make them a little safer. Make the playground areas fenced in, so that they are for children only and not dogs. Since I do have a dog, have more of the doggy bags and garbage cans in the off-leash dog areas.

More/Improved/Maintained Dog Areas

- Areas just for dogs, and areas where you could jog better, and areas where people can skate.
- Close them up tighter, so that they don't get trashed at night. And more off-leash dog parks
- I would like to see more dog access and bigger ... more neighborhood parks.
- I would like to see more off-leash dog areas. I'd like to see the off-leash dog areas we have developed better; they are kind of a mess. We use them daily, but they could use a lot of work.
- I would like to see more parks for dogs, where they can be off-leash.
- More enclosed off-leash dog areas, and more small child playground areas.
- Probably the bathrooms being more open year round. I go to the parks a lot and they are closed in the winter. I would love to see more off-leash areas that are fenced in, so that you can bring a puppy or a dog that needs training and you do not have to worry about it running off.
- Some covered tennis courts and more off-leash areas for the dogs.
- The condition of the soil, so that it is not so terribly muddy. That is why I thought of drainage. And at the off-leash park just off of Lakeway, well, it might be the only off-leash park. There are apparently a lot of nervous geeses [sic], and there is a lot of geese poop. I do not want them to run the geese off, I just want them to pick it up.
- Ways to walk that are less muddy. Places the dogs could go that are less muddy.
- Well, the dog park here, near the sewage treatment plant. It is always so muddy; I wish it could be cleaned up a bit. And I think some people are really good about bringing water for the dogs. It would be nice to have a water source for the dogs, and maybe a few more benches for people to sit down on there. My car was broken into in Lake Padden, so I think there needs to be better security up there.

Satisfied with Parks Currently

- I just want them maintained as is. I don't think they have to have any big improvements.
- I'd like to have them clean, and I think they are.
- It's wonderful that they're available. Should be made more available.
- The parks are very good.
- They have done a good job of doing it; Whatcom Park is great.
- Well, the only thing is that they do a good job. If you have a park, it has to be well-maintained or it is not useful, and the parks that I have used in Bellingham are well-maintained. They do a good job. I am thinking of Boulevard Park - we have gone and walked around there, and they do a good of maintaining it.
- When I say parks, I mean the pool. Everything else is great.

Other

- An expansion on areas like the GP area. To make sure that it is used to include trails.
- Anything that doesn't cost money.
- Continue giving surveys to see how they need improving. I don't know what they all need, maybe just well-kept landscape - if it's applicable. Well-maintained walking paths, keeping areas accessible.
- Extension of trails, and I feel we need more parkland with less building of any kind except for, of course, park-like facilities on those properties.
- I guess, the swim area at Bloedel, I would like to see that improved. And, just what I mentioned previously, about mountain bike terrains that are geared towards all levels of capability.

- I think just something more to do for kids, so they're not running around the streets.
- I think make sure that there are sufficient maintenance funds in the annual budget.
- I think more of them and properly placed, so that people in the northern area have their share - which doesn't affect me. So many green space is what separates us from other places [sic]. And multi-use parks where people can do exercises when they run, and more playgrounds. Trails where adults and children could stop and do exercises while they run along a trail - exercises like stretching and climbing. As an example, the recent building conflict around Lake Padden. Places have to be reserved for common use. It's important that not every lot be bought out for development. I think the city is going to have to start buying land or wilderness to preserve it. The city is going to have to take the hit. It's what makes us unique. And we have to start preserving the watershed, or we will not be able to use it. I can see houses along the lake, and I can tell their septs are not far enough away from the water, and that will affect recreation.
- I think one of the problems is clean up, and no enforcement of the park rules.
- I think that people need parks where the Cordata area is. I read that they would like to have a park, and I feel that it is important for them to have a park.
- I think that there tends to be a modernization of parks, but it hasn't added to the substance of the experience. So, I would like more diversity and authenticity added to parks.
- I think the more important to me is more connectivity, and more at the north end of the city.
- I think there is plenty of parks, more than is necessary. So, I do not want to see more taxpayer dollars go into it. There are other needs that the city has.
- I would like to ... we have young children, and I would like to see more young children activities, for toddlers, in the park.
- I would like to see more dog access and bigger ... more neighborhood parks.
- I would like to see the horse trails above Lake Padden extended. I would like to see more waterfront parks.
- I would think that they should just develop what they have, instead of buying more and more.
- I'd like to know more of what is available. I wish on the home page we could look at what these parks offer before we drive there.
- I'd like to see more enforcement of the smoking policy, or an actual smoking policy. When you have little kids, it is difficult going to the parks.
- It'd be the soccer fields out at Northwest. To use them for more than soccer and that's it. I think it could be more diversified, and it's good that they have the little softball or hardball fields for the younger kids.
- Just general maintenance and upkeep. Places for adults to go where we do not have to worry about offending kids or things like that.
- Just make it bigger.
- More parks in neighborhoods, so people could walk down to the park, so they don't have to get in the car and drive to the park.
- Mostly related to Cornwall Park, where I walk all the time - this is kind of related to the Frisbee golf, the loose dogs running around all the time. And the people that frequent that, drink while they do it.
- No charge, or less charge.
- Overall, more bicycle focus and access and connectivity.
- There are the mentioned connectivity [sic]. I would like to see a connection between the Interurban Trail and Lake Padden. I would like to see more success stories up from the Squalicum to Mt. Baker Trail - the Beta Baker, I think they are calling it [sic].
- Well, by park improvement, I was thinking of the swimming pool. So that was what I was referring to.
- Well, I recently went to St. Claire Park, and I was disappointed.
- Well, not getting rid of some of it would be good. Not disappearing would be a good thing. Since we have moved up here, we have seen some disappear and we have had less access, and we miss them. Fairhaven Park.

Q33: It has been identified that there is not enough parkland in North Bellingham. I'm going to read a list of various ways parkland could be increased and I'd like you to tell me which two you think would be most important.

Q33 response: Something else (please specify)

- A big park, as long as it has a baseball field in it.
- A fishing area; we'd like to have man-made constructed lakes.
- A place for four-wheeling and dirt-biking would be nice to see.
- Do not increase, and fix the ones they got.
- I am just for anything they do.
- I am opposed to getting another park up that way. I would like to see some of the parkland cleared because we have some available. The first one that comes to mind is the park space up on Barkley Boulevard. And, the other thing, is when the city acquires parkland, they need to not buy the most expensive land available. They are putting the park up on Squalicum Parkway, which is fine, but they bought the land at full value. It is heavy industrial zoning, and it is bad to be putting a park there.
- I don't want a big park or a small park; I want something in between. They need them to be medium-sized with more multi-functions. Maybe they could put in a wading pool for something for the kids.
- I never go to there.
- I really don't see investing so much right now, especially with what they've got to do with the waterfront. I'm not interested in investing more money.
- I think parks adjacent to the schools. I do not understand the larger park, or what that constitutes.
- I think they should get on the bus and find a park. Anyone who lives on the north-end, south-end, east-end. Walk to one.
- I think they should prune the trees in Cornwall Park. I don't favor any more parks. I would revamp Cornwall Park. I would take out the old trees and make it more useable.
- I think we have enough parks in the city to satisfy the community.
- I think we have enough parks.
- I would say maybe it just seems like inner city, there is a lot of parks very close [sic]. But, out of the area, there is not a lot. And then, within the outer county, there is only one or two. In northern Bellingham there is really only the Northwest soccer and baseball fields. There is really no park in that area.
- I would think it would have to do with libraries and stuff that are more important in the north area.
- It would be, instead of just several small parks or one large one, I think we should have more of both like Whatcom Falls Park.
- Just more water access.
- More facilities at the small neighborhood parks.
- More small neighborhood parks, and maybe some new types. I know there are a lot of creative minds in Bellingham.
- Mow down all houses, so that we aren't encroaching on wildlife.
- Parks that reflect the neighborhood, that reflect the interest and the identity of the neighborhood.
- Require developers to set aside more open space when developing, i.e. higher density housing with set aside open space.
- Take care of what they have.
- Take the big park idea and make it a little bit smaller, and then do a few community parks. Like a pea patch with trails.
- We have lived in a development where the developer had to put in parks or put in money for the parks. And it's the developers should be putting parks in over there. The people that live over there, but they didn't care when they bought it and that's part of the property value, and now they want to increase the property value at no cost to themselves and that's not fair.
- Why do not people look into the parks that are already existing?

CMTBX: 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?

- Add bike parking racks. They should coordinate with city transportation for access to the parks via public transportation.
- Any parks or open areas down on the waterfront; I'd like to see something happening there. I'm really enjoying the Taylor Street dock addition. The waterfront access to us is really important.
- As a mother, I spent a lot of time in parks with my children, and it is important to me for parents to have a place to take their kids, sit down with a lunch, and enjoy.
- As I go around the city seeing all the buildings going up, I always think, "Oh, I hope that they'll save some of this land for parks." So, I guess, more parks and more green spaces.
- Basically, I think we pay too high of taxes for not only parks, but for everything else.
- Chuckanut Ridge, they need to acquire the ridge to expand and meet their own standard.
- Civic Field is increasing its charges to the Bellingham high schools - Sehome, Squalicum, and Bellingham - and they're pricing them so high that the high schools cannot afford to play their games there. Well, soccer games. Football they can, because it brings in a big crowd, but soccer doesn't bring in as big of a crowd. So, they're looking for somewhere else to schedule their games, like at Whatcom Community College.
- Fishing tournaments.
- For indoor swimming, there are times that were you do have access to open lane swimming, but the majority of the lanes are taken by a club which mandates a secondary fee. We'd appreciate much greater security at the ice rink.
- I actually use parks closer to where I work on Dupont Street. I walk my dogs on lunchtime and breaks. I think it's great they have those little parks for people to use.
- I am very proud of Bellingham and the care that they take of the parks, and the importance that they put in that care of the parks. I feel that Bellingham is a much better city because of its parks and trails and outdoor opportunities for outdoor activities. I am very appreciative of the Parks and Recs, and the opportunities that they provide for adults and children, even though they do cost money. I do not have a problem with that, personally, but I have worked with children who come from families who cannot pay, and therefore I would like to see more opportunities for those children.
- I appreciate the number of parks that are already in existence, and I am very concerned about property taxes increasing. I'd to fund improvements to parks but it will be difficult, personally. Safety is an issue I would use the parks more if I thought they were safer.
- I appreciate the work they have done. I realize they're short of help sometimes. There's cleanup that needs to be done once in awhile. Other than that, I'm pretty satisfied with what's going on.
- I do appreciate everything they've done. The Whatcom County parks system has some of the most fantastic parks in the state.
- I do not think there is a need for more parks. If we could just upkeep the ones we have around. We do need one at this end of the city, the northeast end of Bellingham.
- I enjoy the parks. I also like the undeveloped areas, as well. I like watching the wildlife. There is one near my home. It has a little path, but the area has remained pretty virgin. If we had some parklands that were left undeveloped for the animals, and for people to enjoy in other ways such as bird-watching. And not develop all of the lands we have.
- I feel pretty lucky to be in Bellingham with such a good Parks and Rec program. I appreciate the City of Bellingham making the financial commitment to these programs. I think, also, it makes Bellingham a desirable place to live.
- I have dealt with the administrator part, and they are very helpful, very efficient.
- I know there are all kinds of lake access spots all around the lake, but they are being kept a secret by neighboring property owners and the whole reason they were put in there is so that people who don't own lakefront property could have access to. They should put up signage for all public access areas. And not have any access that's inaccessible - that would have to do with Silver Beach's locked chain-link fence.
- I like the thing that they did with Get Set. I guess it was the timing that made it hard to participate. The timing and some of the things that I would want to go to, I would need to get childcare and it would be difficult for me to do that. Just maybe even little kids' sporting events, fun things for fun.

- I love the park system and the trails, and Bellingham is an awesome place to live.
- I miss lifeguards. I think that should be in the city budget. The city has enough money to pay for that, and it's just outrageous that they took that out of there.
- I really appreciate what they do; I'm close to Loraine Ellis; I really like that. I'm close to Cornwall Park that has all the roses. I'm not sure if Squilicum Beach is part of that, but I appreciate it being public access. And I really appreciate that they are going to develop their baseball fields off the truck route.
- I really don't understand why places like Whatcom Falls Park and the North Shore have leash laws now. It was much nicer to be able to walk your dogs off-leash. It felt like more people had greater access and freedom in the parks before the leash law.
- I really enjoy Boulevard Park, and it's extremely important to me to see that kept up.
- I really enjoy the trail that they have established by Whatcom Creek.
- I really want a covered indoor park for the wintertime. It's just too wet out for kids, but it would be nice if there was a large warehouse or indoor facility where they could go and play with other kids.
- I suppose it's a lot to put in water fountains here and there.
- I think Bellingham does a wonderful job in what they offer in the way of parks.
- I think Bellingham has a tremendous Park and Rec environment for its size; I've been really impressed with it. Just keep up the good work.
- I think Bellingham is amazing when it comes to their parks and their trail systems. I'd be more prone to support the improvement and maintaining of what we have, as opposed to adding new stuff. We need to add new stuff for growth, but I think it is very critical to maintain what we have. So, add to the interconnecting of the trail systems. Also, it might be good to have, along the trail systems, emergency phones as we grow - in case someone is in trouble. Or some type of an emergency signal, like a red light.
- I think I really appreciate what's being done, and I agree that maybe areas of importance would be North Bellingham for needing more attention.
- I think that the parks system needs to continue to expand. Because when my generation is gone, the next generation will want to have parks - and we just don't need to have a Lynnwood here.
- I think the Bellingham parks are one of the best characteristics of Bellingham that I enjoy.
- I think the city could budget better by putting money into parks and environmental cleanup, instead of painting designs on the city streets.
- I think the city should not be worried about acquiring land for parks, when they can't really take care of the parks they have.
- I think they are doing a great job with the parks and I always vote for levies for greenways. I've had a stroke and I don't get out to use the parks as much as I used to.
- I think they are doing a great job, I would like to see it get even better.
- I think they have done a great job, and I think it is time to stop expanding it. It's taking up a large percentage of the city budget.
- I think we have enough parks. Period. You got more when I was a kid around here.
- I think we have some of the best parks and trails in the state, and it would be nice to have them connected for sure.
- I think you're doing a great job, but I don't want to pay for anymore.
- I think, overall, Bellingham has an extremely efficient parks department.
- I think, overall, that we have some beautiful parks in Bellingham and it's very important to keep them, and more parks are good. I think one of the nicest things about Bellingham are the parks.
- I would just like to save Chuckanut Ridge. I am for all parks, and saving as much of the areas as we can. The dog parks are great, and I am concerned that the Post Point seems to be going away. I do not know what they are doing there, but they keep taking away part of it. I would like to see more off-leash dog park areas.
- I would like to be kept abreast on what areas they are considering to procure for parks.
- I would like to comment, I think Bellingham has more beautiful parks than anywhere in the country.
- I would like to see more off-leash dog areas, especially trails.
- I would like to see, because in the summer the parks are very good and taken care of, in the winter everything is closed up. And some of us walk in the winter and would like to see those things opened up in the winter.
- I would say, mostly, that I am satisfied with the maintenance.

- I would tend to think at my age, after what I have seen and with the validity of the dangers of secondhand smoke, why would a third party have to suffer secondhand smoke in a public facility. For the management of off-leash dog areas of parks, explore the possibilities of splitting it into two. One area for well-behaved dogs, and one smaller area for not so well-behaved. I would like to add that in my 15 years experience of using Cornwall Park, everyone should have equal rights to the park areas. But the Frisbee throwers in the park, a good number of them do not show conservation for people like me and endangering the safety of dogs.
- I'd like to have a sidewalk on Electric Avenue that goes down to Lake Whatcom.
- If they're going to fix anything, they need to keep out the homeless people. They need to do something about the teenagers, and kids don't feel safe. They're always up there trying to fight with people, and you get robbed. Some of the parks in Bellingham are scary, and I wouldn't want to take my kids there.
- I'm 100% for the city putting as much money as they can of building up that waterfront where that paper mill is. I think that paper mill is the ugliest thing in all of downtown Bellingham. I'm all for tearing it down and putting a beautiful condo, shops, but most of all making a greenway area with lots of parks and lots of trails.
- I'm glad they're gathering information; I'm glad they're looking at possibilities. I'm glad they're concerned about parks in the north end.
- I'm not a dog owner, but I think that having more places for dogs to be off their leashes would be good.
- In our part of town, to go for a walk could be hazardous to your health, or to go for a bike ride. There is no shoulder and a drop-off.
- In this particular neighborhood, there is triangle areas that the Parks Department is to maintain, where three streets meet, and often in the summer the shrubs grow and it is a traffic hazard - near Broadway and Summer. Something that's irritating is when the city suggests that neighbors can do it, but the Parks Department is its duty; that's the reason why we pay them to do it, and we want the Parks Department to maintain what they already have before starting anything new.
- It is just good to keep up the parks. This park, Boulevard, is used by so many people - runners, walkers, mothers, elderly, and well, everyone. And we have music in the summertime, which is great.
- It shows that the city cares when you actually call to find out what the community thinks and it shows that you're not too bureaucratic.
- Just maybe to do more bike etiquette. Maybe do an article in the newspaper about how you can be more bike-friendly on the trails, so that we can share the trails together - the walkers and the bikers - and neither one of us would feel like we're imposing on each other.
- Just that I think that the parks system we have already is one of the best features of Bellingham, and the people are already doing a great job with the parks that we have. Any expansion of it is going to make Bellingham a better place to live.
- Just that the parks and access to natural areas are a major reason that I moved here.
- Just that we need to improve bicycling paths on the streets or along the streets.
- Just the fact that we love our parks and we feel very fortunate to live in such a park-friendly place, and we use them all the time.
- Keep doing what you're doing, Paul. You're doing a great job.
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up the good work. There's one marker down on Mud Bay that is not appropriate to the park at the base of Fairhaven Avenue. It's not classical like Bellingham is; it doesn't go with the feel of Bellingham. It's almost comical. It has cartoons, big bows of battleships and marines landing and helicopters; it's hysterical - there were no helicopters back then. It's horrible. It doesn't really meet the tone. It's not just like the other things Bellingham Parks and Recreation does, to that caliber of quality.
- Maybe, just that they have been doing a good job of developing parks and trails. But there could always be room for improvement.
- More multi-use playing fields.
- More off-leash dog parks, please.
- My kids, they are pre-school aged, and they use the indoor soccer fields and the Bellingham Bay gymnastics - which is currently for sale - and I just know it is hard to get into the facility based on

numbers. So, if one goes under there would be a shortage based on need. So there is a need for indoor activities for preschool-aged children - aside from the Bloedel open gym, which targets toddlers instead of preschoolers. The facility of the Sportsplex is great, but I don't know if they could do anything about the lighting. It's very gloomy, and it is hard on the eyes.

- My suggestion would be a city map of Bellingham, where it shows the parks, and along the back it could have the amenities and descriptions of the parks.
- No buildings on Chuckanut Ridge. No houses, no apartments, no condos.
- Not so many nasty signs at dog owners, and more control of small children who run up to dogs and cause trouble for the dogs. I am not suggesting that children be kept on a leash, but there needs to be more control. Be a little fair to dog owners.
- One comment I have is that I know a lot of the employees of the parks, since I am an employee of the city, and they do a good of keeping the parks up. Especially Bloedel Donovan and Whatcom Falls Park.
- One, I would like Georgia Pacific turned into a public park. And, two, increase access for wheelchairs. Sometimes it's very difficult.
- Only that what you have is wonderful.
- Overall, I think they do a really, really good job.
- Put more lifeguards out at Bloedel Donovan. They don't have any at all. They took them away.
- Put more money in the fixing up the parks and less on the trails, and not add in more parks.
- Quit mowing the grass in the rain, because it does not work. You can change the days.
- Save the 100 Acre woods. I think it is important. It's a top priority for Bellingham to maintain all of the green space around Chuckanut Drive.
- Southside needs additional parks for the new school, because we're really crowded for soccer fields. We need to add more parks and fields in that area.
- Thank you for doing this and getting input; I think it's cool.
- The city needs to continue to allow boat access on Lake Whatcom. The city needs to move from buying land for more parks to maintaining the parks they have, and having new developments put in park areas that the city could take over, rather than creating more costs and more parks on their own.
- The main focus should be to providing services to children. The Parks and Recs are accessible to low-income families [sic], and diversity for those programs is important.
- The only thing I would like to offer is that I hope that Bellingham would inspire the community to look at their parks as their most valuable assets. And hopefully people would keep them clean. There are some who use the parks, but they are not respectful of the parks. I'd like the community to inspire the population to respect the wonderful parks that we have and take care of them. That means that they are personally responsible for keeping them clean, picking up after themselves.
- The only thing I'd like to see at our park, Birchwood Park in Cedarwood, across the street is a light. We have traffic all day and night, and I think if we had a real nice light in the parking lot it would help.
- The safety issue. I would like to see some safety improvements made on the parks and trails for runners and walkers.
- The supervision at the ice skating rink is terrible. It is a free-for-all. The kids that they have, that work there, are the worst of all. Their lack of supervision and safety is a big concern. Also, Bloedel Donovan - actually all of the beaches - there should have a mandatory 'No feeding the ducks or geeses' [sic]. It is a big problem with all of the fecal matter in the wading area. The number one priority should be to protect Chuckanut Ridge, and to incorporate it into Fairhaven Park and the Interurban Trail. There needs to be crosswalks connecting Broadway Park, specifically across Cornwall. That is another safety concern.
- The survey is too long.
- There is a parcel of land over on the north or northeast side of Cornwall Park, it is the old horse farm, and it has been for sale for years, and the city should buy that to extend Cornwall Park.
- They do a really good job. I just appreciate their efforts.
- To have as much programs for kids. They have a good parks department. They need to consider parent needs for kids in daycare.
- To try and work to eliminate so much of the muddiness, even on the trails. And lighting for safety, especially when it gets to trail connectivity, those aren't well-lit. As the population continues to grow and use more of the trail system, safety becomes more of an issue.

- We are very pleased with the trail system in particular, with the parks and how much open space there is.
- We have the best Parks and Rec Department anywhere in the United States that I know of. We have more trails per capita than anywhere I know.
- We moved here 30 years ago, and we've always been thrilled with the parks and the trails. I just think we have a wonderful parks system.
- We really like the dog parks, and we use them every week.
- We'd like to see the Fairhaven Highlands bought by the city.
- Well, I am curious that the Fairhaven Highlands is not on the survey. I would not have been supportive of it if it were on the survey, but it is a prominent issue relating to Bellingham parks.
- We're really pleased with Bellingham, and we think this a beautiful place where we are from; we like the idea of off-leash areas.
- What I want to see is a balance. I live on the Southside. I enjoy parks on the Southside. We need to get parks on the North Side.
- You know what, Lake Whatcom Park. If they could take out one or two trees, because it is always sunny and there is always not a lot of space where there is some. So there is not a lot of places to go and set up your barbeque. And they are under the trees, barbeques and stuff like that.
- You know, the thing that comes to mind when you say that is regulating the dogs. I think I would like to see dogs under control of their owners. I have a dog who is always on a leash and she is very skittish about other dogs running up to her. Some of the dog owners are not following dog leash laws and not paying attention to their dogs, and it is getting worse. I spoke to the park people and they stated that they do not regulate that, the Humane Society is supposed to do that. There are signs stating it, but no one is paying attention to the signs. I like the fenced-in dog leash areas, though. It is difficult if you have a difficult dog.

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



APPLIED RESEARCH NORTHWEST

www.arnorthwest.com
(360) 647-6067



Introduction

Phone survey purpose: Identify public's priorities and preferences for parks and open space

- 50 items (10 open ended)
- Questions about park usage, satisfaction, attitudes toward potential projects and funding
- 300 completes

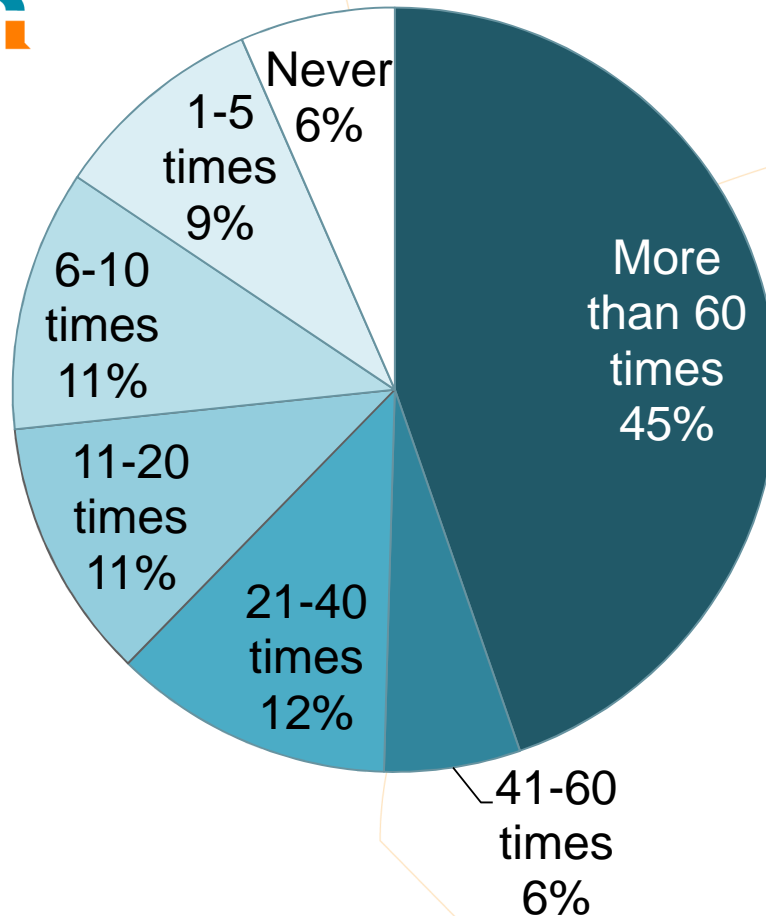


Findings

Analysis

- Compared to 2008 where possible
- Explored differences between relevant segments (frequency of park use, age, sex, children in household)

Frequency of parks use

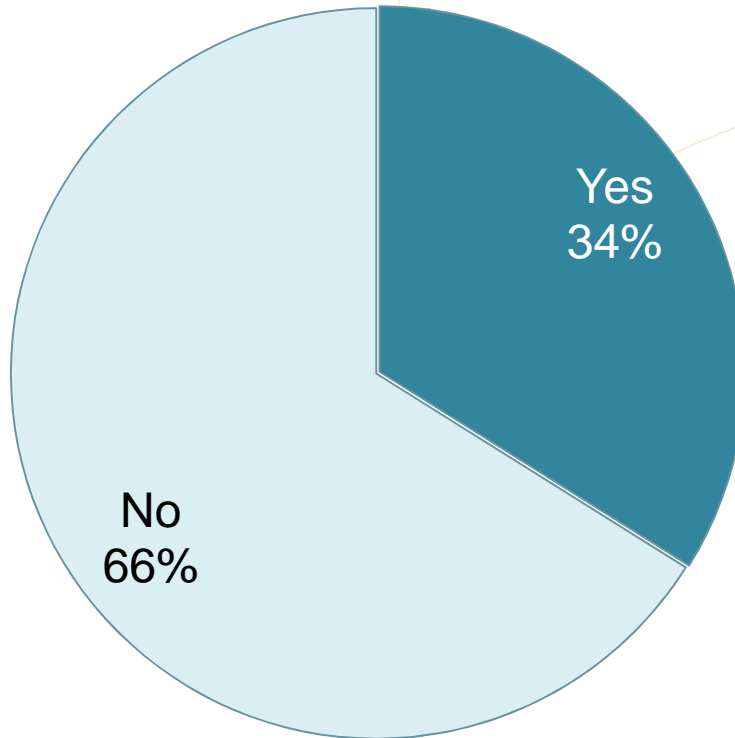


- ✓ Similar to 2008
- ✓ More likely to be high frequency visitors to the parks: <55 and kids in HH

n=299

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

Participation in recreational programming



- ✓ Similar to 2008
- ✓ Highest rates of participation: Frequent park visitors, 35-54, kids in HH

n=294

Question: 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?

