

V. Recommendations



Acid Ball at Waypoint Park. Photo by Jerry Legault.

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. A detailed list of each proposed facility is included in Appendix C of the PRO Plan.

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.

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.

5.1 Neighborhood Parks (NP)

Specific recommendations for neighborhood parks in Bellingham include:

5.1.1 Policy Recommendations Neighborhood Parks (NP)

- Neighborhood parks should be located within a safe half-mile walking distance of residential development.
- Acquire and develop new neighborhood parks in the City limits and as areas annex to be located in the general vicinity shown on the following map
- Improve or add restrooms at neighborhood parks where feasible and provide a guide to restrooms that are available during winter months.



Birchwood Park. Photo by Sabine Fuller.

5.1.2 Project Recommendations Neighborhood Parks (NP)

Recommendations	Funded 2019/2020	2021/2022	2023/2024	2025/2026
Acquire and develop neighborhood park in the Bakerview corridor.				
Develop Maplewood/McLeod Park.				
Plan and develop North Samish Hill Park.				ADD
Add additional park amenities at Sunset Pond Park.			ADD	
Develop Julianna Park.				
Acquire a Neighborhood Park in Happy Valley.			ADD	
Renovate and upgrade Shuksan Meadows Park.				

5.2 Community Parks (CP)

Specific recommendations for community parks in Bellingham are as follows:

5.2.1 Policy Recommendations Community Parks (CP)

- Community parks should be distributed throughout the City with approximately one park for every four square miles, and served by designated pedestrian routes, sidewalks or trails.
- Develop waterfront parks according to the Waterfront District Subarea Plan.



Lake Padden Park. Photo by Sean Stockburger.

5.2.2 Project Recommendations Community Parks (CP)

Recommendations	Funded 2019/2020	2021/2022	2023/2024	2025/2026
Develop Cordata Park Phase 2.				
Master Plan and develop Van Wyck Park.				
Create capital maintenance plans for each Community Park.		ADD	ADD	ADD
Develop Cornwall Beach Park.				
Squalicum Creek Park - complete remaining master planned improvements.				ADD
Construct new restrooms at Boulevard Park.				
Replace natural field surfaces with synthetic surfaces to maximize use at Geri Fields, Squalicum Creek Park and other sites.				ADD
Civic Complex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace dugouts at Geri Fields. • Replace scoreboard at Civic Stadium • Lighting assessment. 			ADD	
Improve drainage conditions at multi-use field in Lake Padden Park.			ADD	
Pursue partnership with YMCA and Arne Hanna Aquatic Center, including expansion of aquatic capacity.		ADD		
Complete a master plan for Fairhaven Park's Chuckanut Community Forest.				
Complete Boulevard Park clean up of South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant.				
Replace roof at Bloedel-Donovan multi-purpose building.		ADD		

