



# Greenways Trail Planning

- Purpose
- Approach
- Workshop

June - September, 2025

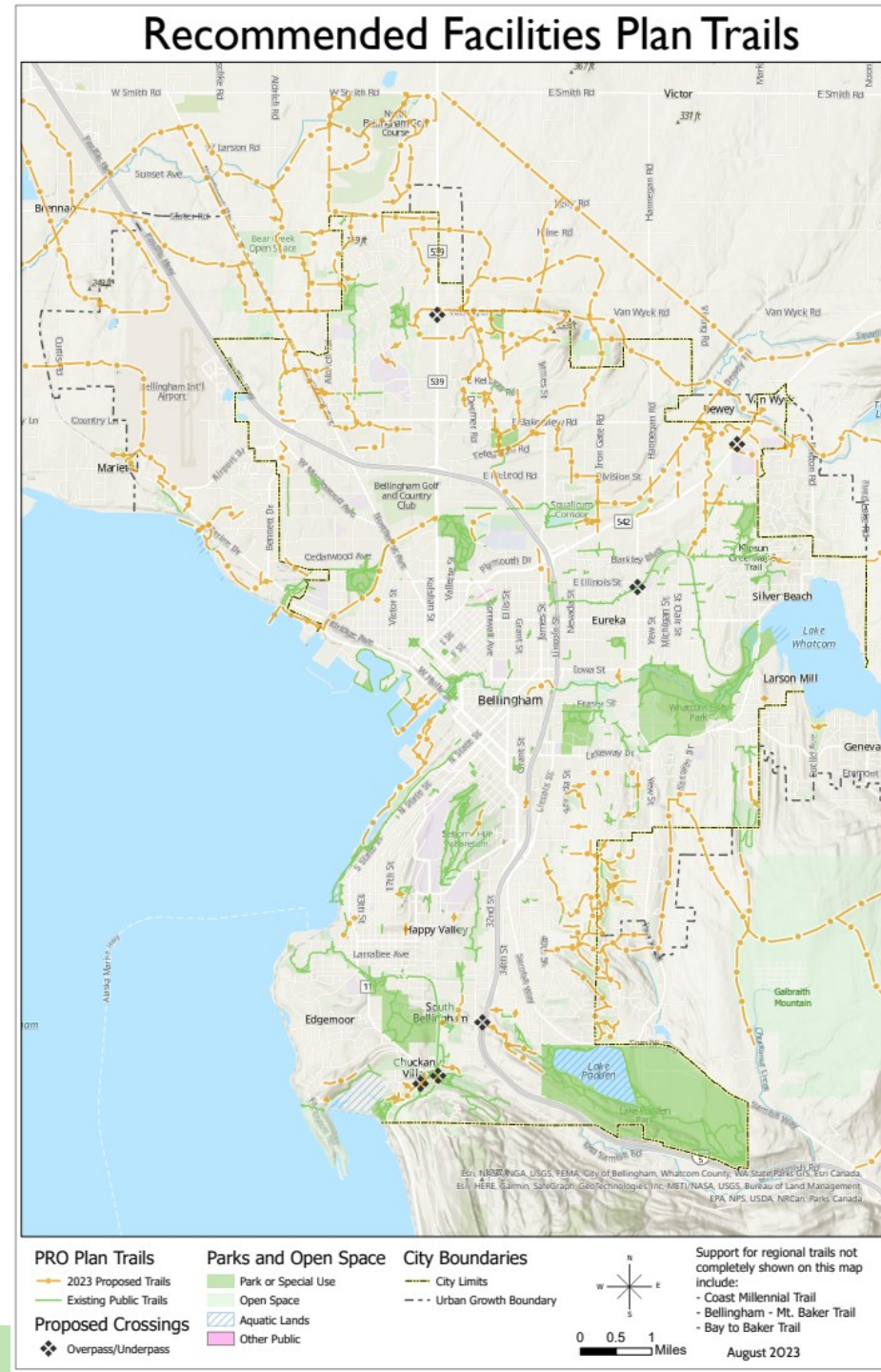


# Purpose of Trail Planning

- Provide recreational amenities and safe access to and between parks and open spaces
- Ensure the public trail facilities are built concurrently with private development
- Coordinate trail map (right) plans with bicycle and pedestrian plans
- Target future Greenways acquisitions

## PROS Plan Policy

*“Ensure new development invests in and dedicates new parks, trails, street trees and open space.”*





# Approach

Trail Planning



# Workshop Map 1: Trail Connectivity Goals



Connect parks and open space corridors; link to neighborhood hubs



Add street system links between trails



Identify barriers

## Greenways Strategic Plan Objectives:

Acquisition Goal, **Connecting parks.** Create a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails to provide public access to parks and open space

Acquisition Goal, **Connecting neighborhoods.** Create a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails to connect neighborhoods and provide viable alternatives to motor vehicles. Development or redevelopment of shared use trails should be pursued only when dedicated “green” trails are not feasible or likely. The use of shared sidewalks should be minimized. “Green” trails are preferred over “grey” trails.