Other types of desired recreational programming



- 27% said there are other types of programming they would like to see
- Suggestions:
 - Water activities (especially kayaking)
 - Serve particular age groups (most notably children, seniors)
 - Other: organized walks, programming for handicapped or disabled, snow activities, tennis, biking and bike safety, and fishing

Question: In addition to the opportunities that you know are already available in Bellingham, are there other types of recreational programs that you would like to see? What types?

Facility use



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

Question: Which facilities have you or anyone in your household used in the past year, regardless of whether they were managed by Bellingham Parks and Recreation?

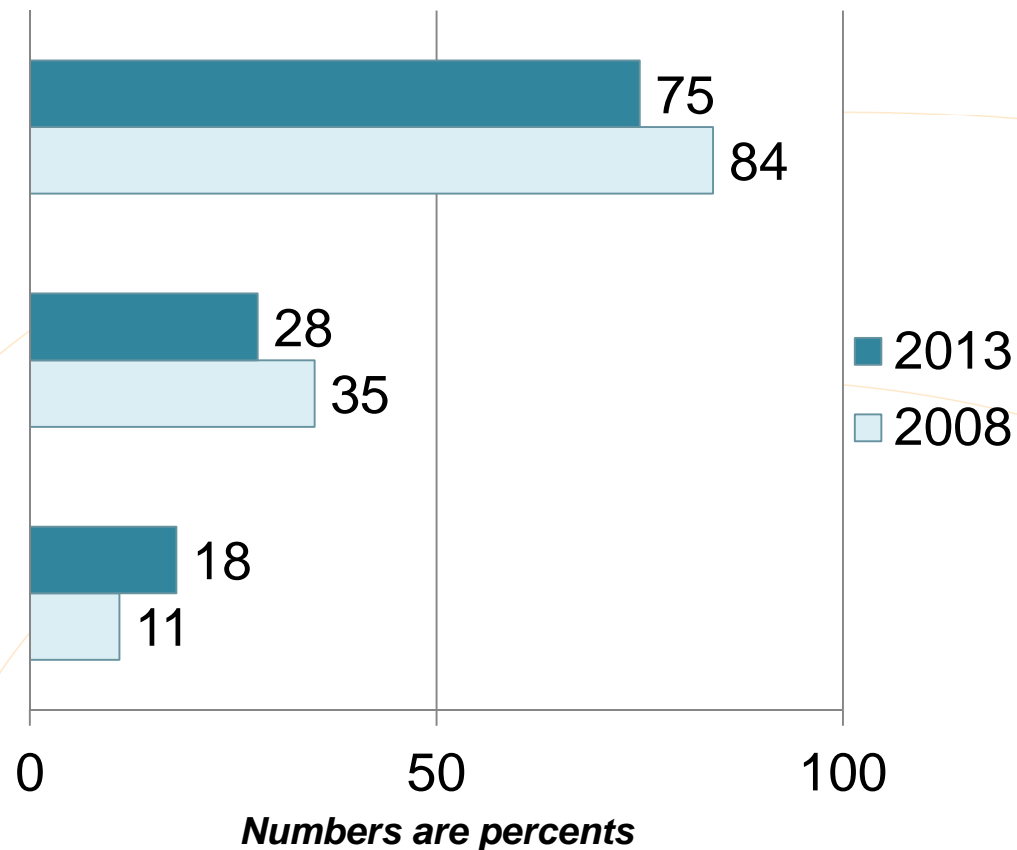
Change in reported facility use: 2013 vs. 2008



Walking/biking trails

Mountain biking
trails/facilities

Disc golf courses



n=296 to 300

Question: 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?

APPLIED RESEARCH NORTHWEST

Other facilities needs



- ▣ 21% said there are other types of park facilities they would like to use
- ▣ Most frequent suggestions referred to:
 - Walkways, trails and connectivity
 - Waterfront or beach access
 - Swimming (mostly pools, both indoor and outdoor)
 - Other repeated suggestions:
Downtown city park, athletic fields,
indoor facilities, roller skating

Question: Are there any types of park facilities that you or someone in your household would like to use that don't currently exist in Bellingham? What types?

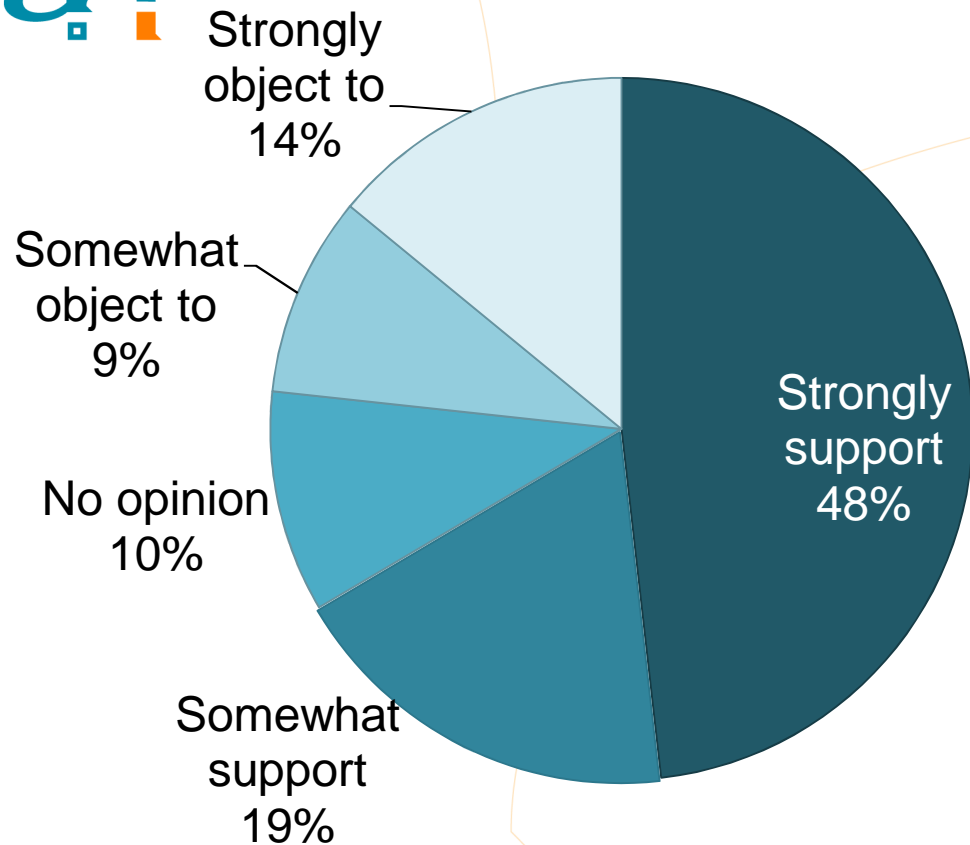
Pickleball



- 27% said they have played a game of pickleball or seen it played (higher incidence among age 35-54)
- 7% said they knew the tennis courts at Cornwall Park are striped for pickleball
- 11% would like to see additional pickleball courts (higher incidence among age 35-54)

Question: Have you ever played a game of Pickleball, or seen it played? Did you know that the tennis courts at Cornwall Park are striped for Pickleball play with a tennis net? Would you or someone in your household like to see additional Pickleball provided in the city?

Off leash dog areas

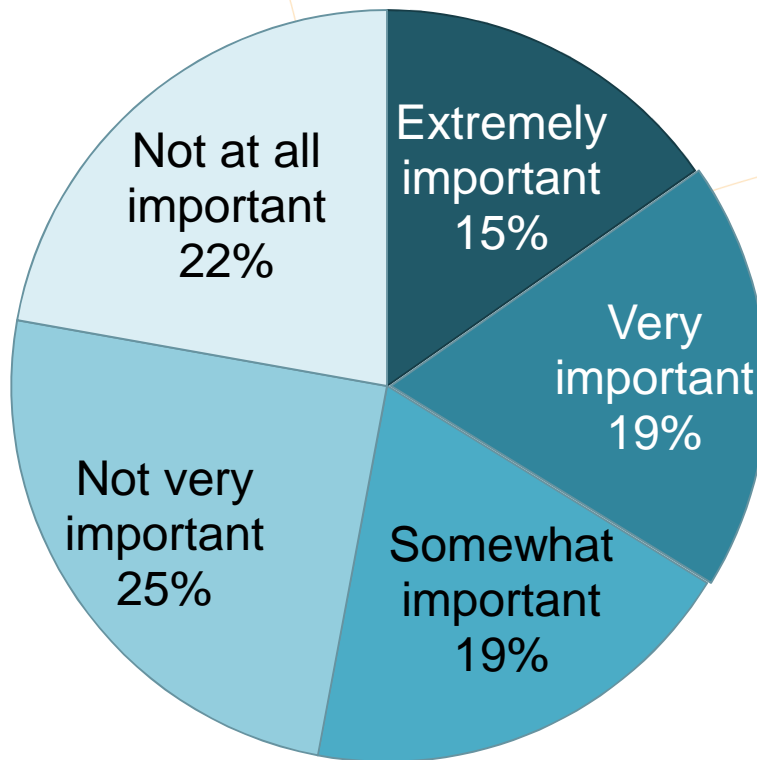


✓ Highest incidence of strong support: Frequent park visitors, <35, kids in HH, users of off-leash dog areas

n=293

Question: Would you support or object to the Parks department designating certain trails for off leash dog walking? Strongly or just somewhat?

Non-motorized boat launch



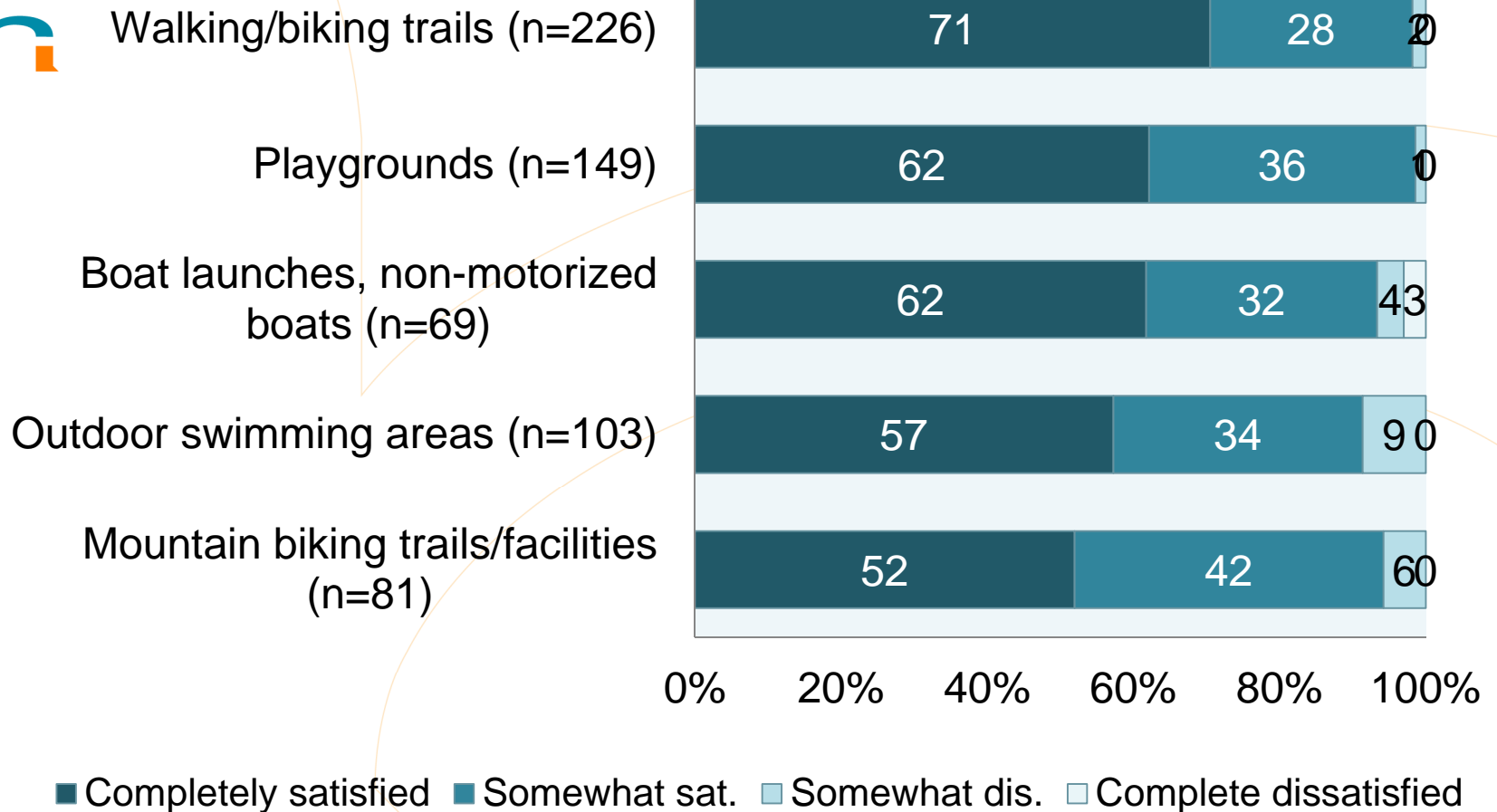
✓ Highest incidence of strong support: kids in HH

n=291

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

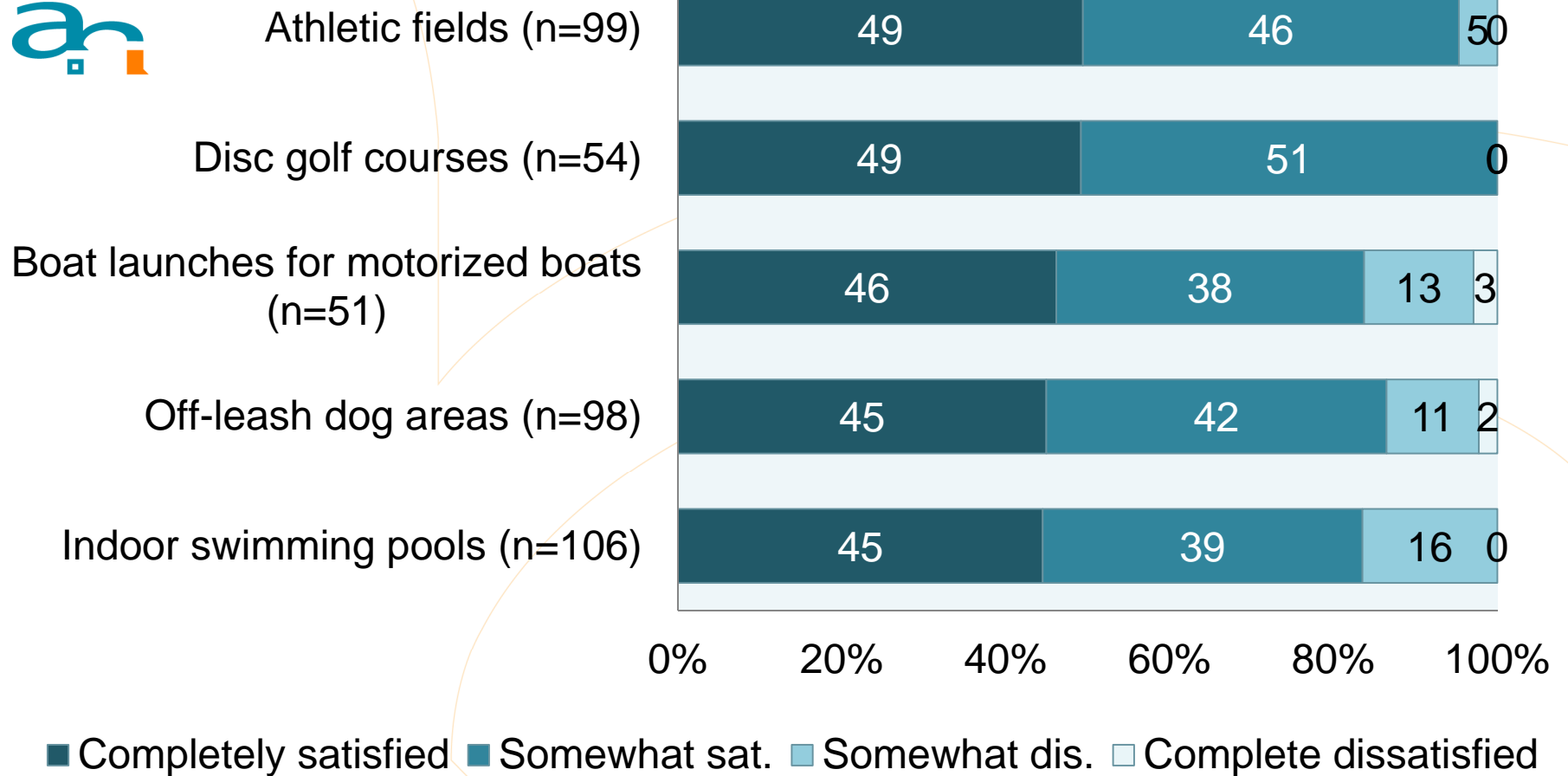
APPLIED RESEARCH NORTHWEST

Park facilities satisfaction, part 1



Question: For each facility that you used, how satisfied are you with what is available in Bellingham?

Park facilities satisfaction, part 2



Question: For each facility that you used, how satisfied are you with what is available in Bellingham?

Elaboration on dissatisfaction with athletic fields



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

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

n=51

Question: What is it about the athletic fields in Bellingham that keeps you from being completely satisfied?

Facilities not used due to dissatisfaction



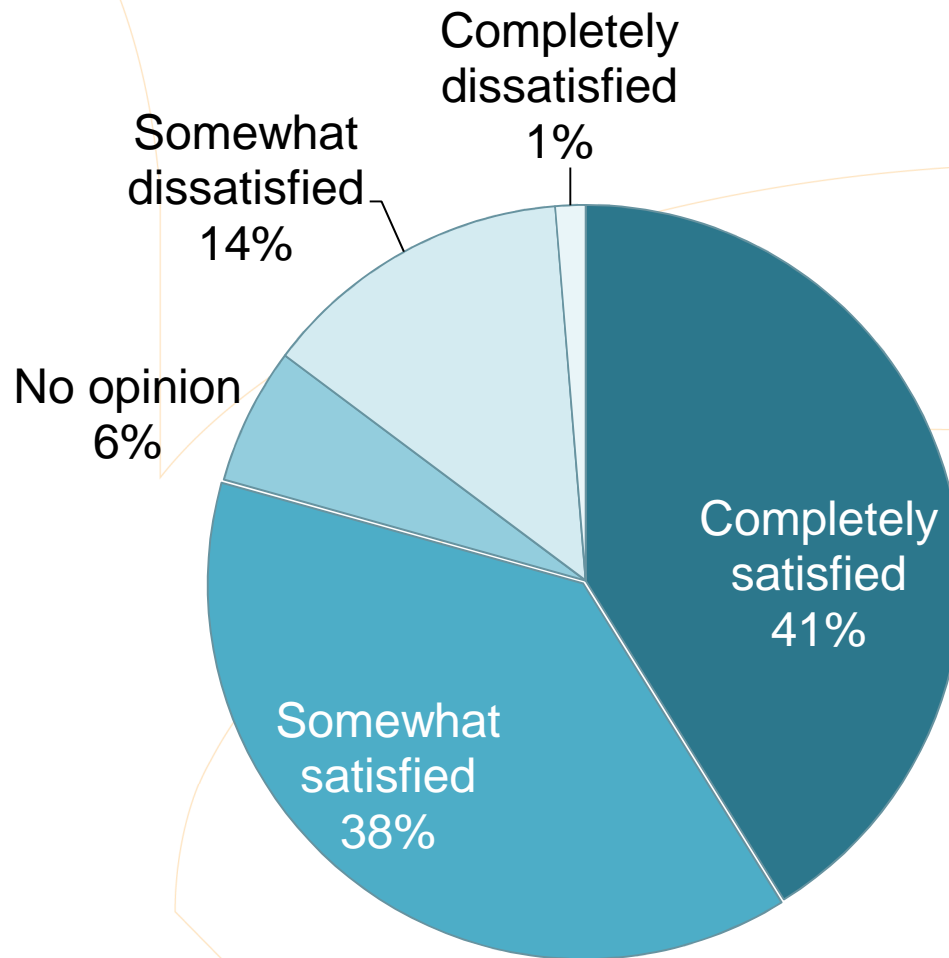
Not used due to dissatisfaction

	n	%
Indoor swimming pools	7	18
Off road walking and biking trails	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

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

Open space for wildlife habitat

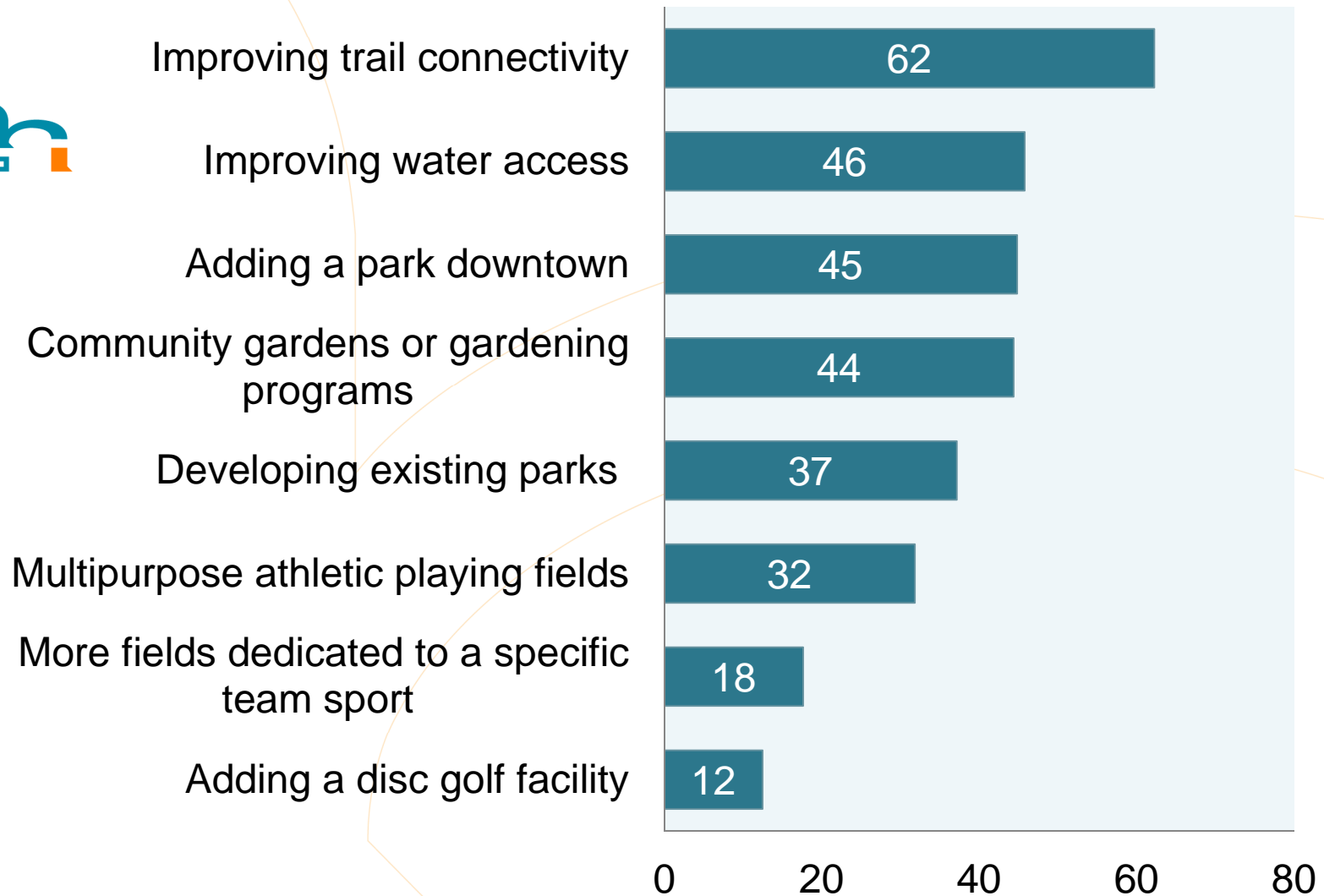


n=296

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

APPLIED RESEARCH NORTHWEST

Park priorities



Combined ratings: extremely and very important

n=289 to 300

APPLIED RESEARCH NORTHWEST

Question: Please tell how important each of these projects would be to you or your household.