5.3 Special Use Sites (SU)

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

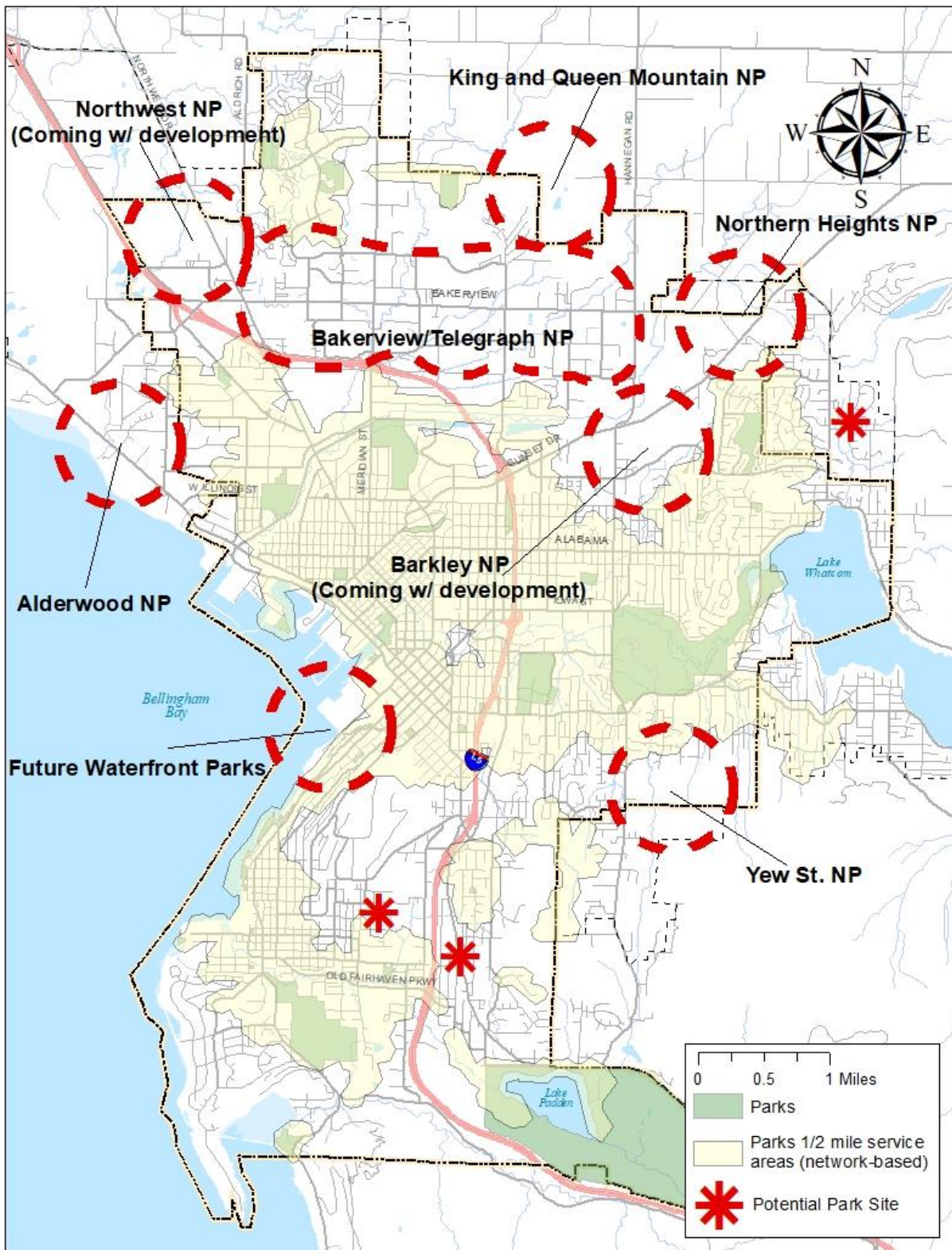
5.3.1 Policy Recommendations Special Use (SU)

- Acquire and develop new hand-carry boat launch or landing facilities in conjunction with park development in the Waterfront District and at other locations.
- Identify appropriate location for a north end skate park.
- 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.

5.3.2 Project Recommendations Special Use (SU)

Recommendations	Funded 2019/2020	2021/2022	2023/2024	2025/2026
Add parking, ADA access and trail connectivity to Woodstock Farm and develop a strategic management and maintenance plan.		ADD		
Provide identified improvements to community gardens and form a committee to propose a strategic management and maintenance plan.		ADD		
Replace fence at Big Rock Garden.		ADD		
Acquire and renovate the pier for public access at Little Squalicum Park.		ADD		

RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • PARKS AND SPECIAL USE SITES



