

March 13 & 18, Open Houses Public Input Summary



What is the PROS Plan and How to stay involved
~ 80 Members of the public

Straw poll – Most important Goals for the next 20 years

Favorite Places Input Board

Activity #1, Favorite Place **to connect**:

Cordata Park, Cornwall Park, (2) bike trails, Whatcom Falls-park and hiking, Boulevard park-
Waterfront-hang out, pump track, Belling fair and (3) Cornwall-disc golf, 100 acre wood, Fairhaven
park, Boulevard and Waypoint, Zuanich parks-to watch the kids

Favorite place **to be active**:

(4) Arne Hanna, disc golf, Bell's baseball, Non-square dog park, Little squalicum dog walking,
Whatcom falls dog walking

Favorite place for beauty:

Cornwall Park, bridge at Whatcom Falls, Acid ball at Waypoint Park, Teddy Bear Cove, wild spaces at Cordata Park and Whatcom Falls, Open space-woods and water, over water walkway, Hoags pond and birdwatching

Favorite places generally:

Cornwall disc golf course, dog off leash trails, Civic field indoor rec and soccer, skateparks – social interaction, community hub, creative outlet, interurban trails, padden creek and lake padden, upper padden trails to arboretum and off leash dog park

Activity #2, How to improve:

(2) public restrooms, pocket parks, (3) off leash area in Cordata Park, (5) 18 hole disc golf, improved access to Lake Whatcom, water access, ping pong, open space hikes, connect coastal trails, water access for dogs, (2) facilities for youth sports, Interurban bike trails, indoor pickleball, new roof on sportsplex, signage and trail connectivity, lighting at parks for night sledding.

Activity #2, March 18 Meeting:

Identify “user developed” trails for upgrades.

More pump tracks.

More plumbing and bathrooms.

Upgrade or expansion for disc golf facilities.

Improve support from the city for existing facilities (Padden and Cornwall)

Better define trails, keep from widening.

Fix poor drainage, mud spots.

More neighborhood involvement.

Provide street styled covered skate park.

Create tree canopy focused corridors between all parks.

Surprised we don't have a good rec center and pools for a city our size. (3-4)

More Community Gardens.

Bus access to the trails.

Give funding priority for civic center project. Much more needed.

City could build a FREE play, dedicated 18 hole disc golf course.

Goals and Policies Straw Poll

Mark the most important goals that you feel are important for the City’s Parks & Recreation Department to aspire to over the next 20 years.

COUNT	POTENTIAL GOAL
24	Support health, wellness, and play with recreational facilities and programs
23	Interconnect the City’s parks and open spaces with trails, greenways, and multimodal street facilities
15	Provide high-quality facilities and services that are accessible and inclusive
15	Ensure that parks and trails are equitably distributed across the City
14	Connect and unify the community with a sense of place and social connections
12	Preserve diverse habitats and steward natural systems
11	Support and expand local collaboration and partnerships
10	Manage Bellingham’s parkland, facilities, and programs effectively, efficiently, and sustainably
7	Foster a sense of safety within the park system
6	Contribute to a vibrant recreation-based economy
4	Reduce emissions and mitigate climate impacts
	Other: all one vote except where noted
	Alternate school routes for kids
	Youth Programs
	PR Facilities
	Dog Park
	(4) 18 holes for disc golf
	Lake Whatcom Access
	Wheelchair accessibility
	(3) Community gardens
	Team Sports



Open House Summary

Bellingham PROS Plan Update



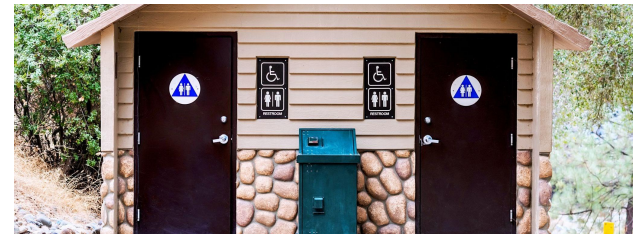
Key Takeaways

Overview

Amenities and Opportunities

Open house attendees reported that they want to see more:

- **Aquatic Opportunities**
- **Community Building Events and Spaces**
- **Accessible Spaces**
- **Completing Features** (Restrooms, Trashcans, Bike Racks, Street Trees)



Overview

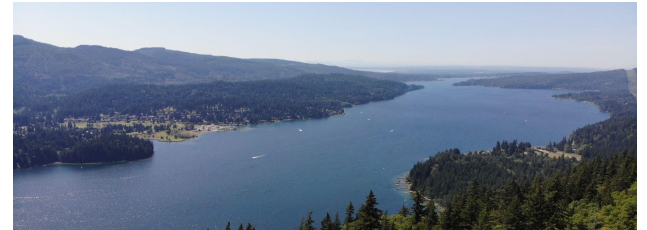
Connections and Regional Destinations

Open house attendees reported that they would like to see:

- **Trail Connections** (Squalicum Creek, Samish Crest Trail, Along the Waterfront)

Open house attendees reported that they leave Bellingham for recreational opportunities at :

- **Lake Whatcom**
- **Vancouver BC**
- **Fidalgo Island/Deception Pass State Park**

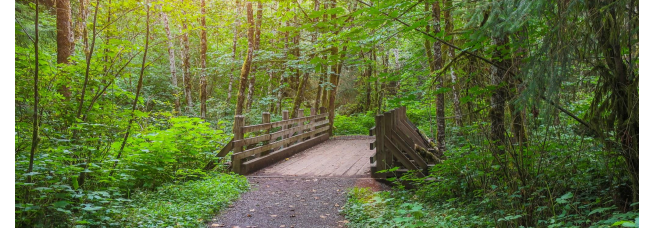


Overview

Services and Maintenance

Open house attendees reported that they would like to see more:

- **Environmental Preservation** (Invasive Species Removal, Habitat Restoration, Lower Trail Impacts)
- **Park Rules Enforcement**
- **Upkeep for Parks, Trails, and Street Trees**
- **Involvement** (Community Gardens, School Outreach, Park Stewardship Opportunities)



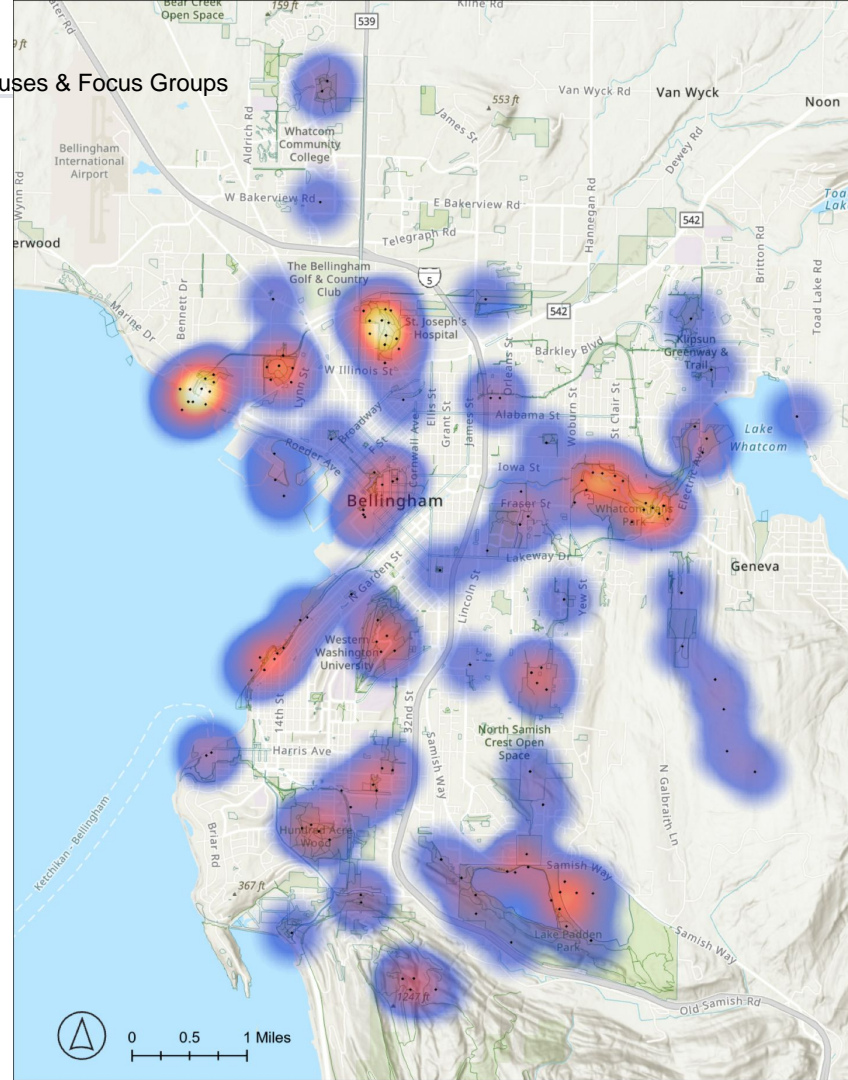
Detailed Responses

Station 2: Connect & Design

Frequented Local Parks and Trails

Open house attendees reported that they frequently visit:

- **Cornwall Park**
- **Squalicum Creek Park**
- **Little Squalicum Beach/Pier**
- **Whatcom Falls Park**
- **Lake Padden Park**



Station 2: Connect & Design

Frequented Local Parks and Trails: Sticky Notes

- Disc golf at Cornwall Park
- Pickleball at Cornwall Park
- Pickleball at Cordata
- I go to listen to my soul
- Close to home and/or water
- Adult blazer hockey at Sportsplex
- Bellis Fairways is temporary, we need more disc golf courses. It's low impact
- Public 18 hole disc golf
- Railroad Trail connects neighborhoods
- Too many off leash dogs
- Galbraith, Whatcom Falls, Civic Dirt Jumps
- Would like Samish Crest Trail completed to Lake Padden
- Natural wooded areas
- Love the parks and trails. I bike all over town to connect to different parks. High interest in a trail from Samish to Padden
- Need a bike lane under or over I-5 at Lakeway. it's a wall to bikers (x2)
- More public access to Lake Whatcom
- Circumnavigation trail around Galbraith
- Circumnavigation trail around Whatcom Lake
- Need bike lanes on Lakeway
- Walks in the woods
- Small trails winding amidst the main path. Big trees and creeks
- Open space, exercise, and community recreation all on Galbraith
- Update aquatic center
- Public 18 hole permanent disc golf course
- Keep all bikes off wooded trails
- North side of Galbraith needs a larger parking lot
- Olympic size pool (50m x 25y, with 8 lanes)
- Kids playgrounds! shelters! shade!
- Please leave natural surfaces wherever possible- ie. Padden Horse Trails, Hundred Acre Woods
- I frequently use the parks to access lakes and or see, and I run on anything that has a soft natural surface
- Disc golf at Cornwall Park
- Public indoor pool
- Please add a covered sitting area to the Scramble Park
- Squaticum Creek Park to Little Squaticum parks and trails
- Love the interconnectedness of the trails- bike and walk them daily with my dog
- Bring back Field of Dreams off Dumas
- Parks near homes are important- needs to be easy for quick outings
- Recreate MTB, hike, walk, disc golf, pickleball
- We love the off-leash dog trails
- Bloedel Donovan
- Whatcom Falls

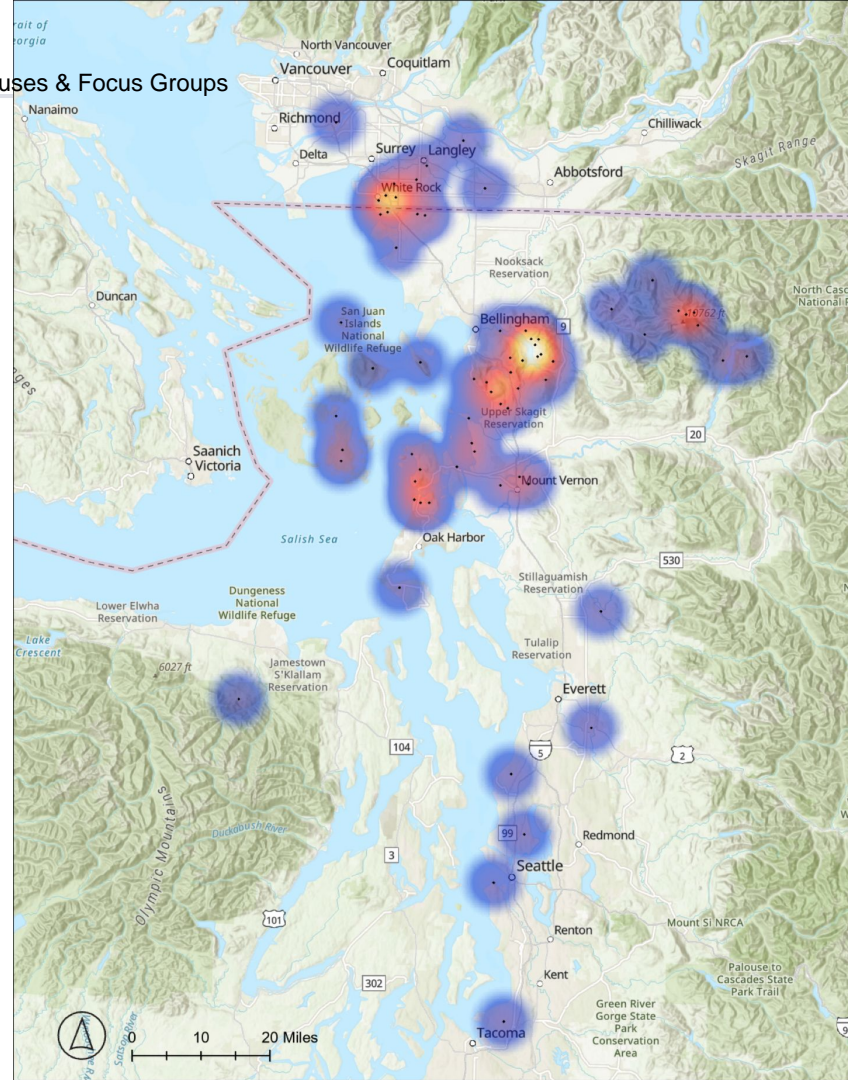
Ideas and comments for park and trail improvements

Station 2: Connect & Design

Frequented Regional Parks and Trails

Open house attendees reported that they frequently visit:

- **Lake Whatcom**
- **Vancouver BC/White Rock**
- **Fidalgo Island/Deception Pass**
- **Mt. Baker**