Change in park priorities: 2013 vs. 2008



Improving water
access is extremely
important



2008: 24%
2013: 16%

Trail connectivity is
not very or not at all
important

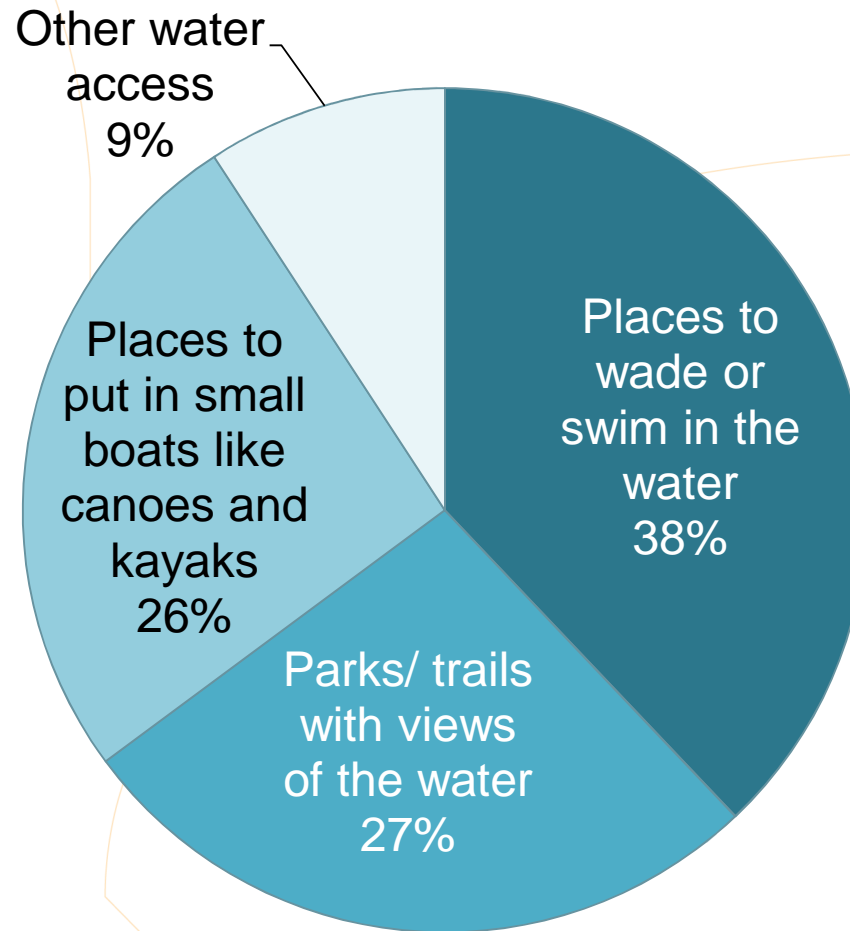


2008: 12%
2013: 19%

APPLIED RESEARCH NORTHWEST

Question: Please tell how important each of these projects would be to you or your household.

Ways of improving water access



n=296

Question: You said that water access would be important. Please tell me which one is the most important to you and your household.

Prioritizing improvements to existing parks



Top suggested improvements

	n	%
Maintenance (landscaping, trash/recycling, trails, other)	49	31
Park amenities (parking, specific improvements at particular parks, handicap access, seating, lighting, other)	42	27
Trail connectivity/extending trail	24	15
More/updated/diverse/maintained playgrounds	18	12
Safety (crime/unsafe facilities)	14	9
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

n=156

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

APPLIED RESEARCH NORTHWEST

Top priorities

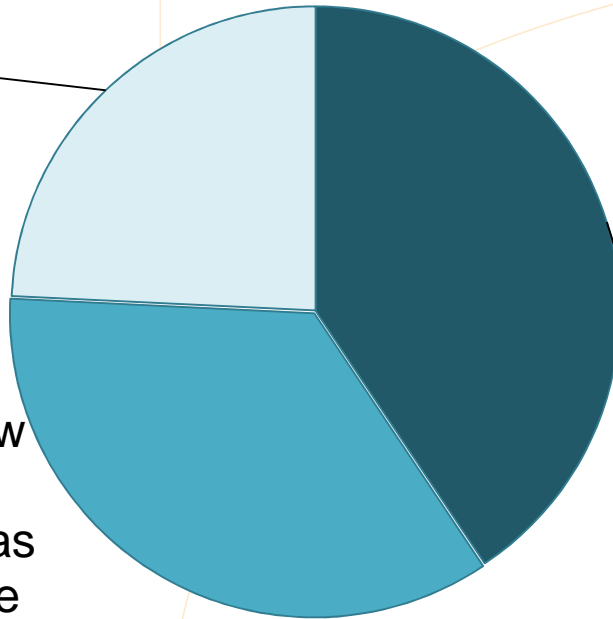


Add activities,
such as
playgrounds,
courts athletic
facilities to
existing parks
24%

Provide new
parks and
trails in areas
where there
aren't any
35%

✓ Highest incidence of
support for
activities/facilities: <35

Develop new
trails and trail
connections
throughout the
city
41%

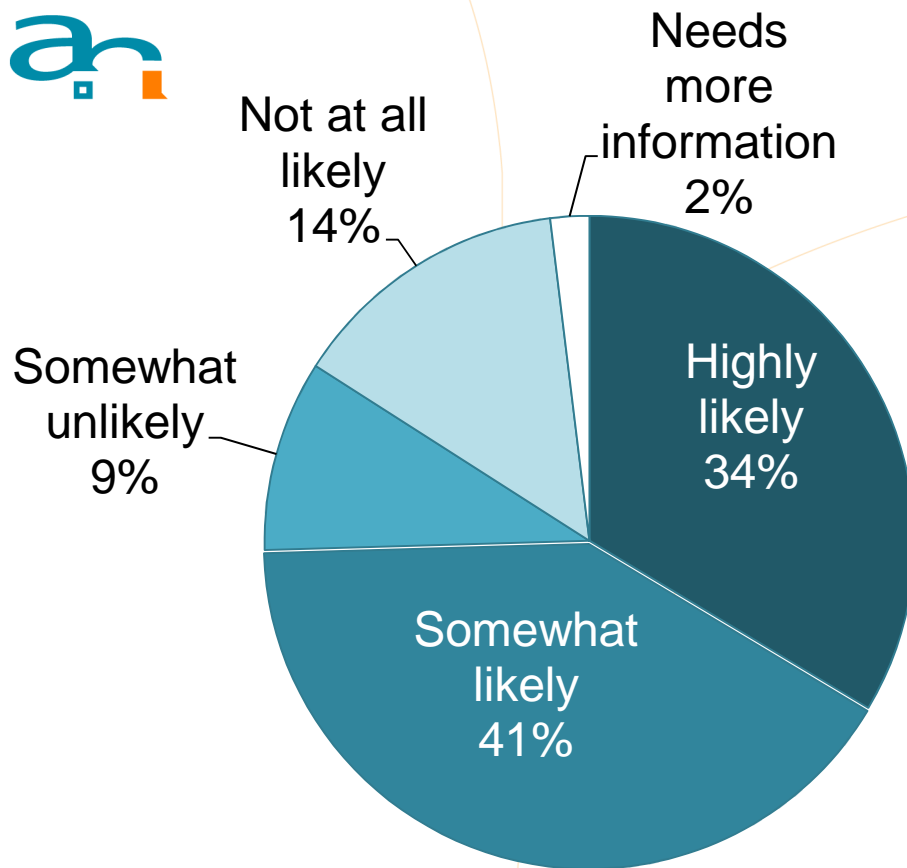


n=283

Question: Which of these three is the most important priority for you?

APPLIED RESEARCH NORTHWEST

Likelihood of support for a new bond or levy



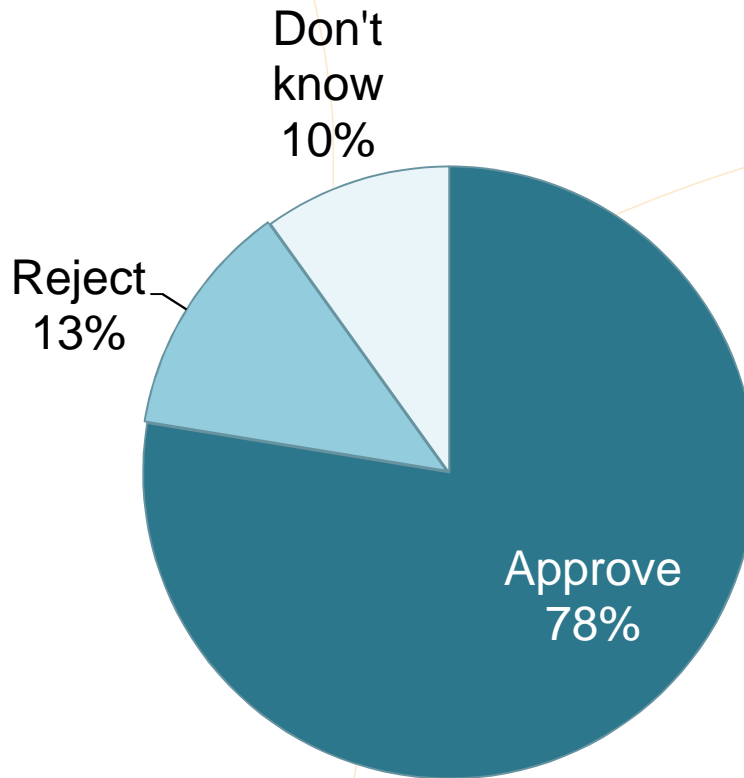
✓ Highest incidence of support: frequent park visitors, women, off-leash dog walkers

n=297

Question: 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 not already included in the current funding?

APPLIED RESEARCH NORTHWEST

Approval of replacement levy



- ✓ Highest incidence of approval: frequent park visitors, <35, HH with kids, off-leash dog walkers

n=295

Question: Would you approve or reject a new levy that replaced the existing one at the same level?

APPLIED RESEARCH NORTHWEST



Conclusion

Notable

- ▣ Usage of walking trails decreased yet still high interest in trail connectivity
- ▣ Swimming pools high usage, low satisfaction
- ▣ Strong support off leash trails
- ▣ Continued support for parks



End Slide

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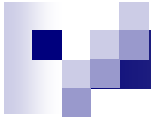
APPLIED RESEARCH NORTHWEST

Public Meeting Summary

Development of this plan included an extensive public process. A Steering Committee was developed to help oversee the process, provide input and evaluate the recommendations. The Committee included representatives from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Greenways Advisory Committee, the Planning Commission, Whatcom County Parks Commission, the Bellingham School District, city staff and citizens at large. A random sample household phone survey, a web-based survey, public workshop and public open house were also conducted to augment and inform the Committee's discussions. A summary of each meeting is attached.

The public involvement process included the following:

<i>Meeting/Action</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date (2008)</i>
Steering Committee	Overall Vision	January
Public Workshop	Needs & Opportunities	February
Steering Committee	Telephone Survey	February
Telephone and Web Survey	Conducted	February-March
Steering Committee	Level of Service	March
City Council Update	Progress Update	March
Steering Committee	Draft Plan	April
Public Open House	Draft Plan	April
City Council	Work Session	April
Steering Committee	Plan Priorities	April
Steering Committee	Plan Approval	May
Park Board	Plan Approval	May
City Council	Preliminary Approval	May
Steering Committee	Plan Approval	June
Planning Commission	Public Hearing	August
City Council	Public Hearing	October



PLAN

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

2014 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Our Mission

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

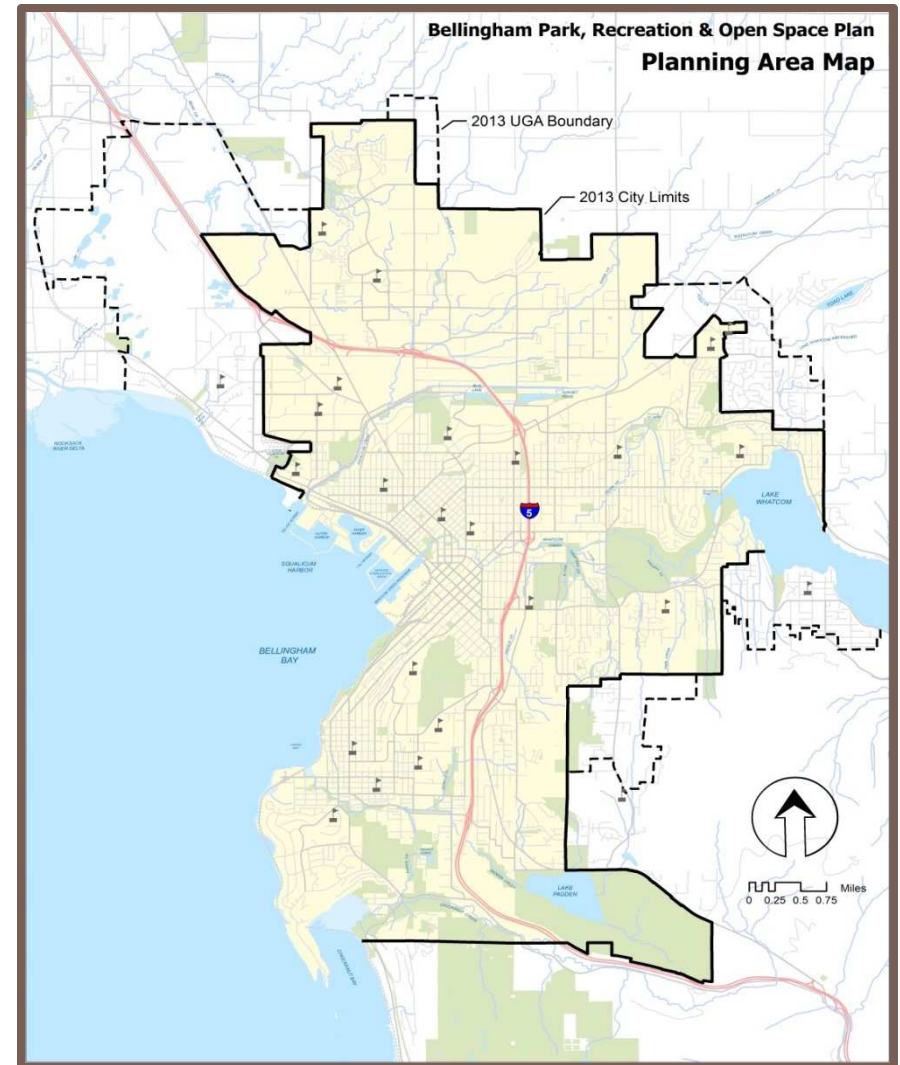


Overall Vision

- Equal Access
- Water Access
- Access to Nature
- Newly Emerging Sports
- Variety

PROCESS

- Steering Committee (9)
- Public Meetings (2)
- City Council (2)
- Telephone Survey (1)
- Web Survey (1)



PLANNING AREA

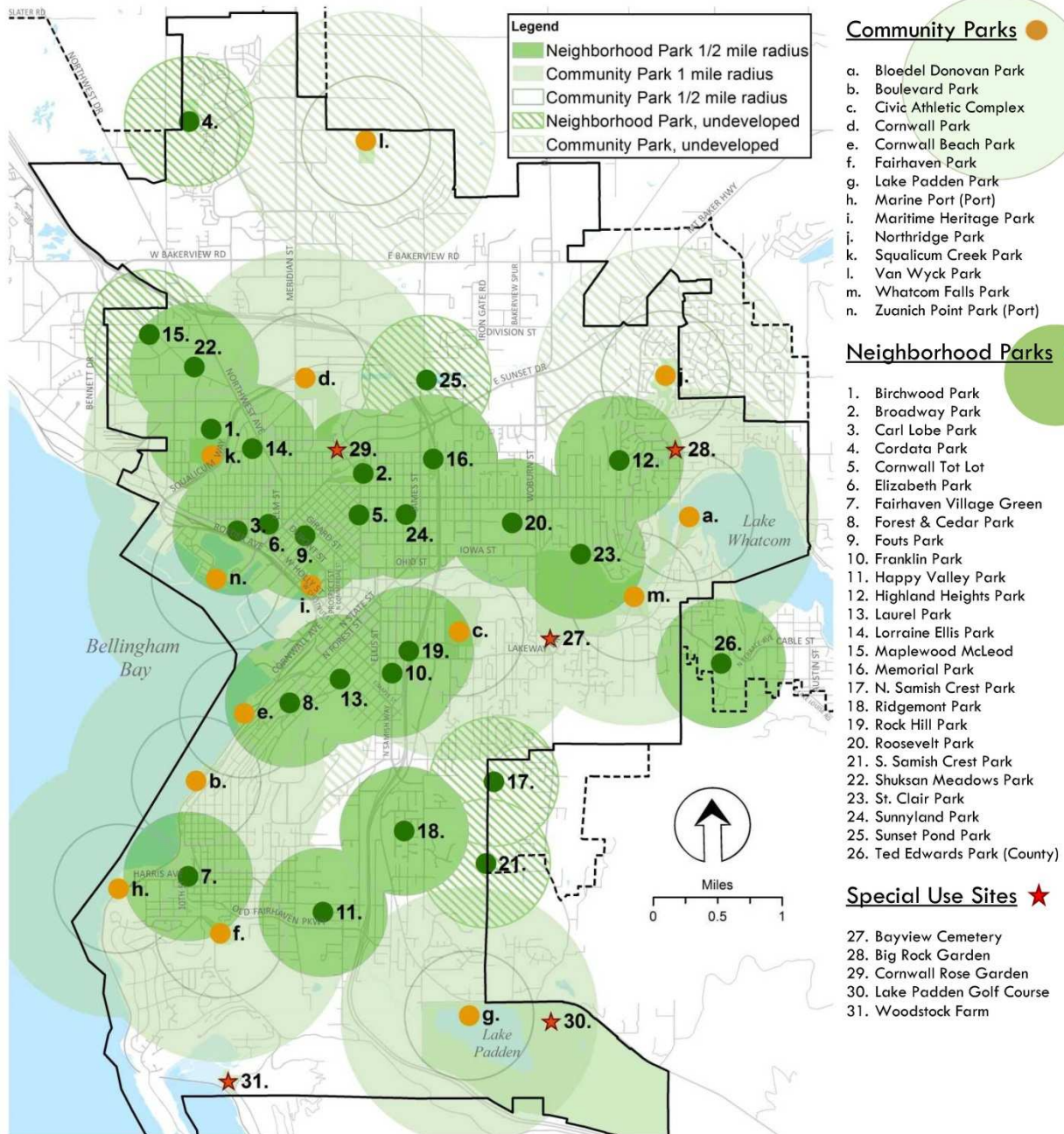
**Growth has slowed since 2008 plan.
Population projection reduces acres
needed to keep Council adopted
Level of Service.**

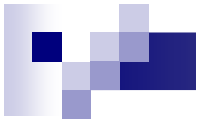
2013 City Population	= 82,310
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2013 UGA Population	= 10,797
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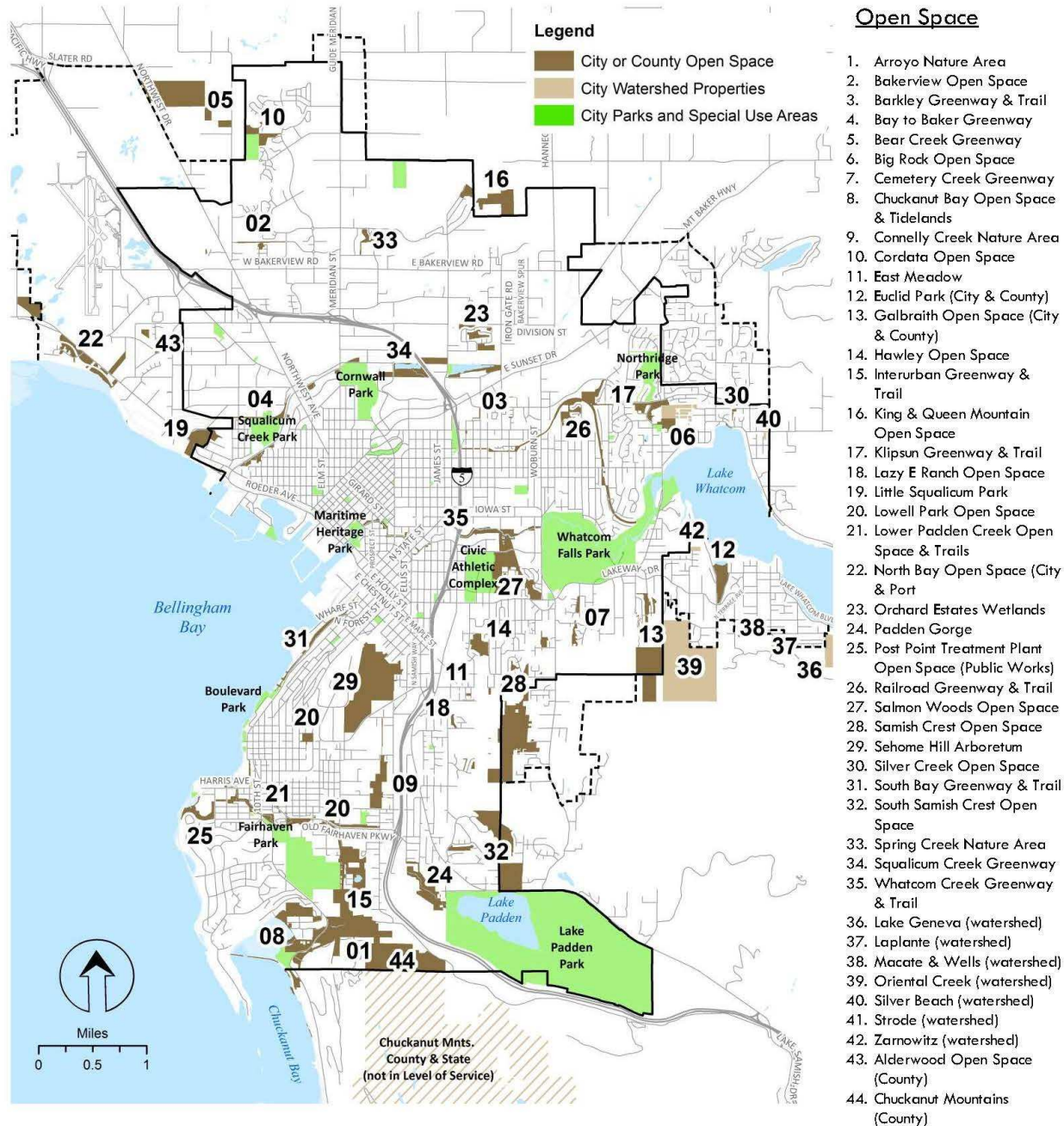
2013 Total Population	= 93,107
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2029 Projected Population	= 111,761
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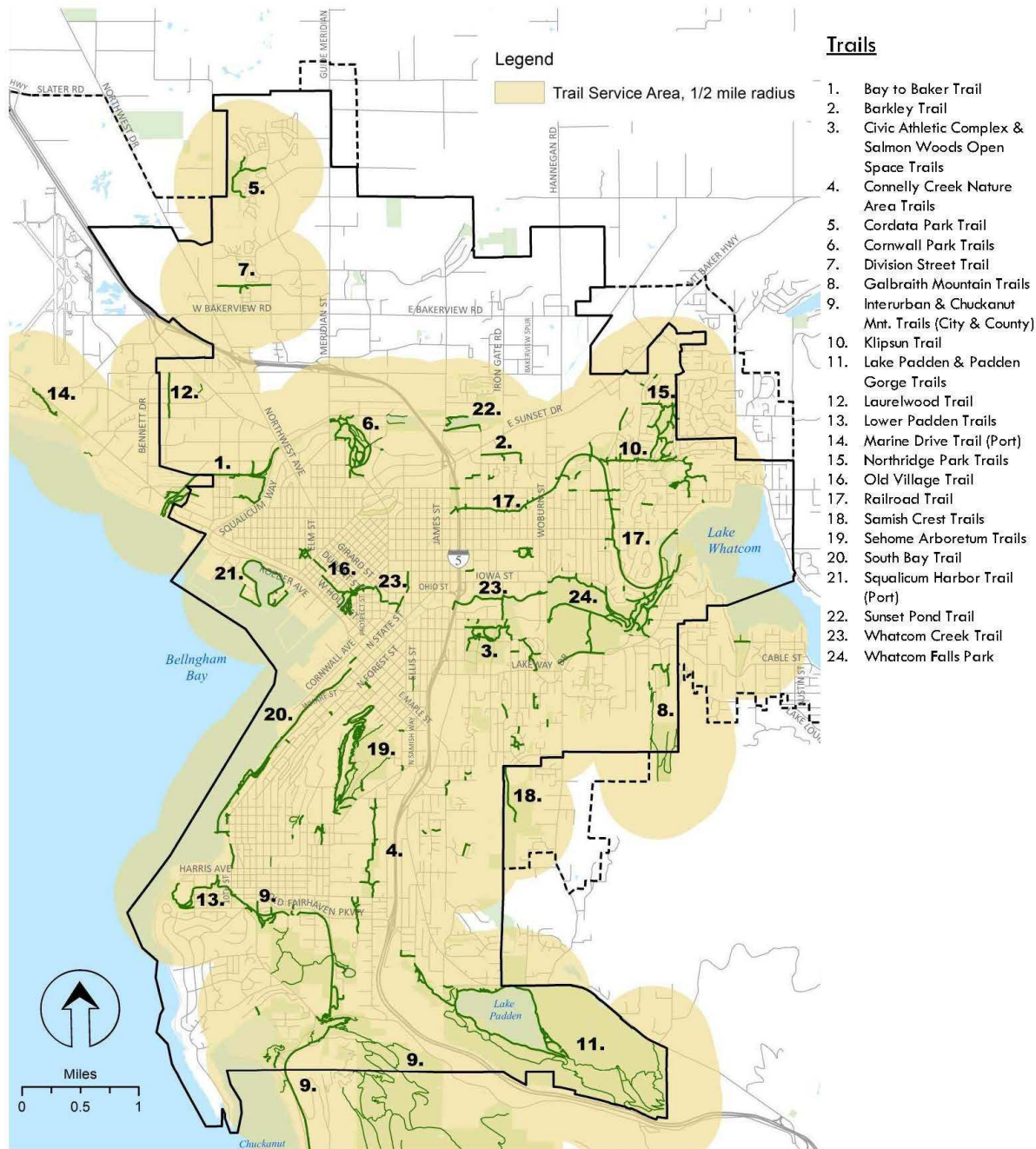




EXISTING FACILITIES PLAN • OPEN SPACE



EXISTING FACILITIES PLAN • TRAILS





Priority Projects

- Add parks and trails for 1/2 mile service radius
- Develop funded projects
- Add open space anchors and greenway corridors per Strategic Plan

PROPOSED FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
(Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Classification	Priority	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, X = designated, not developed)	Beach (ea)	Boat Launch (ramp)	Hand Boat Launch (ramp)	Swimming/Aquatic (sf)	Community Center / Meeting Room (sf)	Informal Playfield (acres)	Fishing Dock/Pier (lf)	Parking Lot	Auditorium (ea, outdoor?)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trailhead Parking (ea)	Disc Golf (ea)	Spray Park (ea)	Notes	
PROPOSED																																
BLOEDEL DONOVAN PARK	n/a	CP		COB																	500		200								parking control/fee, boat house	
CIVIC ATHLETIC COMPLEX	n/a	CP		COB									X	X																	replace Joe Martin fields w/ synthetic	
CORNWALL PARK EXPANSION	15.0	CP	C	COB																							1				expand park	
E BAKERVIEW COMM PARK	40.0	CP	1	COB	2	2	2	2	2		1		1		0.5	1						2		X	1				1	1		
FAIRHAVEN PARK	n/a	CP		COB																											drainage, rose garden, entry improvements	
LAKE PADDEN PARK	n/a	CP	1	COB													1						200								drainage/beach improvements	
MARITIME HERITAGE PARK	n/a	CP		COB																							1				improve playground restroom/year-round access	
N AIRPORT PARK	40.0	CP		COB	5	4	1	1	2	1	1		1	2	1	1					1200	2		X	1	1			1			
N WATERFRONT PARK	12.0	CP	1	COB	1	1	1	1								0.25	0.5					1	400	X			1			0.5	part of waterfront district site	
NORTHRISE PARK	n/a	CP	C	COB	2	1	2	1	2						0.5										X						develop existing park	
S WATERFRONT PARK	12.0	CP	1	COB	2	1	1	1		1					0.5						500	2		X			1				part of waterfront district site	
SQUALICUM CREEK PARK	n/a	CP	C	COB										2		2					500										Phase 2 per master plan	
WHATCOM FALLS PARK	n/a	CP		COB																								1				
BOARDWALK REPLACEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																											as needed, locations vary	
BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																											as needed, locations vary	
MISCELLANEOUS PARK IMPROVEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																											updated park master plans, as needed	
PARKS TRANSPORTATION PLAN	n/a	n/a		COB																											study of parking, bus access, shuttle opportunities, trail access, traffic impacts of parks, etc.	
SIGNAGE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	n/a	n/a		COB																												
STAIR REPLACEMENTS	n/a	n/a		COB																											as needed, locations vary	

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.

