



Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan

Nicole Oliver, Parks Development Manager
MNAC – October 16, 2019

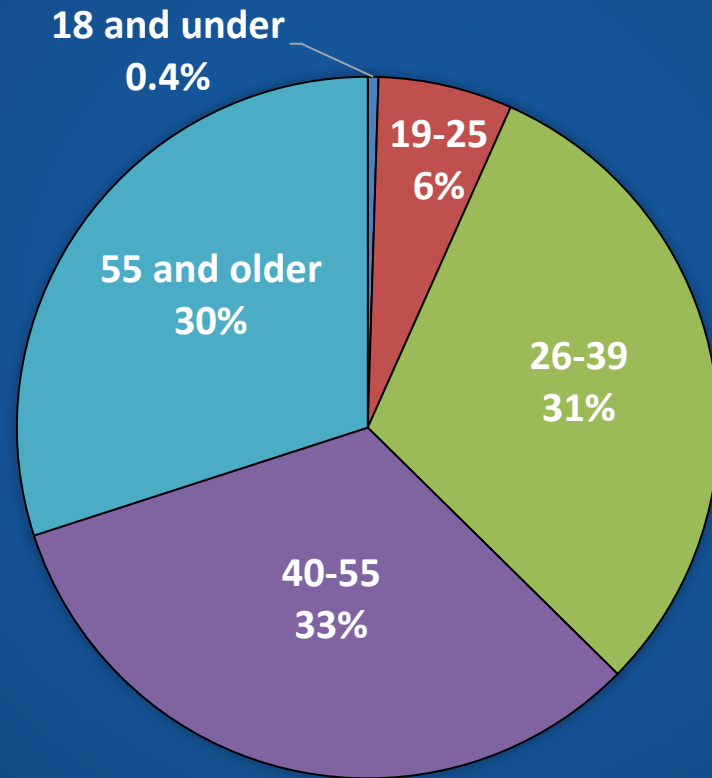


Project Steps

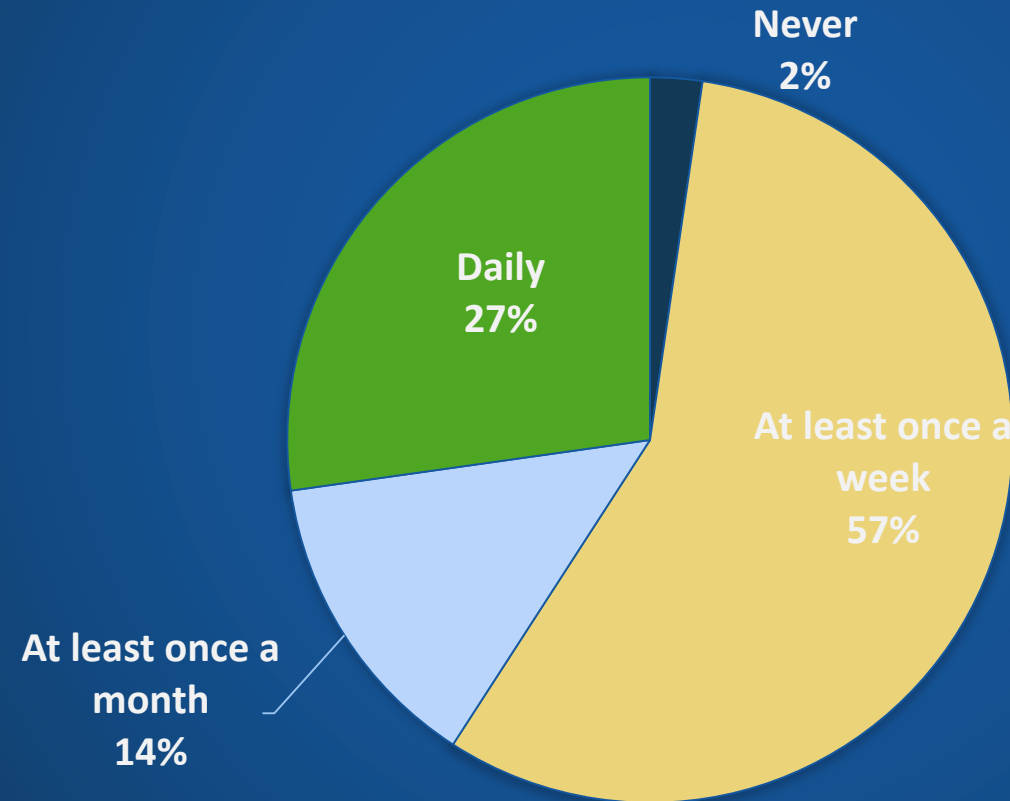
- Public Outreach
 - Workshops and field trips
 - Parks & Rec Board and Greenways Advisory Committee
 - Community survey
 - Public Open House & email comments
- PEP Tool for equity presented to City Council
- GIS-based Park Inventory
- Final Draft to PRAB Oct. 9