Station 2: Connect & Design

Frequented Regional Parks and Trails: Sticky Notes

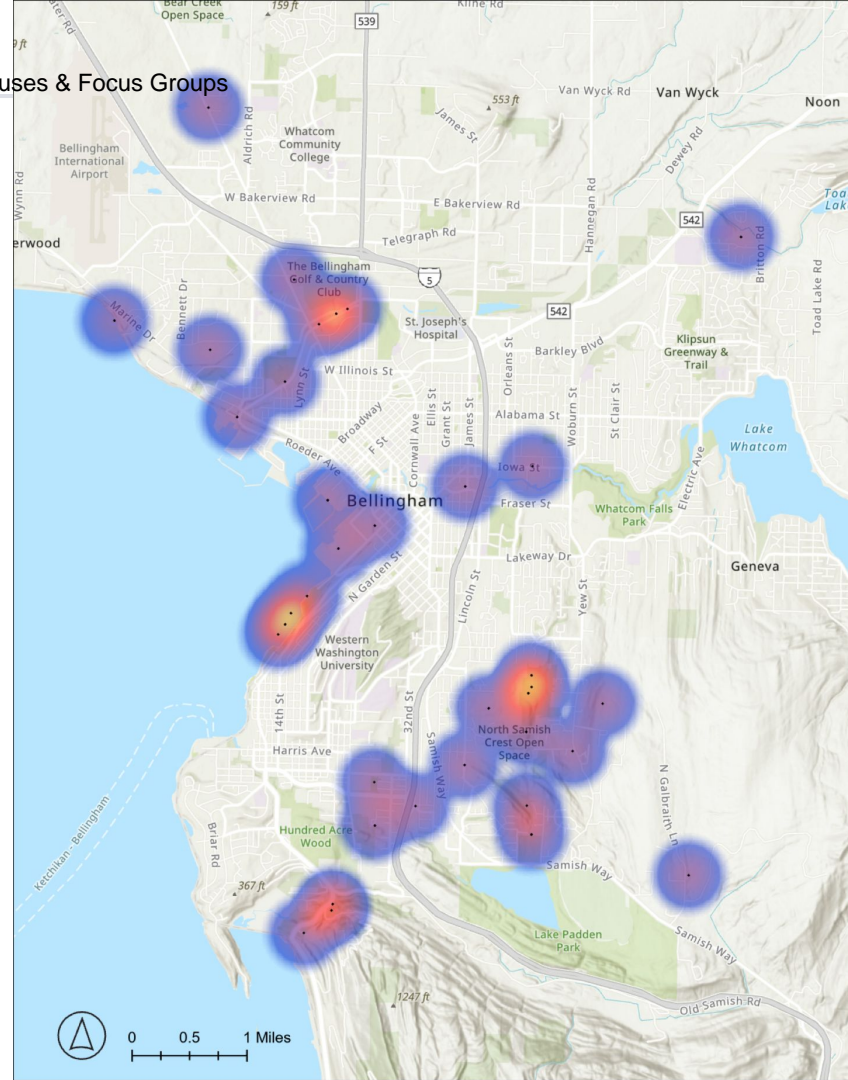
- Phillips GG is a useful soccer facility and I frequent to play or work as a ref
- Grandview Heights Aquatic Center
- Grandview Heights Aquatic Center
- Covered pickleball courts at college
- UBC pool, Vancouver Aquatic Center, Snohomish pool to play underwater hockey
- White Rock Pier – Bellingham could/should do this
- BC pools and community centers are the best- Bellingham could do this
- Lake Padden and Cornwall
- Mossy Rock disc golf
- I go out of town to hike and to use longer trail systems

Station 2: Connect & Design

Priority Trail Connections

Open house attendees identified important trail connections as:

- **Squalicum Creek to Beach**
- **Samish Crest Trail**
- **Boulevard Park to Salish Landing Trail**
- **Teddy Bear Cove to Chuckanut Mountain Trail**



Station 2: Connect & Design

Trail Connection Improvements: Sticky Notes

- Create Trail on Gloria Lane to connect hundreds of homes to Northern Heights and Squalicum High. The current path isn't safe to walk
- Trails connecting schools are important
- Build the Toad Creek Trail
- Complete the trail over Samish Crest to Lake Padden
- Need more public beach access in Silver Beach area
- Samish Crest Trail
- Connectivity from Little Squalicum to Laurelwood Trail
- Lakeway (Whatcom Falls) to Fairhaven
- Connect Academy Road to Yrd th
- I don't like having to walk down Northwest Ave to get to a trail
- Please build the overwater connector from Boulevard Park to Salish Landing
- Connect Railroad Trail near Berkeley to Sunset and new Orchard Drive
- Make trail connections for the Bellingham to Mount Baker trail
- Squalicum Parkway is not a good option for connecting Cornwall to Little Squalicum. Please connect along that street using the existing pathway

Station 3: Play & Partnerships

Priority Amenities at Parks

Open house attendees identified the most important facility amenities as:

- **Restrooms**
- **Trash Cans**
- **Bicycle Racks**

Attendees also made a special note that park amenities should be accessible and that dog leash rules should be clearly stated.

Restrooms	30	Water fountain	12
Trash cans	20	Parking	12
Bicycle racks	19	Covered areas	9
Playground	17	Dog park	6
Trail map and wayfinding	15	Picnic tables	1
Benches	13	BBQ grills	1

Station 3: Play & Partnerships

Priority Amenities: Sticky Notes

- Parks are not good for the vision impaired and people with mobility issues. Better ADA access and info online
- Better info online and at parks about dog leash rules

Station 3: Play & Partnerships

Event and Program Offerings

Open house attendees indicated that they wanted to see more:

- **Special Events**
- **Aquatics Programs**
- **Park Stewards**

Attendees also made a special note that they would like to see more community building through events and programs.

Special events	14	Adaptive needs programs	5
Aquatics programs	11	Day trips and tours	5
Park Stewards	9	Team sports	4
Park Volunteer Program	8	Fitness classes	4
Senior programs, classes & activities	7	Teen programs, classes & activities	3
Individual sports	6	Arts, crafts programs	2
Culturally-specific programming	6	Youth day camps	2
Running/cycling races	6	Dance programs	1
Youth sports	6	Special interest education	1

Station 3: Play & Partnerships

Event and Program Offerings: Sticky Notes

- Expand and encourage all of these as active programming. Build community!

Station 3: Play & Partnerships

Indoor Recreational Activities

Open house attendees indicated that they wanted to see more indoor:

- **Swimming**
- **Sport Courts**
- **Community Centers**

Attendees also made particular note that they would like to see more aquatic centers and community centers.

Swimming	30
Sport courts - Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton	15
Community Center	14
Fitness	9
Hockey/Ice skating	7
Soccer/futsal	7
Climbing	3
Racket sports	2

Station 3: Play & Partnerships

Indoor Recreational Activities: Sticky Notes

- Indoor community centers like BC, Canada has
- We don't have enough pool space for the schools and community

Station 3: Play & Partnerships

Outdoor Recreational Activities

Open house attendees indicated that they wanted to see more outdoor:

- **Swimming Pools**
- **Swimming Beaches**
- **Playgrounds**

Attendees also made a special note that they would like to see more culturally informed facilities, and the preservation of some current facilities.

Swimming pool	24	Pickleball Court	8
Swimming beach	23	Rectangular fields – soccer, volleyball, football	8
Playground	19	Diamond fields – softball, baseball, cricket, kickball	4
Disc golf course	17	Basketball court	3
Community garden plots	10	Reservable shelters	3
Dog off-leash area	9	Fishing docks	3
Skate park	9	Tennis court	2

Station 3: Play & Partnerships

Outdoor Recreational Activities: Sticky Notes

- Full 18 hole disc golf course in Bellingham
- More culturally appropriate activity sports for Punjabi and Sikh population
- Facilities able to support cyclocross events
- Public beach access (especially at Lake Whatcom) is super important
- I don't want all soccer fields to be synthetic, keep some with natural grass
- Please don't eliminate tennis courts just because pickleball is becoming popular
- Please notice the aquatic need– high school swim teams, BBST, adapted aquatics, senior exercise

Station 4: System Resilience

Maintenance Improvements

Open house attendees prioritized these maintenance improvements:

- **Invasive Removal**
- **Community Gardens**
- **Street Trees**

Attendees also made a special note that they would like to see more accessible facilities and habitat restoration.

Invasive removal	13	Improved lighting	7
Community gardens	11	Improved cleanliness and general upkeep	6
Street tree and urban forest maintenance	9	Maintenance of buildings	6
Trail vegetation management and removal	7	Grounds and landscape maintenance	6
Trail wayfinding	7	Trail surfacing	5
Bathroom maintenance	7	Resurfaced sport fields and striped courts	0

Station 4: System Resilience

Maintenance Improvements: Sticky Notes

- More ADA accessibility
- Where is habitat restoration?

Station 4: System Resilience

Gaps in Service

Open house attendees identified the biggest gaps in Bellingham's park service as:

- **Enforcement of Park Rules**
- **Accessible Parks Facilities**
- **Maintenance and Upkeep**

Attendees also made a special note that they would like to see more community spaces, pocket parks on underutilized lots, and natural play elements.

Enforcement of park rules	24
Accessible parks facilities for people with disabilities	21
Maintenance and upkeep of parks and trails	17
Trail signage and wayfinding	14
Sense of safety on trails	11
Access to parks, open space, trails within a 10-minute walk	11
Convenient access to parks	9
Event and programming space is inadequate	6
Sense of safety at parks	5

Station 4: System Resilience

Gaps in Service: Sticky Notes

- Address severe bank erosion at Lake Padden and preemptively fix erosion
- Could Jim Johan Essen help with Beach design?
- Lake Padden water quality study– repeat the one done 15 years ago
- Shuksan Meadows needs help! Trees and meadows! also do something with the concrete slab
- Please buy the corner of Ellis and Holly and Lakeway and build a Welcome Park where the old City Dogs building stands
- Install trail level lighting at Taylor dock between it and the older land trestle
- Preserve viewpoints on Samish Crest with pocket parks
- Birchwood pump track area! Benches and beautification landscaping
- Parks that serve child care centers. Not enough childcare– pair parks and this into your thinking
- Detailed drawings of Whatcom Falls dog boundary
- Not enough access to pool space in this community
- We (all neighborhoods) need community centers, places to meet and engage
- Side by side play with tot slides and zip lines. Zip lines for all ages– we don't stop playing at age 12
- Protects wildlife from bikes on wooded trails
- Change the status quo mentality of buying plastic playground equipment
- Community Center that would fill the gap left when Northwood Hall closed. Many organizations miss that facility greatly
- Disc golf at Bakerview Park
- More parks with loose parts and natural elements, like a scramble Park
- Allow for more community input when designing parks and actually listen to community members

Station 5: Conserve

Stewardship Priorities

Open house attendees indicated that the City should prioritize stewardship resources on:

- **Street Trees**
- **Community Gardens**
- **School Outreach**

Attendees also made a special note that they would like to see more natural ecosystem restoration and preservation.

Street Trees	23
Community Gardens	20
School Outreach Activities	17
Park Ranger Enforcement Program	14
Park Steward Program	12
Volunteer Work Parties	12
Park Ambassador Program	8

Station 5: Conserve

Stewardship Priorities: Sticky Notes

- More staff to work on habitat restoration
- Single track and dirt bike trails
- Enforce MTB speed and safety maybe areas where they aren't allowed or need to
- Invasives! Poison hemlock and others are proliferating in climate changed ecosystems
- Combine/coordinate stormwater finding with park planning to get double the bang for buck and amenities
- Volunteer work parties. Giving away trees that grow more than 100 ft isn't great, those should be planted in parks
- Need to expand park volunteer work parties

Open House #4 Summary

Bellingham PROS Plan Update

City of Bellingham
PROS Plan Update

November 19, 2025



Needed Outdoor Recreation Activities

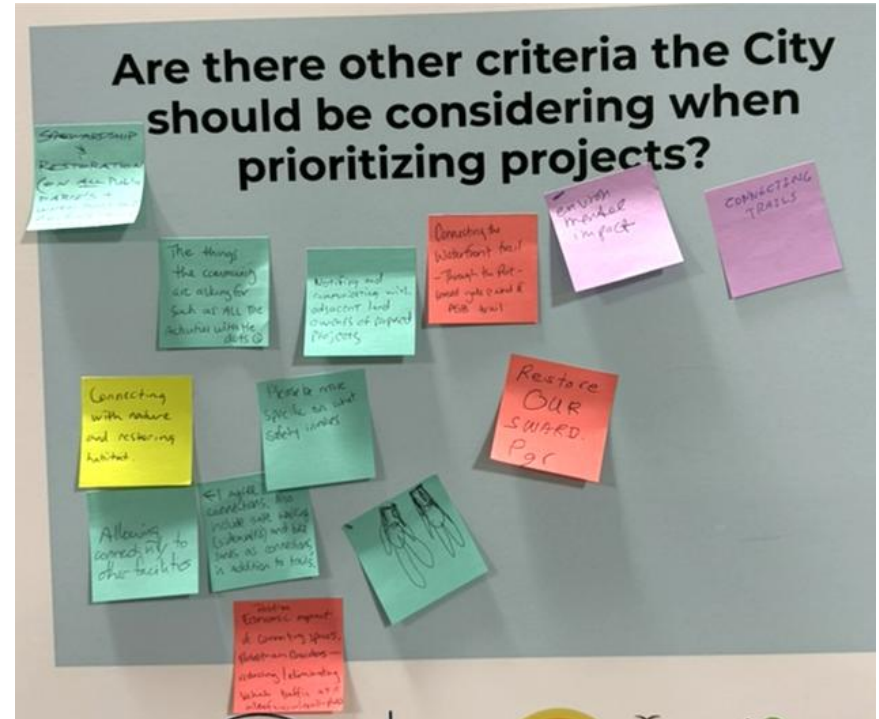
Swimming Pools, Beaches, Community Gardens, Skate Parks, and Disc Golf Courses are particularly desired outdoor recreation activities