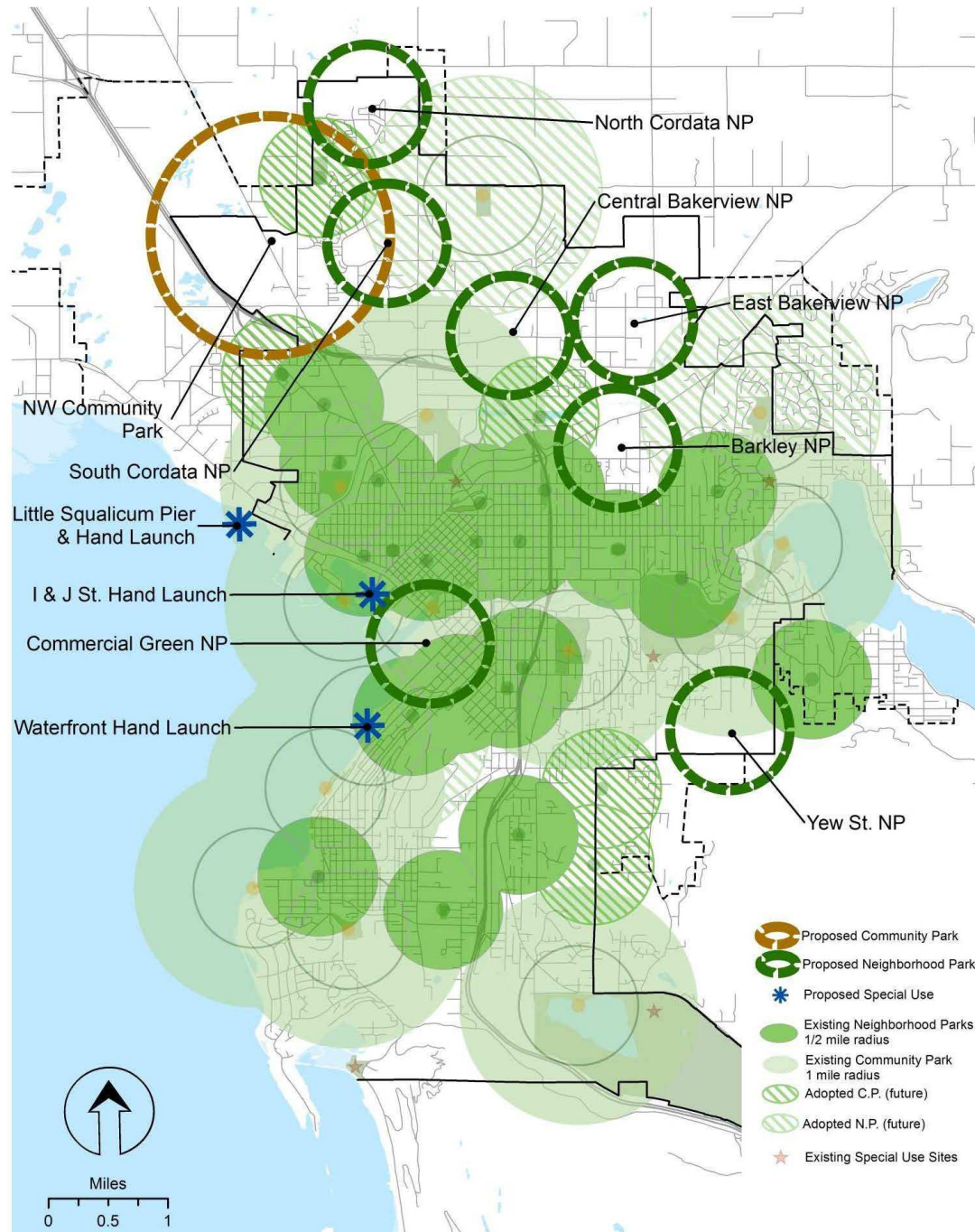
LEVEL-OF-SERVICE

Ownership	Total Land	Neighborhood Park	Community Park	Special Use Park	Open Space	Total Value / Capita
EXISTING ACRES	3713.8	86	1570	311.4	1746.4	\$ 5,208
PROPOSED ACRE ADDITIONS	287.2	21.6	45	1.6	219	\$8,35
TOTAL PROPOSED ACRES	4001	107.6	1615	313	1965.4	\$,6043
ELOS Total Standard / 1000	39.9	0.9	16.9	3.3	18.8	\$ 5,098
PLOS Total Standard / 1000	35.8	0.9	14.5	2.8	17.6	\$6,043
NRPA LOS Standard / 1000	34.5	2.0	8.0	n/a	6.0	n/a

Goals & Objectives

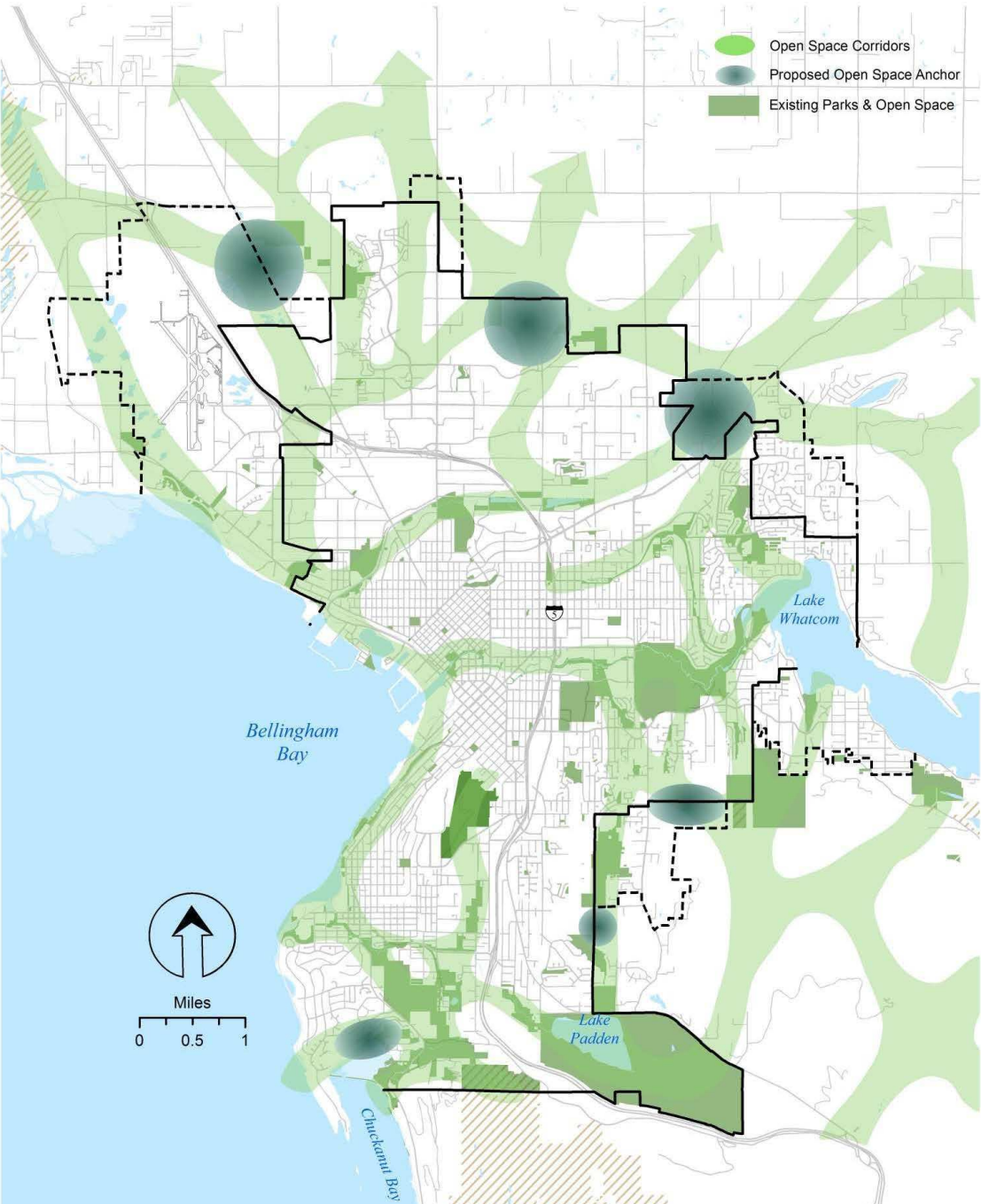
Aligned with the Council Legacies and Strategic Commitments

- ❖ Sense of Place
- ❖ Mobility and Connectivity
- ❖ Access to Quality of Life
- ❖ Healthy Environment
- ❖ Vibrant Sustainable Economy
- ❖ Quality, Responsive Service
- ❖ Clean, Safe, Drinking Water
- ❖ Safe, Prepared Community
- ❖ Equity and Social Justice



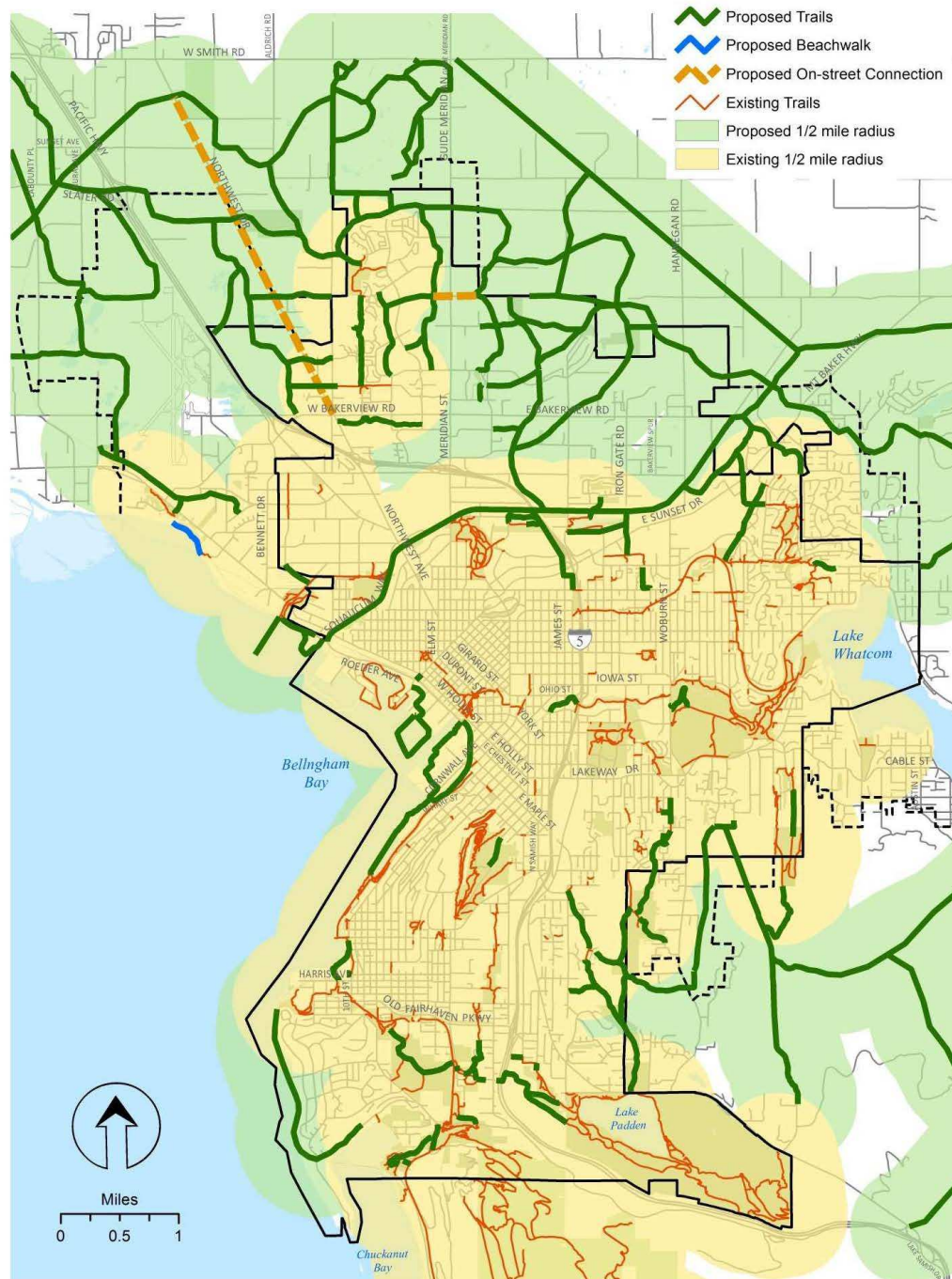


RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • OPEN SPACE





RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • TRAILS

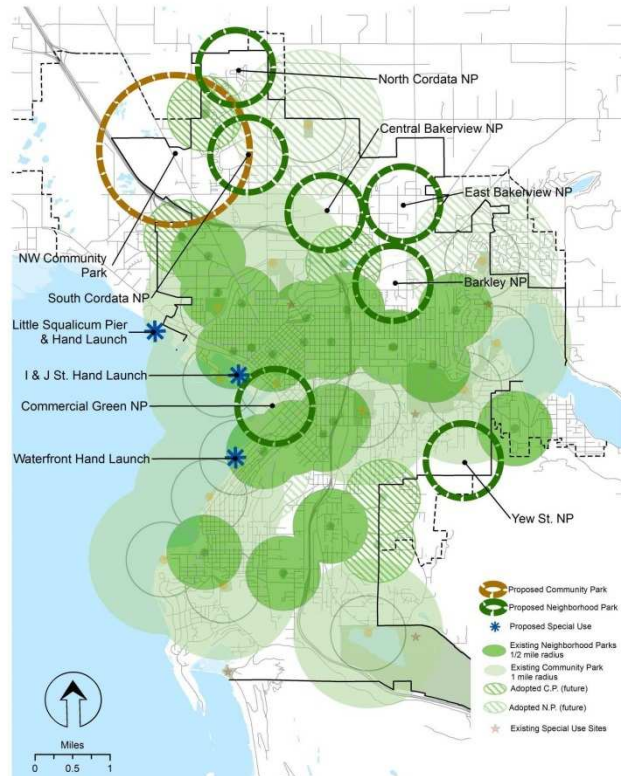


Revenue Source	Total Revenue Projected 2029
1. REET 1 and 2*	\$ 5,000,000
2. Waterfront LIFT	\$ 5,000,000
3. Greenway3 Levy	\$16,000,000
4. Future Levy	\$22,200.000
5. Grants	\$10,000,000
6. Park Impact Fees	<u>\$37,000,000</u>
TOTAL POTENTIAL REVENUE	\$ 95,200,000

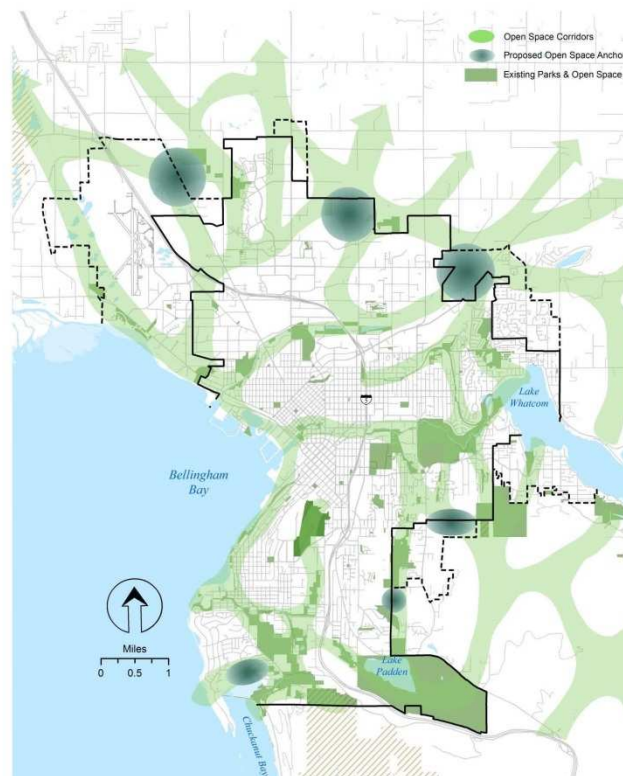
Estimated Value of Recommendations	\$93,400,000
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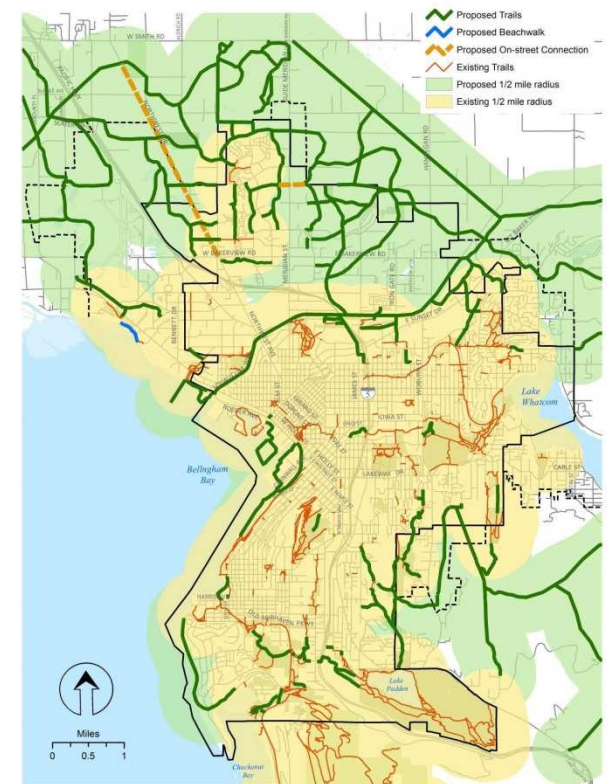
RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • PARKS AND SPECIAL USE SITES



RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • OPEN SPACE



RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • TRAILS



#	Date Received	Citizen/ Group	Citizen Comments on: 2014 Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update Updated November 14, 2013	Notes/Status
1	06/20/13	Kathy Kendall Input form received at 06/20/13 public workshop	<p>"My husband (he is almost 90!) and I use the pool <u>constantly</u> (3-4 times a week). We are <u>very</u> satisfied with the pool. ☺</p> <p>We walk in Cornwall Park, Lake Padden, Whatcom Falls Park and <u>totally</u> enjoy these nearby parks. Wow!</p> <p>Thank you for our parks. <u>Great job.</u>"</p>	
2	6/20/13	Maggie Kinsella Input form received at 06/20/13 public workshop	<p>"I came because I was told this was a meeting to address needed improvements at Arne Hanna - the pool water qualify, temp control and air quality are really distressingly sub-par, inconsistent but always <u>bad</u>. This has been an ongoing problem for the entire 13 years I have lived here. I attended many meetings and participated in a process for change which did not happen. This is very frustrating."</p>	
3	7/1/13	Deborah Shaw Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	<p>I would like to have an ultraviolet filter installed for the pools in the Arne Hanna Aquatic Center, thus eliminating the need for chlorine.</p>	
4	7/1/13	Don Duffy Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	<p>I would like the PRO committee to look into the cost/benefit conditions of an <u>ultra-violet water treatment plan</u> for the Arne Hanna swimming pool. I have been told it would reduce or eliminate the need for so much chlorine, which some people find irritating or debilitating. I personally don't seem much inconvenienced, but find others who do. I am a regular, senior lap swimmer.</p>	
5	7/8/13	Diana Fewing Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	<p>Please remove chlorine from COB water system and switch to an ultra-violet system.</p>	
6	7/8/13	Michelle Daniels Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	<p>Chlorine is very unhealthy and not good for environment. People should not smell like swimming pools!</p>	
7	7/8/13	Kristie Marino Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	<p>My daughter would not come near me because I reeked of chlorine. I quit swimming.</p>	

#	Date Received	Citizen/ Group	Citizen Comments on: 2014 Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update Updated November 14, 2013	Notes/Status
8	7/8/13	Teri Rexroat Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	Propose the new filter system to decrease chlorine.	
9	7/8/13	Colleen Wilson Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	Please improve chlorination system - don't like chlorine. I like the idea of a UV filter system!	
10	7/8/13	Caty Mack Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	Chlorine is hard on skin, eyes, hair. I would prefer swimming in a pool without chemicals. Thanks.	
11	7/8/13	Valerie Pennington Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	Yes I want to improve the pool and the new filtration system, which is more healthy for those who swim there. Chlorine is so unhealthy and discourages me from using the pool with my family.	
12	7/8/13	Gail McPherson-Kenny Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	There is such a difference in quality of swimming when chlorine isn't used for filtration purposes. I used to swim in an "ozone" cleaning pool at UCSC (Santa Clara), and it felt like swimming in a lake. I find swimming in chlorinated pools rough on my skin, hair and clothes. Please upgrade the system where so many children learn to swim.	
13	7/8/13	Karen Swanson Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	I would like to see the new ultra violet filter system in place at the pool. I would use this facility more often if chlorine free.	
14	7/8/13	Elaine Pace Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	I would like to see the filtration system changed to ultraviolet. My children have told me they won't swim at Arne Hanna because it has too much chlorine smell and gives them headaches after swimming.	
15	7/8/13	Christina Ashby Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	Would like to see a new pool filtration system that is less caustic to health.	