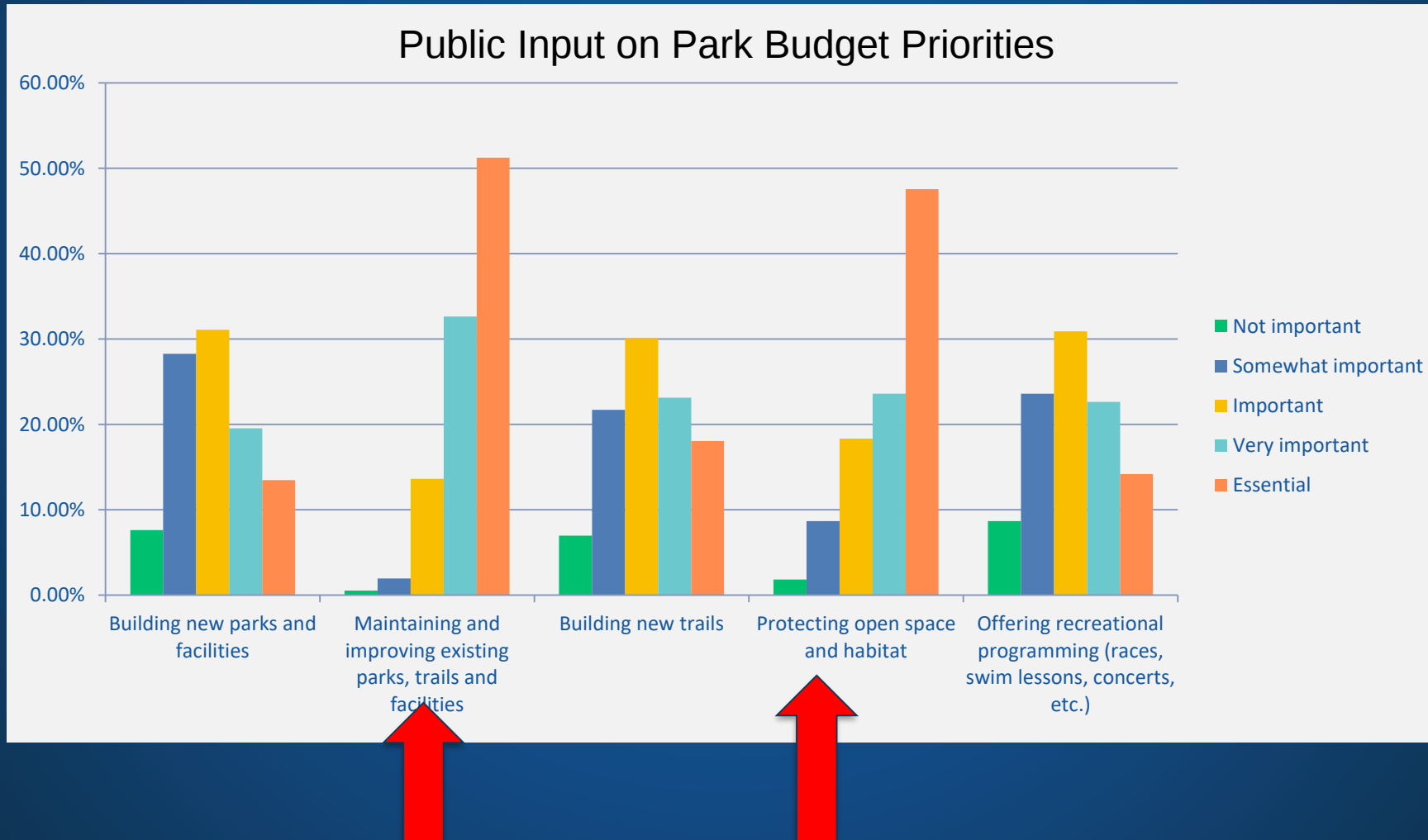
Q2: What is your age



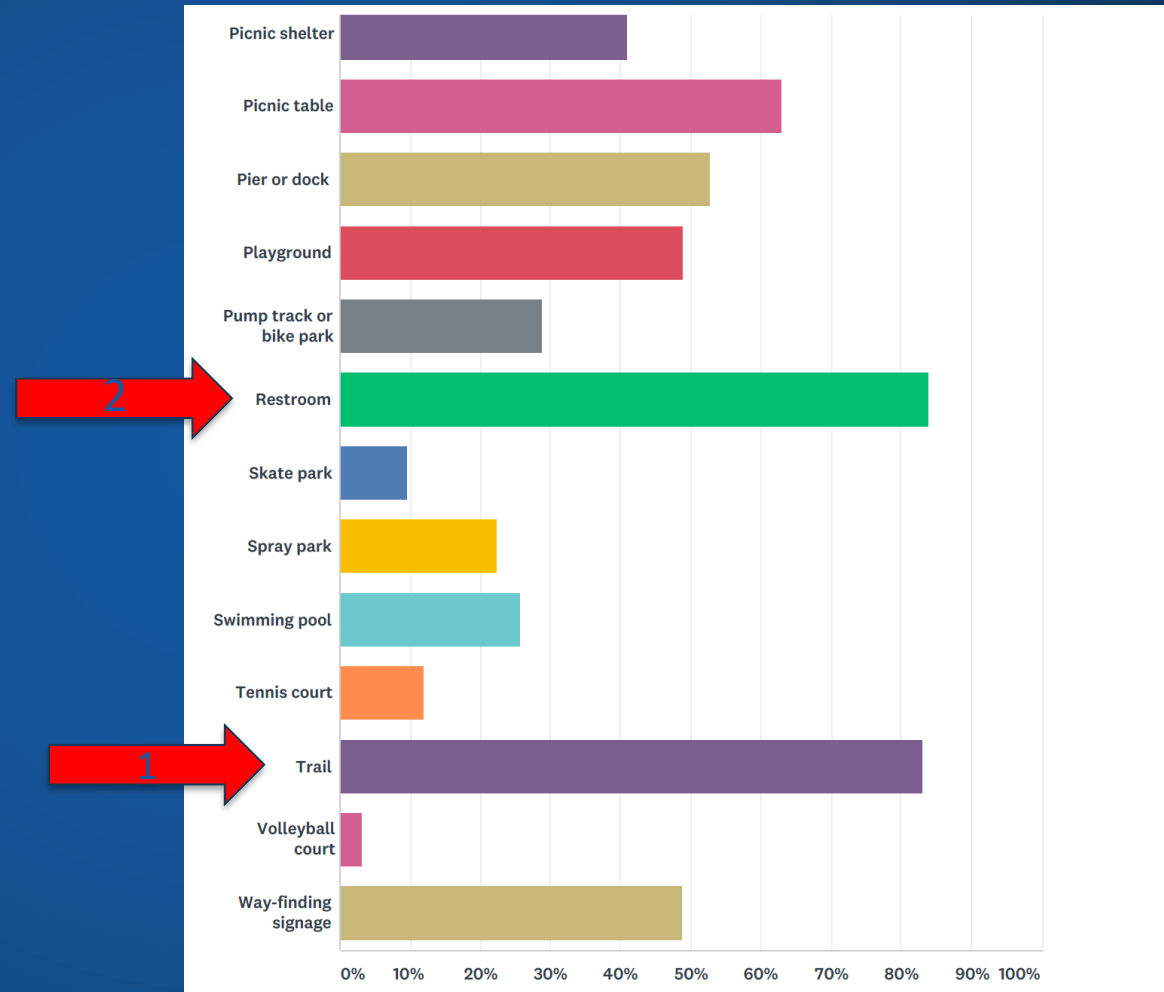
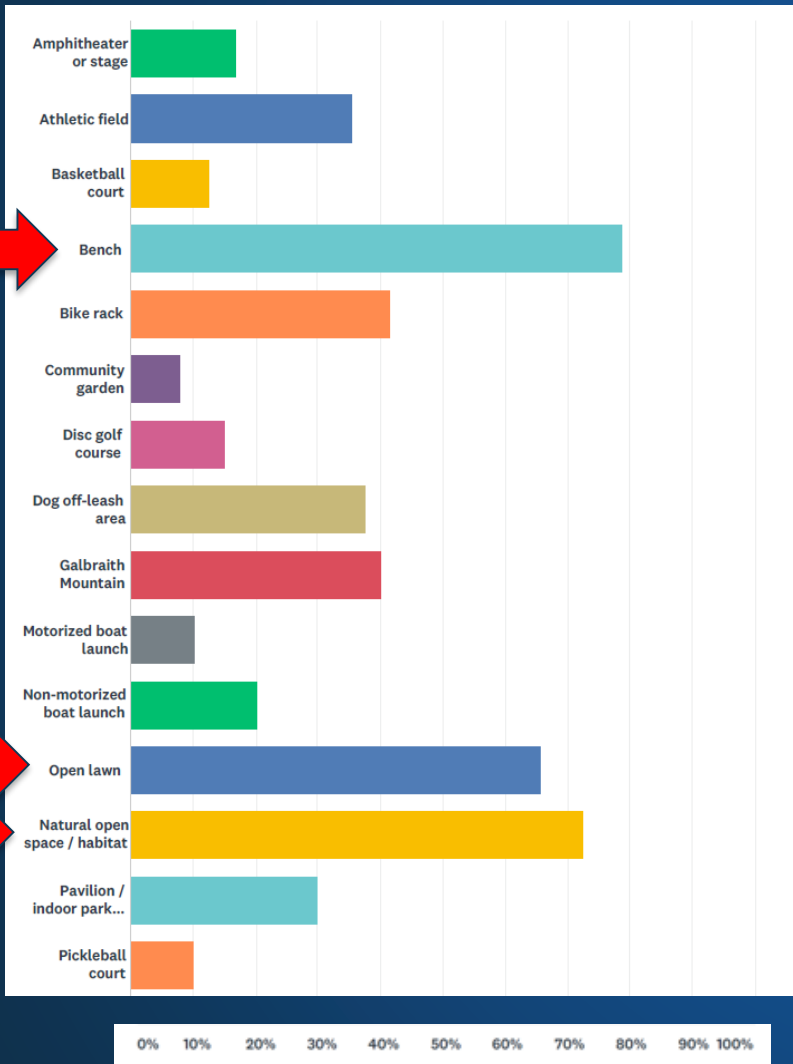
Q3: In the past month, how many times have you visited a park, trail or other park facility in Bellingham?