Prioritization Criteria to Consider

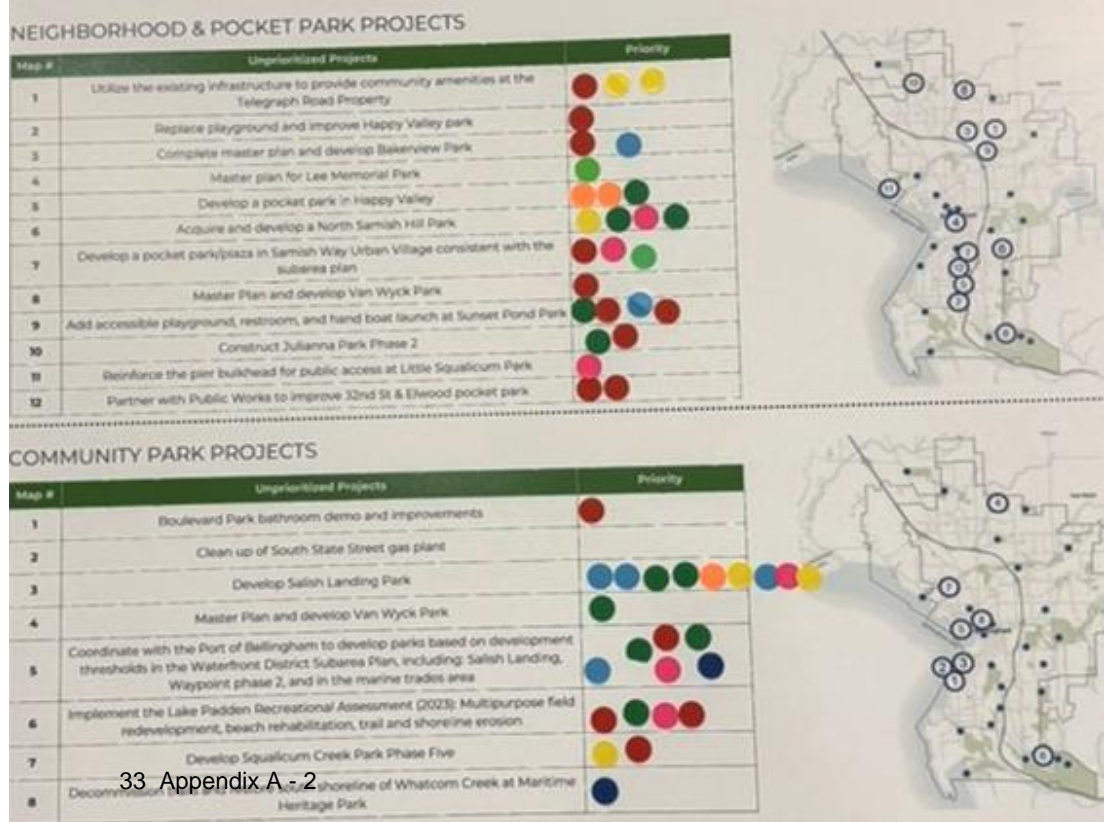
Core Themes

- Restore and care for natural spaces
- Improve trail and park connectivity
- Ensure safety and accessibility (including equity + ADA)
- Communicate clearly with the community
- Maintain and enhance existing parks



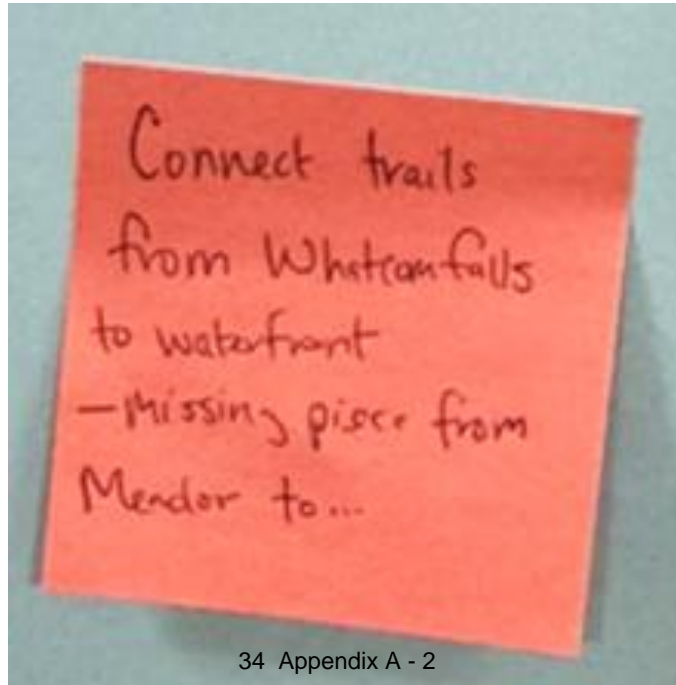
Recommendations For Parks

1. Develop Salish Landing Park
2. Coordinate with the Port of Bellingham to develop parks based on development thresholds in the Waterfront District Subarea Plan, including: Salish Landing, Waypoint phase 2, and in the marine trades area
3. Acquire and develop a North Samish Hill Park
4. Add accessible playground, restroom, and hand boat launch at Sunset Pond Park
5. Implement the Lake Padden Recreational Assessment (2023): Multipurpose field redevelopment, beach rehabilitation, trail and shoreline erosion



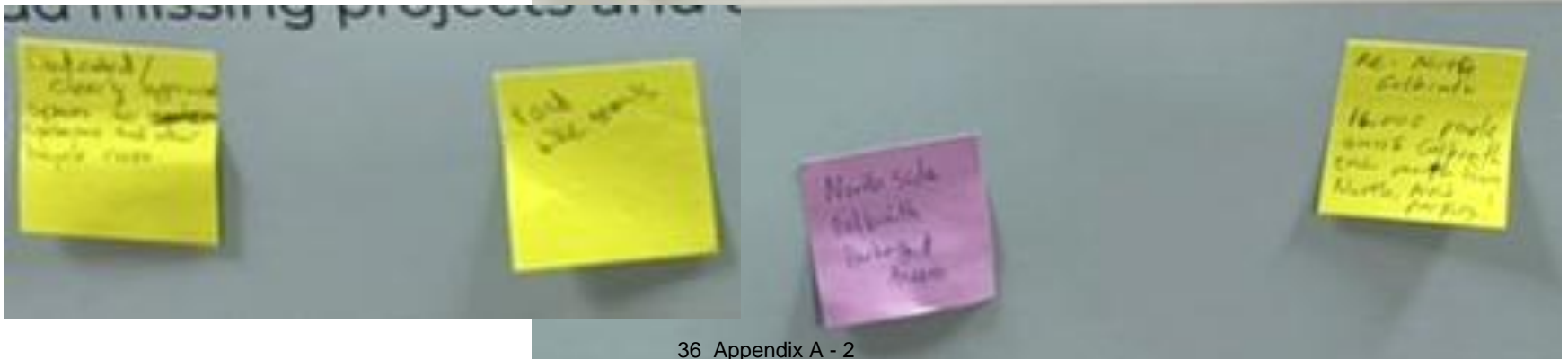
Recommendations For Parks

Additional Comments



Recommendations For Open Space

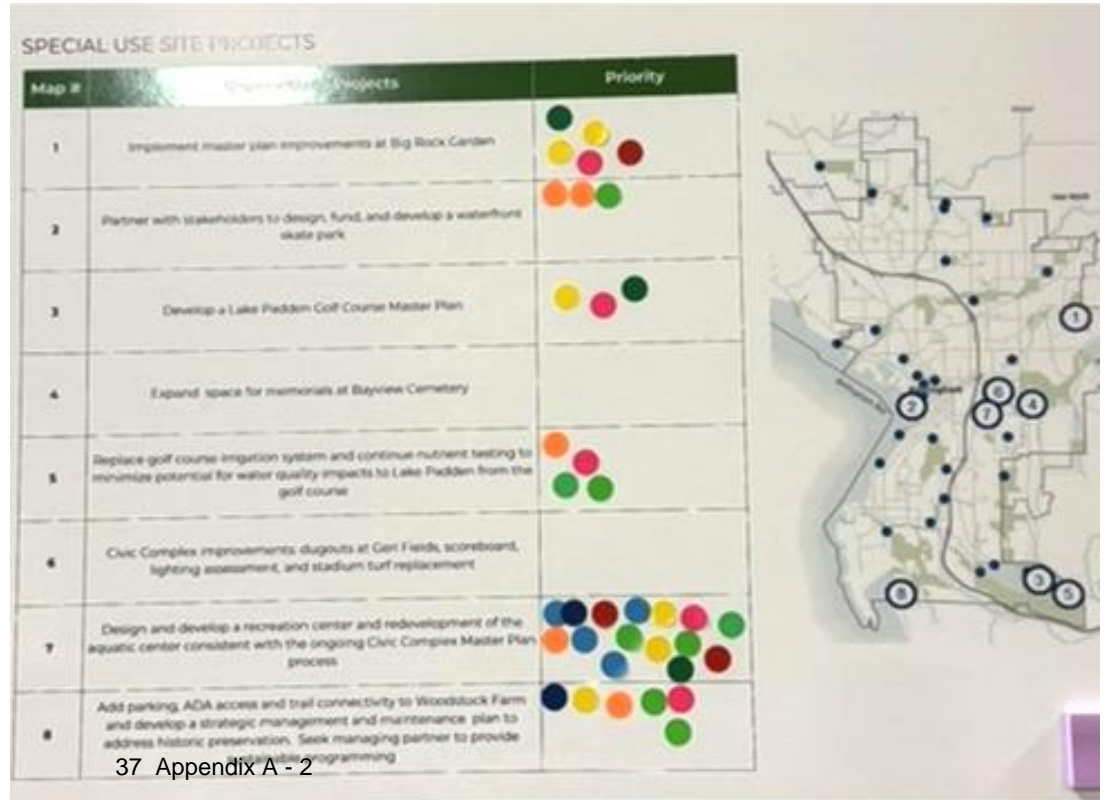
Additional Comments



Recommendations For Special Use Sites

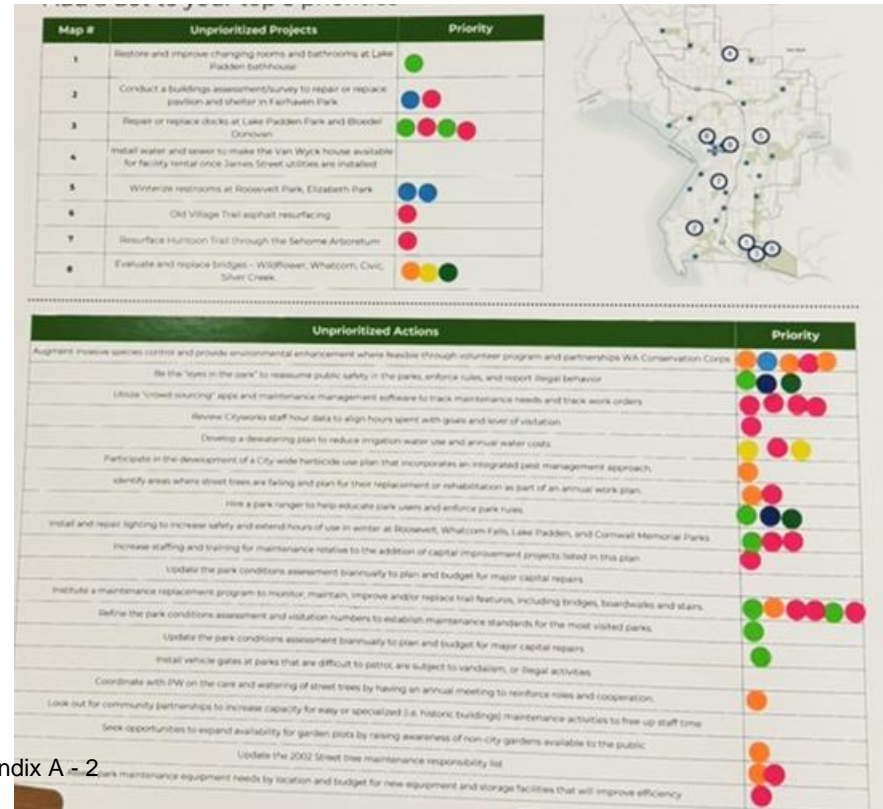
1. Design and develop a recreation center and redevelopment of the aquatic center consistent with the ongoing Civic Complex Master Plan process

Additional Comments



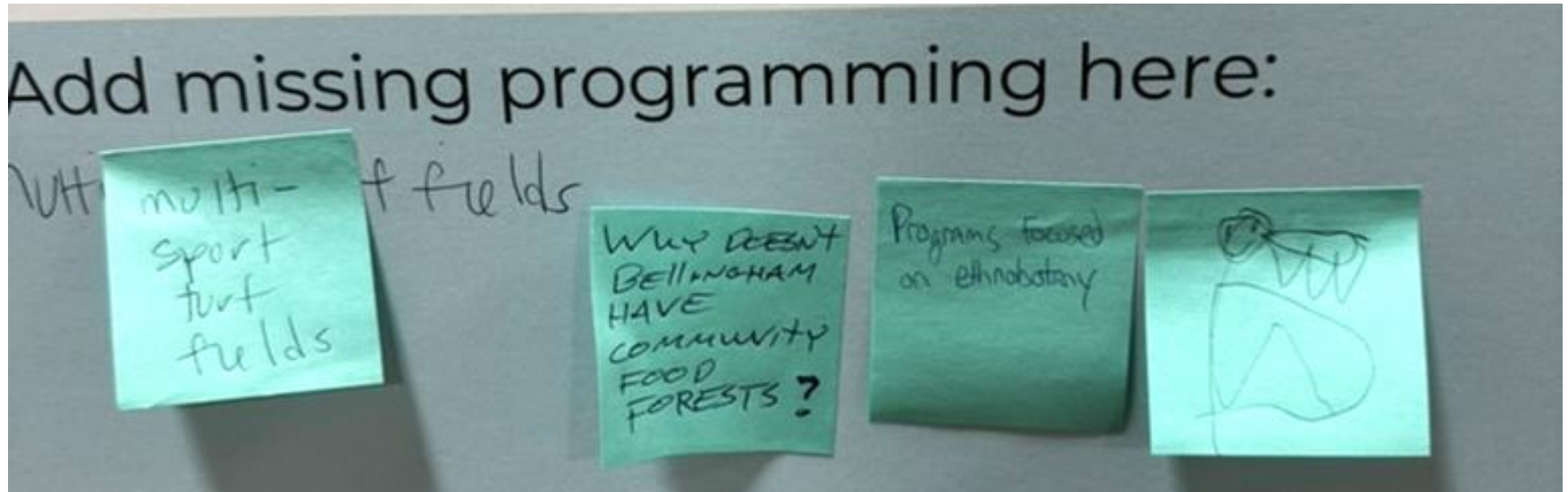
Recommendations For Operations and Maintenance

1. Institute a maintenance replacement program to monitor, maintain, improve and/or replace trail features, including bridges, boardwalks and stairs.
2. Augment invasive species control and provide environmental enhancement where feasible through volunteer program and partnerships WA Conservation Corps
3. Repair or replace docks at Lake Padden Park and Bloedel Donovan
4. Utilize "crowd-sourcing" apps and maintenance management software to track maintenance needs and track work orders