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16	7/8/13	Jan Ince-Miller Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	We need to get rid of chlorine. A new system would be much better than what is in place now.	
17	7/8/13	Ina O'Donnell Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	Would absolutely love to have the pool water be treated with something other than chlorine! I would love to swim at the pool and I don't now because of the chlorine.	
18	7/12/13	Jim Williams Input form received following 6/20/13 public workshop	I would favor a pool maintained with something other than chlorine. I have pretty much swam all my life and to date have given it up and in search of a sport I can do without itching. After swimming at Bellingham Aquatic Center I pay a high price for the activity. I find my skin very irritated and no matter what I try can't get it off of me. I also have sneezing fits. It takes a number of days before I even come close to feeling normal again. I've swam in pools elsewhere and do not go through all of this; most of them are in Canada.	
19	10/29/13	Gillian Brightwater Letter received following 10/24/13 public meeting	<u>Park Dept. Ideas</u> Lake Padden: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretive sign (remove in winter?) Animals to see & hear (with photos): ducks, geese, eagles, osprey, dragon & damsel flies, giant yellow swallowtail butterflies, water snails, turtles, muskrats, raven. Plants & trees? • Have section where people can write animals they've seen with a marker • Encourage nature classes at Padden "Swim with Dragonflies" • Don't feed or harass ducks/geese (I see it most of my summer outings). • Fall clean-up community wide: anglers leave trash, picnickers too. The GP Site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in habitat with pollution-eating snails & plants that also would attract birds. Add a viewing platform & interpretive sign. Habitat would be off limits to foot traffic of humans. Leave some log booms for seals needed warming sessions. • Create a cormorant rookery with vertical posts with cavities in 	

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			them. Anacortes ferry dock is such a marvel - you can see Pelagic Corm. in breeding colors busy building/sitting on nests & nestling in together, 10 ft. from your car - they've acclimated to living closely with humans.	
20	10/29/13	Gillian Brightwater Letter received following 10/24/13 public meeting	City Parks, I just sent a letter with ideas for the parks. Here's another idea. If the Parks has any say in the old GP site, here's another idea...an interpretive cultural center similar to the upcoming Heron Interpretive Center in Birch Bay State Park - small and beautifully designed. BP sponsors it and Friends of Birch Bay organized it and fundraised. "Friends of Bellingham Bay" could do similarly. Lummi and Nooksack Tribes could be involved.	
21	11/07/13	Wendy Harris Email received 11/06/13	<p>Subject: public comment on PRO Plan for 11.7.13 hearing</p> <p>The PRO Plan may be unable to meet open space goals for protection of habitat and species as currently drafted. It is a goal of both the greenway levy program and the PRO Plan to preserve open space and habitat, and the Parks Department has influence over use of greenway levy funds. Protecting wildlife against habitat fragmentation and degradation is also required under the city Critical Area Ordinance and the Shoreline Master Program, and is a strong community value. Thus, this is a city legal obligation.</p> <p>My suggestions and concerns with regard to open space are as follows:</p> <p><u>No Park Projects Focus on Habitat</u></p> <p>The open space goal is reflected in the Park PRO Plan as an unfunded, nonspecific goal, with an emphasis on education and acknowledgment ("recognizing" the issue.) Education is important but does not replace the need to set aside land for preservation of local species. I see no specific projects in the PRO Plan that are identified for the protection of habitat and species. (Perhaps they exist, but they are not set out in the PRO Plan, and if so, this should be corrected.) The only reference to increased open space, at Barkley Park, is to extend the lawn.</p> <p>As the city continues to grow, greater amounts of habitat are destroyed through shoreline redevelopment, removal of forest cover, and drainage of wetlands. Land that remains for development is increasingly composed of</p>	

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			<p>critical areas crucial to wildlife, such as habitat conservation areas, wetlands and steeply sloped forest lands. Local wildlife is dependent upon public land and sound planning for survival. It is our moral and legal obligation to compensate species for the habitat that we have taken from them. City owned park land should be reflected in the PRO Plan as an important means by which the city achieves “no net loss” in net habitat and biodiversity.</p> <p>The PRO Plan should more clearly reflect the Parks Department’s obligation to plan parks and open space on behalf of human <i>and wildlife species</i>, with the understanding that this will sometimes result in land remaining undeveloped, with restricted access. This is not currently reflected in the PRO Plan.</p> <p>The PRO Plan needs to be amended to reflect funded, specific projects intended to protect habitat and local species. Lofty conservation goals are nice, but ultimately meaningless without concrete actions. Without dedicated, funded projects, the PRO Plan open space goals, and the public’s intent reflected in greenway levy funding, will not be implemented.</p> <p><u>Parks Need to Avoid and Mitigate Habitat Impacts</u></p> <p>Habitat protection does not happen by accident. It requires research, analysis and deliberate planning, which appears to be missing here. For example, the city has no quantifiable, data-driven baseline standard with which to monitor changes in ecological function. While the PRO Plan contains a map reflecting general habitat corridors, the Parks Department continues to develop parks, reflected in the proposed facilities chart, irrespective of wildlife issues.</p> <p>And habitat issues need to be considered NOW, before the Parks Department goes ahead with all of the park development reflected in its plan. In particular, the Parks Department needs to analyze the various migration corridors in the city, (air, land and water) to ensure that park development does not create harmful barriers that isolate species populations and prevent genetic exchange. Roads and barriers poorly placed create habitat sinks that are extremely harmful to local species.</p>	
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			<p>Compensatory mitigation needs to be provided for harmful park development impacts. The city continues to pretend that parks and trails result in habitat improvement, such that no mitigation is required. This is contrary to science and common sense. Habitat value is destroyed by the intensified use of land by people and pets. Landscape changes have many negative impacts, such as noise, lights, glare, loss of vegetative cover, increased impervious surface, application of chemicals and fertilizers, creation of new roads, increased pedestrian, road and boat traffic, drainage of wetlands and creeks, and habitat fragmentation.</p> <p>I recommend a specific policy in the PRO Plan that acknowledges that development of parks, and the intensified use that follows, has generally harmful impacts on wildlife species, and that these impacts require mitigation. The PRO Plan should also reflect the use of science based habitat buffers within city parks to adequately protect local species.</p> <p><u>Comprehensive Conservation Strategy</u> Protecting wildlife requires creation of a comprehensive conservation strategy that identifies and protects important habitat and establishes buffers and connectivity links between habitat patches. This conservation strategy is needed before the city blindly develops future parks without understanding the impacts on local wildlife.</p> <p>This should have been reviewed pursuant to a SEPA Environment Impact Statement (EIS). Instead, the city issued a SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS). I urge you to reconsider the need to conduct an EIS that can be used to craft a comprehensive conservation strategy. This would address many needs, including the wildlife and habitat analysis needed for the waterfront, and identification of areas too sensitive to develop, as well as areas appropriate for offsite mitigation, providing greater certainty and less expense for developers.</p> <p>The city should consult with a field wildlife biologist (terrestrial species and birds) and follow up on the data gaps that were set out in the 1995 and 2003 COB wildlife and habitat study by Ann Eissinger of Nahkeeta</p>	
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			<p>Northwest. The city's habitat restoration master plan efforts, which are on-going, leave dangerous and inexcusable habitat connectivity gaps. (Lake Whatcom watershed is excluded, as are some shoreline areas and streams.) It also fails to create a quantifiable baseline standard for local species from which to measure biodiversity, which is the entire purpose for protecting habitat.</p> <p><u>Current Park Plans Are Harmful To Wildlife</u></p> <p>I ask the city to consider the harmful impacts of projects reflected in the PRO Plan, and make revisions accordingly. Currently, many planned park projects will have an extremely harmful affect on local wildlife, in contradiction of the open space goal. In particular, the Parks Department is developing shorelines without concern for wildlife impacts and without providing compensatory mitigation. Public access and habitat are not compatible goals, and each must be planned for separately.</p> <p>Instead, the Parks Department is restoring the shorelines of Bellingham Bay from Boulevard Park to the end of the Waterfront District to allow access for people, pets and recreational watercraft. It is pretending this has habitat value. Intensified human use of shorelines is associated with loss of biodiversity and ecological degradation, and at a minimum, requires compensatory mitigation, although the Parks Department is providing none.</p> <p>It is proceeding with a large ½ mile over water bridge, which has been established by science to be one of the most ecologically damaging forms of development. Concerns over the harmful impacts on ecological function led Washington to adopt Aquatic Habitat Guidelines. Unfortunately, these guidelines are voluntary, which has allowed the Parks Department to proceed with an expensive park project despite the ecological damage it can be expected to cause.</p> <p>New parks planned in the northern part of town will have particularly harmful impact as it will destroy forested cover, riparian corridors and wetlands in undeveloped parts of town. The city must provide compensatory mitigation for any impacts and the new PRO Plan should</p>	

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			<p>provide clearly stated policies linking various land use elements and park activities to specific wildlife requirements. New parks should not be sited in areas of high habitat value, or in travel corridors, and this analysis must be done before land is purchased and selected for park development.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments on the updated PRO Plan.</p> <p>Sincerely, Wendy Harris</p>	
22	11/14/13	Gaythia Weis	<p>Overview:</p> <p>A city is more than a sum of a series of component parts. If handled correctly, it is more like a woven tapestry than a bundle of disconnected threads. If poorly conceived, narrowly executed and then managed in a sectarian, compartmentalized fashion, the tapestry is never constructed. The strength, and the sense of connectedness of the community disintegrates, or is never created, just as threads might end up as nothing but snarls and tangles.</p> <p>Viewed in isolation, in the limited box created for the plan objectives, the City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department's "ProPlan" is a good enough plan. Apparently one of the goals here is to serve as a vehicle for applying for parks related grants. The plan is reasonably well written and I can accept Park Design and Development Manager, Leslie Bryson's word that it serves the City of Bellingham well as the city competes against communities of similar size for grant monies. It is, after all very much like the previous plan and that plan apparently worked effectively for this purpose. But the plan lacks an overarching conception of its role in the city's future. It does not seem to be designed to fit as one key component of an analysis of city operations and planning on a systems wide basis.</p> <p>I think that the 2014 ProPlan fails to convey the exceptional and uniquely wonderful attributes of our city. In focusing on a narrow set of threads, it fails to describe, define determine the future of the wonderful breadth of Parks and Recreational related assets available to citizens and visitors to</p>	

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			<p>Bellingham. In limiting itself to its defined six year contextual time frame it lacks vision. There is little sense here, for example, that the City of Bellingham is on the cusp of developing a rejuvenated waterfront. Or that the acquisition by Whatcom County of lands along Lake Whatcom might drive demands for trail usage heading in that direction. This failure to fully describe and define these attributes also is an indication of trouble ahead. Some cities, sited on a flat prairie for example, might do well with a plan that simply delivers a set formula of parks within a half mile of residents. And this strong sense of local neighborhood is important for Bellingham also. But Bellingham has so much more than that. Our stupendous natural surroundings are a key economic asset.</p> <p>Not spelling out how key linkages, such as neighborhood feeder trails, water absorbing and purifying forests and wetlands or wildlife habitat corridors are to be protected going forward sadly guarantees that much will be lost as development continues.</p> <p>Trails and Pedestrian Connectivity. The use of the major trails requires access from neighborhoods. Much of this access is by way of smaller feeder trails. There is a disconnect between the Parks ProPlan and the City's Pedestrian Plan http://www.cob.org/documents/pw/transportation/pedestrian-planning/bpmp-final-plan-7-16-12.pdf. Some pathways, depicted in the pedestrian plan, are not shown in the Parks ProPlan. Some of these are on vacated street right of ways and thus fall under Public Works rather than Parks. Some are informal and not maintained by anyone. As pointed out in a comment by someone at the Parks presentation held on October 24th, this leads to situations in which there is uncertainty as to whether or not a pathway is public. In my opinion, this also leads to non-egalitarian access. Those of us who are insiders, and familiar with area pathways use them, others may be hesitant to use an unlabeled trail. Signage is desirable but expensive. There should be a commitment to post signs over time. But in the meantime, the public uses maps within documents such as the ProPlan to plan walks and hikes. They may be seeking ways to get from "here" to "there". Or they may be interested in just getting out for a little exercise, perhaps with their dog, in an interesting circular loop. Either way, maps</p>	
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			<p>should give all of the options. The public views this as one city. If departments want to retain turf rights, different colors could be used. I think that some city employees fear that if unmaintained trails are shown this will precipitate demands for servicing them. I believe that this should be viewed as an opportunity, rather than a threat. Identification of potential improvements helps to point out the importance of paying for government services and also aids in the solicitation volunteer auxiliary support. The Bellingham Parks Department already has an excellent program for volunteer efforts, spearheaded by Rae Edwards. But sometimes departmental turf considerations get in the way of efforts of citizens to volunteer support. Again, a one city approach is needed.</p> <p>Habitat Corridors. The Parks ProPlan has a map showing swaths of Habitat corridors crossing the city. These are somewhat dishonest in ways that have both positive and negative impacts on the image and reality of the city. Again, department divisions seem to be getting impeding the process. The Plan fails to highlight key breaks, as at major roadways or housing and commercial developments. Pointing these breaks out would provide incentive for mitigation of effects. With wildlife crossing warning signage, perhaps. Or explanations regarding streams draining to the Bay, and the importance of avoiding contamination of the waters. And, by preservation of mini refuges and corridors. And, these designations can inspire and provide public support for more major improvements. Also, very significant work that has already been done could be highlighted, as for example, the enhancements of Padden Creek at Fairhaven Parkway. This work enhances parks habitat connectivity even if roads are under the jurisdiction of Public Works.</p> <p>The 2014 ProPlan also fails to highlight that the City actually is in the process of developing a habitat master plan. This process, like road culvert work, just happens to fall within the Public Works Department: http://www.cob.org/services/environment/restoration/plan.aspx. Those attending various Parks meetings or reading the ProPlan might reasonably conclude that the city is doing little detailed work in this area. The public rightly views Bellingham as a unified city, not a series of isolated departments. A circumscribed approach within the city as to which turf</p>	

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			<p>belongs within which department not only inhibits the ability to grasp city processes, it impedes the ability of the city itself to function well. Unity of purpose here within the various city departments is essential for habitat protection.</p> <p>What specific relationship is there between the planning process currently going on for our waterfront development and the fact that the waterfront in its entirety is under a green swath of habitat corridor according to this ProPlan?</p> <p>Planning and Development: Too much of the city's planning and development work is taking place by disconnected bits and pieces .</p> <p>Waterfront planning, as cited under habitat above, seems to be an area where potential for creation and preservation of aquatic and near-shore habitat is in danger of being lost. Pocket beaches with heavy human use are not wildlife habitat. Sea level rise may obliterate those areas set aside for both habitat and human recreation. Perhaps very little, if any of the waterfront parks development will take place within the next 6 years. But much advance planning is needed. Wildlife habitat planning requires a broad overarching vision, as well as detailed studies of individual areas of significance. Impacts from sea level rise and sedimentation patterns require much detailed scientific analysis and planning. It is hard to see how this can be accomplished with barriers between the departments, and sections of departments, that do planning, those that control development, those that control natural lands, those with pollution and contamination control concerns, and those writing habitat plans.</p> <p>Wildlife habitat and natural water quality are components that seems likely to fall victim to this hemmed in thought process. Another is the relationship between forested hillsides and lowland wetlands that are a key asset of urban flood control. How will the genetic diversity of wildlife within Sehome Hill Arboretum fare as this refuge is surrounded by neighborhoods driven by a policy of aggressive urban infill? Can the city storm water system, or the remaining creeks and wetlands handle increased runoff from future increases in impervious and non-transpiring paved and built areas as</p>	
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			<p>city development continues towards the outskirts? Will the amounts and the quality of these runoff waters impair fish habitat?</p> <p>New housing projects need to be accompanied by provisions for parks. The 2014 ProPlan appears to be doing a reasonable job at playing catchup with north side city development by the provision of new parks and trails. But right now, there are new housing developments in the planning process. In my neighborhood, Puget, for example, these involve an additional 1000 or more units in an area far from parks services. Provision for small parks should be an integral part of large scale development planning.</p> <p>Open Space Our open space is a tremendous environmental and economic asset that sets Bellingham above and apart from almost all other similar cities of its size. It is in the best interest of Bellingham to enhance these assets and to use them wisely.</p> <p>I believe that this plan is seriously remiss in not designating the beach and tidelands of areas such as Locust Beach as open space in the ProPlan. This is an utterly amazing stretch of natural lands for a city to have at its boundaries. There should be, or by the time this is approved, should have been, public opportunities for discussion of tidelands city lands surplus as part of the waterfront development plan with an eye towards how these properties might or might not affect habitat and recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Similarly, the potential open space of the “conveyance” lands along Lake Whatcom should also be shown and considered in context with the 2014 ProPlan. Even though the lands are owned by the county, their presence should affect how trails and pathways in the nearby portions of the city are planned and designed for access. And it will serve as a key asset for our city, in terms of recreation, habitat accessible by wildlife residing in and moving through city wildlife corridors and for city water quality.</p> <p>The city also owns many smaller bits and pieces of land. Many of these play important roles in preserving our forest canopy and providing small refuges for wildlife. They also enhance the envelope of nature surrounding humans in our city. Because these are not always designated as public with signage,</p>	
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#	Date Received	Citizen/ Group	Citizen Comments on: 2014 Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update Updated November 14, 2013	Notes/Status
			<p>they frequently are usurped by owners of neighboring properties. At the very least an inventory of such properties should be available online. If actively managed as truly public lands, these properties can increase public support for the Parks department and for Greenway initiatives. There is little incentive to support the funding of Greenway purchases if the public sees that some such lands end up being privatized either formally or informally at later times.</p> <p>Recreation I believe that the city is doing a good job overall in provision of standard city parks amenities. We have good programs for many recreational activities and the Parks Department has done a good job at adapting to changing interests and use patterns.</p> <p>But again, I feel that we are failing to highlight our exceptional setting and potentials. Sure, we have an aquatic center, skateboard park and athletic fields. The Parks Department is flexible and can add new activities, as residents organize to request them, such as pickle ball or lacrosse, or off leash dog parks.</p> <p>But how many cities could provide sailboarding, skim boarding or sea kayaking? Or ready access to serious mountain bike trails? Some of us who may never do these activities ourselves can still recognize their importance in making Bellingham a unique and a very vibrant place.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Overall, I believe that the 2014 ProPlan can do much more to accentuate, enhance and protect the exceptional nature of Bellingham.</p>	

2014 PRO Plan Update
Public Visioning Workshop
6-20-13

What do you like best about the current park system? (#)= number of times an item was mentioned.
Similar items are grouped together

Variety of neighborhood and community parks, Availability (quantity of parks, lots of them), Abundance of parks, Variety of parks, Variety of size/types : Boulevard & Padden, Available space at parks (6)

Trails, trails that connect neighborhoods (4)

Habitat in large parks, protected open space, protected natural features (4)

Safe, well-kept parks (some), good maintenance compared to other cities. Well-maintained trails (3)

Access, Connectivity, Bike access (3)

Pool, Use the pool 3-4 times a week, very satisfied with pool. (2)

New parks, Possibility for new parks (2)

Boulevard Park

Lake Padden

Cornwall Park - pickleball

Cornwall Park, Lake Padden, Whatcom Falls and totally enjoy the nearby parks. Wow!

Disc Golf @ Cornwall

Playgrounds

Benches

Waterfront parks

Dog off leash @ Squalicum Creek Park

Football, softball fields

Size, situated around people

Neighborhood parks have character

Parks that connect neighborhood - social connections

Well used

What don't you like about the park system? (#)=number of time item was mentioned. Similar items are grouped together

Inadequate riparian buffers, Habitat connectivity not included in master planning - waterfront specifically, Intensity of use not considered in terms of ecological impacts, Planning and developing for wildlife - back burner to people, No mitigation for impacts to wildlife, Better separation between people and wildlife (7)

Lack of interpretive signs on impacts of dog poop and walking in some areas, Dogs off leash, Dog waste on fields, Dog waste on trails (4)

Not enough maintenance, Lack of maintenance, Dirty restrooms, Maintenance should be pro-active vs. reactive. (4)

Water quality, temp control and air quality at the pool are sub-par, inconsistent out, always bad. Arne Hanna pool - ventilation is an ongoing health issue. Pool needs upgrade: ultraviolet (3)

Not enough parks north of I-5, Everyone doesn't have access to walk into a park (2)

Lack of good access to restrooms early in day, No soap dispensers in restrooms (2)

Not enough recycling, Need more recycling bins, garbage cans (2)

No alcohol allowed, Strict rules - should have different rules for different activities (2)

Didn't see "gardens" mentioned in plan, More emphasis on gardening & community food (2)

Erosion of Padden shoreline

No outreach to fishers @ Padden

Safety - break ins

Users are charged high fees - rental rates, Increase in fees for Cornwall Park

Online comment tracker needed for Pro Plan

No facility reservation online

Facility access not equal for all users

Not enough kayak access

Fecal coliform in Lake Padden

Cornwall Park is stagnating - no expansion or improvements

Designation of Northridge as a community park

Lack of water faucets

Lack of pickleball courts

Need more waterfront parks

Lack of disc golf (Cornwall is busy) - spread out over city

Trees from parks are damaging neighboring homes (Cornwall Park, Northridge Park)

More user friendly webpage - follow up w/public, input

Pool is at capacity - need more public pool space

Fields

Poor condition of fields, Poor maintenance of Geri Fields, Holes in outfield at Squalicum Creek Park, Bloedel, Padden, Cornwall - practice fields in poor shape, Garbage, Graffiti and other vandalism (6)

Public Safety around Geri Fields, Lack of security (2)

Not enough fields for kids/youth under 14

Expensive fees led to exodus to Ferndale

Pressure for lacrosse fields

Fees should be used for field maintenance

Clarify role of user/sponsor/lessee vs. city park or police staff

Trails

Not enough signs to direct people to trails, Not enough trail signage at entrance to trails/parks, Lacking: way finding - Samish (3)

Not enough trails, Lack of trail connectivity (2)

Muddy-drainage issues

N. Galbraith/Birch St trailhead overflow

Not enough parking

Want more - but how to maintain?

Trash cans

Engaging/outreach

Vegetation mgmt.

Trail crews can't keep up

Trail gaps - Samish Hill, Bay to Baker/Sunset Pond

What would you do to improve the park system? What would you like to see more of? (#) = Number of votes for a particular item. Each participant received 4 stars to select their priority items. Similar items are grouped together

Disc golf park at Little Squalicum Park, Padden, or Van Wyck (24), More disc golf (8)

Facilities & Fields for baseball, fastpitch (25) More improved multi-sport use fields (Padden) (4)

Mountain bike skills park (22) More mountain bike trails, connections for youth (7)

A pool in N. Bellingham (10) New 50 meter indoor pool (8) Outdoor swimming pool (4)

Clean-up of R.G. Haley site, Cornwall Beach and develop a park on the waterfront, waterfront access, trails. (12) Overwater walkway from Boulevard to Cornwall, trail @ Cornwall Beach (6)

More trails, connectivity (8), Connectivity from neighborhood trails to large crosstown trails (4), More parks/trails north of the freeway (3), Complete the Barkley-Chandler trail (goes to Bristol Court) (1), Lighting on some of the more popular trails (1), More Cordata trails (1)

Gardening programs like Portland's produce for people model (10), Develop community gardens permaculture & teaching gardens at Squalicum Creek Park (6); More neighborhood managed gardens (2),

Maximize green space and minimize pavement/impermeable surfaces (8)

Lower Fees -trade volunteer hours for fees (8)

City-wide conservation strategy incorporated into PRO Plan. Identify target areas for conservation. Biodiversity. Prevent fragmentation. (8)

Outdoor programs for special needs young teens (7)

Spray park in N. Bellingham (7)

Cost analysis of events - economic benefit of recreational events (6)

Pro Plan goals to specifically address habitat concerns (6)

More kayak/canoe access and launch sites (6)

How to enjoy your park - "Parks 101", take responsibility of parks/parks etiquette & stewardship (4)

Summer swim league (4)

Bike racks (4)

More user group engagement = volunteers, more support, example: York & Rock Hill (4)

More communication, signage so people are conscious of other user types (4)

Wayfinding signs on trails (4)

Off-leash dog parks in under-utilized/problem sites like MHP (3)

Keep Woodstock Farm open (2)

Off-leash dog trails (2)

School swim lessons (2)

Planning trails for Chuckanut Ridge to control social trails (2)

Pedestrian access to waterfront while the development is happening (2)

Revenue generating ideas - advertising at Civic (2)

More lighted ball fields (2)

Public Works & Parks, city dept.'s coordinate trails, streets, crosswalks (2)

More/better maintenance = more play, more events (2)

Volunteer Coordination, what can volunteers do, where is help needed, list of work areas (2)

Avoid trail blazing (2)

Composting, permaculture (2)

Convert unused tennis courts into pickleball courts; four PB courts fit in one tennis ct.; pickleball will increase use of existing tennis courts.

Flexibility in waterfront parks to account for contamination

Planning for mitigation for more trains along waterfront (sound barriers)

Public access to the pier at Little Squalicum Park

More challenging disc golf course

Wildlife watching programs

Road from Galbraith to town is dangerous (Samish Way)

QR codes on signs

Working w/school dist. on walk to school routes

Dealing with environmental concerns at the beginning of the planning process

Present the waterfront plan to the community and ask for support.

Limited time periods for bikes on Taylor Dock

Bellwether to Fairhaven: continuous waterfront connected trail

More connectivity - some trails end on busy streets

By-pass trails to get you through town without dealing with traffic

More continuous trails, no gaps. Woburn/RR trail good example

Complete trail so there are no gaps

Waterfront trails

Ease of communication w/city

Neighborhood based bike parks

Youth facilities

Programming in under-used parks (Maritime Heritage Park): awareness, monitoring, volunteer interest, new open spaces

Adaptive/health/accessibility programs for veterans and disabled

Improved accessibility @ Parks

More staff

Volunteer Programs

Outreach for fields and trails

Opportunities

Disc Golf Clinics

Exempt some programs from rental fees.

Community pick-up games (softball, kickball, baseball, etc.)

Sea to Ski Trainings

Different ways to access park facilities (non-motorized)

Expand existing areas (like Padden)

More salmon restoration

More trash cans & doggie pots

More maintenance staff

More in King Mtn area

Better mapping

Better security patrol

More interaction with user groups

Northside neighborhood parks

Grass fields turn into mud fields

Recycling

More edible landscapes & community gardens for condos/apts.

Park Board Visionary Exercise for Pro Plan Update
6-12-13

What do you like best about the current park system?

- We have one!
- Mix of park types
- Adds to well-being of people
- Connected trail system
- Social justice
- Playgrounds
- Meets demands for activities (does it?)
- Water and land activities
- Landscaping- variety of plants and trees
- Potential
- Natural diversion- big logs to divert social trails
- Maintenance of parks and trails
- Opportunities for families to recreate
- Trails
- Planning for the future
- No fees required to visit: Social Justice!
- Director
- Dick Henrie and partnerships with community providers
- Off leash dog parks
- Salt water access
- Volunteer program
- Reasonable fees

What don't you like?

- Not enough parking (especially on nice summer days)
- No picnic tables north of the freeway
- No teen program- "Summer of Service"
- Crime potential
- Not enough ball fields for kids under 14
- Homelessness in parks
- Over-extended, insufficiently supported staff
- Fee increases for facility rentals
- Critical Areas Ordinance - impact on trails
- Lack of budget for maintenance, programs, staff
- Lack of rule enforcement

- Lack of resources to meet the maintenance needs
- More bike friendly parks: through the parks, not just to the parks
- Budget impact- City resource allocation. Demand for money to support parks versus other needs; capital funding for parks overshadows other community needs
- Legal, labor requirements, bureaucracy

What would you do to improve the park system? What would you like to see more of?

(#) = Number of total votes for a particular item. Similar items were combined.

- Better Marketing (5) and Communication about system (1) and More information on park website (1)
- Develop the Over Water Walkway (3)
- Develop indoor sports facility for volleyball, basketball, practice (3) and more year round fields/ synthetic turf (1)
- Neighborhood watch and enforcement and communication of rules; utilize neighborhood associations. (2)
- Support and foster more friends and volunteer groups (1)
- Allow user groups to volunteer to help maintain facilities w/out labor union issue.(1)
- Corporate sponsorship of park development and maintenance (1)
- Better trail marking, maps and wayfinding on trails (1)
- Tap into expert advice on trees & landscaping (1)
- Increase sponsorships for events
- Responsible dog ownership
- Develop VanWyck Park and community building
- More development at beach front park at Northshore (DNR- Silverbeach)
- More bike racks
- More facilities and public restrooms at Woodstock
- Improve Big Rock Garden Park
- Better connectivity between on street bike lanes and trails
- Volunteers for big events or processes like plan updates
- Completion of the Bay to Baker Trail
- Cordata Park development
- Cornwall Beach Park development
- Better way to fund maintenance and operations besides City General Fund, sales tax
- Efficiency in government services (less bureaucracy)
- More use of QR codes
- Identify maintenance requirements for new capital acquisition or development

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PLAN

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

2014 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEW
10-25-13

Acknowledgements

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Applied Research Northwest - survey

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

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;
- 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:

- 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.