Development Goal, **Improve access to current parks, open spaces and trails.** Utilize effective signage, accessibility, and level of service that promote inclusivity, equity, and education. Develop trails to improve multimodal connectivity along and between neighborhoods, parks and open spaces.”

## Workshop Map 2. Trail Connectivity Goals



Identify arterial trail corridors



Connect to regional trail corridors



Define city or neighborhood-scale loop trails



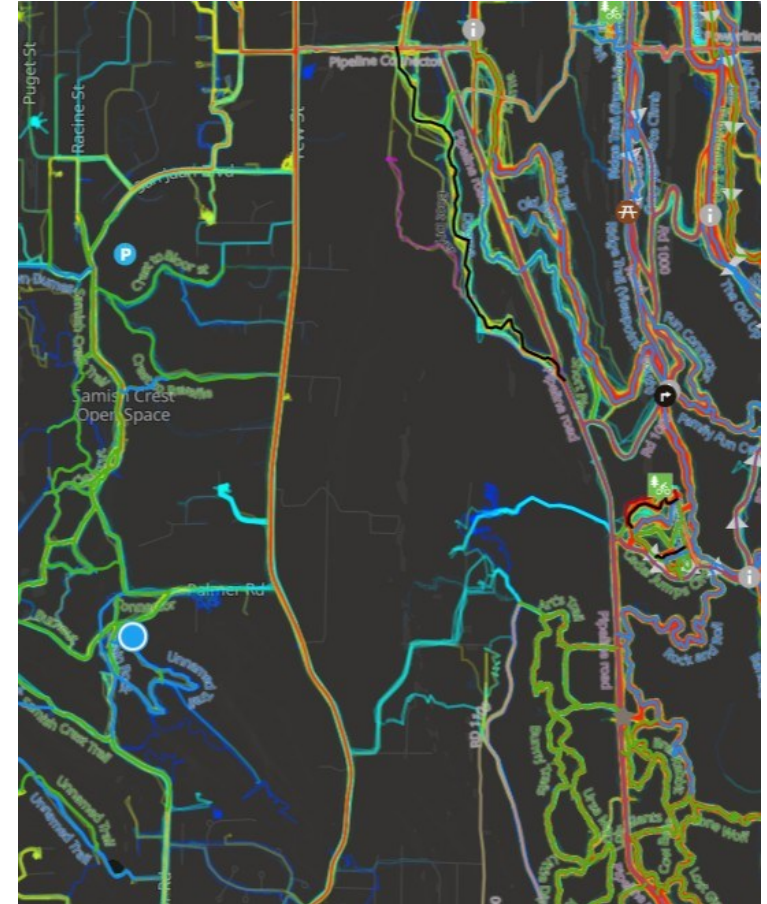
Add Trailhead amenities: Parking, bathrooms, dog stations, benches