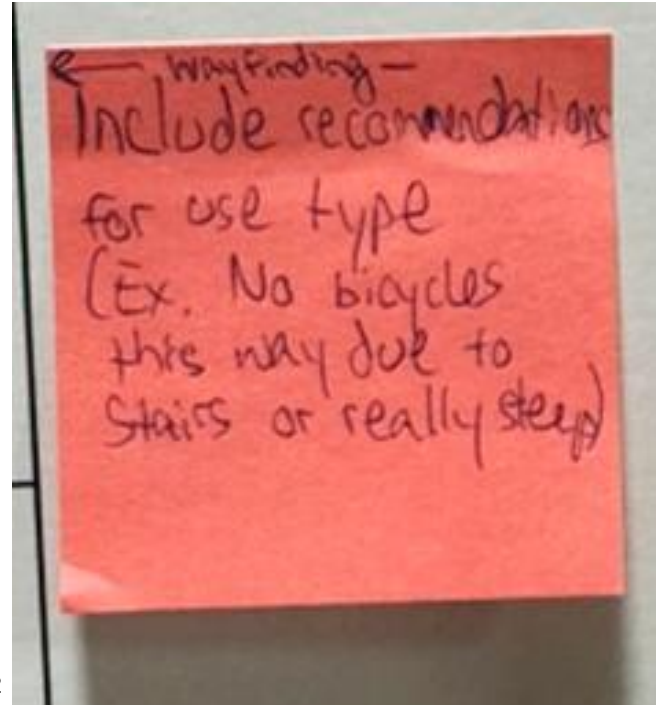
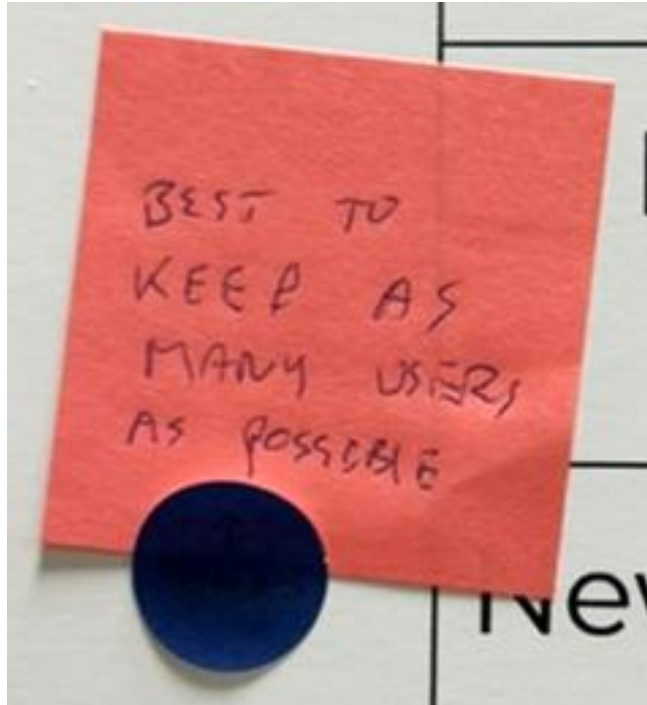
Recommendations For Recreation

Additional Comments



Recommendations For Trails

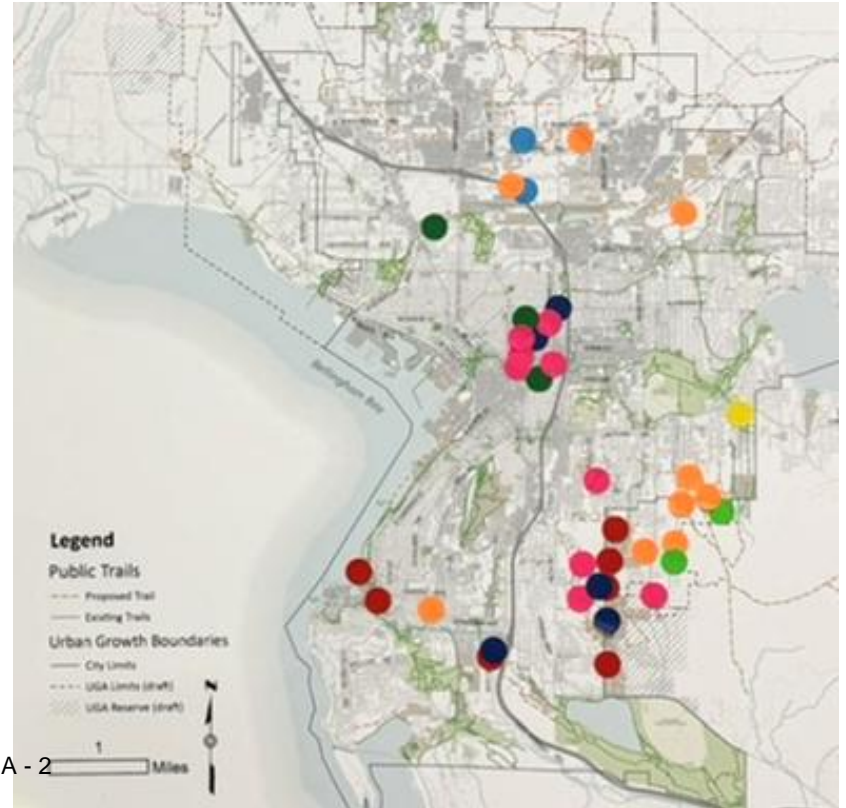
Additional Comments



Recommendations For Public Trail Facilities

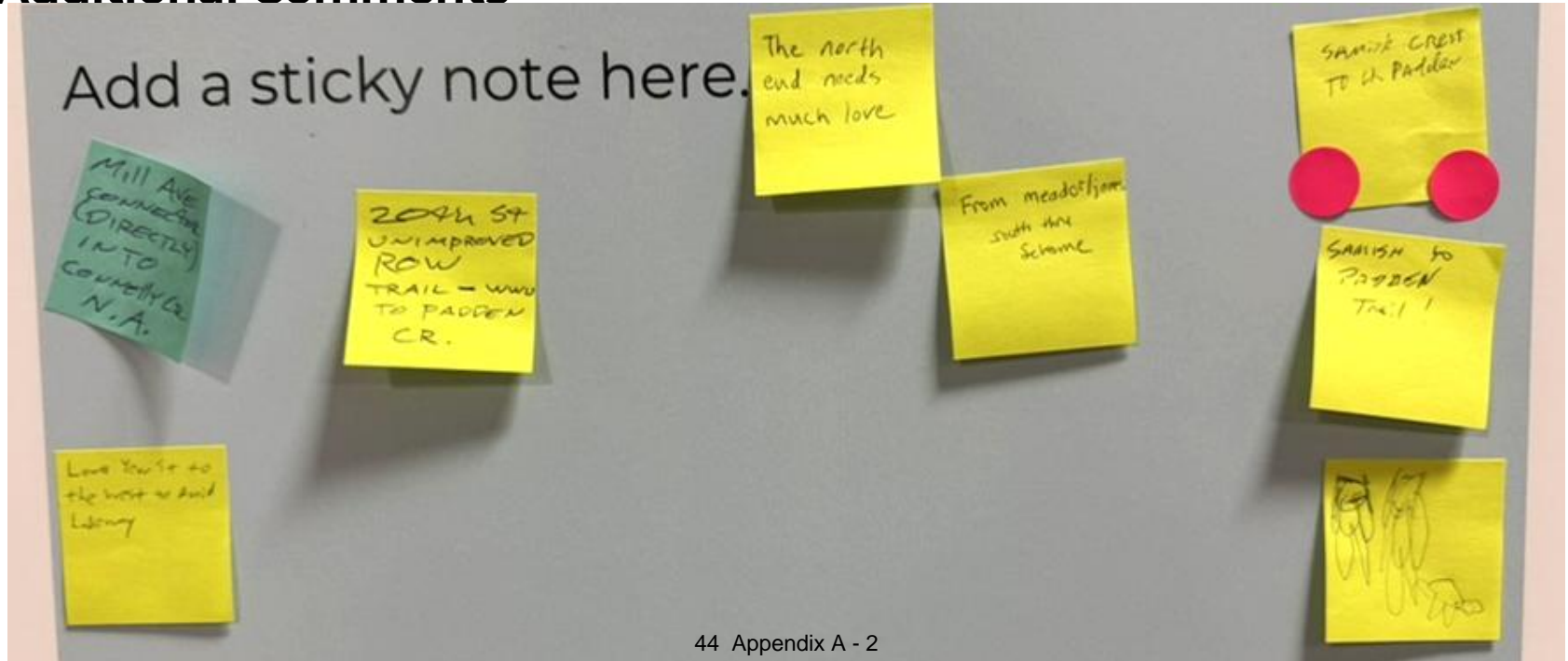
Highest priority corridors

- Samish to Padden / Lake Padden
- WWU / Sehome to Samish to Padden Creek
- North Bellingham new connections
- Connelly Creek / Mill Ave improvements
- Yew St to Avenue L (library connection)

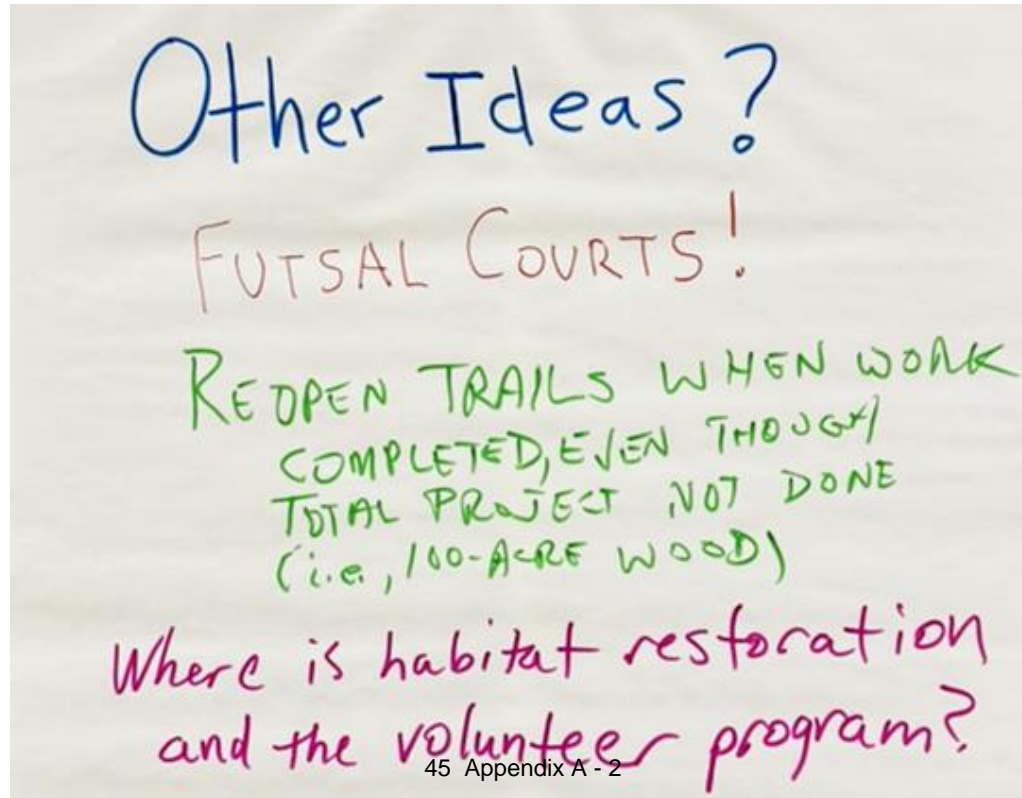


Recommendations For Public Trail Facilities

Additional Comments



Other Ideas



Shape the future of our parks!

¡Ayúdanos a planificar el futuro de nuestros parques!



Join us at an Open House
Wednesday, November 19, 2025
5:30 - 7:30 pm
Bloedel Donovan Park

Multi-Purpose Room
2144 Electric Ave, Bellingham, WA 98229

Jornada de Casa Abierta
Miércoles 19 de noviembre de 2025
5:30 - 7:30 pm
Bloedel Donovan Park

Salón de Usos Múltiples
2144 Electric Ave, Bellingham, WA 98229

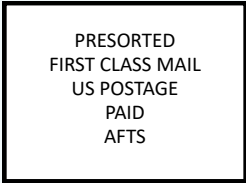
Learn more at:
EngageBellingham.org/PROS-Plan



The City of Bellingham is updating its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan. It is a guide to help protect and grow the community's parks, trails, and recreation programs as the population grows.



Parks and Recreation
Department
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham WA 98225



We invite you to drop by to learn about the draft plan and share your feedback to make sure the plan reflects the community's values and needs.

La Ciudad de Bellingham está actualizando su Plan para Parques, Recreación, y Espacios Abiertos.

Les invitamos a pasarse por nuestras instalaciones para conocer el borrador del plan y compartir sus comentarios, para asegurarnos de que el plan refleje los valores y necesidades de la comunidad.



Latine Community Workshop 1–Summary

Overview: Our first workshop brought together approximately 17 adults who participated in a discussion on city planning, parks, and civic engagement. They shared experiences, cultural perspectives, and enthusiasm for greater involvement in shaping their community.

Purpose: This document highlights key takeaways from Workshop 1 to help city staff and representatives prepare for Workshop 2 on March 18th, 2025.

Workshop participants answered the following prompting questions. These insights highlight community priorities, concerns, and perspectives related to parks, planning, and civic participation.

Parks & Recreation Department

What would make us want to use parks more?

- Parks in Latin America serve as **cultural hubs** with merchants, music, and food—parks in Bellingham could integrate more **community activities** to increase use.
- Many participants associate **being in nature** with leaving urban areas, indicating a cultural difference in park use.
- There is a **strong desire for more structured activities** in parks to make them more inviting gathering spaces.

Where else do participants gather?

- **Limited indoor public gathering spaces**—homes are often the only alternative.
- There is a need for **affordable, culturally relevant indoor recreation spaces**, especially for youth.
- **Covered open spaces** would provide year-round gathering opportunities, particularly in rainy months.

Planning Department

What does community well-being mean, and what barriers exist?

Four key themes emerged:

1. **Healthcare** – Language barriers persist in medical settings despite more interpreters. **Spanish-speaking staff** is the most effective solution. St. Joseph’s Hospital is seen as insufficient for the growing community.
2. **Recreation** – The **greatest need is a community center** that provides resources, cultural/art activities, and fosters inclusivity.

3. **Employment** – As Bellingham grows, participants want to understand how the City is ensuring **job opportunities for everyone**.
4. **Security** – Concerns about **homelessness** and its connection to **housing affordability, employment, and social services**. More public education on this issue is needed.

Top Recommendation: A **culturally responsive community center** that provides services, recreational opportunities, and fosters belonging.

City Council & Civic Engagement

What makes participants feel excluded from decision-making?

Three key themes emerged:

1. **Language** – Access to interpreters is improving, but **having Spanish-speaking staff** is what truly facilitates engagement.
2. **Representation** – Seeing **leaders who look like them and speak their language** makes a significant difference in participation.
3. **Sense of Belonging** – Participants feel hesitant to engage in civic processes **not just due to material barriers but perceived social barriers**.
 - A **community cultural center** could help address this by providing a space for representation and connection.

Encouraging Participation: Participants are **motivated and eager to learn** about civic processes. They expressed interest in understanding **how local government works and what opportunities exist to engage**.