Cornwall Park magnolias

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:

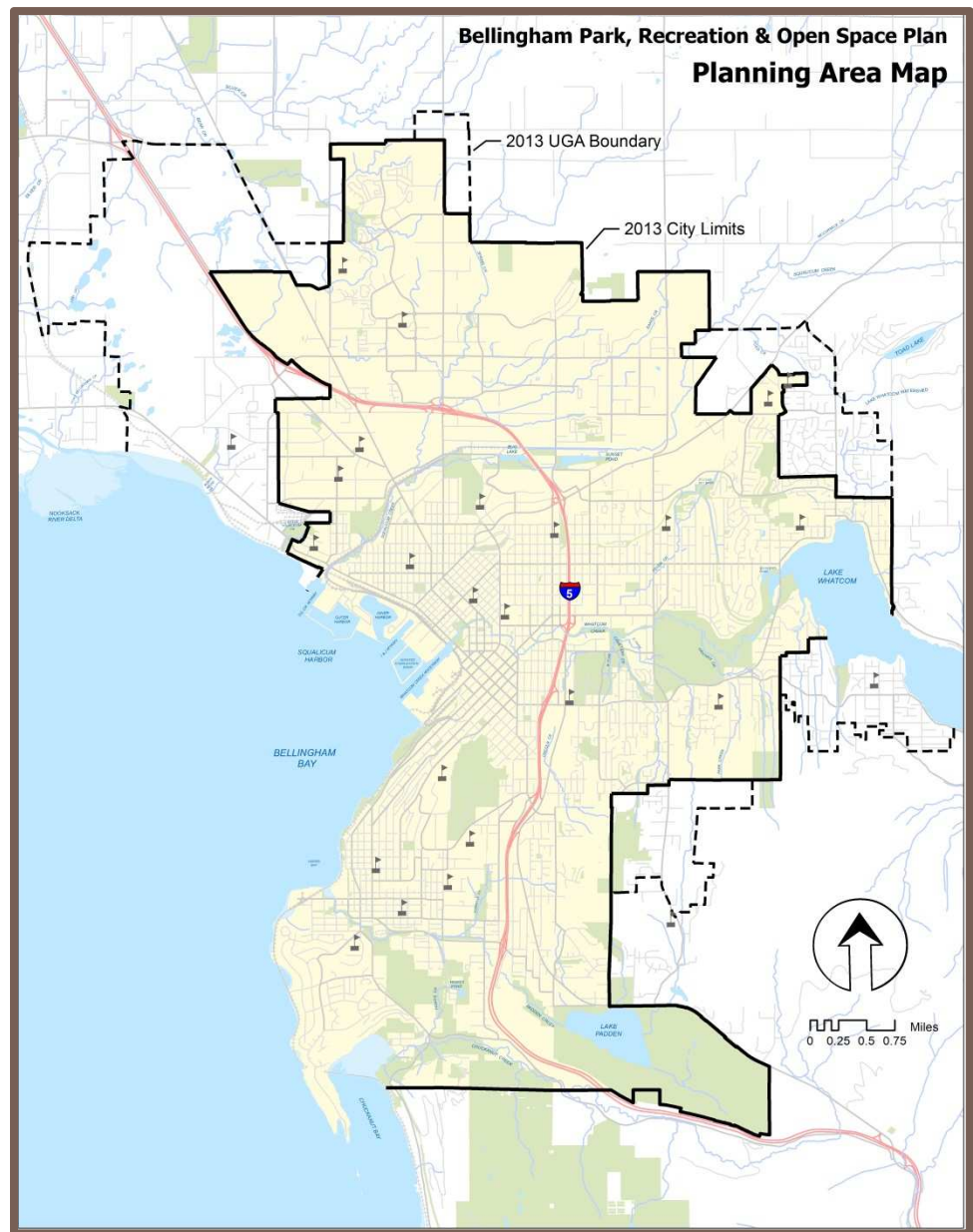
Meeting/Action	Topic	Month
2013		
Steering Committee/PRAB	Introduction, Process and Schedule	February
Steering Committee/PRAB	Population projection and Level of Service	March
City Council Update	Project status report	March
Steering Committee/PRAB	Ch. 5 Goals and Objectives, Facility Recommendations	April
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-December

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.

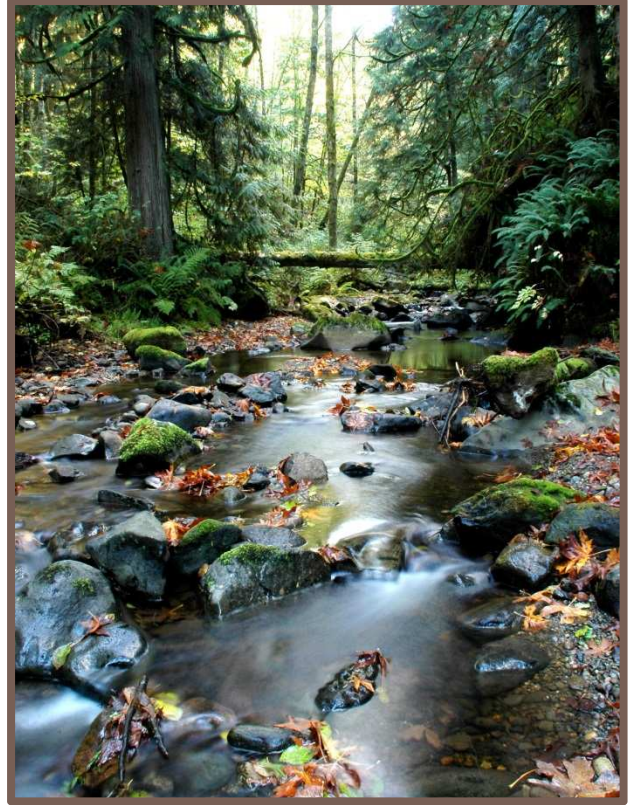
In 2012, the City Council adopted a new Environment Element (*Chapter 9*) of the Comprehensive Plan to address environmental protection and ensure compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA).

The following is a list of important environmental features with a public recreation element found in and around the Bellingham area.

2.2.1 Creeks

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

- 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.



Whatcom Creek in Whatcom Falls Park

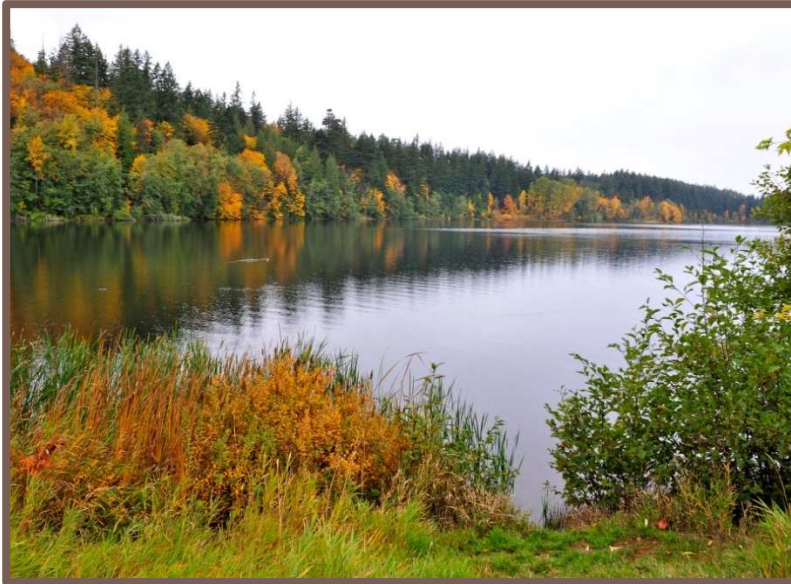
2.2.2 Lakes, ponds and estuaries in and near Bellingham

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 1/2 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.

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.



Whatcom Falls. Courtesy of Whatcom Museum archives.

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%

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.

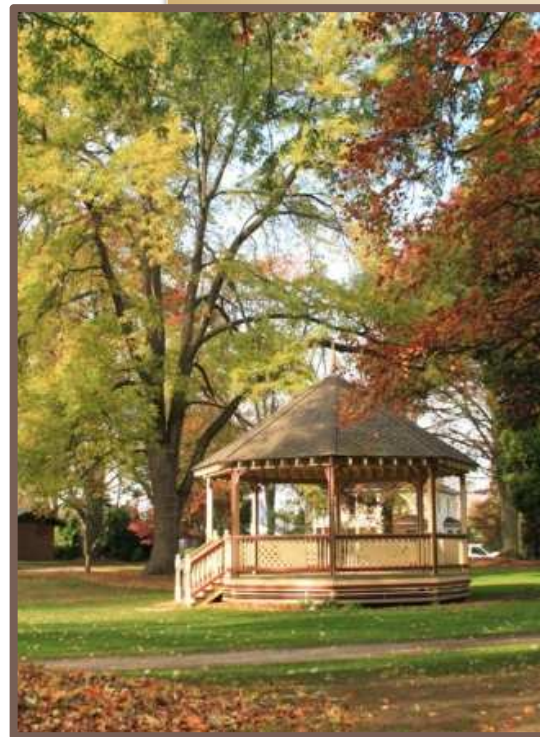
3.1 Facility Inventory Classifications

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*.



Elizabeth Park. Photo by Kristen Krussow.

*"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

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:

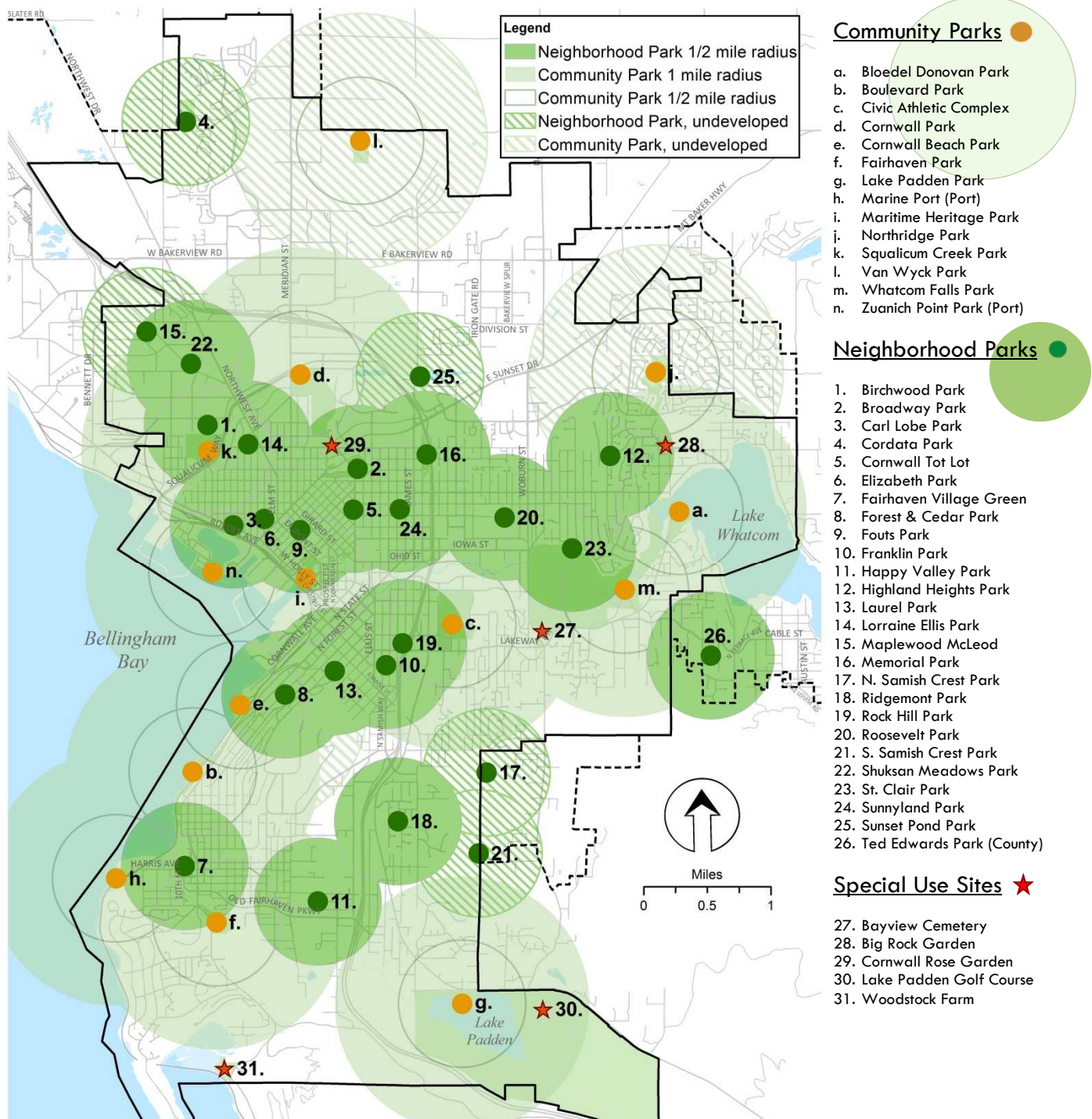
- Cultural Facilities – unique resources offering historical, educational, visual/performance art or other similar experiences. These include gardens, art displays, and historic sites.
- Indoor Facilities – focused toward indoor uses, such as gymnasiums, community centers, teen/senior centers, aquatic 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



3.1.4 Open Space (OS)

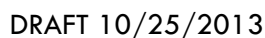
Open space sites are generally lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, unique landscapes, or visually aesthetic or buffer functions. One of the major purposes of open space is to enhance the livability and character of a community by preserving as many of its natural amenities 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.



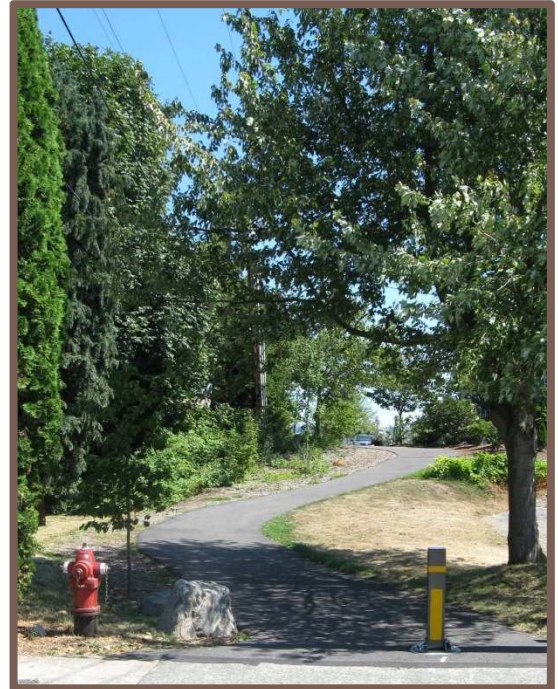
3.1.5 Trails (TR)

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.



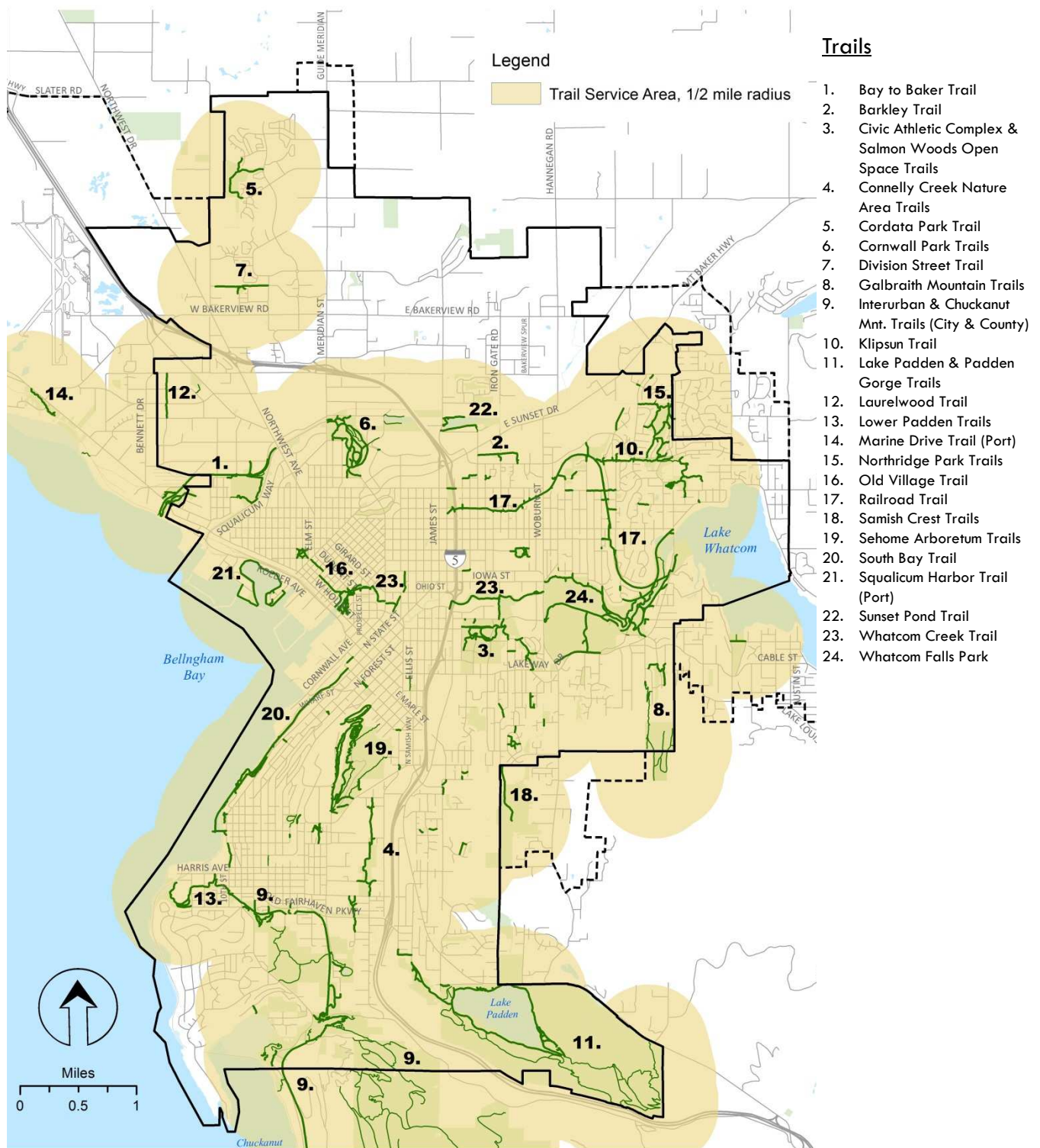
Old Village Trail



Old Village Trail signage

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EXISTING FACILITIES PLAN • TRAILS



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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 planning period of 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. 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

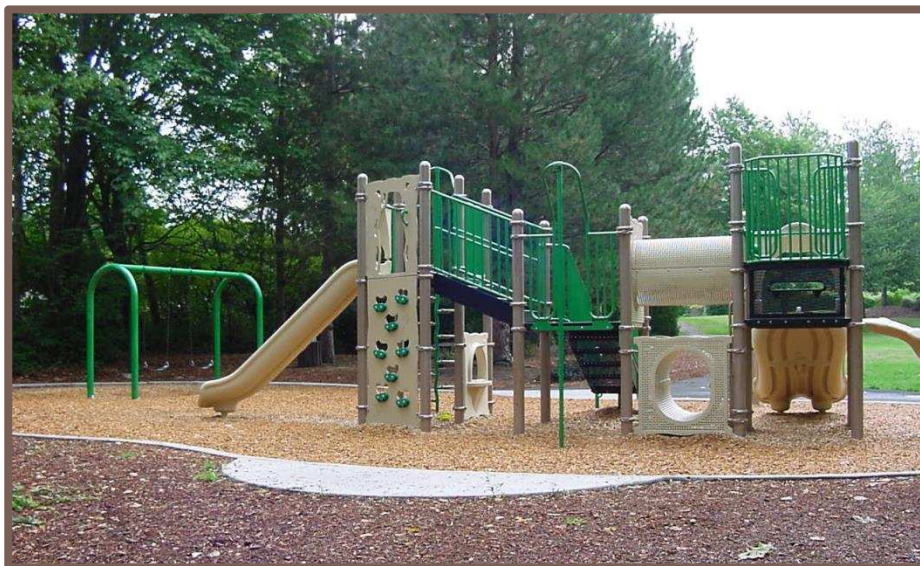
2029 Value All UGA = \$6043/Capita

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

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 \$6043.

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.

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:

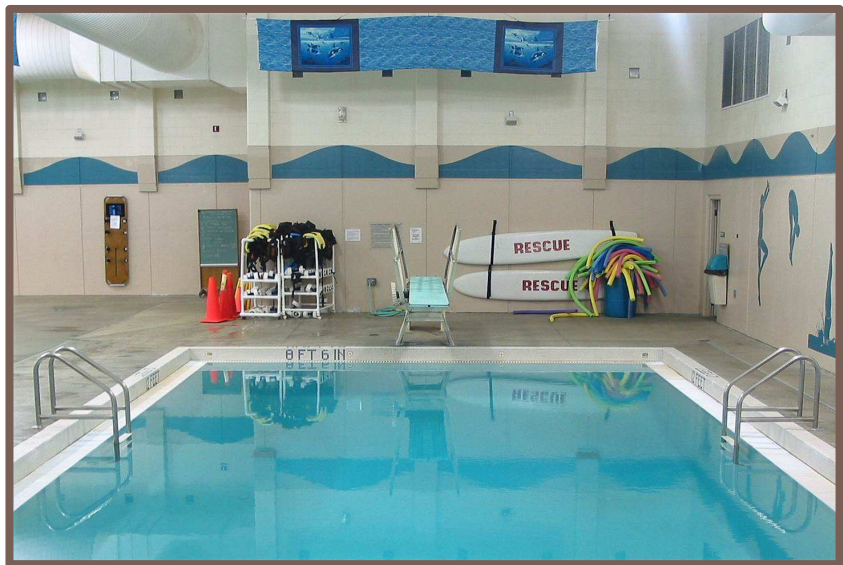
"We are working today so future generations will benefit from:

- *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.
- 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.



Arne Hanna Aquatic Center dive tank

- 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.
- 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.



South Bay Trail at Taylor Dock

- 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

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5.3.1.1 OBJECTIVES

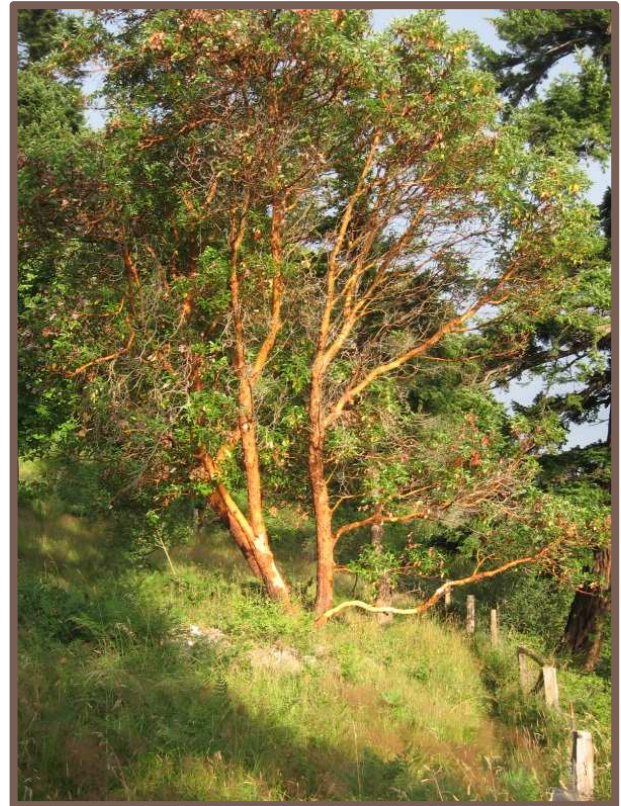
- A. Support arts and crafts, classroom instruction in music and dance, physical conditioning and health care.
- B. Provide meeting facilities, preschool, after school, and other program activities for all cultural, age, physical and mental capability, and income groups in the community.
- C. Support 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 policies.

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

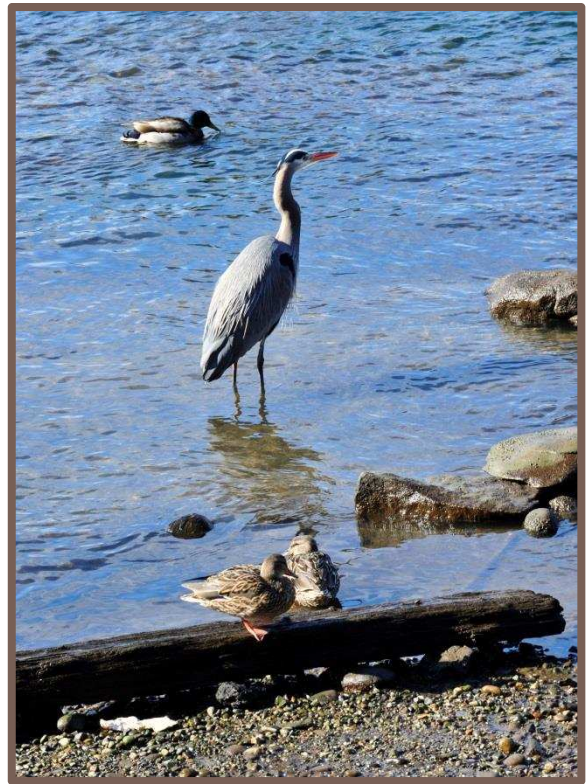
Parks and Recreation Related Goals and Objectives

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 policies.



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:

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.



Deer at Woodstock Farm

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

- 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.
- 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.
- Foster environmental stewardship through education programs and activities.
- Provide safe and convenient access to public lands, conservation areas, and water that does not damage critical areas.
- Instill a love of nature and a commitment for caring for our resources through the Park Volunteer program.
- 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.
- Provide scholarships for low income families to participate in recreation activities.