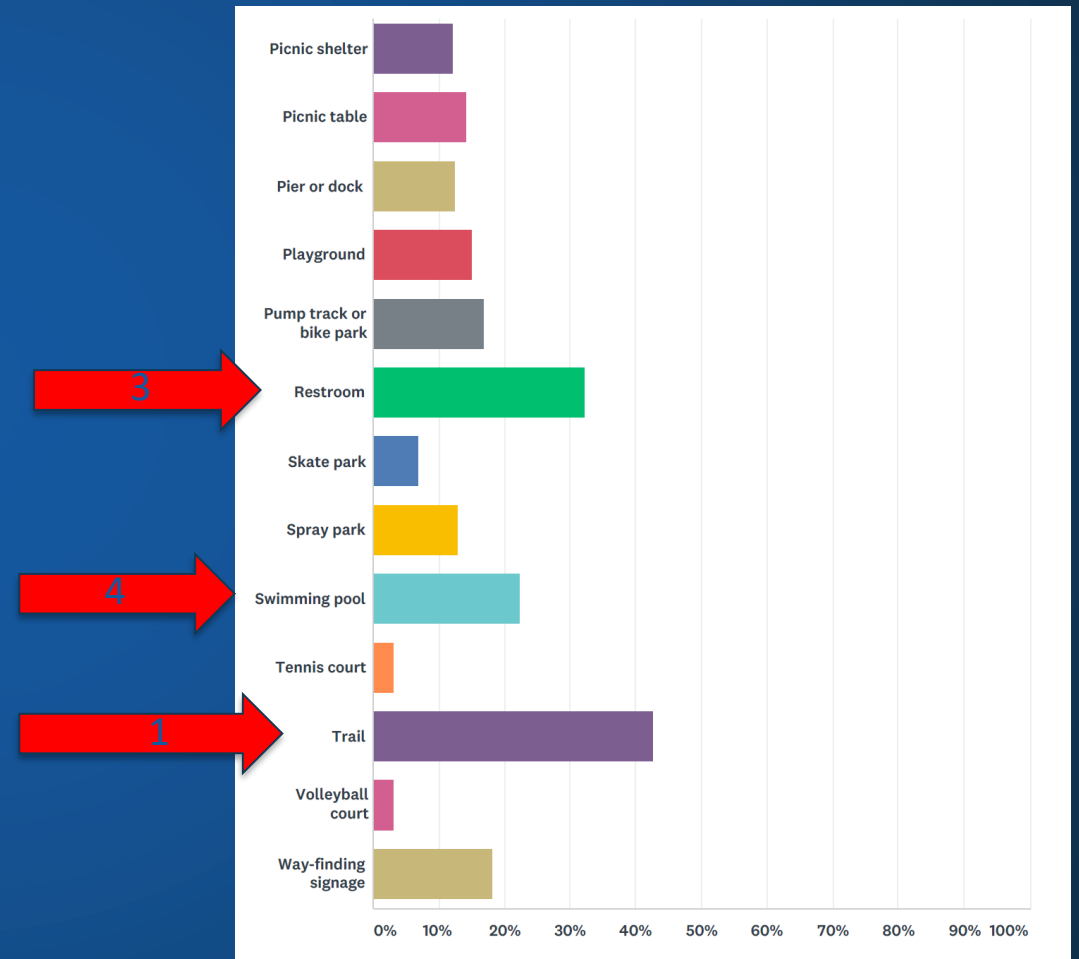
Q4: For each of the following Park budget priorities, rate their importance to you



Q6: Which of the following features have you used in a City-managed park, trail or open space in the last year?



Q7: Which features do we need more of in Bellingham's parks, trails and open spaces?





Open Comments

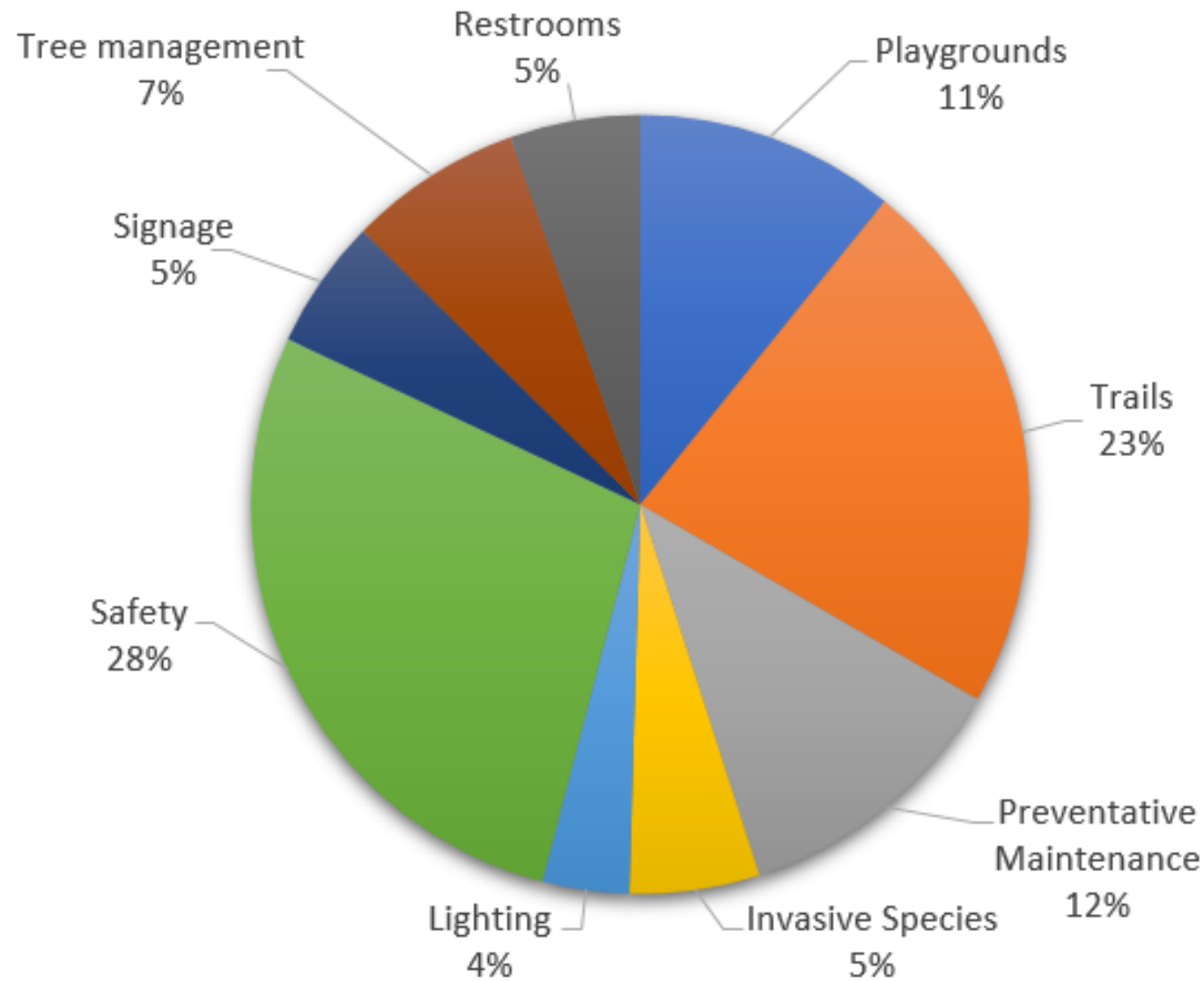
- **Trails/Trailhead (1432)** – more, connectivity, decrease social trails, garbage cans
- **Bikes (494)** – separate mountain bikes from hiking, speed limits, more trails, bike racks, pro/con for e-bikes on trails
- **Safety (425)** – concerns re homelessness, safe bike trails, pedestrian safety
- **Dogs (362)** – More poop bags, trash cans, pro/con off-leash areas
- **Pool (325)** – Need larger pool with more swim lanes