Participants are excited to talk about:

- ✓ Learning about the processes of each department and area of local government.
- ✓ What would make them more likely to participate in engagement processes.
- ✓ Their ideal experience with parks, planning, and decision-making.
- ✓ What they are used to doing in these spaces and what's familiar to them from their experiences.
- ✓ How they can be more involved and contribute to shaping their community.

City staff and officials attending Workshop 2 should be prepared to:

- ✓ Address the community's interest in **more structured activities in parks**.
- ✓ Discuss the need for a **community center** as a hub for services and cultural events.
- ✓ Provide insights on **employment opportunities** in a growing Bellingham.
- ✓ Be mindful of **language accessibility and representation** in civic spaces.
- ✓ Offer clear guidance on **how to engage in local decision-making processes**.

Sikh/Punjabi Focus Group Summary

Hosted at Singh Sabha Gurudwara located at 591 Telegraph Road, Bellingham, WA for the City of Bellingham on Sunday, November 2nd at 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM to gather feedback from the local Sikh Punjabi community regarding the City’s parks and recreation system. The feedback will help inform projects in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan update.

Coordination and translation assistance provided by:

Chardi Kala Project

Kamalla Kaur, Founder

Harneet Kaur Matharu, Program Director

What Types of Programs and Events?

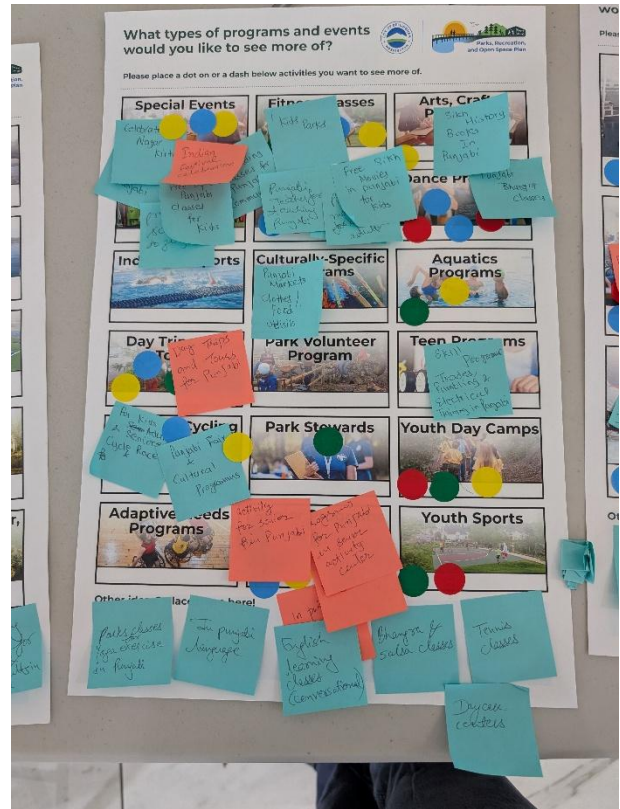
Favorite Parks and Trails

Something else? Add a sticky note in the box below:

- Prenatal classes/exercise programs
- Family friendly bike trail
- Indoor walking track for elders. Elders like to walk in parks in fair weather.
- Swimming Pool in Silver Beach Area
- Walks in the forest, or on beach
- Volleyball Courts
- Bakerview & Kramer Lane Parks
- Challenge Activities in Punjabi
- Family friendly Bike trail
- Day care Center for Punjabi
- Monthly at school Sikh Punjabi shows and movies for kids
- Recreation Center or YMCA or Gym in Silver Beach Area
- Senior programs for Punjabi
- Punjabi Bhangia classes
- Punjabi markets: clothes/food
- Punjabi fair and cultural programs
- Programs should be offered in Punjabi language



- Gurjinder Indoor Cricket
- Indian Festival Celebration
- Punjabi school
- Punjabi Language in School
- Job seminars in Punjabi
- Day care Center for Punjabi family
- Cost free medical services

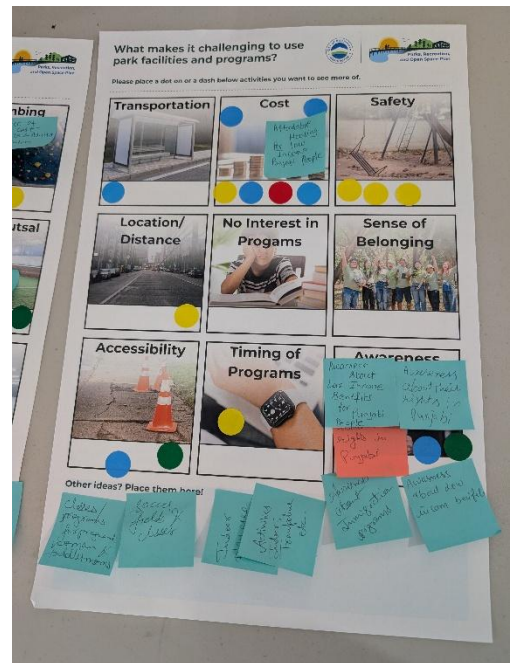


What makes it challenging to use park facilities and programs?

Cost, safety, Awareness

Comments:

- Classes for pregnant/ toddler moms
- Soccer lessons, trampoline
- Awareness about their rights in Punjabi, immigration programs
- Awareness of low Income benefits for Punjabi People





MEETING SUMMARY

MEETING: **Adaptive Recreation Providers Focus Group**

PROJECT: Bellingham PROS Plan

DATE/TIME: 9/30/25, 2:30 - 4:00 PM

Organizations: AIROW Project, YMCA, Max Higbee Center, National Federation of the Blind, Special Olympics Bellingham, WMBC

Time	Agenda Items	
Live Polling	How often do you visit a park, trail, or recreation area?	
	Every week	7
	A few times a month	1
	A few times a year	0
	Rarely / never	0
	What do you think the appropriate balance should be for neighborhood and community parks in Bellingham?	
	Almost all for nature	0
	More for nature	2
	Evenly balanced	6

	Evenly balanced	0
	Almost all for humans	0
	If the parks budget had to focus on one thing first, what would you choose?	
	Maintenance and safety	2
	New recreational amenities / features	1
	More programming and events	0
	More stewardship of natural areas and environmental resource	1
	Improving accessibility and trail connections	4
Miro Boards	Captured here: https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVJM2Xx6o=/	

Miro Board Snapshots

Recreational amenities

What types of **indoor** recreation would you like to see more of? Why?

Drag a Red Note to the Section Above to Vote

Drag a Note to the Board and Add Your Response
Sticky stock

having adaptive equipment for taller and older people

With the caveat that all of these have adaptive equipment - they are all great. More wouldn't remove some of the access barriers +1

appropriate size adaptive equipment

equipment that is available for all without any shame

swimming resources seem to be in short supply in Bellingham

adaptive equipment for taller and older folks

Another community center would be great

more times for folks that are not in school for adaptive aquatic programs +1

Bellingham Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

- What types of **indoor** recreation would you like to see more of? Why?
- With the caveat that all of these have adaptive equipment - they are all great. More wouldn't remove some of the access barriers +1
 - having adaptive equipment for taller and older people
 - equipment that is available for all without any shame
 - appropriate size adaptive equipment
 - more times for folks that are not in school for adaptive aquatic programs +1
 - Another community center would be great
 - swimming resources seem to be in short supply in Bellingham
 - adaptive equipment for taller and older folks

What types of **outdoor** recreation would you like to see more of? Why?

Playground	Swimming Pool	Skate Park	Basketball Court	Tennis Court
Open Off-Leash Area	Swimming Beach	Fishing Docks	Disc Golf Course	Pickleball Court
Reservable Shelters	Community Garden Plots	Diamond Fields – Softball, Baseball, Cricket, Kickball	Rectangular Fields – Soccer, Volleyball, Football	

Drag a Red Note to the Section Above to Vote

Drag a Note to the Board and Add Your Response Sticky Stack

high-contrast signs

clear signage for wheelchair access

inclusive playgrounds for kids that elope (fencing)

dog training courses for individuals with service dogs and eas, particularly in apartments

more information on where accessible access routes are

Accessible routes are far away, closer access

clear sidewalks in inclement weather conditions

don't pile snow near accessible spaces

wheelchair access on sandy beaches

dupont doesn't have wheelchair access, but has ada parking

Little Squalicum is a nice place for dog training, unfenced works well

Little Squalicum trail is rocky and steep and is a hazard

we would appreciate continuous accessibility for service dogs/owners who use

clear signage for wheelchair access

for beach access and other not flat surfaces, access trax would be incredible to have

inclusive playgrounds for kids (include fencing for kids)

having training activities/courses for dogs

- What types of **outdoor** recreation would you like to see more of? Why?
-
- high-contrast signs
- having training activities/courses for dogs
- clear signage for wheelchair access
- inclusive playgrounds for kids (include fencing for kids)
- For beach access and other not flat surfaces, access trax would be incredible to have
 - dog training courses for individuals with service dogs and eas, particularly in apartments
 - more information on where accessible access routes are
 - Accessible routes are far away, closer access
 - little squalicum is a nice place for dog training, unfenced works well
 - inclusive playgrounds for kids that elope (fencing)
 - dupont doesn't have wheelchair access, but has ada parking
 - clear sidewalks in inclement weather conditions

- don't pile snow near accessible spaces
- we would appreciate contrast/tactile accessibility for cane/guide dog/low vision users
 - Ensure access trails to these spaces are wheelchair accessible/reduce mobility barriers
- Little Squaticum trail is rocky and steep and is a hazard
- wheelchair access on sandy beaches
- access tracks - portable material that can make accessible paths on difficult terrain

As part of the Civic Athletic Complex, which is located just off of Lakeway Drive, we have an exciting opportunity to plan an indoor community space for gathering and recreation. Here are a few of the activities and uses we've already heard that people want to have. How important are these uses to you or your family? How important are they to people you know?

Indoor recreation or gym space for activities like basketball or volleyball or other indoor sports	Expanded pool and aquatics facilities, such as family-friendly, leisure/play facilities or lap pools
Rooms for community meetings, gatherings or classes	Performance spaces

Drag a Red Note to the Section Above to Vote

Drag a Note to the Board and Add Your Response Sticky stick

ice time for growing hockey interest

sled hockey, wheelchair basketball

blind hockey

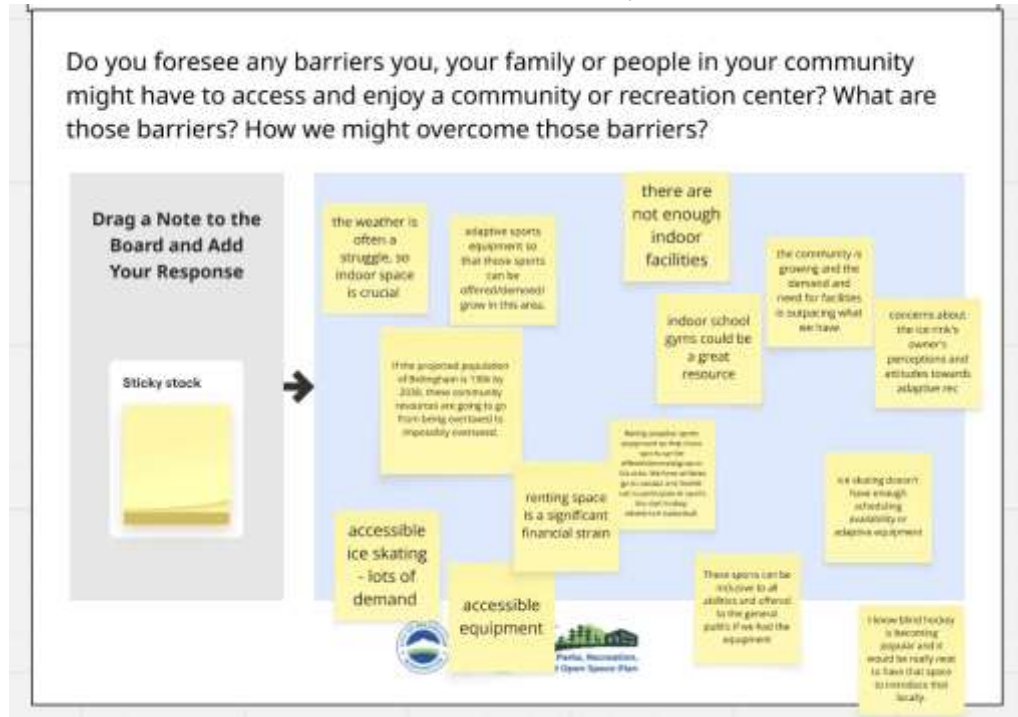
feeding space
 Answers are all asking for a table for their meetings
 Red circles are good for accessibility needs

1 - community meetings/classes
 2 - performance
 3 - expanded indoor rec. 4 - pools/aquatics

Wheelchair accessible ice skating

- ice time for growing hockey interest
- blind hockey

- sled hockey, wheelchair basketball
- meeting spaces because we are still looking for a home for our chapter meetings! but the rest are great too if accessibility is built-in
- 1 - community meetings/classes, 2 - performance, 3 - expanded indoor rec, 4 - pool/aquatics
- Wheelchair accessible Ice skating

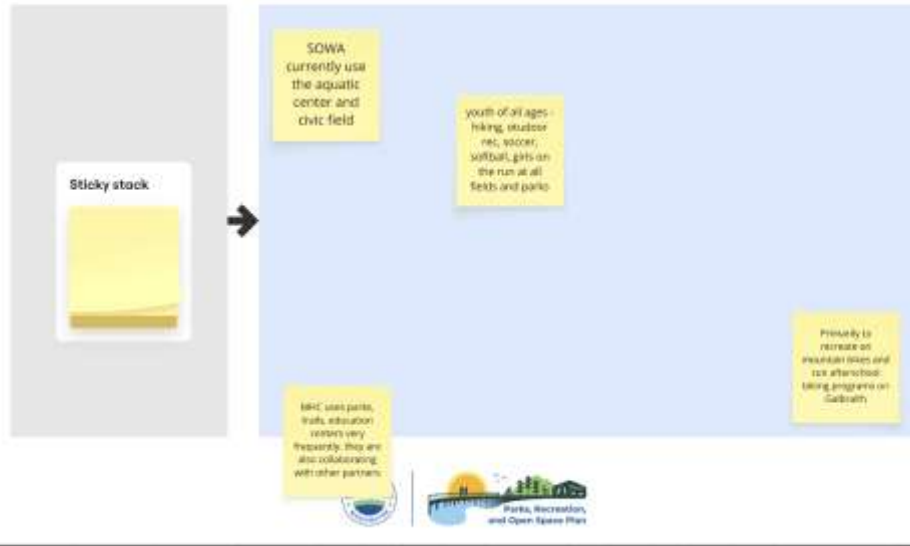


- there are not enough indoor facilities
- the community is growing and the demand and need for facilities is outpacing what we have
- the weather is often a struggle, so indoor space is crucial
- adaptive sports equipment so that those sports can be offered/demoed/grow in this area.
- indoor school gyms could be a great resource
- concerns about the ice rink's owner's perceptions and attitudes towards adaptive rec
- if the projected population of Bellingham is 130k by 2030, these community resources are going to go from being overtaxed to impossibly overtaxed.
- Having adaptive sports equipment so that those sports can be offered/demoed/grow in this area. We have athletes go to Canada and Seattle just to participate in sports like sled hockey, wheelchair basketball.
- ice skating doesn't have enough scheduling availability or adaptive equipment
- renting space is a significant financial strain
- accessible ice skating - lots of demand