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

- H. Maintain a world class park system that attracts tourism and benefits the local economy.
- 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

- 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

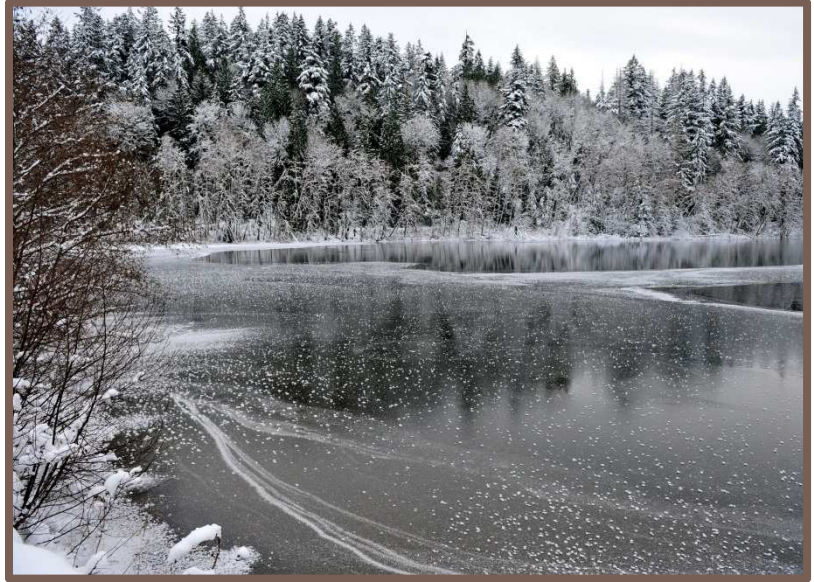
As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for community parks in Bellingham include:

- 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

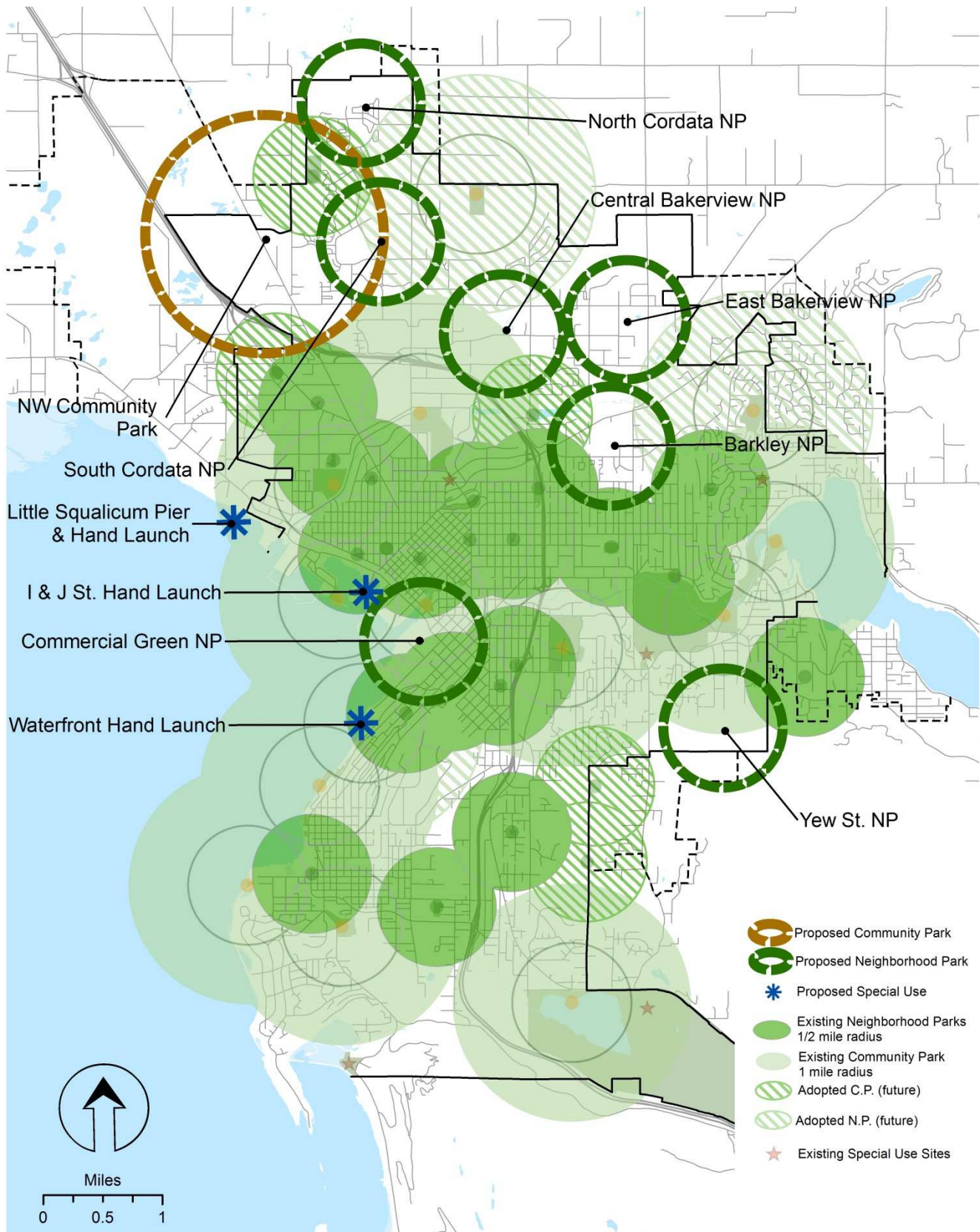
As a result of the public process and the needs analysis, specific recommendations for special use sites in the Bellingham park system include:

- 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.

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.*

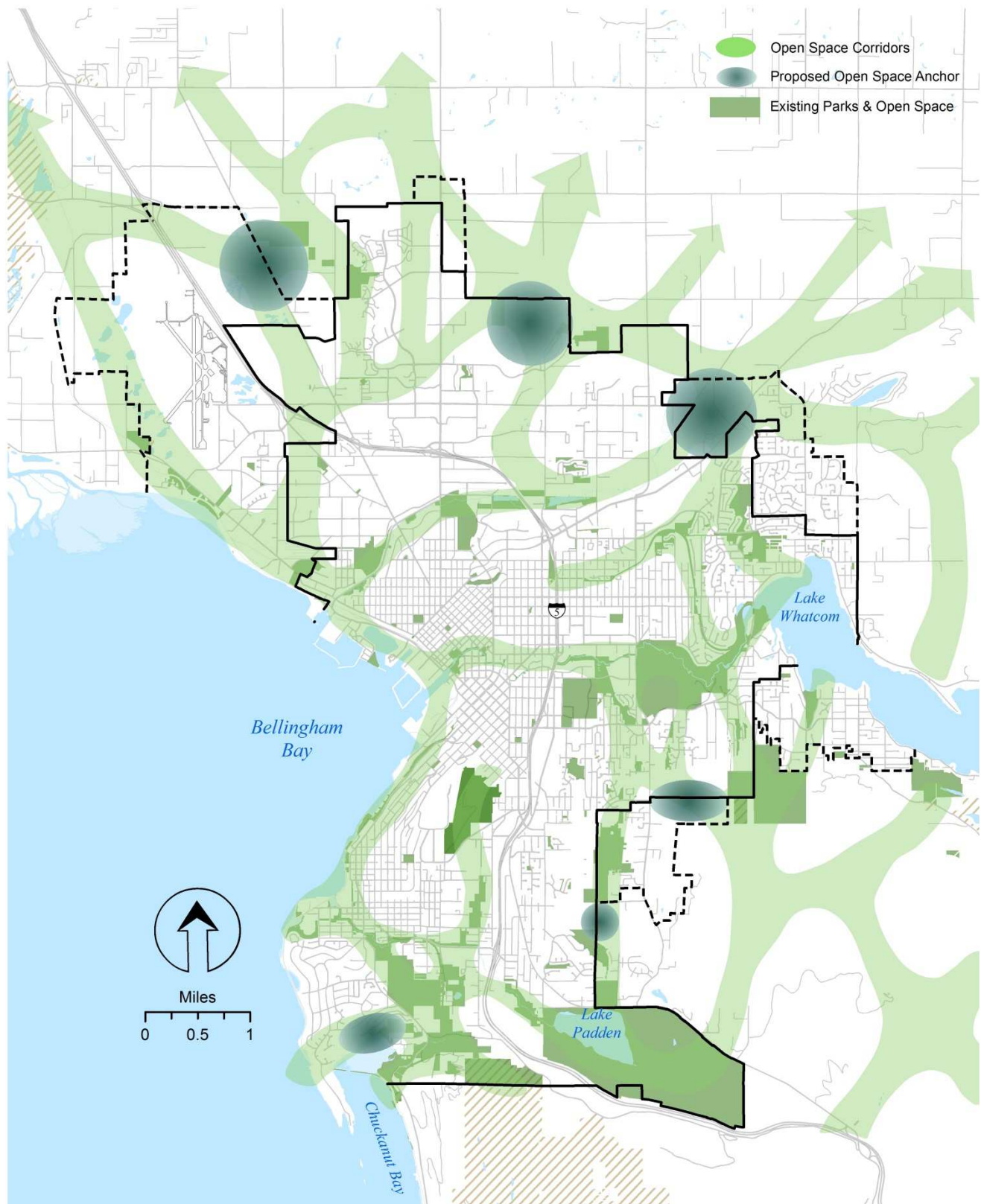
Specific Recommendations

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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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.

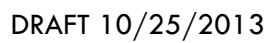


Northridge Park trail

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.



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.

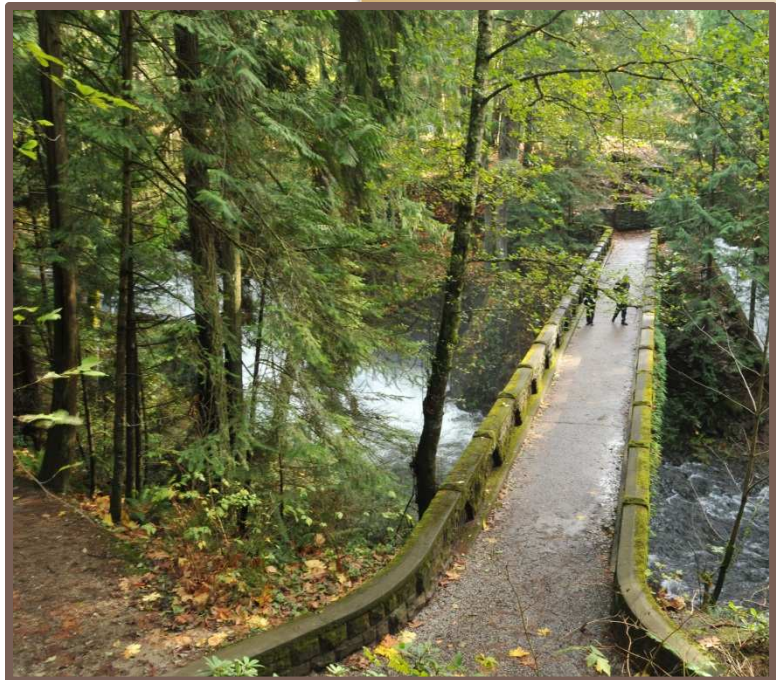
Recommendations outlined in *Chapter 6* total approximately \$93 million in today's dollars. This includes improvements to existing facilities, as well as additional land and facilities to serve new growth. Projected revenue sources for park system improvements through the year 2029 could provide enough 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 2013/14 approved six-year Capital Facilities Plan is 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.

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



Whatcom Falls Park

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 ⁸	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.

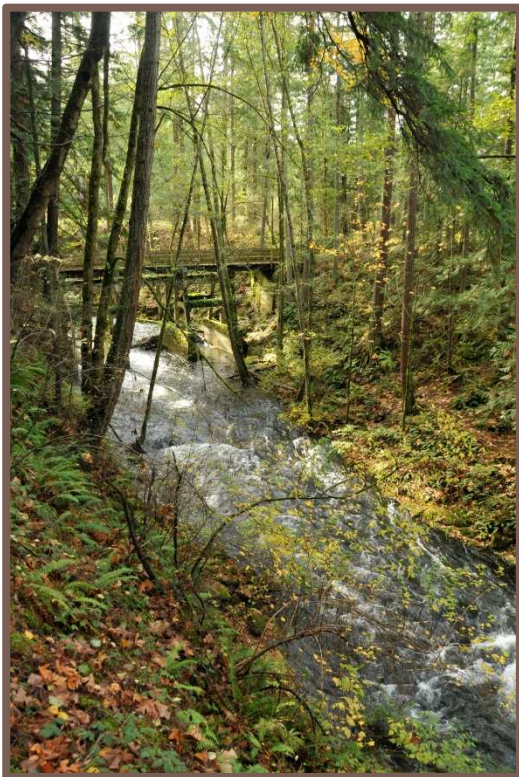
7.2 Maintenance and Operation Needs

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

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 \$1327.80), 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.



Whatcom Creek

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

Priority 2

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



Van Wyck Park

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

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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

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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:** 1/2 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 or 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/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 (lf)	Parking Lot (number indicates striped lots) (otherwise gravel)	Auditorium/Amphitheater/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramcar Parking (ea) X=Included with other parking	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				X		
Bloedel Donovan Park (water)	12.1	AQU																											
Boulevard Park	14.9	CP	1.8		1	2										1		1			2		105	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		
Cornwall Park	69.0	CP	3.4	2	2	2	1		4		1										5		186					1	1
Cornwall 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	205.0	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		56				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	6.8	NP	0.1		1	1	1				1										4.3								
Carl Lobe Park	0.6	NP			1						1																		
Cordata Park	19.0	NP	0.7																										
Cornwall 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														0.5								
Fouts Park	1.2	NP			1																0.4								

2013 City population
 2013 UGA population

82,310
 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), 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/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramcar Parking (ea)	X=Included with other parking	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																											
Memorial Park	6.2	NP					0.5														0.7									
N. Samish Crest Park	0.0	NP	0																											
Ridgemont 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	2.6	NP	0.3												X						0.5		X							
Arroyo Nature Area	85.9	OS	2.6												X								X				x			
Bakerview 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	83.6	OS																												
Bellingham High School trail easement *	0.1	OS																												
Big Rock Open Space	10.9	OS	1																											
Cemetery Creek Greenway	6.4	OS	0																											

2013 City population
 2013 UGA population

82,310
 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), 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/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramcar Parking (ea)	X=Included with other parking	Disc Golf 9 hole(ea)	Spray Park (ea)
Chuckanut Bay Open Space & Tidelands (land)	49.7	OS	0.1													1		1												
Chuckanut Bay Open Space & Tidelands (water)	76.1	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																												

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=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 striped lots) (otherwise gravel)	Auditorium/Amphitheater/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Trainroad parking (ea) X=included with other parking	Disc Golf 9 hole(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 *	0.4	OS	0																										
Post Point Treatment Plant Open Space	15.8	OS	0.7												X												X		
Railroad Greenway & Trail	50.4	TR/OS	4.7																										
Salmon Woods Open Space	45.1	OS	1																										
Samish Crest Open Space (note 1)	119.6	OS	1.1																										
Sehome 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	16.6	TR/OS	1.7																										
South Samish Crest Open Space	68.9	OS																											
Spring Creek Nature Area	5.3	OS	0.1																										
Squalicum Creek Greenway & Trail	71.4	TR/OS	0.4																										
Sylvan Pond Open Space *	0.4	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																										

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=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/Stage (ea, outdoor)	Concessions (sf)	Community Gardens (ea)	Tramroad Parking (ea) X=Included with other parking	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

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	Trait (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
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	\$ 298,664,753		\$ 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	\$ 6,975,000	\$ 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	\$ 159	\$ 26	\$ 1	\$ 40	\$ 371	\$ 79	\$ 185	\$ 159	\$ 21	\$ 9

EXISTING FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
 (Within Planning Area)

Name	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/Stage (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	\$ 16,002,400	\$ 5,440,000	\$ 3,312,000	\$ 8,368,500	\$ 5,975,000	\$ 3,000,000	3,206,500	\$ 450,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 428,704,153
Existing Total Facility Cost / Capita	\$ 19	\$ 5	\$ 4	\$ 194	\$ 66	\$ 40	\$ 102	\$ 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

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	<i>plaza</i>																						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
Cornwall 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 (sf)	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 Trail	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 Chestnut-Holly	0.08	ROS	ROW																							0.08	Trees
Rr Holly-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	Concete stairs
Tech School Berms	0.18	ROS	ROW	sidewalk																						0.18	landscaping & parking
Unity St Island	0.09	ROS	ROW																							0.09	lawn, landscaping, occasional public art

EXISTING FACILITIES

[illegible]

EXISTING FACILITIES
WATERSHED PROPERTY
(Within UGA)

[illegible]

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	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
Kulshan 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										
Whatcom MS	4.2	SU	BSD					2					2							3		
Whatcom Hills Waldorf ES	2.0	SU	PRI																			
Whatcom Community College		SU	WCC							6		1										
Bellingham Technical College		SU	BTC																		1	
Western Washington University	162.7	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	2	27	4	

EXISTING FACILITIES
WASHINGTON STATE
(All Outside UGA)

[illegible]

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	Land (acres)	Designation	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)	Skate 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 (sf)	Informal Lawn (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf) 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)	All Other Misc.Capital Mnice \$\$	Notes
BLOEDEL DONOVAN PARK	n/a	CP												1														500,000	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		500	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																										950,000	Drainage, field improvements
MARITIME HERITAGE PARK	n/a	CP			1																								Improve playground restroom - year-around access
NORTH RIDGE PARK	n/a	CP	0.2	1	2	1	1					0.25									20								Develop existing park
NW COMMUNITY PARK	40.0	CP	1	2	2	2	1		1	1	2	0.5	1					500	2		60					1	0.5		
SQUALICUM CREEK PARK	n/a	CP	0.5	2	2	2	1				2	0.25	2					500	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																			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												1												
CORDATA PARK	n/a	NP	0.2	1	1	1	0.5					0.25					1		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							1										
N CORDATA PARK	3.0	NP	0.2	1	1	1	0.5												1		10								
N SAMISH CREST PARK	n/a	NP		1	1	1	0.5						0.5						2		10								Develop part of existing open space
SUNSET POND (Expansion)	0.6	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				1800	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
2.18 = average # people per household

PROPOSED FACILITIES
CITY OF BELLINGHAM
(Within Planning Area)

(updated 10/25/2013)

Name	Land (acres)	Designation	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)	Skate 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 (sf)	Informal Lawn (acres)	Dock/Pier (lf) 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)	All Other Misc.Capital Mnice \$\$	Notes
WATERFRONT/TIDELANDS	6.0	OS/AQ																											Varies
I-5 TRAIL CROSSINGS *	0.6	OS/TR	0.25																										Tunnel, bridge, etc. - assumes three: Padden, Squalicum, & 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																										
SEHOME 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																										
I AND 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	Improvements
WOODSTOCK FARM	n/a	SU	0.2			1															10								Improve access, hand boat landing (no launch)
																												2,950,000	Capital Maintenance
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		

* Average 20' width assumed, off-street system only.
AQ = Aquatic Lands
2.18 = 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)	Skate 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 (2.18)	\$ 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

2.18 = 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 (lf) 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

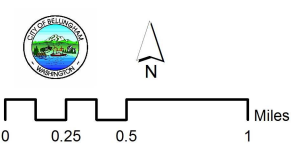
NORTH BELLINGHAM TRAIL PLAN

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
- Interlocal Agreement
- Public Works - Watershed
- Educational
- Public Lands - Other

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 Bear 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 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 2013-2018 Parks and Recreation Department 6 year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) on the following pages. **These pages will be updated when the City's 2014 budget is adopted.** Expenditures for 2013 were authorized after budget adoption by the City Council. Expenditures identified for years beyond 2013 are included for information and review of potential future needs. Their inclusion is not a request for approval or budget authorization.

Capital Budget

PARK DEPARTMENT			----- Estimates Subject to Revision and Council Approval -----					
Funding Sources and Projects/Purchases	Prior Years	2013 Adopted	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total Through 2018
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from Multiple Funds:								
Squalicum Creek Park Phase 3								
Squalicum Park/Olympic Fund	26,627	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,627
Greenways III Fund	600,000	100,000	4,000,000	-	-	-	-	4,700,000
Parks Impact Fund	40,000	-	500,000	-	-	-	-	540,000
Unfunded	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
Cordata Neighborhood Park Development								
Parks Impact Fund	-	-	50,000	250,000	1,000,000	-	-	1,300,000
Unfunded - Final Buildout	-	-	-	-	2,300,000	-	-	2,300,000
Boulevard Park Shoreline								
Greenways III Fund	528,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	528,800
Unfunded	-	-	-	575,000	-	-	-	575,000
Boulevard Park Cleanup - South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant								
Environmental Remediation Fund	2,230,498	57,268	58,806	60,390	62,022	63,703	65,434	2,598,121
DOE Grants, Judgments and Settlements, Transfers-In	(1,859,909)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,859,909)
Beyond Greenways Fund	13,305	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,305
Greenways III Fund	709,925	-	-	-	-	-	-	709,925
DOE Grants, Judgments and Settlements	(515,066)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(515,066)
Unfunded	-	-	-	8,000,000	-	-	-	8,000,000
Samish Crest Trail								
Beyond Greenways Fund	28,664	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,664
Unfunded	-	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	300,000
Whatcom Falls Park West Entry								
Olympic-Whatcom Falls Park Addl Fund	-	25,000	200,000	-	-	-	-	225,000
Greenways III	-	100,000	400,000	-	-	-	-	500,000

PARK DEPARTMENT - Continued

----- Estimates Subject to Revision and Council Approval -----

Funding Sources and Projects/Purchases	Prior Years	2013 Adopted	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total Through 2018
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from a Multiple Funds (continued):								
Labor Distributions to General Fund								
Beyond Greenways Fund	-	42,065	42,609	45,380	47,314	49,370	51,507	278,245
Greenways III Fund	-	130,131	131,354	139,739	145,568	151,737	158,171	856,700
Parks Impact Fund	-	59,062	59,621	63,415	66,050	68,837	71,744	388,729
Cornwall Beach Park								
Parks Impact Fund	-	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
Unfunded	-	-	-	200,000	1,150,000	-	900,000	2,250,000
Boulevard to Waterfront Park Boardwalk								
1st 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fund	159,517	-	-	-	-	-	-	159,517
Greenways III Fund	2,341,277	-	3,900,000	-	-	-	-	6,241,277
Federal Indirect Grant - WDOT	(2,126,146)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,126,146)
Parks Impact Fund	-	-	600,000	-	-	-	-	600,000
Unfunded	-	-	-	2,500,000	-	-	-	2,500,000
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from a Single Fund:								
General Fund								
Three Quarter Ton Super duty Pickup Truck	--	-	-	26,000	-	-	-	26,000
Sewer lifts for Boulevard and Padden	-	-	130,000	-	-	-	-	130,000

Capital Budget

PARK DEPARTMENT - Continued			----- Estimates Subject to Revision and Council Approval -----					
Funding Sources and Projects/Purchases	Prior Years	2013 Adopted	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total Through 2018
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from a Single Fund (Continued):								
1st 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fund								
Annual Boundary Surveys	-	-	-	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	24,000
Sidewalk & Curb Replacement	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	150,000
Park and Sports Field Lighting	-	8,000	8,000	8,000	24,000	10,000	10,000	68,000
Roof Replacements	-	18,000	28,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	86,000
Trail Surface/Drainage Repairs	-	15,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	190,000
Aquatic Center Window Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
Aquatic Center Dive Tank Resurfacing	-	-	-	-	-	80,000	-	80,000
Big Rock Garden Park Fence Replacement	-	-	45,000	-	-	-	-	45,000
Bloedel Donovan Facility Improvements	-	-	45,000	-	-	-	-	45,000
Boulevard Park North Restroom Renovation	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000
2nd 1/4% Real Estate Excise Tax Fund								
Annual Playground Repairs and Improvements	-	150,000	-	150,000	-	150,000	-	450,000
Parks Facility Asphalt Patching and Resurfacing	-	25,000	50,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	175,000
Beyond Greenways Fund								
Civic Field Stadium Turf Replacement	-	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
Greenways III Fund								
Greenway Land Acquisition	-	2,330,000	-	4,000,000	5,150,000	-	-	11,480,000
Interurban Trail - Chuckanut	-	-	-	-	-	-	680,000	680,000
Lake Padden Park Improvements	-	50,000	-	-	200,000	750,000	-	1,000,000
Arroyo Park Bridge Replacement and Trail Improvements	-	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	120,000

PARK DEPARTMENT - Continued

----- Estimates Subject to Revision and Council Approval -----

Funding Sources and Projects/Purchases	Prior Years	2013 Adopted	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total Through 2018
Capital Projects/Purchases Paid from a Single Fund (Continued):								
Parks Impact Fund								
Land Acquisition - Park in Developing Area	-	-	500,000	-	500,000	300,000	300,000	1,600,000
Miscellaneous Community Parks Construction	200,000	-	100,000	600,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	1,200,000
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	50,000	300,000
Boulevard Park Shoreline	-	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	150,000
Cemetery Fund								
Fleet Add 60" Zero Turn Radius Turf Mower	-	-	-	14,000	-	-	-	14,000
Fleet Add Six Seat Electric Golf Cart	-	-	-	11,500	-	-	-	11,500
Capital Plan Total Estimated Expenditures	6,878,613	4,054,526	11,028,390	16,844,424	11,245,954	1,974,647	3,037,856	55,064,410
Less Unfunded Expenditures	-	-	-	(11,275,000)	(3,750,000)	-	(1,400,000)	(16,425,000)
Less Anticipated Revenue	(4,501,121)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,501,121)
Net Outlay Capital Projects/Purchases	2,377,492	4,054,526	11,028,390	5,569,424	7,495,954	1,974,647	1,637,856	34,138,289

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 collectors 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 (N RTP) - 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 on 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)

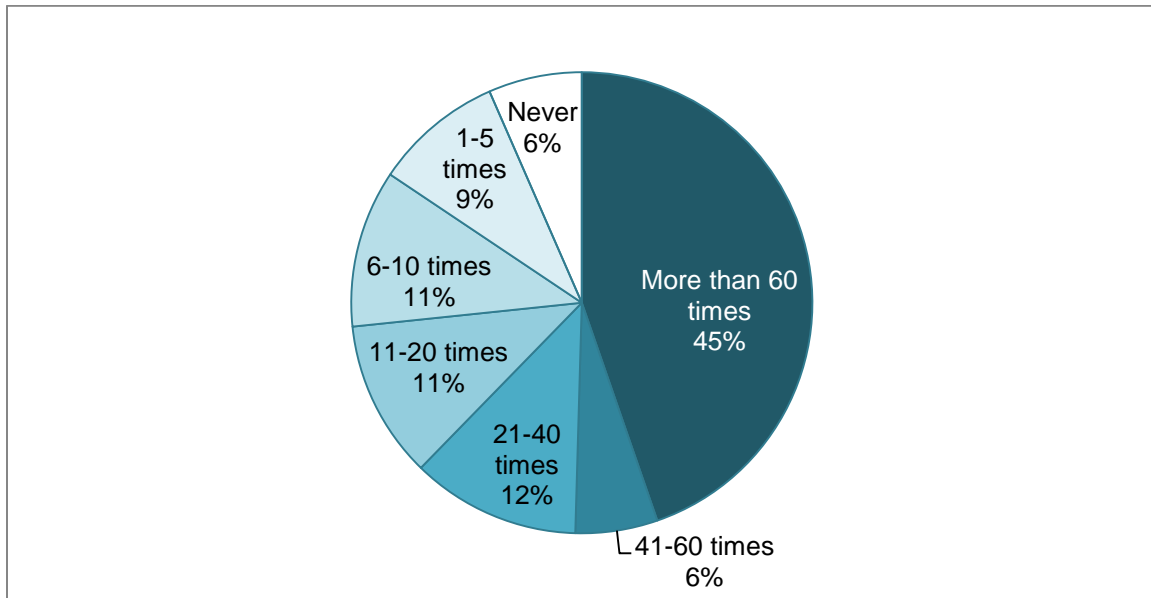
PARK USE

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)

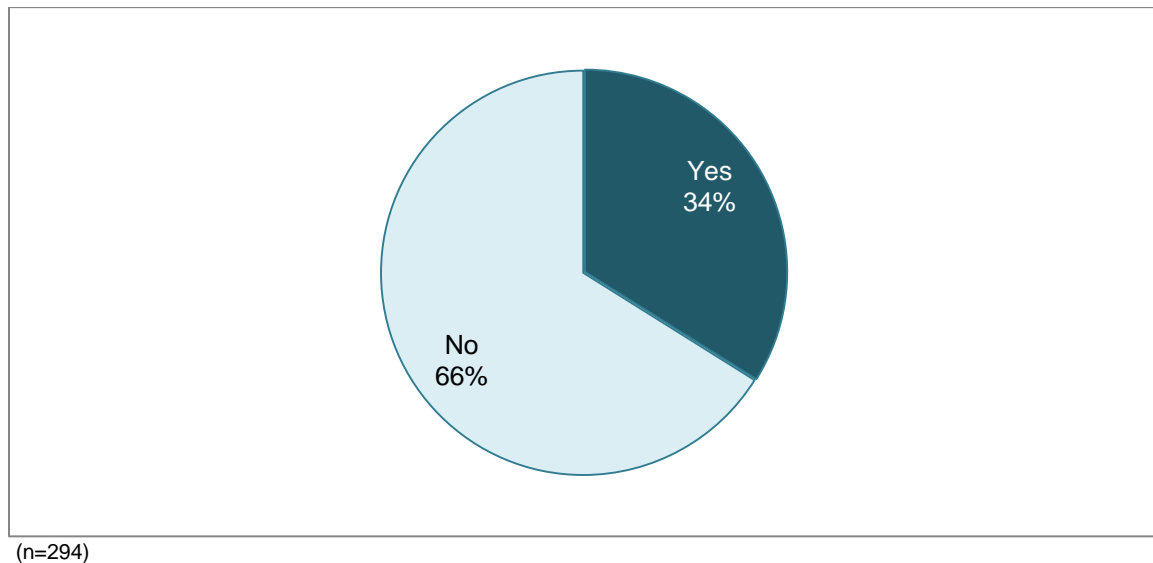
The frequency of park visits was similar to that in 2008.