Open Comments

- **Signage (240)** – Educational signs, way-finding, speed limits
- **Programs (241)** – What programs are available? More bike events, concerts and volunteer programs
- **Restrooms (239)** – Add them to neighborhood parks, year-round access, maintenance
- **Pickleball (184)** – New courts, convert existing courts like Cornwall, covered and lit for year-round play
- **Galbraith (140)** – Way-finding, parking, restrooms



Maintenance Priorities



Plan Chapters

- Intro, Goals & Objectives
- Community Setting
- Existing Facilities
- Land and Facility Demand
- Recommendations
- Implementation
- Appendices



New Principles

- Protective
- Connected
- Playful
- Equitable
- Sustainable
- Inclusive

Goals and Objectives

- Citiworks Asset Management:
 - Create maintenance standards
 - Prioritize upgrades using PEP Tool
 - Renovate and expand existing facilities (pickleball, skating)
- Community Recreation Needs Assessment
- Year-round staffing
- Explore enforcement options
- Climate Resiliency
- Long-term financial sustainability



Birchwood Park. Photo by Sabine Fuller.

Multiple Levels of Service

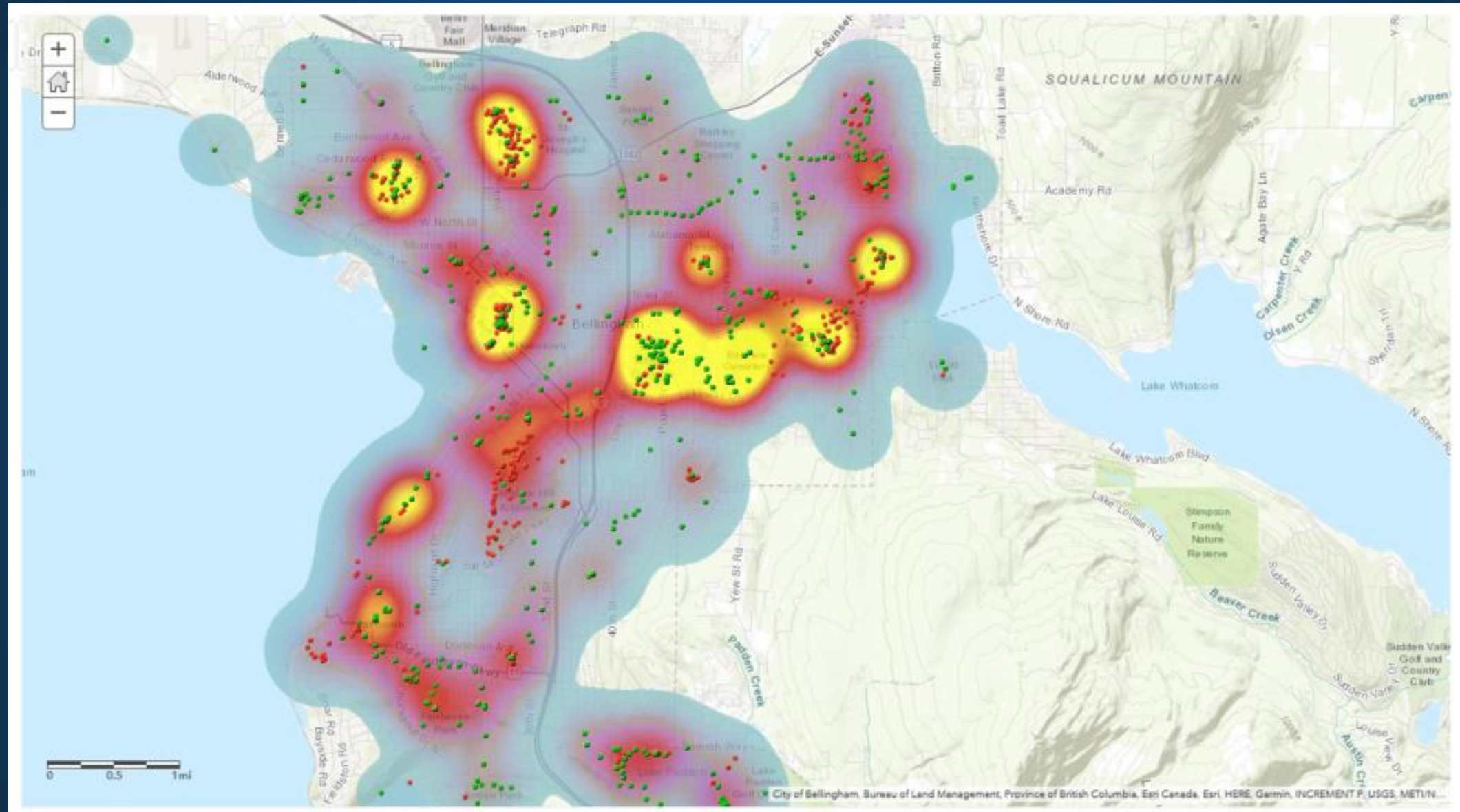
- Proximity
- Acres/person
- Maintenance and Enhancement
- Cost/person