# Trail Routing Criteria

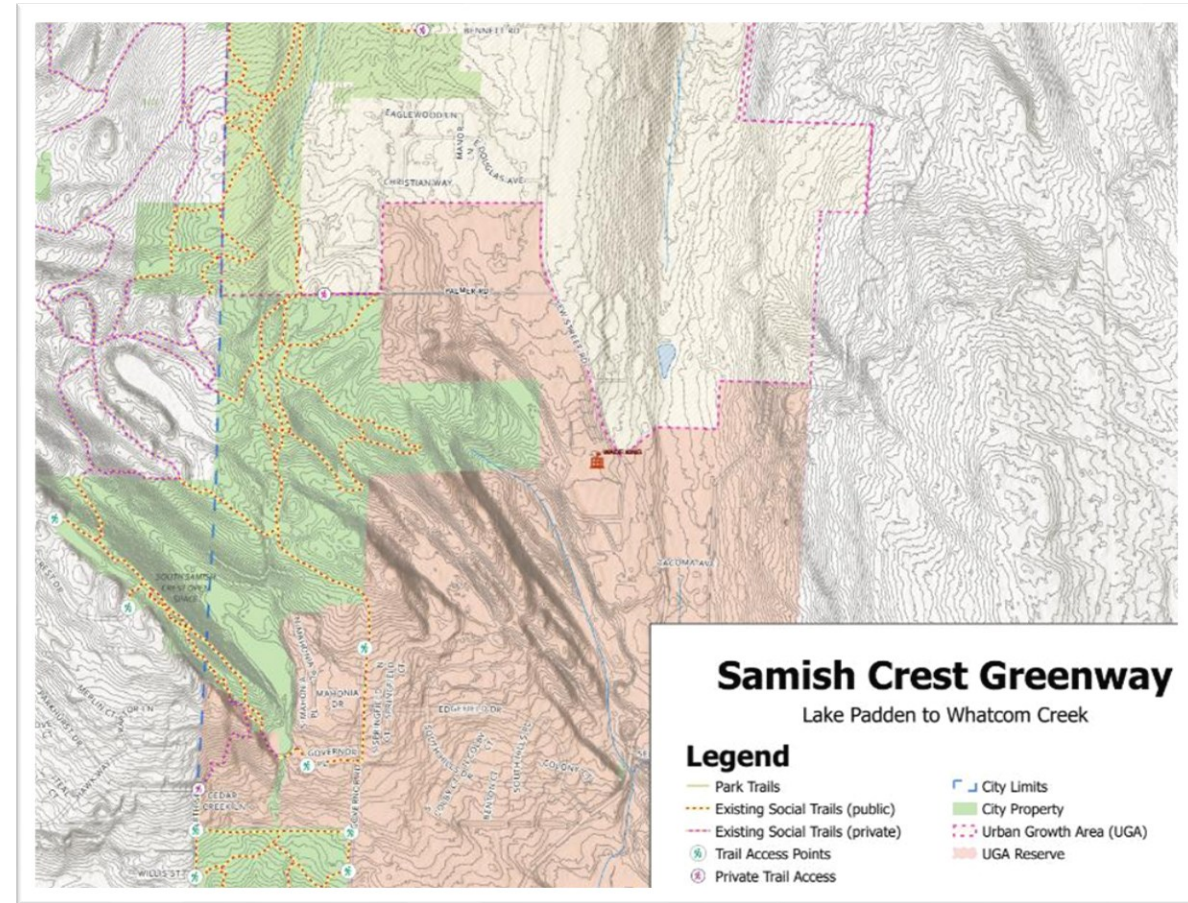
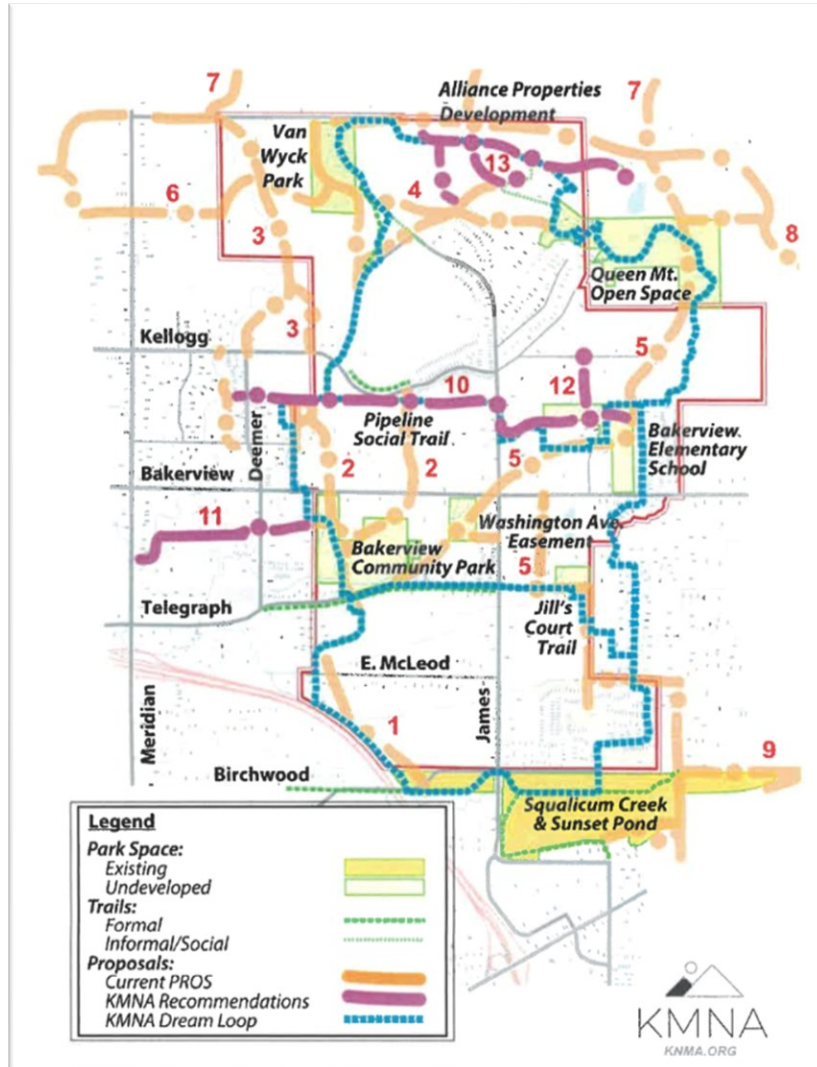
- Environmental sensitivity avoidance (wetlands, habitat areas, topography)
- Ownership: public lands, rights-of-way, and private development where compatible
- Equitable access
- Barrier crossings
- Minimize redundancies with Bike and Pedestrian