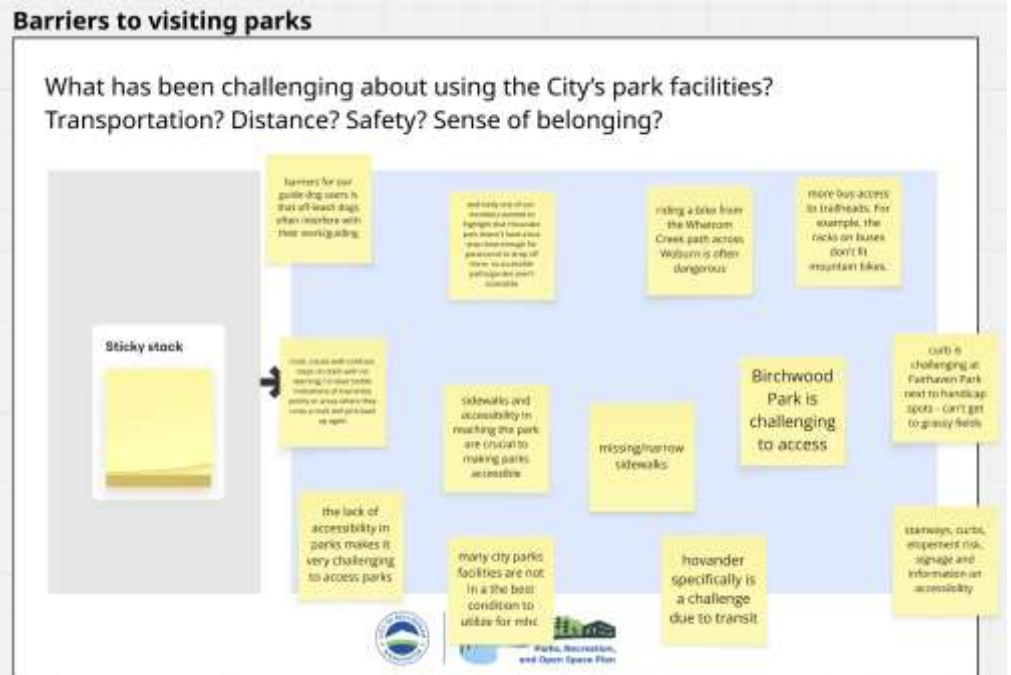
- I know blind hockey is becoming popular and it would be really neat to have that space to introduce that locally.
- accessible equipment
- These sports can be inclusive to all abilities and offered to the general public if we had the equipment

Current use of parks

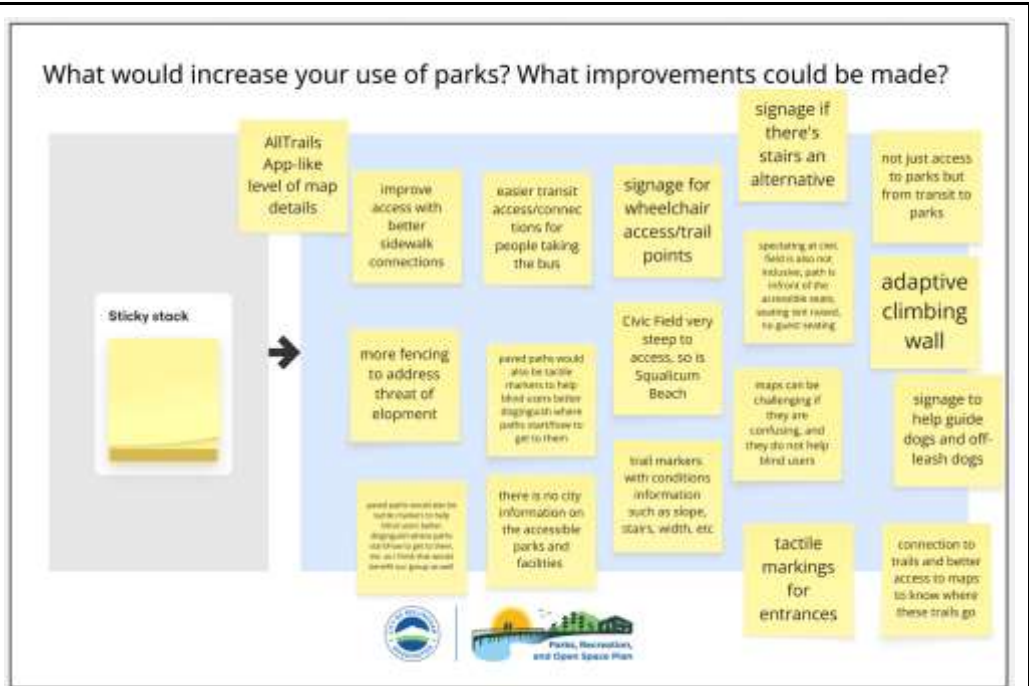
How do you use parks and recreation facilities? Who does your organization serve and how?



- SOWA currently use the aquatic center and civic field
- youth of all ages - hiking, outdoor rec, soccer, softball, girls on the run at all fields and parks
- MHC uses parks, trails, education centers very frequently. they are also collaborating with other partners
- Primarily to recreate on mountain bikes and run afterschool biking programs on Galbraith



- barriers for our guide dog users is that off-leash dogs often interfere with their work/guiding
- more bus access to trailheads. For example, the racks on buses don't fit mountain bikes.
- riding a bike from the Whatcom Creek path across Woburn is often dangerous
- and lastly one of our members wanted to highlight that Hovander park doesn't have a bus stop close enough for paratransit to drop off there, so accessible paths/garden aren't accessible
- curb is challenging at Fairhaven Park next to handicap spots - can't get to grassy fields
- trails, issues with contrast, steps on trails with no warning, no clear tactile indications of trail entry points or areas where they cross a road and pick back up again
- Birchwood Park is challenging to access
- sidewalks and accessibility in reaching the park are crucial to making parks accessible
- missing/narrow sidewalks
- the lack of accessibility in parks makes it very challenging to access parks
- stairways, curbs, elopement risk, signage and information on accessibility
- hovander specifically is a challenge due to transit
- many city parks facilities are not in a the best condition to utilize for mh



- signage if there's stairs an alternative
- AllTrails App-like level of map details
- not just access to parks but from transit to parks
- signage for wheelchair access/trail points
- improve access with better sidewalk connections
- easier transit access/connections for people taking the bus
- speaking at civic field is also not inclusive, path is in front of the accessible seats, seating isn't raised, no guest seating
- adaptive climbing wall
- Civic Field very steep to access, so is Squalicum Beach
- more fencing to address threat of elopment
- paved paths would also be tactile markers to help blind users better distinguish where paths start/how to get to them
 - maps can be challenging if they are confusing, and they do not help blind users
- signage to help guide dogs and off-leash dogs
- trail markers with conditions information such as slope, stairs, width, etc
- there is no city information on the accessible parks and facilities
 - paved paths would also be tactile markers to help blind users better distinguish where paths start/how to get to them, etc. so I think that would benefit our group as well
- tactile markings for entrances
- connection to trails and better access to maps to know where these trails go

Are there accessibility challenges that could be improved? Design?
Programming?



- signage that indicates level of difficulty (black diamond vs adaptive friendly)
- slope, technical, width, material, safety, amenities

What kinds of features or amenities would you like to see to make parks more accessible?



- more adaptive trails for bikes on Galbraith along with functional bus access to the southern trailhead.

Partnerships

Are there ways the City could be better partners to support your work? How do we avoid competing with recreational partners?

Drag a Note to the Board and Add Your Response

Sticky stock

cheaper rentals

- cheaper rentals

Other

What else is missing from the parks system?

Drag a Note to the Board and Add Your Response

Sticky stock

safe and adaptive bike trails, especially in rural areas

trail connectivity to give people alternatives to busy country roads

adaptive climbing wall

Cordata connected too

information letting people know about amenities - trash cans, restrooms, difficulty

information on trail technical information - difficulty, safety, slope? Technical? WOH?

upgraded sidewalks, transit, etc. making it easier to access parks

for our group the main priority is to have high quality trails for people, better parking for recreation, and more people to ride with gear (dog and off road bike)

- information letting people know about amenities - trash cans, restrooms, difficulty
- safe and adaptive bike trails, especially in rural areas
- Cordata connected too

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● For our group, the main wish/highlights are trails to have high contrast for steps, tactile markings for entrances, and more signage to help with guide dogs and off-leash dogs● trail connectivity to give people alternatives to busy country roads● information on trail technical information - difficulty, safety, Slope? Technical? Width?● upgraded sidewalks, transit, etc. making it easier to access parks● adaptive climbing wall
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MEETING SUMMARY

MEETING: **Student Group Focus Group**

PROJECT: Bellingham PROS Plan

DATE / TIME: 10/08/25, 10:00 - 11:00 PM

Time	Agenda Items	
Live Polling	How often do you visit a park, trail, or recreation area?	
	Every week	25
	A few times a month	4
	A few times a year	1
	Rarely / never	0
	What do you think the appropriate balance should be for neighborhood and community parks in Bellingham?	
	Almost all for nature	2
	More for nature	13
	Evenly balanced	11
	Evenly balanced	4

	Almost all for humans	0
	If the parks budget had to focus on one thing first, what would you choose?	
	Maintenance and safety	4
	New recreational amenities / features	4
	More programming and events	2
	More stewardship of natural areas and environmental resource	7
	Improving accessibility and trail connections	14
Miro Board	Captured here: https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVJM2Xx_l=/	

Miro Board Snapshots

Recreational amenities

What types of **indoor** recreation would you like to see more of? Why?

Drag a Red Note to the Section Above to Vote

Drag a Note to the Board and Add Your Response

Sticky stack

- The cost of indoor climbing in Bellingham is inaccessible
- Lack of diversity in racket sport facilities
- Want public gathering space for events
- there is no top rope climbing in bham
- Community wheelchair basketball - the only one is at the rec center through the school club! + 4 ❤️
- Climbing gym with ropes
- Need options for community spaces that don't cost money and are inclusive
- climbing walls are expensive and hours tough especially in the busy seasons
- community centers are good options for spaces that don't revolve around drinking like bars
- cost free community center!
- community centers are a great option for non privatized third space
- beneficial to have options to collaborate across skill levels
- More places for adults with cognitive disabilities to recreate

- Want public gathering space for events
- there is no top rope climbing in bham
- The cost of indoor climbing in Bellingham is inaccessible
- Lack of diversity in racket sport facilities
- Community wheelchair basketball - the only one is at the rec center through the school club! + 4 ❤️
 - Need options for community spaces that don't cost money and are inclusive
 - Climbing gym with ropes
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 - More places for adults with cognitive disabilities to recreate

- community centers are a great option for non privatized third space
- community centers are good options for spaces that don't revolve around drinking like bars
- beneficial to have options to collaborate across skill levels

What types of **outdoor** recreation would you like to see more of? Why?

Drag a Red Note to the Section Above to Vote

Drag a Note to the Board and Add Your Response

Sticky stack




fishing docks would be great for having more quiet places to be by the water +5 🍷 1 😞
 raised beds for the community garden to be accessible
 More awareness and advertisement of when swimming areas are safe or not!!! Sometimes the lakes aren't either!! +3!!
 I would love a small dog only offleash area because i dont feel safe bringing my tiny dog to the current ones
 more gardens so we can grow our own food! give excess food to food banks
 Water docks can feel really really crowded throughout the summer! Really heated. Water quality after been in contact with
 Aren't very many Community Gardens... more community outreach!
 Going to biode in the summer made me have a Anxiety attack and the parking was a nightmare
 Community playbooks aren't well distributed across campus
 The bay water quality isn't always safe, so more lake swimming etc
 there is a need for more accessible community gardens, paved trails, wheelchair accessible paths, etc
 there is a desire to be more involved in the community gardens, but there isn't clear information about how to get involved
 these swimming beaches are often smelly due to overflow, there is a need for more showers or clean up
 there could be partnership opportunities between school community gardens and the general public

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

- More awareness and advertisement of when swimming areas are safe or not!!! Sometimes the lakes aren't either!! +3!!
- fishing docks would be great for having more quiet places to be by the water +5 🍷 1 😞
- Raised beds for the community garden to be accessible
- I would love a small dog only offleash area because i dont feel safe bringing my tiny dog to the current ones
- Aren't very many Community Gardens... more community outreach/

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● marketing?● more gardens so we can grow our own food/ give excess food to food banks<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Going to blodel in the summer made me have a Anxiety attack and the parking was a nightmare● Water access can feel really really crowded throughout the summer! Really limited. Water quality often feels uncertain as well. <p>+1 🇺🇸</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Community playbooks aren't well distributed across campus● there is a need for more accessible community gardens, raised beds, wheelchair accessible paths, etc<ul style="list-style-type: none">● close swimming beaches are often unsafe due to outbreaks, there is a need for more options or clean up● The bay water quality isn't always safe, so more lake swimming etc● there is a desire to be more involved in the community gardens, but there isn't clear information about how to get involved + <p>2 ❤️</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● there could be partnership opportunities between school community gardens and the general public + 1 🔥
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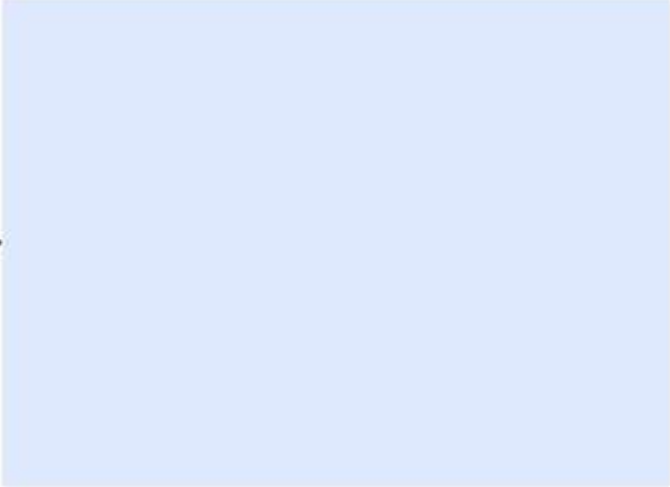
As part of the Civic Athletic Complex, which is located just off of Lakeway Drive, we have an exciting opportunity to plan an indoor community space for gathering and recreation. Here are a few of the activities and uses we've already heard that people want to have. How important are these uses to you or your family? How important are they to people you know?