Acid Ball at Waypoint Park. Photo by Jerry Legault.

Level of Service

Park System Standard – City & UGA							
	Total Land	Trail Miles	Neighborhood Parks	Community Parks	Special Use Sites	Open Space	Total value/capita
2019 City Existing/1000	35.4	0.9	1.4	15.7	3.3	15	\$6,070
2019 City + UGA Standard/1000	35.8	0.8	1.3	14.1	3	17.3	
2040 City + UGA Standard/1000	28.4	1	1.2	10.9	2.3	13.9	\$5,012



Parks Enhancement Prioritization Tool (PEP Tool)

Goal 7(c): Prioritize capital improvements based on safety, condition, socio-economic factors and population served.

	% Multi-family housing ½ mile	% of families on free or reduced school lunches	Population within ½ mile	Final Score	Priority
Playground A	15% = 0.0	20% = 2.9	1245=1.5	4.4	3
Playground B	25% = 2.0	14% = 0	650 = 0	2.0	4
Playground C	50% = 7.0	23% = 4.3	4500 = 10	21.3	2
Playground D	65% = 10	35% = 10	2500 = 4.8	24.8	1

Neighborhood Parks

- ½ mile walk
- Add restrooms
- Use PEP Tool



Recommendations

Acquire and develop neighborhood park in the Bakerview corridor.

Renovate and upgrade Shuksan Meadows Park.

Develop Julianna Park.

Develop Maplewood/McLeod Park.

Add additional park amenities at Sunset Pond Park.

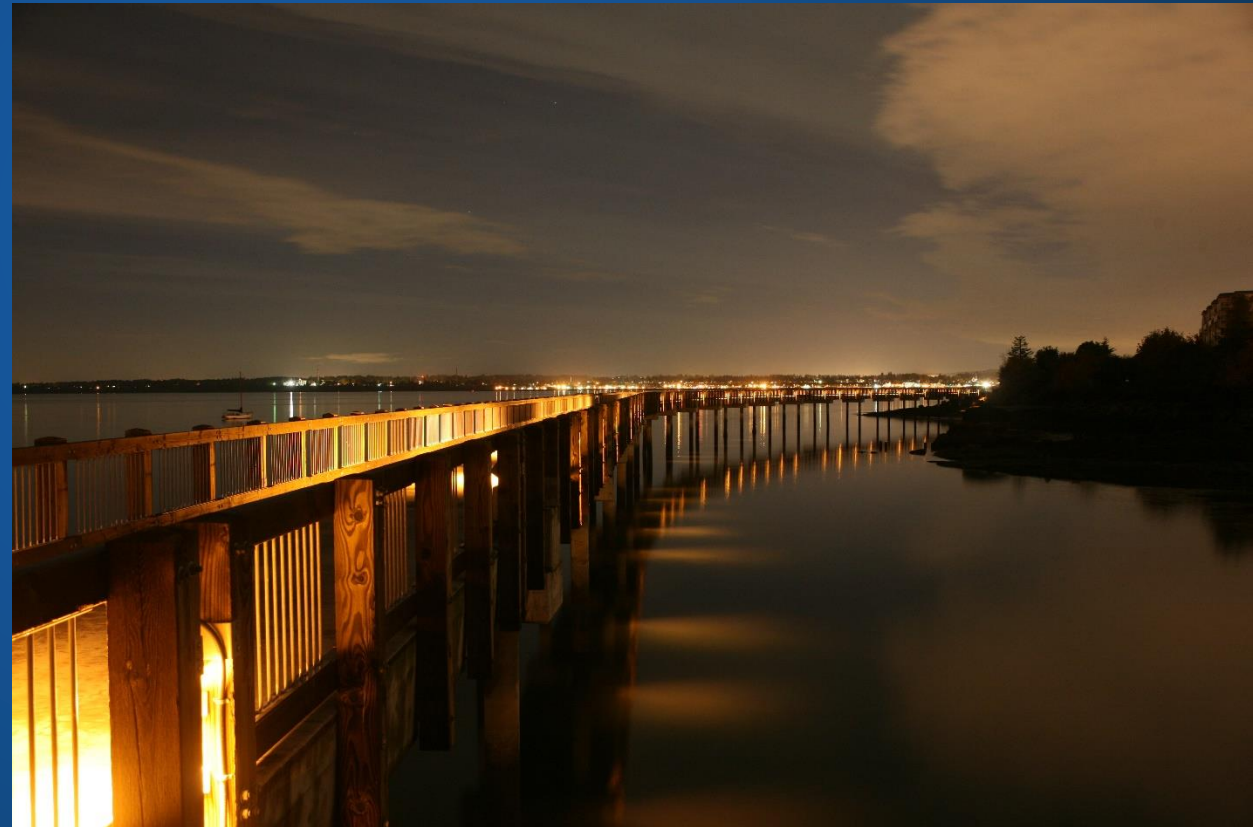
Acquire a Neighborhood Park in Happy Valley.