# Data Sources

- Existing PROS Plan trail facilities map
- Neighborhood trail plans
- Park master plans
- Bike & Pedestrian master plans
- Heat maps
- GAC Trails Subcommittee goals
- Public input



# Neighborhood Trails Mapping



# Trail typology - Where does this trail belong?

- Setting and volume of use
- Type of use
- Trade-offs for accessibility, cost, and durability

Add a post-it with parks and open spaces where each trail could work.

Examples: Samish Crest, Boulevard, Whatcom Falls, Peter Zuanich, Northridge Park, Lake Padden, Bear Creek, Queen Mountain



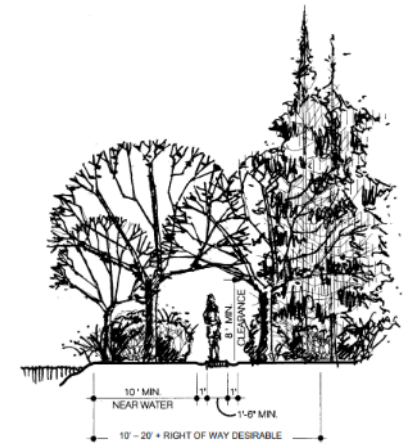
# Trail Typology Considerations

What is the trail setting and volume of use?

- Urban setting vs. sensitive ecological feature
- 100's users/day vs 100's users/month

Recreational Use?

- Hiking, jogging, skating, walking, biking, transportation, nature watching



# Trail Typology Considerations

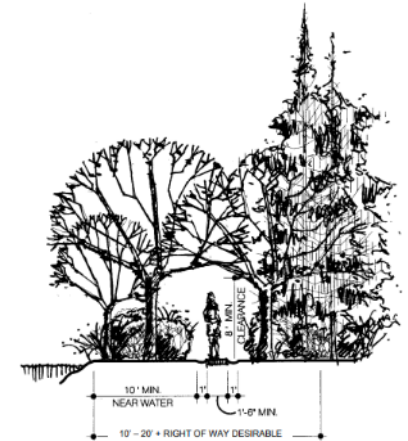
Trade-offs:

Cost - Design, materials, excavation, bridges, etc.

Accessibility – Who gets access?

Trail experience

Durability and maintenance





# GAC Results



# August 7, 2025 Workshop Results



# Workshop Summary

The group was divided into two groups to work on mapping activities at different stations. The participants were tasked with discussing trail connections and trail amenities on both the north and south sides of town. They asked to mark new trail opportunities, main arterial trails, and possible loop trails, considering environmental sensitivity, ownership, and equitable access.

Discussions involved potential routes, challenges such as private property, and difficult terrain. The group agreed that improving trails on the north side should be a priority. The underserved area has a growing population, and connections to key areas like schools and parks are difficult without a vehicle. They also touched on regional trail connections and the need for better east-to-west routes.

Types of trails were presented and discussed. The pros and cons of different trail surfacing included accessibility, environmental impacts, maintenance, and cost. Interest in providing one accessible, multi-use trail option with lower-impact side trails was expressed.