<p>Indoor recreation or gym space for activities like basketball or volleyball or other indoor sports</p> 	<p>Expanded pool and aquatics facilities, such as family-friendly, leisure/play facilities or lap pools</p> 
<p>Rooms for community meetings, gatherings or classes</p> 	<p>Performance spaces</p>

Drag a Red Note to the Section Above to Vote

Drag a Note to the Board and Add Your Response

Sticky stack



Programming

What types of programs are you interested in? Why?

The grid of program categories includes: Special Events, Fitness Classes, Arts, Crafts Programs, Day Trips and Tours, Park Volunteer Program, Teen Programs, Team Sports, Special Interest Education, Dance Programs, Running/ Cycling Races, Park Stewards, Youth Day Camps, Individual Sports, Culturally-Specific Programs, Aquatics Programs, Adaptive Needs Programs, Senior Programs, and Youth Sports.

Instructions for the digital board:

- Drag a Red Note to the Section Above to Vote
- Drag a Note to the Board and Add Your Response

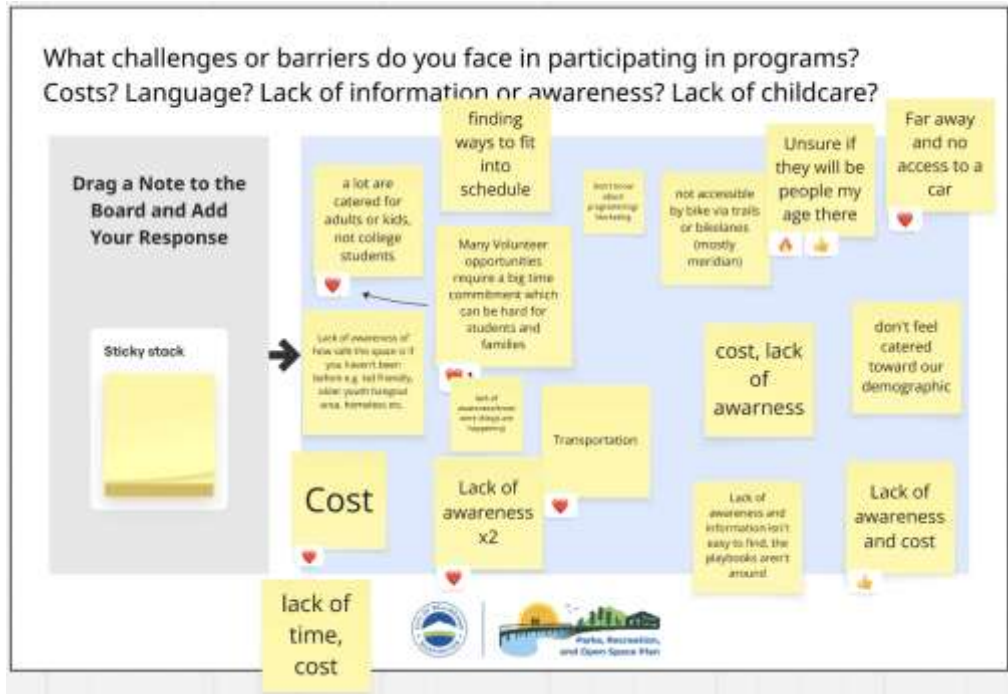
Sticky stack

Notes on the board:

- learning new people's passions and interests is so fun and helps you find more hobbies
- more special or multicultural events would be lovely to help our towns minorities feel more seen
- robotics club for adults
- group runs/run clubs
- special events in terms of helping people find community
- Special interest ed also helps learn about different cultures
- Community run cyclocross races are quite popular! Cascade cross, lemon peel
- free concerts outside of summertime
- The stadium doesn't have much other than programming, I would love to see more to help them connect to our local community
- Having active is super important to the elderly as well as having a community to accept them. Side note blue zones
- Community wheelchair basketball - the only one is at the WWU rec center through the school club! We have community members come sometimes but they have to pay to get in

- robotics club for adults
- more special or multicultural events would be lovely to help our towns minorities feel more seen
- group runs/run clubs + ❤️
 - For college age people too
- learning new people's passions and interests is so fun and helps you find more hobbies
 - special events in terms of helping people find community
 - Special interest ed also helps learn about different cultures
 - Community wheelchair basketball - the only one is at the WWU rec center through the school club! We have community members come sometimes but they have to pay to get in
 - Community run cyclocross races are quite popular! Cascade cross, lemon peel + 🔥

- The playbook doesn't have much older teen programming, I would love to see more to keep them connected in our local community + 🧡
- Staying active is super important to the elderly as well as having a community to accept them look into blue zones
- free concerts outside of summertime + ❤️



- Far away and no access to a car + ❤️
- finding ways to fit into schedule
- Unsure if they will be people my age there + 🧡 👍
- a lot are catered for adults or kids, not college students + ❤️
- Don't know about programming/
- Marketing
- not accessible by bike via trails or bikelanes (mostly meridian)
- Many Volunteer opportunities require a big time commitment which can be hard for students and families + ❤️
- don't feel catered toward our demographic
- Lack of awareness of how safe the space is if you haven't been before e.g. kid friendly, older youth hangout area, homeless etc.
- cost, lack of awareness
- lack of awareness/know were things are happening
- Transportation + ❤️
- Cost + ❤️
- Lack of awareness x2 + ❤️
- Lack of awareness and cost + 👍

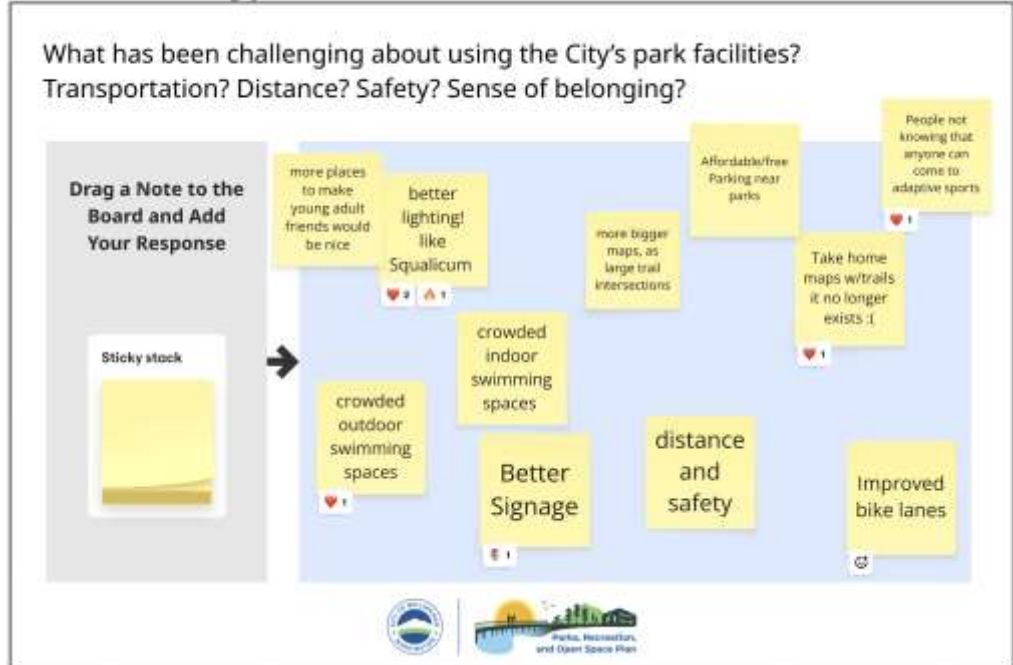
- Lack of awareness and information isn't easy to find, the playbooks aren't around
- lack of time, cost



- Pilates
- Outside facilities that have an indoor outdoor aspect
- dog off-leash trails, swimming in freshwater, yoga when I can financially swing it
- Community spaces with not just 18 year olds
- Choose vital climbing gym over rec center, rec center can be even more crowded/limited. Also further from my home!
- i go to a small gym and choose to swim at lakes /ocean because of the overwhelming atmosphere
- Sometimes vital, but need ropes. Do you know why they haven't started building the ropes gym?? It's been years
- Parking on or near campus is really hard!
- I like other gyms or outdoor active areas and trails
- Going to the concerts/bars downtown
- trail running groups around whatcom, but i am the only one under 30 in all of them ❤️
- vital
- Have you folks done community yoga at Boulevard, an event?? Super successful with lots of attendees at gasworks in Seattle
- Parking on campus makes it less accesable so i go off campus

- its nice to have opportunities to interact with the greater Bellingham Community
- vital gym/ yoga
- I would like to, however it's often expensive to go elsware 👍
- vital climbing gym
- go to community yoga sessions
- run on the trails outside ❤️
- yes, western doesn't have great open spaces for just hanging out outside.
- bellingham school for ariel and dance because there are limited ariel options in bham
- cordata for pickleball
- special interest education programs and yoga ❤️
- <https://www.vitalclimbinggym.com/bellingham-newgym>
- <https://arete-lofts.com/> <-On it's way! Expensive, permits, etc.
- i go downtown for fun but it requires spending money

Barriers to visiting parks



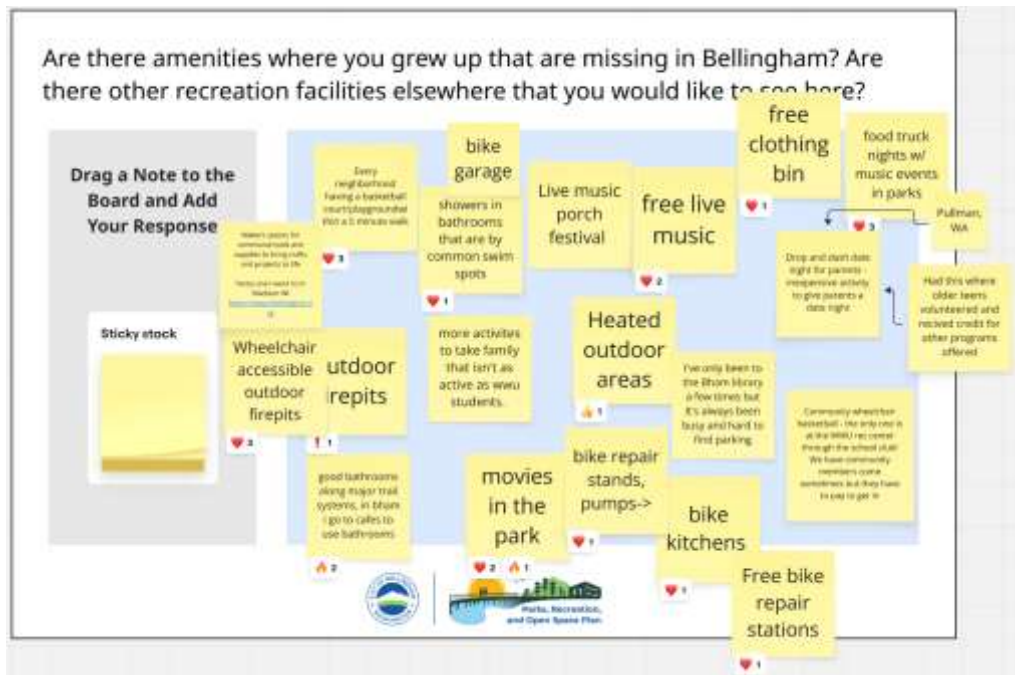
- People not knowing that anyone can come to adaptive sports ❤️
- Affordable/free Parking near parks
- more places to make young adult friends would be nice
- better lighting! like Squalicum ❤️ 🔥
- more bigger maps, as large trail intersections
- Take home maps w/trails it no longer exists :(❤️
- crowded indoor swimming spaces

- crowded outdoor swimming spaces ❤️
- distance and safety
- Better Signage 🌸
- Improved bike lanes



- life jacket loaner stations near swimming/boating areas
- more boat rentals places 👍 ! ❤️
- Prioritize indigenous voices in these conversations!
- cold plunges
- saunas ❤️ 👍
- Public bathrooms 👍 🌸
- multi language signage
- Maps that don't require a cell phone ❤️
- bathrooms, next to trailheads 🧑🏿🧑🏻
- trash cans at trailheads
- Signage ❤️
- off leash areas for dogs ❤️
- park information that accessible for everyone, accessible without phones
- more urban trails ❤️
- Outdoor Workout equipment 🔥
- wayfinding/ trail maps ❤️
- plant/ animal identification visuals 👍 ❤️
- Low/no income activities for teens

- maps that take a comprehensive/ collective look at the region rather than just the print of a isolated area



- free clothing bin ❤️
- food truck nights w/ music events in parks ❤️
- bike garage
- Every neighborhood having a basketball court/playground within a 5 minute walk ❤️
- Live music porch festival
- free live music ❤️
- showers in bathrooms that are by common swim spots ❤️
- Makers spaces for communal tools and supplies to bring crafts and projects to life here's one I went to in Madison WI <https://www.thebodgery.org>
- Drop and dash date night for parents - inexpensive activity to give parents a date night
 - Pullman, WA
 - Had this where older teens volunteered and received credit for other programs offered
- Heated outdoor areas 👍
- more activities to take family that isn't as active as wwu students.
- Wheelchair accessible outdoor firepits ❤️
- outdoor firepits !
- I've only been to the Bham library a few times but It's always been busy and hard to find parking

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Community wheelchair basketball - the only one is at the WWU rec center through the school club! We have community members come sometimes but they have to pay to get in● bike repair stands, pumps-> ❤️● good bathrooms along major trail systems, in bham i go to cafes to use bathrooms 🔥● movies in the park ❤️ 🔥● bike kitchens ❤️● Free bike repair stations ❤️
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MEETING SUMMARY

MEETING: **Recreation Providers Focus Group**

PROJECT: Bellingham PROS Plan

DATE/TIME: 10/09/25, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Organizations: Whatcom Aquatics Foundation, YMCA, Bellingham Bells youth sports, Recreation Northwest NW Skate Collective, Whatcom Sports and Recreation Sportsplex

Time	Agenda Items										
<p>Welcome and introductions</p>	<p>Brad Kilmer - board member with Whatcom Sports and Recreation Kelsey Hackem - Bellingham Bells/youth sports (baseball) Liam Gallagher - NW Skate Collective (skateboarders) - advocating for new park Todd Elsworth - Non profit - Recreation NW - has worked with City Parks for decades, NW Traverse Race, Stewardship of 100 Acre Woods - interested in programming, works with High Schools, want to be voice for trails and adopt Josh Barrett - VP of Whatcom Sports and Rec Melissa Bianconi - Recreation Manager for Bellingham Parks and Rec Brad Jones - Whatcom Aquatics Foundation, both recreational and competitive swimming groups Dan Parine - YMCA sports director, utilize City Parks for programming Marc Ronney - Executive Director of Whatcom Sports and Rec Sportsplex Chris Coghill</p>										
<p>Live Polling</p>	<p>Question 1: +2 daily</p> <p>Join at menti.com use code 8443 2745 Mentimeter</p> <p>How often do you visit a park, trail, or recreation area?</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Poll Results</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Frequency</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Every week</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A few times a month</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A few times a year</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rarely / never</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Frequency	Count	Every week	5	A few times a month	3	A few times a year	0	Rarely / never	0
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	<p>Question 2: + 1 for even</p> <p>Join at menti.com use code 8443 2745 Mentimeter</p> <p>What do you think the appropriate balance should be for neighborhood and community parks in Bellingham?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response Option</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Almost all for nature</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More for nature</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Evenly balanced</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More for humans</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Almost all for humans</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Question 3: + 1 for new recreation</p> <p>Join at menti.com use code 8443 2745 Mentimeter</p> <p>If the parks budget had to focus on one thing first, what would you choose?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response Option</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Maintenance and safety</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New recreational amenities/features</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More programming and events</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More stewardship of natural areas and environmental resource</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Improving accessibility and trail connections</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response Option	Count	Almost all for nature	0	More for nature	0	Evenly balanced	7	More for humans	2	Almost all for humans	0	Response Option	Count	Maintenance and safety	2	New recreational amenities/features	4	More programming and events	1	More stewardship of natural areas and environmental resource	0	Improving accessibility and trail connections	1
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<p>Miro Board</p>	<p>Captured here: https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVJ9jkDkY=/</p>																								

Miro Board Snapshots

Recreational amenities

What types of **indoor** recreation would you like to see more of? Why?