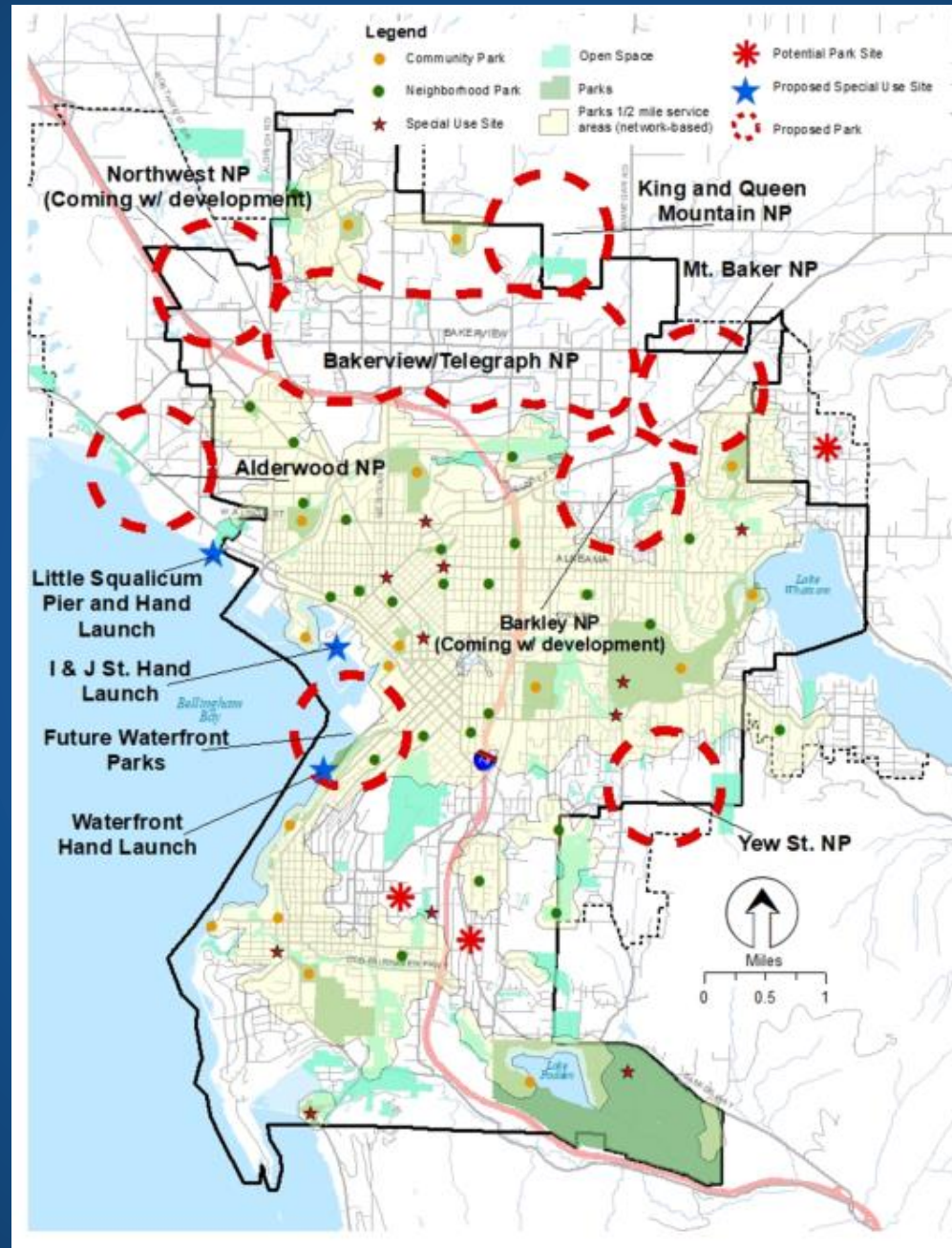
Plan and develop North Samish Hill Park.

Recommendations
Construct new restrooms at Boulevard Park
Develop Cordata Park Phase 2
Pursue partnership with YMCA and Arne Hanna Aquatic Center
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
Implement recommendations from Cornwall Park Task Force
<u>Collaborate on donation of Bloedel-Donovan swim docks</u>
Master Plan and develop Van Wyck Park
Develop Cornwall Beach Park

Community Parks

- Locate every 4 square miles
- Complete waterfront parks
- Capital Maintenance Plans





Special Use

- Hand-carry boat launch
- North end skate park
- New town squares and plazas



Recommendations

Acquire and renovate the pier for public access at Little Squalicum Park.