5.4 Open Space (OS)

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

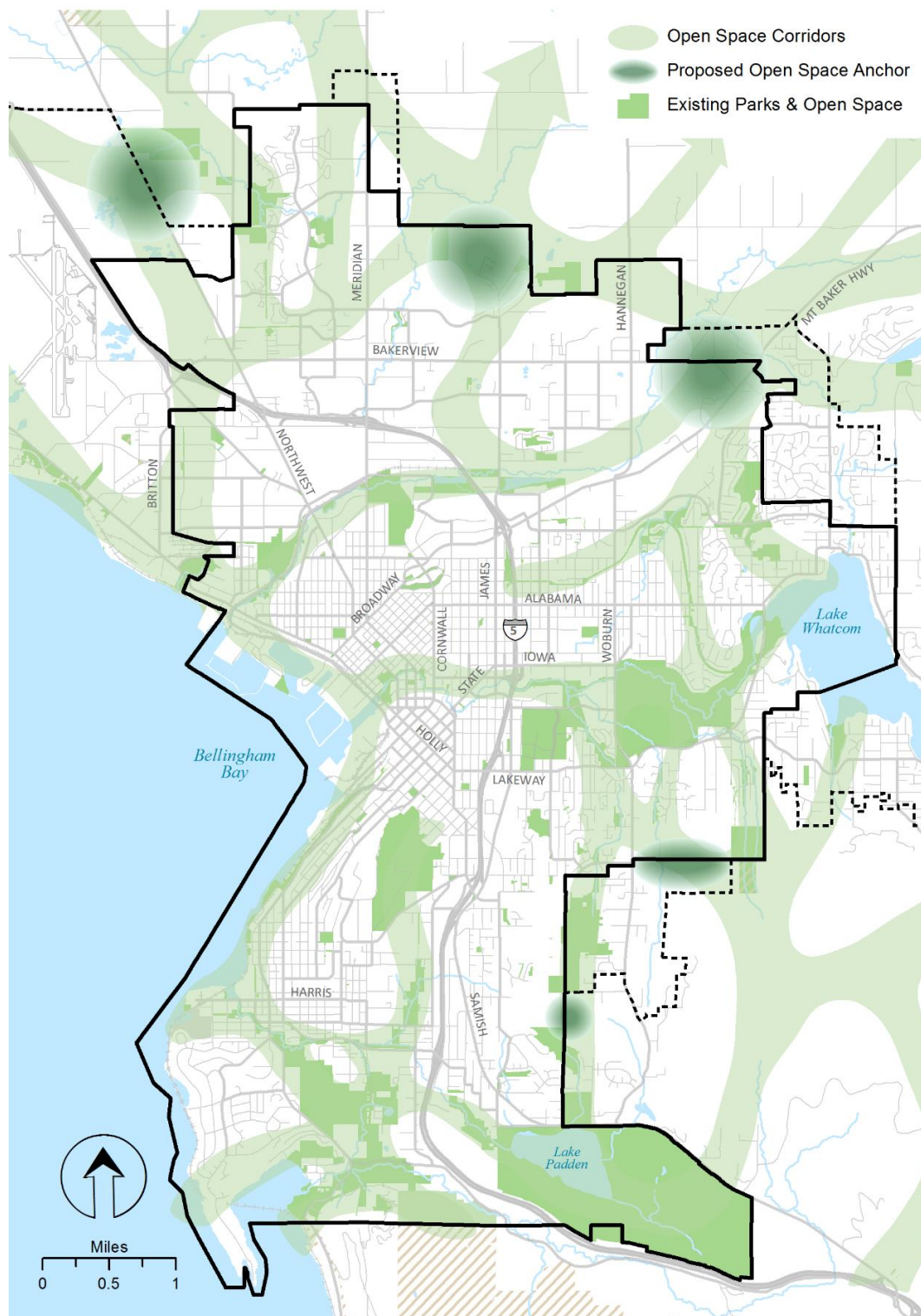
5.4.1 Policy Recommendations Open Space (OS)

- 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.
- Acquire additional salt waterfront land and tidelands to expand the network of open space and public access along Bellingham Bay.
- Evaluate Samish Crest open space for surplus or land swap opportunities.
- Prioritize and implement recommendations of Urban Forestry Plan on Parks open space.

5.4.2 Project Recommendations Open Space (OS)

Recommendations	Funded 2019/2020	2021/2022	2023/2024	2025/2026
Develop access to King and Queen Mountain Greenway.			ADD	
Improve parking and wayfinding at Riley Open Space.		ADD		

RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • OPEN SPACE



5.5 Trails (TR)

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

5.5.1 Policy Recommendations Trails (TR)

- 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.
- Institute a maintenance replacement program to monitor, maintain, improve and/or replace trail features, including bridges, boardwalks and stairs.
- Connect Cordata Park, Whatcom Community College and Van Wyck Park.
- Acquire and/or develop trailheads (parking, signage, restrooms, picnic areas, etc.) at Galbraith Mountain area, Woodstock Farm, Fairhaven Park Forest and North Chuckanut Trailhead.
- Acquire and develop a trail corridor to extend the Northridge Park Trail west, to the Sussex-to-Bristol Connector Trail, and connecting the Railroad trail north to Sussex Drive.
- Pursure easements to connect Bay to Baker Trail to King and Queen Mountain Greenway.
- Pursue connections from Little Squalicum Park northwest to Alderwood/Airport area.
- Develop trails to fulfill the Waterfront District Subarea Plan.

5.5.2 Project Recommendations Trails (TR)

Recommendations	Funded 2019/2020	2021/2022	2023/2024	2025/2026
Samish Crest – complete connection to Lake Padden.				
Connect Riley Open Space and the Cordata Trail.		ADD		
Acquire trail corridor along Squalicum Creek.				
Complete Locust Beach trailhead and trail improvements.				ADD
Extend trail along Whatcom Waterway as development occurs.				
Add specific bridges – Wildflower, Civic, Silver Creek.		ADD	ADD	

RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PLAN • TRAILS