Fitness
Swimming
Climbing
Community Center
Racket Sports
Soccer/Futsal
Hockey/Ice Skating
Sport Courts - Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton

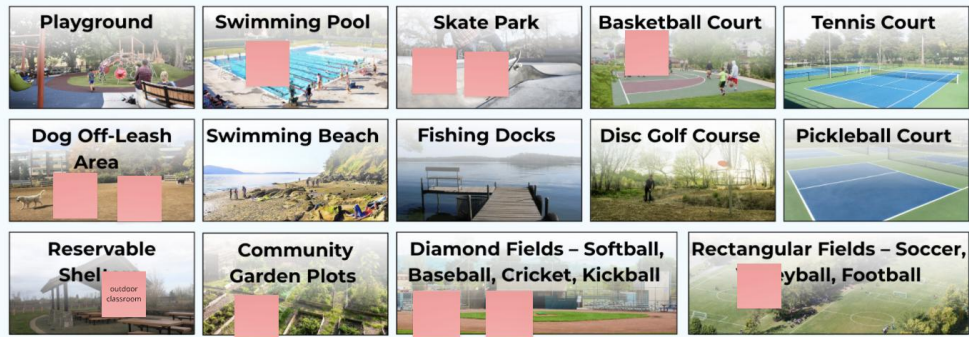
Drag a Red Note to the Section Above to Vote
 Drag a Note to the Board and Add Your Response
 Sticky stack




Need both Ice and Indoor Turf Space
 Open indoor turf, not specifically for soccer
 indoor track
 opportunities for indoor golf - introduce sport to kids and then progress to outside
 Third Spaces (spaces for kids to go after school that are safe)
 combined center for aquatics and fitness, and courts
 All forms of aquatic space - both warm and cold water

Resolve
 Dan Parine 09 Oct, 14:32
 Indoor turf spaces and more courts
 Leave a reply. Use @ to mention.

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What types of **outdoor** recreation would you like to see more of? Why?

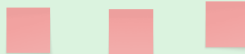
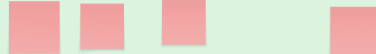
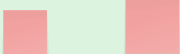



 Drag a Red Note to the section Above to Vote
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- Turf diamond fields
- turf fields
- Outdoor Classroom - Helpful to have small covered structures where people can gather for outdoor programming

As part of the Civic Athletic Complex, which is located just off of Lakeway Drive, we have an exciting opportunity to plan an indoor community space for gathering and recreation. Here are a few of the activities and uses we've already heard that people want to have. How important are these uses to you or your family? How important are they to people you know?


<p>Indoor recreation or gym space for activities like basketball or volleyball or other indoor sports</p> 	<p>Expanded pool and aquatics facilities, such as family-friendly, leisure/play facilities or lap pools</p> 
<p>Rooms for community meetings, gatherings or classes</p> 	<p>Performance spaces</p> 

Drag a Red Note to the Section Above to Vote



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Sticky stack



Need more ice facilities and indoor turf fields for Hockey, Figure Skating, Soccer, Rugby, LaCrosse, Ultimate Frisbee and party space.

Indoor turf and expanded aquatics

More ice and indoor fields

Convention Center - have had musical events at Civic Stadium that have been well attended

Possible library extension, shared spaces for community services



- Need more ice facilities and indoor turf fields for Hockey, Figure Skating, Soccer, Rugby, LaCrosse, Ultimate Frisbee and party space.
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What types of programs are you interested in? Why?



Drag a Red Note to the Section Above to Vote

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Sticky stack

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Individual sports and youth day camps and skateboarding camps

Senior programs - currently offer pickleball - expand offerings (yoga classes, classes, etc during off hours times)

Fitness classes, youth ice, and indoor field sports

Aquatics - swimming is a lifelong sport - need more space for all user groups

Over 50 Dropin runs 3 dayas a week and sells out.

Girls Softball starting at youngers ages

Large-scale skating event (100+)

Events - runs, races, festivals, "taste of"-type festivals

Weekend and evening water aerobics

Regional swim meets, HS State Meet, Masters Swim Meet, Special Olympics

Tournaments across all sports (swimming, soccer, hockey)



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What challenges or barriers do you face in participating in programs?
 Costs? Language? Lack of information or awareness? Lack of childcare?



- Number of fields available for use.
- Cost.
- Awareness
- Lack of modern skatepark (no real access)
- lack of facilities
- Cost, language and access to the parents
- Only one ice rink space
- Lacking aquatic space
- transportation, challenge faced by all but also specific to youth accessing after school programming
- Lighting at skate park

Current use of parks

How do you use parks and recreation facilities? Who does your organization serve and how?



- Master swimming, Lap swimming, swim lessons, rec swim, water aerobics, deep water running, swim teams, adaptive swimming. Dive teams. First responders train at AHAC.
- The crew at NWSC is hoping to be able to use our future skatepark, but at this point most of us are reluctantly going to Civic field park, or just going down to the DIY park and building the features we want to skate
 - Outside of our facilities we book local HS, Civic and WCC for games for youth and adults.
 - Our staff lead high schoolers out into parks for our mental health program (parks adjacent to schools + 100 acre woods)
 - ride bikes on greenways and trails
 - Youth sports leagues, running, biking, playgrounds, events
 - Sportsplex is main indoor facility non swimming.
 - We use baseball fields at parks. We serve kids ages 3-12.
 - Hiking, walking, Indoor fields, Civic BB / Track, NW Soccer Park, Trails,
 - playgrounds
 - Advocating now for skateparks so they can be used in the future
 - hand launches for boats and boards
 - We wish we had access to the WWU pool.
 - We depend on all facilities for camps, wellness, meetings etc. and also depend on the school district for all indoor court based programs
 - Currently using indoor facilities for hockey, soccer, public skating, figure skating, speed skating, bocci ball, day camps

- indoor rock climbing

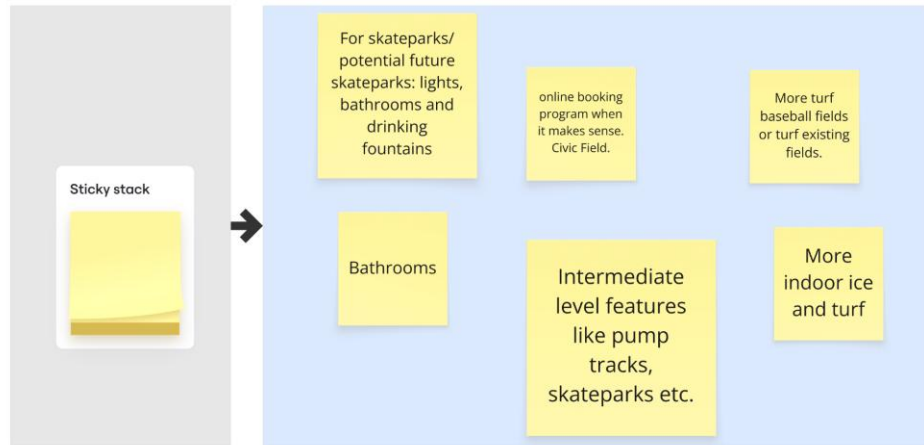
Barriers to visiting parks

What has been challenging about using the City's park facilities?
Transportation? Distance? Safety? Sense of belonging?



- Most parks are pretty exceptional but we use Downer Fields regularly and I'm always picking up trash and dog poop or having to step around human excrement. Not very inviting for families with young kids age 3-10
 - location for the sport involved. We deal with a lot of county groups don't have local options.
 - Civic not well maintained, spray paint, etc. makes it feel forgotten - want to have a nice, clean, well lit, welcoming to any and all
 - Civic Stadium has been very good for clean and accessible.

What would increase your use of parks? What improvements could be made?



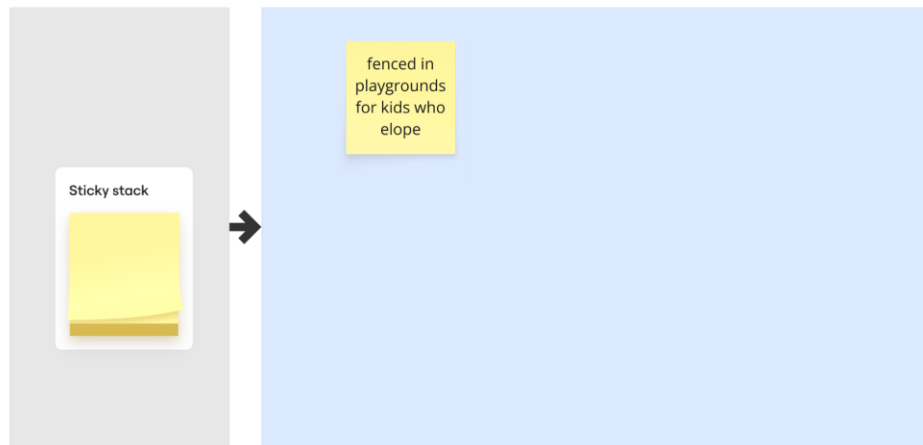
- For skateparks/ potential future skateparks: lights, bathrooms and drinking fountains
- online booking program when it makes sense. Civic Field.
- More turf baseball fields or turf existing fields.
- Bathrooms
- More indoor ice and turf
- Intermediate level features like pump tracks, skateparks etc.

Are there accessibility challenges that could be improved? Design? Programming?



- Adding on to the comment regarding the Aquatic Center, user groups are limited in the space provided to them, which has reduced the number of users due to uncomfortable and even unsafe crowding in limited space.
- - there are currently waitlists for every user group at , at AHAC. We need more aquatics space to be more inclusive to the entire community.
- Sportsplex Ice and Turf have very limited access. Both need at least one more sheet.

What kinds of features or amenities would you like to see to make parks more accessible?



- fenced in playgrounds for kids who elope

Partnerships

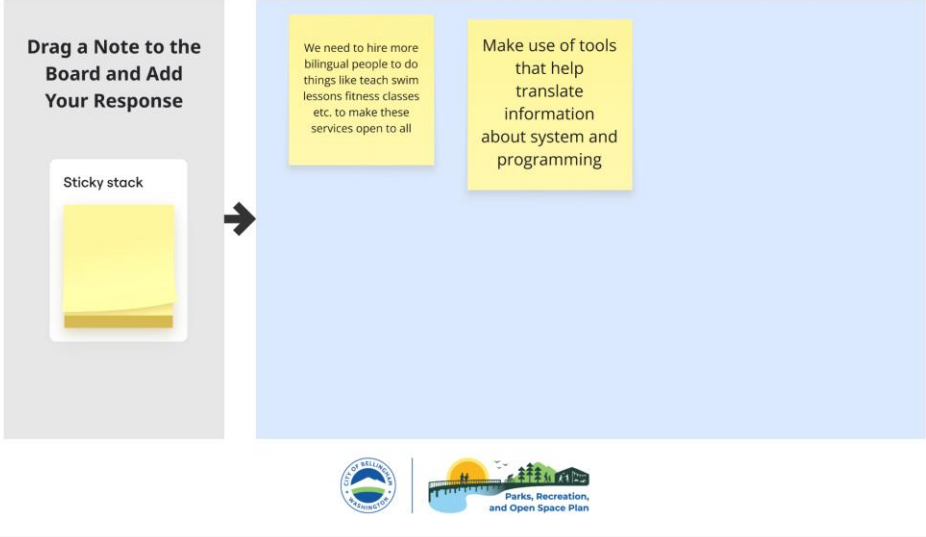
Are there ways the City could be better partners to support your work? How do we avoid competing with recreational partners?

- CoB has been great about being open to the development of a new skatepark, so please, more of the same. We've had a great partnership so far and will do whatever it takes to continue the partnership
 - City working with the Sportsplex as a place for their programs.
 - Increased maintenance on outdoor facilities.
 - Collaborate on which youth sports leagues are offered when, so we can provide the best possible opportunities for the community
 - Given size of community coordinate with City to offer the best options
 - We love parks staff!

Other

What else is missing from the parks system?

- There is a tremendous opportunity for Bellingham to be a regional leader in aquatics. We are surrounded by natural bodies of water, but do not offer an opportunity for every community member to learn how to be water safe. We need more space in order for all children to be able to partake in swim lessons so as to be safe around these natural bodies of water. Additionally, the Pacific Northwest has a shortage of indoor aquatic space, and if Bellingham committed to improving what we offer our local community, we could become a center for aquatics in the region and generate greater tourism and visitors to Bellingham throughout the entire calendar year.
 - Our dream is a covered concrete skatepark, that's got lighting and is welcoming and accessible to all!
 - more indoor turf and court spaces

	<p>Are there any other uses or needs you, your family or people you know would like us to consider? Are there any culturally-specific needs we should plan for?</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We need to hire more bilingual people to do things like teach swim lessons fitness classes etc. to make these services open to all ● Make use of tools that help translate information about system and programming
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Question about how public need was identified - inputs from survey, City will use these inputs and compare this to City’s LOS, e.g., access standards, capacity, % of residents, etc to see where improvements seem important. Also conducting peer review of other cities in terms of what facilities and number and size of these.</p>