Add parking, ADA access and trail connectivity to Woodstock Farm and develop a strategic management and maintenance plan.

Provide identified improvements to community gardens, and form a committee to propose a strategic management and maintenance plan.

Implement master plan improvements at Big Rock Garden, including improved fencing.

Trails

Recommendations

Acquire trail corridor along Squalicum Creek.

Extend trail along Whatcom Waterway as development occurs.

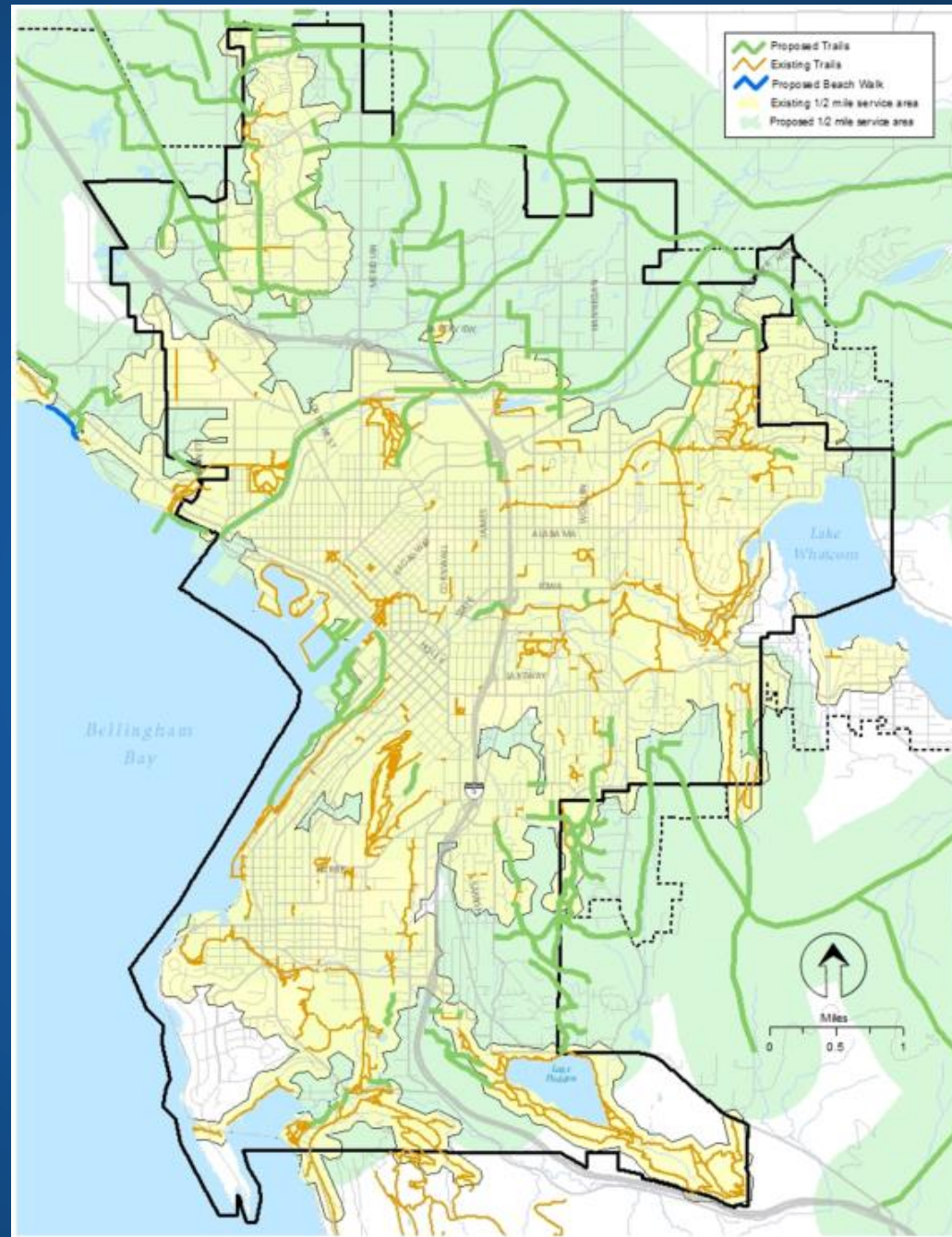
Samish Crest – complete connection to Lake Padden.

Connect Riley Open Space and the Cordata Trail.

Evaluate and replace bridges – Wildflower, Civic, Silver Creek.

Acquire and improve trailhead parking and access to Galbraith from the north.

Complete Locust Beach trailhead and trail improvements.



Open Space

- Per map
- Waterfront access
- Evaluate Samish Crest
- Restore habitat and remove invasive species

Recommendations
Improve parking and wayfinding at Riley Open Space.
Prioritize and implement recommendations of Urban Forestry Plan on Parks open space.
Develop access to King and Queen Mountain Greenway.



Implementation

- Assumes similar funding to last 5 years
 - REET
 - Park Impact Fees
 - Greenways or other levy
 - Grants & donations
- Total estimated recommendations cost: \$107m
- Total estimated system value: \$546.9m – basis for PIF Fee



Next Steps

- PRAB final recommendation: November 13
- Planning Commission: December 6
- City Council: January 2020
- Approval to State RCO due March 1, 2020





Questions?

www.cob.org/proplan