# Greenways Online Mapping Pins

Trail Planning \_ PROS 2026

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Layers

- Urban Growth Boundary
- 2020 Open Space Corridors
- GAC Trail Comments
- Schools
- Samish Crest Trail Plan (March 2025)
- Park Connectivity Diagram
- Proposed Parks 2020
- Trails
- Proposed Trails - 2023 PRO Plan
- 2024 Pedestrian Master Plan
- 2024 Bicycle Master Plan
- Open Channel Streams
- Wetlands
- Parks & Add

# Greenways Online Mapping Comments

🏠 C ↕ ...	Comments	↕ ...	Add/Move/Remove
1	Add trail through ROW to Whatcom Ln trail		Add
4	Continuation of Laurelwood Trail to any of the S Birchwood parks/trail systems		Add
5	West to East easement near country club to connect Birchwood to Cornwall Park/trail system		Add
6	Trail at end of Raymond Street to connect to Galbraith. This is in UGA and slated for development.		Add
7	Connect this point with end of Raymond St for a trail connection to ridge		Add
9	There is a trail called "Karma" that comes off Pipeline and connects with the end of Alvarado		Add
10	Connect end of Raymond St to Karma and the Pipeline Trail to access Galbraith		Add
11	Connect trail from Lopez/Yew Street to Pipeline Trail		Add
12	Connect Samish Crest to Galbraith. This may be unopened ROW		Add
14	There needs to be a trail connection from Padden Gorge across I-5 to Connelly Creek area		Add
15	Should show a trail connection across Chuckanut Creek		Add
17	Might as well show the trail we are likely going to spend \$1 million of Greenway funds on		Add
18	Too bad this wasn't implemented with the BSD redid their bus garage		Add
20	If this property redevelops with added density, there is a requirement for additional public benefit. A trail and o...		Add
21	This is unopened ROW but a frequent route for bikers and walkers headed to Galbraith, Kulshan Middle Schoo...		Add
22	Extend north to corner as alternate route		Add
23	Great location for a new trail from here to Sunset.		Add
24	New trail (multiuse) here to Barkley Blvd.		Add
25	New trail here to new connector trail between Barkley blvd and Sunset.		Add
26			Add
27	Improve bike access here between Yew and Whatcom Falls Park		Add
29	Social trail that connects Academy to Agate Heights Road. Land is owned by Lake Whatcom Center. Creates a ...		Add
30	Trailhead to 480 acre Agate Bay Preserve. This is a very large scale piece of City owned property with limited p...		Add
31	150-Acre City owned property. Currently no trail heads visible on map. Could be part of trail network with Agat...		Add
32	Patricia Otto bird preserve. Privately managed 100-acre preserve of wild bird habitat managed and owned by P...		Add

33	Y-Rd Trail head. Gate way to 17 miles of recreation trails on DNR land. Adjoins Stewart Mountain Community Fo...		Add
34	Bike/Pedestrian overpass bridge slated for development.		Add
35	New trail entrance to Sunset Pond, connects to Irongate Neighborhood		Add
36	Jill's Ct trail entrance, connects Irongate to Telegraph		Add
37	Possible trail connection for Bike/Ped from SW corner of Shuksan to Shuksan Meadows Park as part of North/S...		Add
38	Could designate Firwood as a Bike/Car shared street. Excellent connector from Maplewood Neighborhood t...		Add
39	I-5 Underpass at Meridian. Potential Multimodal improvement for better bike/ped. See for reference the projec...		Add
8	Relocate trail so that it 1) doesn't go through homes and 2) probably follows the existing trail on the powerline		Relocate
13	I'm not sure the viability of this trail proposal. It appears to follow the stream but topography, wildlife impacts, ...		Relocate
28	Not an appealing route for pedestrians or bikes. Steep hill and lots of trucks.		Relocate
40	Trails don't appear to follow any existing routes. Modify to match roads and existing trails.		Relocate
3	This is already being built		Remove
16	Isn't this a dead idea?		Remove
19	Didn't realize this is ROW. Functions as private driveway now. Going to Riley St is not an undue burden for mou...		Remove
41	Fully developed Squalicum H.S. No trail access.		Re + Create feature

# GAC Trail Subcommittee

Incorporate recommendations into the PROS Plan:

- Trail corridor route guides
- Trail mapping app
- Property markers
- Trail maps and wayfinding
- Safety Lighting
- Trail building