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?



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

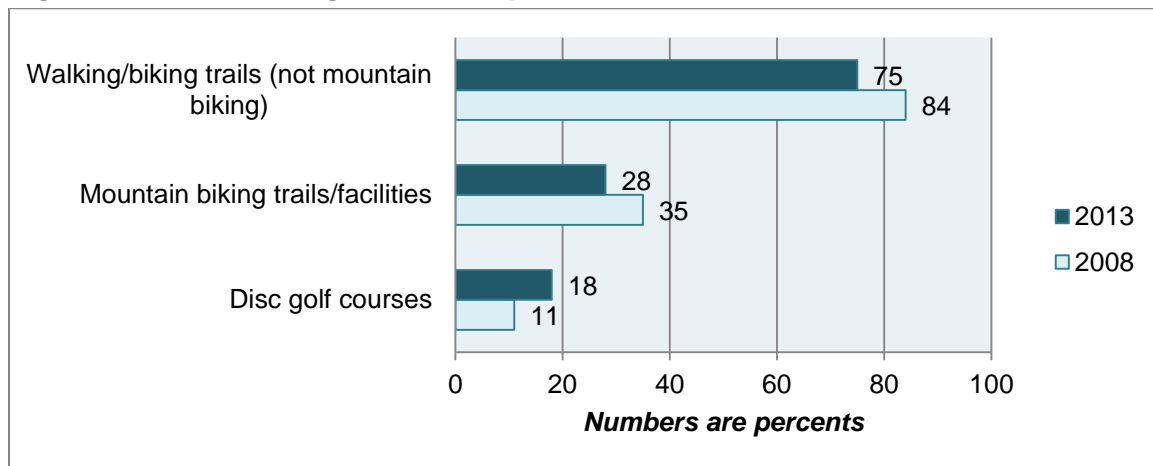
(n=300)

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

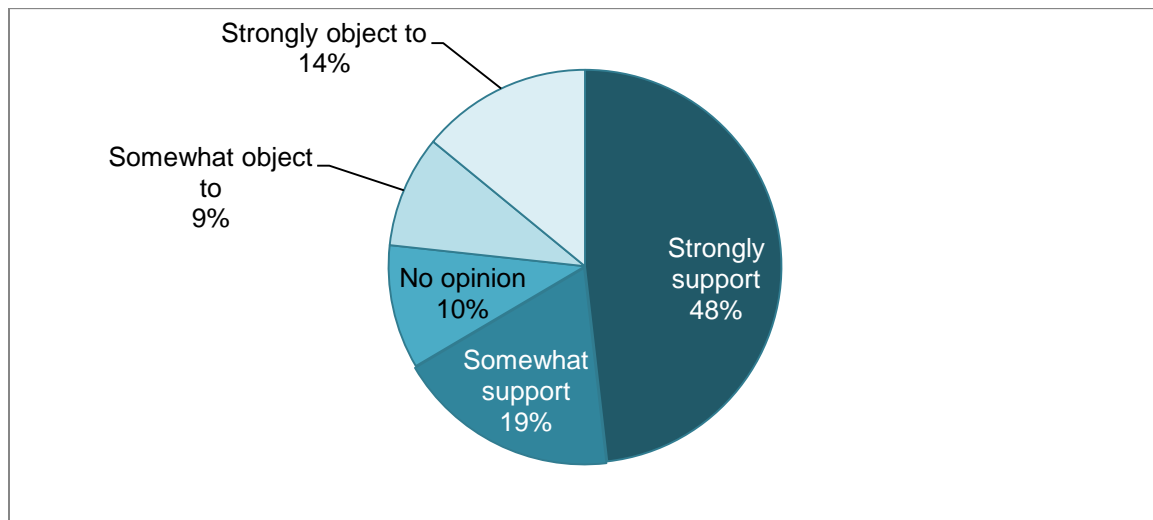
New this year, the survey explored familiarity with pickleball and demand for pickleball courts. Just over one-quarter of respondents (27%) said that they have played a game of pickleball or seen it played. Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 were the most likely age group to have played or seen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



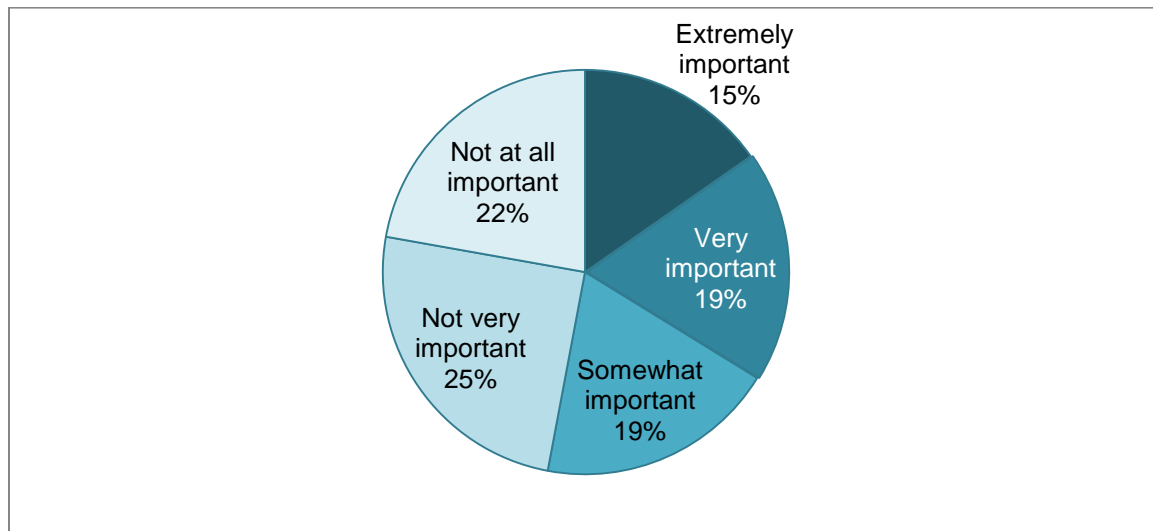
(n=293)

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?



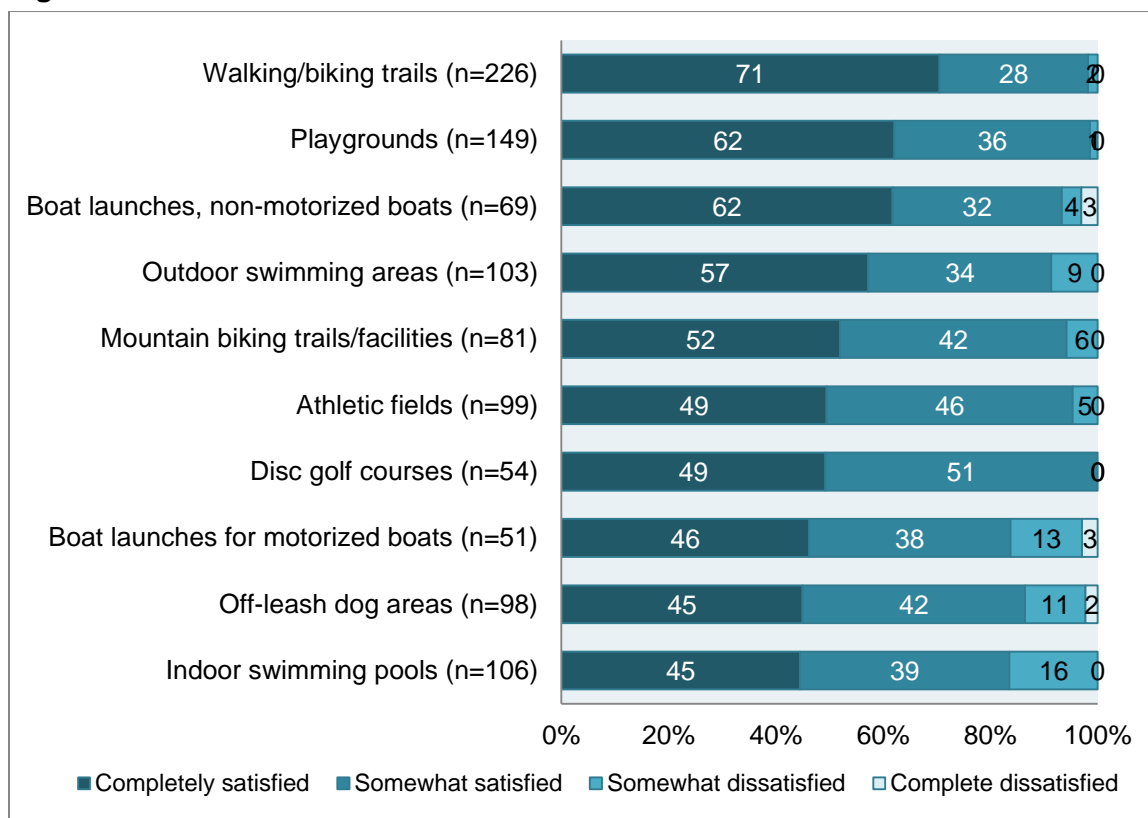
(n=291)

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?

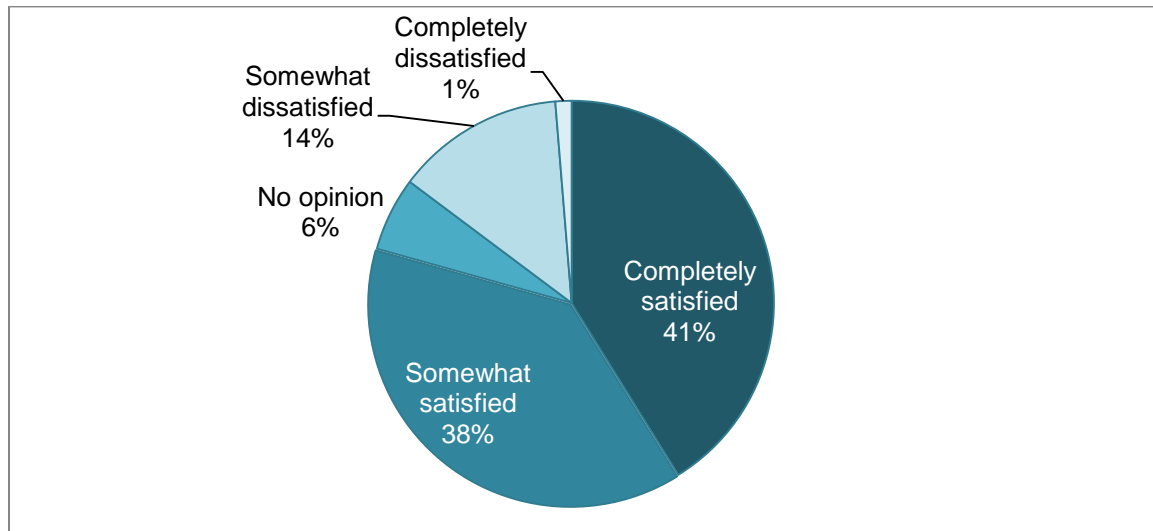
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Indoor swimming pools	7	18
Off road walking and biking trails (not mountain biking)	6	15
Off-leash dog areas	5	13
Safety	3	8
Playgrounds	2	6
Handicap access	2	5
Other specific park or reason	13	33

(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)

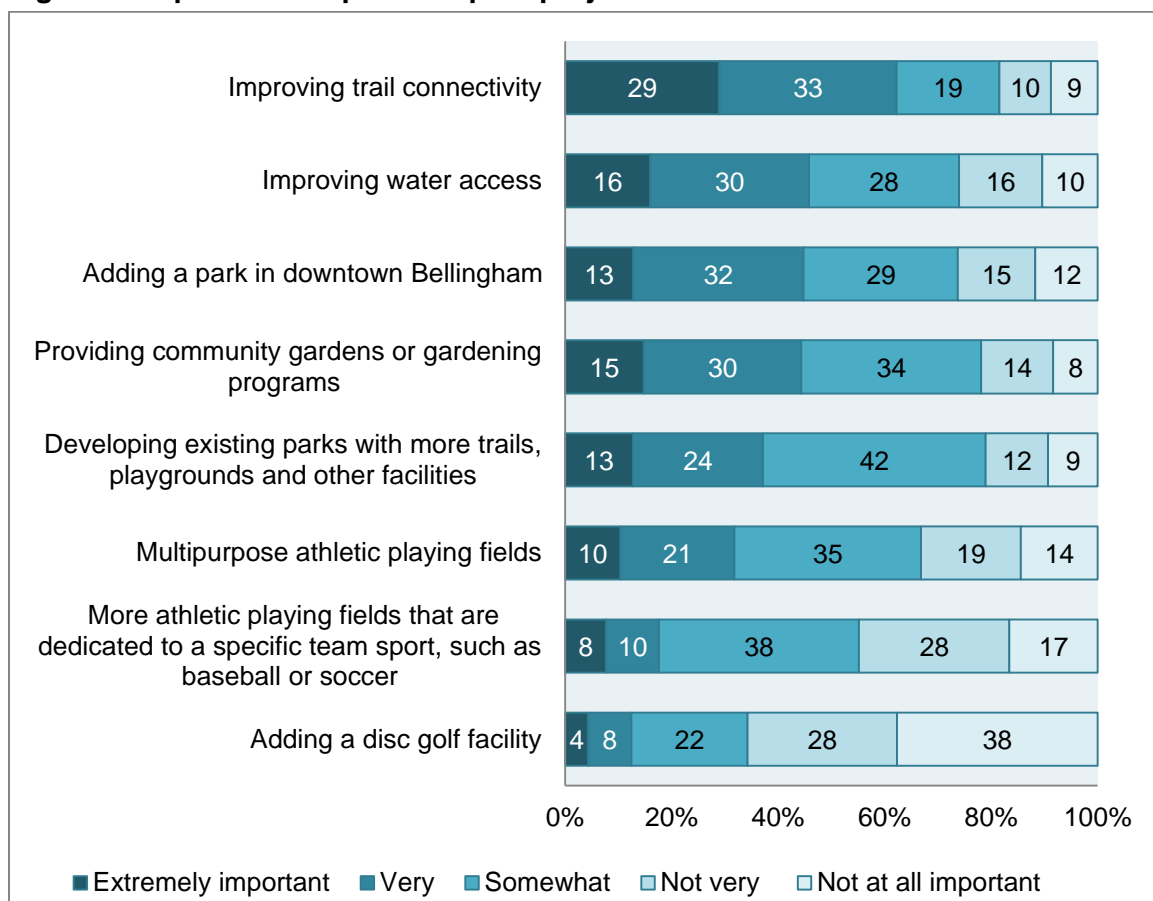
PARKS PRIORITIES

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.

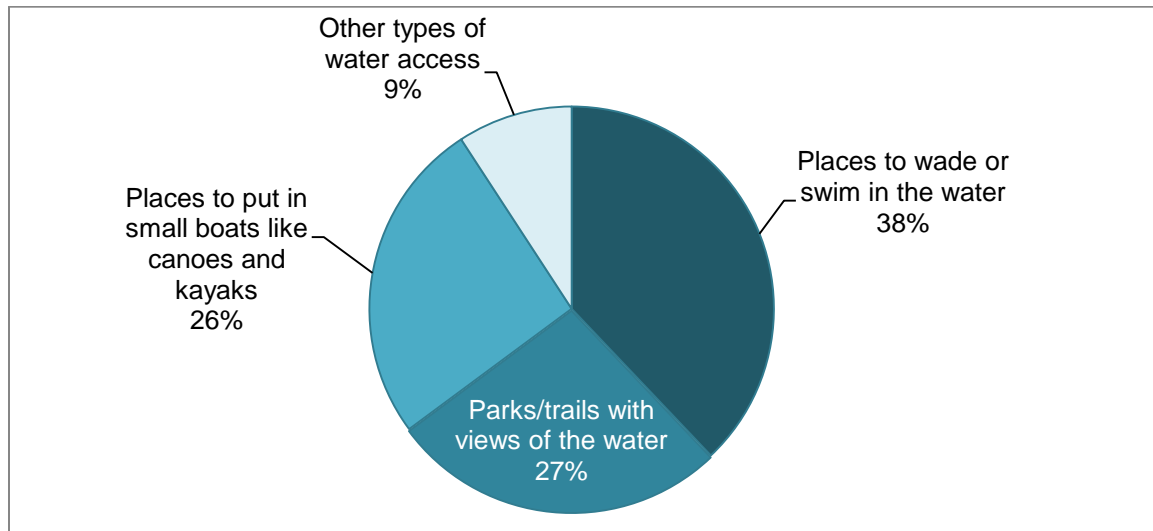
- The proportion who think improving water access is *extremely important* decreased (16%, down from 24% in 2008)
- The proportion who said that trail connectivity is *not very or not at all important* increased from 12% in 2008 up to 19% in 2013

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.

Table 4. Most important ways to improve existing parks		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
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.

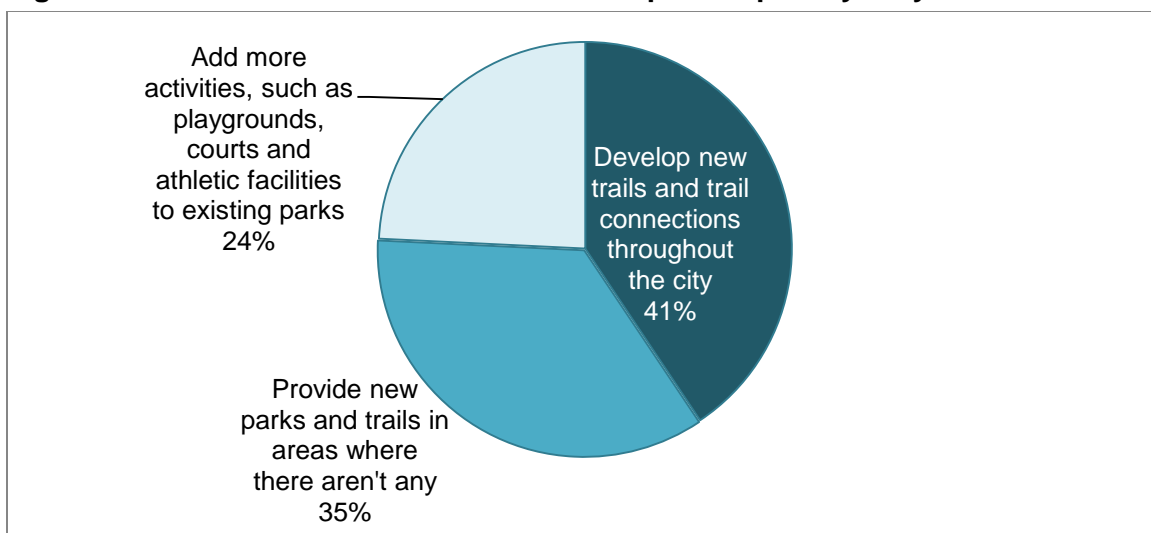
A second common theme was overall park amenities. This category was also broken down into specific types of amenities that respondents would like to see developed or enhanced at the parks. The most frequent specific examples were requests for improved parking (5%) and specific park facilities, typically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

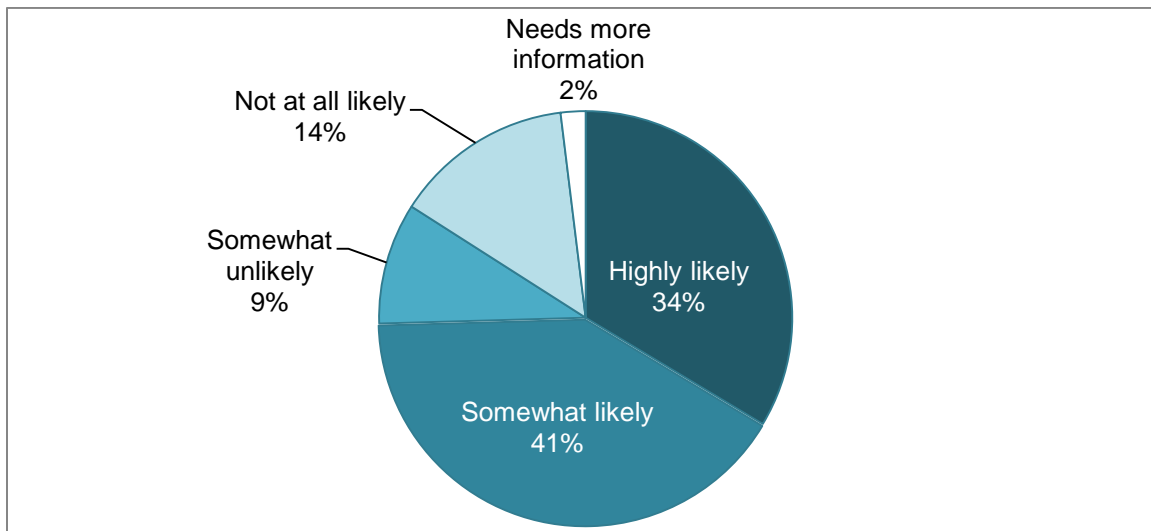
FUNDING

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.

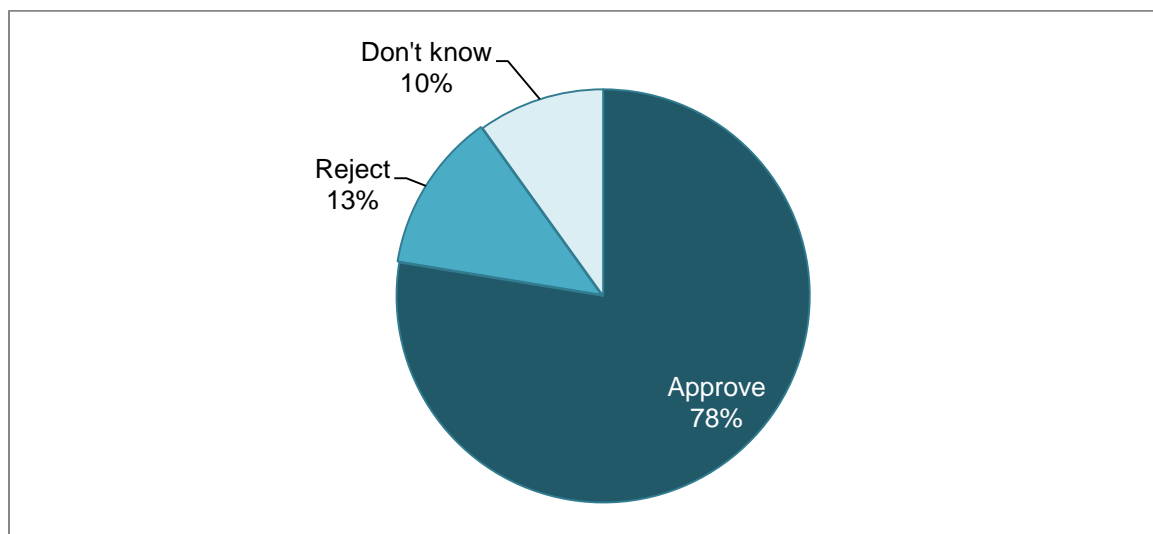
Highly frequent visitors of the parks were significantly more likely to say they were *highly likely* to support a bond or levy (47% vs. 19% of less frequent visitors). There were no differences detected between age groups or between those who have children in the household and those who do not.

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.

Table A2. Comparison of 2013 Sample, 2008 Sample, and Population			
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		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. Thes...

		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 is 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 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 be 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 drops off the leaves 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.